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**MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

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**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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*“We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God”*

*Romans 5:2*

## FOREWORD

The five sections of this volume are as follows:

**JOURNAL:** The minutes of the daily sessions of the Assembly. Though the Journal does not contain the documents that appear in the second section (Appendices), it does contain the recommendations made in those documents. Those recommendations appear in the Journal at the point where they were considered. For ease of reference and cross-reference, the Journal is divided into articles. An index of this section appears at the end of the Journal. The reports of the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly committees are included at the end of the Journal section.

**APPENDICES:** The reports submitted to the Assembly by presbyteries, committees of the Church, and by other bodies, for the Assembly's consideration. Reports appear in the Appendix in alphabetical order. All references to papers in the Appendix are by page number in the Journal.

**DOCUMENTS:** The primary documents adopted by the Assembly to govern its life and mission.

**DIRECTORY:** The members of the permanent committees of the Assembly are listed in this section. A directory of the churches, ministers and presbytery officers is published separately.

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS:** A summary of the reports of the churches' financial and statistical statuses in the preceding year.

The Stated Clerk welcomes suggestions for the improvement of these annual volumes.

# ***ANNOUNCEMENT***

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## ***Evangelical Presbyterian Church***

## ***29th General Assembly***

### **Reverend Nate Atwood Elected Moderator**

Having served as Moderator-elect this past year, Reverend Nate Atwood was elected Moderator of the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

Reverend Atwood has been in the ministry since 1982 and was ordained in the Presbyterian Church in 1987. Nate earned a B. A. in Religion and Speech/Communication and graduated as the Bernard W. Boyd Fellow in Religious Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He earned his Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary in 1986.



*Nate Atwood*

Nate has served in a variety of ministry positions ranging from Youth Pastor to Senior Pastor to Moderator of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery. Former ministries include Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church in Beverly Hills, CA; St. Giles Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC; and Perrow Presbyterian Church in Cross Lanes, VA. Rev. Atwood has been Senior Pastor of Kempsville Presbyterian Church since 1999.

Nate's interests and leadership involvement is varied, including participation in the Oxford Round Table, co-founding a youth missions organization in Latin America, a daily radio program and acting as guest commentator on the Christian Broadcasting Network. Recognized as a community leader in the Tidewater area, he recently served as vice-chair of the Franklin Graham Festival and regularly networks with area pastors in order to strengthen the impact of the church in his community.

During his tenure at KPC, the church has grown from two to four weekend services, with an increase in worship attendance of 40% and giving increase of over 60%. Having maxed out their current facilities, KPC has entered into contract to purchase up to 100 acres of land for expanded ministry in the coming decades. "Our story is that of a church moving from maintenance to mission," Nate says. "While we have much work yet to do, we are consistently making progress as we shift our focus away from merely ministering ourselves to reaching and serving those who don't yet know Christ."

Nate and his wife Helen, have been married 26 years and have seven children, Lauren, Wesley, Daniel, Sarah, Hannah, Noah and Ethan.

# ***ANNOUNCEMENT***

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***Evangelical Presbyterian Church***

***29th General Assembly***

## **Moderator-Elect Nominee Mr. Rob Liddon**



*Rob Liddon*

Mr. Rob Liddon, ruling elder at Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee has been elected as the Moderator-Elect of the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

Rob was born 1950 in Corinth, Mississippi and received an undergraduate degree in economics from Vanderbilt University and a law degree from Columbia University. Upon graduation from law school, he moved to Memphis and began three decades of work for the firm which has become Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell and Berkowitz. In his practice he's handled primarily commercial real estate and lending transactions.

Rob and his wife Susan were married on New Years Eve 1977 and joined Second Presbyterian Church when they moved to a nearby neighborhood in 1979. They still live in this home where they raised their three children. Over the years at Second, Rob has served as a deacon, ruling elder (since the early '90s), Steering Committee of the Session, chancel choir for 30 years, children's Sunday school teacher, Boy Scout leader, various search, stewardship and study committees, legal counsel to Second and its foundations, judicial commissions, and short-term mission trips. At present, he is the Assistant Clerk of the Session (slated to become clerk next year) and curriculum coordinator for his Sunday school class. Serving in the Central South Presbytery, he has recently been Moderator and currently serves as Chairman of the Coordinating Council.

Rob has expressed how humbled he is to be considered as the Moderator-Elect as there are many who have worked so much harder and done so much more than he. If elected, he stated he will do his best to acquit himself so as not to disappoint those who have asked him to serve and, with providence and protection from the Holy Spirit, to bring honor to the EPC and to the kingdom of God.



## MODERATORS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>Assembly/Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Place of Assembly</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> 1981	Rev. Calvin Gray	Midwest	Livonia, MI
2 <sup>nd</sup> 1982	Elder Irvin Rinehart	West	Aurora, CO
3 <sup>rd</sup> 1983	Dr. James Van Dyke	Southeast	St. Louis, MO
4 <sup>th</sup> 1984	Elder Donald Harms	Midwest	Jackson, MS
5 <sup>th</sup> 1985	Rev. James Morrison	East	Aurora, CO
6 <sup>th</sup> 1986	Elder Roger Vonder Bruegge	Central South	Livonia, MI
7 <sup>th</sup> 1987	Dr. E. Perry Mobley	Southeast	Rome, GA
8 <sup>th</sup> 1988	Elder Richard Heidtman	Midwest	Englewood, CO
9 <sup>th</sup> 1989	Dr. Andrew Jumper	Central South	St. Louis, MO
10 <sup>th</sup> 1990	Elder James Rimmel	Allegheny	Bethesda, MD
11 <sup>th</sup> 1991	Dr. William Flannagan	Central South	Livonia, MI
12 <sup>th</sup> 1992	Elder John Adamson	Central South	Memphis, TN
13 <sup>th</sup> 1993	Dr. W. Graham Smith	East	Aurora, CO
14 <sup>th</sup> 1994	Elder William Johns	Southeast	Pompano Beach, FL
15 <sup>th</sup> 1995	Rev. Wayne Hoffman	Mid-America	Charlotte, NC
16 <sup>th</sup> 1996	Elder Claude Russell	West	Englewood, CO
17 <sup>th</sup> 1997	Dr. Richard Little	Mid-Atlantic	St. Louis, MO
18 <sup>th</sup> 1998	Elder Alan Smith	East	Highlands Ranch, CO
19 <sup>th</sup> 1999	Dr. James McGuire	Midwest	Rome, GA
20 <sup>th</sup> 2000	Elder John M. Graham, III	Southeast	Northville, MI
21 <sup>st</sup> 2001	Rev. Darryl Sparling	West	Greenwood Vill., CO
22 <sup>nd</sup> 2002	Elder Knox Sherer	Mid-Atlantic	Memphis, TN
23 <sup>rd</sup> 2003	Dr. Ron DiNunzio	Florida	Brighton, MI
24 <sup>th</sup> 2004	Dr. Orin Littlejohn	Central South	Virginia Beach, VA
25 <sup>th</sup> 2005	Rev. William Meyer	Mid-Atlantic	Golden, CO
26 <sup>th</sup> 2006	Dr. Paul Heidebrecht	Mid-America	Rome, GA
27 <sup>th</sup> 2007	Rev. Bill Vogler	Mid-America	Highlands Ranch, CO
28 <sup>th</sup> 2008	Elder Allen Roes	Mid-Atlantic	Bethesda, MD
29 <sup>th</sup> 2009	Rev. Nate Atwood	Mid-Atlantic	Brighton, MI

## MODERATOR-ELECT

30<sup>th</sup> 2010 Elder Rob Liddon Central South Englewood, CO

## STATED CLERKS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>Years</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Presbytery of Origin</b>
1981-2000	Dr. L. Edward Davis, Stated Clerk Emeritus	Midwest
2001-2006	Reverend Michael Glodo	Florida
2006-present	Reverend Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah	West

**TRUSTEES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Reverend Nate Atwood <b>Moderator</b> Kempsville Presbyterian Church 805 Kempsville Road Virginia Beach, VA 23464 757-495-1913 atwoodn@kpc.org	Mr. Rob Liddon <b>Moderator-elect</b> 3991 N. Galloway Dr. Memphis, TN 38111 901-683-3499 robertliddon@comcast.net
Mr. Alan Roes <b>Chairman</b> 14907 Stonegreen Lane Huntersville, NC 28078 704-948-9508 allenroes@bellsouth.net	Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah <b>Stated Clerk</b> Evangelical Presbyterian Church 17197 N. Laurel Park Dr., Suite 567 Livonia, MI 48152-7912 734-742-2020 jeff.jeremiah@epc.org

*Class of 2012*

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of the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church**

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**MINUTES  
of the  
29th GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JOURNAL**

**MINUTES - THURSDAY MORNING**

**First Session  
June 25, 2009**

**29-1 MORNING WORSHIP**

Worship began at 8:30 a.m. in the sanctuary of Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Brighton, Michigan. The assembly continued in worship as noted below:

**Thursday morning, June 25<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 a.m.**

Pre-Service Music      *Just A Closer Walk*      Worship Team

Greetings:      Dr. Richard Alberta  
Pastor: Cornerstone

Chimes  
Call to Worship      Psalm 122  
Congregational      *Blessed Be Your Name*  
Worship      *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*

Assembly Invocation & Disciples' Prayer      Rev. Timothy A. Brown  
Associate Pastor: Cornerstone

*Freedom Band*      Cornerstone Choir

God's Word      Rejoice: We Have Each Other!      Dr. Richard Alberta  
Proclaimed      Philippians 4:4-7

Congregational      *The Church's One Foundation*      #547  
Response

Closing Prayer

Response

Postlude      *Forever*

**29-2 CONVENING OF THE 29<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The 29th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by the Moderator, Ruling Elder Allen Roes. Ruling Elder David Satterthwaite, Moderator-elect of Midwest Presbytery, opened the assembly with prayer.

**ON MOTION:** Reverend Bob Garment and Dr. Howard Shockley were elected to serve as Recording Clerks for the 29th General Assembly.

**ON MOTION:** Ruling Elders Ted Brandsma and John Calvin Manon and Teaching Elder Cooper McWhirter were elected to be readers of the daily minutes as provided for in *Rules for Assembly* §8-12.

**29-3 LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Jim Walker, Local Arrangements Coordinator, brought greetings and made opening announcements.

**29-4 DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND ASSEMBLY ENROLLMENT**

The Stated Clerk, Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah, declared a quorum to be present with registration in excess of the required quorum (Cf. G.16-24, “*at least five Ministers and five Ruling Elders representing at least three Presbyteries*”). The roll of the Assembly follows:

**Presbytery of the Central South**

City, State	Church	Ruling Elder	Teaching Elder
Montgomery, AL	Grace @ Bell Road	Ted Hailes	Scott Lawry
Opelika, AL	First Presbyterian		Scott Bowen
Alexandria, LA	Grace Presbyterian		Ritchey Cable Don Shipley, Jr.
Houma, LA	First Presbyterian		Daniel Rose
Brandon, MS	Lakeside Presbyterian		Brandon Bates James Blaha
Columbus, MS	Covenant Presbyterian		Robert Wilbur
Corinth, MS	First Presbyterian	Rob Cooper Pat Palmer	Don Elliott
Laurel, MS	Westminster Pres.	Phil Buehler	Marty Fields
Meridian, MS	First Presbyterian		Rhett Payne
Tunica, MS	Tunica Presbyterian		Paul Husband
Atoka, TN	Atoka Presbyterian		Ken Van Kampen
Cordova, TN	Highland Heights Pres.	Bob Donan Lesa Hart	Tim Foster James Quillin
	Hope Presbyterian	Kathy Flake	Eli Morris David Ruff
Memphis, TN	All Saints	William Webb	Waring Porter
	Second Presbyterian	John Adamson Eddie Foster John Ivy Milton Knowlton Rob Liddon Olin Morris George Russell	Jon Becker Richard Rieves Ron Sadlow Andy Wells Sandy Willson

San Antonio, TX	Hope Church	Jim Harris	Tom Masterson Jason Wood
Elysian Fields, TX	Golden Rule Pres.		Brad Simms
Houston, TX	Christ EPC	Dan Tidwell Scott Van Dyke Ed Wedin	Freddie Albaugh John Crimmins Buck Oliphant
	City of Refuge		Rufus Smith Chris Sneller
Katy, TX	Cornerstone EPC		Nathan Carico
Marshall, TX	EPC of Marshall	Mike Miga Hillard Strong	Craig Vanbiber
Other ministers on the roll of Presbytery			Jeff Kim Dan Situka

#### Presbytery of the East

City, State	Church	Ruling Elder	Teaching Elder
Westfield, MA	Christ the King EPC		Jason Steele
Highland Lakes, NJ	Christ Comm. EPC		Roger Spence
Voorhees, NJ	Ashland EPC	Fred Tahan	James Cupschalk
Lancaster, NY	Lancaster Presbyterian	Ed Carlsen, Jr.	Kelly Negus
Montgomery, NY	Goodwill	Mark Guinup	David Kniffin
Glen Rock, PA	Bethlehem Steltz	Bill Brooks Mirv Metzger	
New Castle, PA	New Covenant EPC	Jack Boggs Carl Sacherich	George Yates
Oreland, PA	Oreland EPC	Walter Godley	
Pittsburgh, PA	New Hope		Rodger Woodworth
Portersville, PA	The Presbyterian Church of Portersville	Ralph Phillips	Dana Opp
Wexford, PA	North Park EPC	Mark Sharpnack	Dan Hendley Robert Shull
Kingstowne, VA	Faith EPC	Bruce Alexander Zelda Artz Alan Smith	Robert Barnett David Fischler Neil Smith
Reston, VA	Reston Presbyterian		Tom Dages
Other ministers on the roll of Presbytery			Bob Stauffer Nancy Stewart

#### Presbytery of Florida

City, State	Church	Ruling Elder	Teaching Elder
Brooksville, FL	Faith EPC	Gwynn Blair Scott Knight	Matt Everhard
Land o' Lakes, FL	Church of the Lakes	Edward Boggs	Woody Johnson
Orlando, FL	EPC Orlando		Bob Hopper
Plant City, FL	EPC of Plant City	Larry Doak	Don Mason

Tallahassee, FL	Hope EPC	Mary Madsen Karen Sutton	Bob Garment
			Ron Dinunzio Mike Glodo David Gordon Bill Meyer

**Presbytery of Mid-America**

<b>City, State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>
Dubuque, IA	GracePoint	Pam De Meester Doug Storlie	Chris English
Grayslake, IL	Hope EPC		Mark Jumper
Stillman Valley, IL	Kishwaukee Comm. EPC	Bill Langston Kevin Pavlik	Eric Geil
Warrenville, IL	Immanuel Presbyterian	Paul Heidebrecht Carolyn Nystrom Virginia Patterson Anne Rose	George Garrison
Leawood, KS	Covenant Chapel		David Robinson
Sartell, MN	Riverside Evangelical	Bruce Glanzer Linda Paulson Tod Paulson	Dan Borgelt
Kirkwood, MO	Greentree Community		Jeremy Bedenbaugh
St. Louis, MO	Central Presbyterian	Jerry Alpert Migues Aoun Norman Barter Wayne Grace Dexter Kuhlman Carl Martin Dale Schaefer Alan Shaffer Theodore Winters	Clay Smith
	Gateway to Grace		Brad Werner
Wildwood, MO	Emmanuel Presbyterian		Doug Overall
Cedar Grove, WI	First EPC	Gary Dunn Sharon Huenink	
Dousman, WI	Highview EPC	David Block Terese Block	Dennis Henn

**Presbytery of Mid-Atlantic**

<b>City, State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>
Cary, NC	Fellowship of Christ	Greg Fisher Jonas McCoy	Gary McGhee David McLean
Charlotte, NC	Faith Liberation Comm. Christian	Rush Sherrill, Jr. Martin Davis, Sr.	



Charlotte, NC	St. Giles EPC		Steve Keller
Clemmons, NC	River Oaks Community	Gordon Miller	
Huntersville, NC	Lake Forest	Allen Roes	Mike Moses
Montreat, NC	Montreat Presbyterian	Steven Foster Bob Schermerhorn	Ron Horgan Richard White
Raleigh, NC	Hope Church		Bill Enns
Southern Pines, NC	Christ Fellowship		Jim Thyne
Wilmington, NC	Myrtle Grove EPC	John Clements Jim Smith	Jim Glasgow Dan Sonnenberg
Winston-Salem, NC	Reynolda Church EPC	Bob Roach Bill Simmons	Chris Lawson Alan Wright
Anderson, SC	Christ Church		Bill Hyer
Florence, SC	Trinity EPC	George Pollett	
Gaffney, SC	Overbrook Presbyterian	David Rilling	David Weber
Greenwood, VA	Lebanon EPC		Don Hardman
Hampton, VA	Northampton Presbyterian	James Ohlemacher	Don Neighbours
Lynchburg, VA	Rivermont EPC	Stewart Alexander Richard Beckloff Douglas Mann George Paulson	Ron Cox Chris Deneen John Mabray
Spotsylvania, VA	Christ Covenant Mission		Bill Lindner
Virginia Beach, VA	Kempsville Presbyterian	Victor Hildebrand Fred Teagle Earle Woodberry	Bruce Anderson Nate Atwood Neil Ellison
Bluefield, WV	Westminster Presbyterian	Allen Jonas	
Cross Lanes, WV	Perrow Presbyterian		Keith Cobb
Other ministers on the roll of Presbytery			Brian Checchio S. Donald Fortson III Dick Little Jack Maxwell Howard Shockley Steven Strickler

**Presbytery of the Midwest**

<b>City, State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>
Auburn, IN	St. Andrew EPC	Cal Carnahan Miriam Carnahan Diane Manon John Manon	Glen Francis
Columbia City, IN	Trinity EPC		Ross O'Dell
Warsaw, IN	Warsaw EPC	Bruce Shown Tom Skaggs	

Ann Arbor, MI	Covenant Presbyterian	Carl Leonard	
	Knox Presbyterian	Roger Alford Dick Hile Michael Fike	Mike Frison Chuck Jacob
Brighton, MI	Cornerstone EPC	Ford Cotton, Jr. David Jonckheere Janet Juday Brad Salter Wally Schram Andrew Warner	Richard Alberta Tim Brown Art Hunt Brian Tweedie
Clarkston, MI	North Oaks Community	Rich Turnblom	Steve Brown
	Oakland EPC	Tom Mackie	Wayne Uppendahl
Detroit, MI	Military Ave. EPC		Randy Brown
Farmington Hills, MI	Grace Chapel	Malcolm Bain William Bumford	Doug Walker
Flint, MI	Calvary Presbyterian	Jerald Dosh David Haney Vickie Haney	Peter Scribner
	Peace Presbyterian	Reggie Garland Janet Herwaldt Stan McKellar	David Galbraith
Harrison Twp., MI	Knox Presbyterian	Donald Stickney Richard Wells	Doug Graham Ryan McVicar
Mt. Pleasant, MI	Mt. Pleasant Community	Timothy Hall Dean Wallin	Brian LaMew Caz Minter
Northville, MI	Ward EPC	John Baird Daniel Hooker Dan Mahlmeister Barbara Mansfield Richard Martin John Nowacki Mike Reynolds Dave Satterthwaite	Phil Linton Scott McKee Doug Thompson
Oscoda, MI	Grace Community		Thom Burbridge
Owosso, MI	Community EPC	Russ Wing	Don Galardi
Plymouth, MI	Trinity EPC	Richard Hicks Tom Pate	Bill Moore
Rochester, MI	Faith Church	Thomas Henson Geoff Skelton	
South Lyon, MI	Fellowship EPC	Donald Harris Jim Mindling Rodger Nienhuis	David Brown
Trenton, MI	First Presbyterian	David Bousquette Charles Humphriss David LaBeau C. Sawmiller	Duane Armistead Aaron Carr Ian Leslie
Cincinnati, OH	Evangelical Community	Gordon Doughman	Richard Lanning

Findlay, OH	Gateway EPC	Terry Boblitt Scott Long Ryan Smith	Ben Borsay Craig Cramer
Homeworth, OH	Middle Sandy EPC	Michael Horvath Samantha Rinehart Carolyn Slingerland	Tom Sawyer
Perrysburg, OH	Stonebridge EPC	Martin Rossol	Austin Olive
Youngstown, OH	Tabernacle EPC	Rick Blair	Rick Stauffer
Other ministers on the roll of Presbytery			L. Edward Davis Kurt Gebhard Ed McCallum Bill Rasch Mark Vanderput Jonathan Weyer

#### Presbytery of the Southeast

City, State	Church	Ruling Elder	Teaching Elder
Chickamauga, GA	Hope Fellowship		Michael Thomas
Rome, GA	First Presbyterian Rome	John Graham Vance Luke	Jeff Chadwick Tommy Overton
Erlanger, KY	New Beginning EPC	Ramona Hockema Richard Hockema	Steven Riser
Franklin, NC	Cornerstone EPC	Norman Roberts	
Murphy, NC	Murphy Presbyterian		Alan Wildsmith
Knoxville, TN	Cedar Springs Presbyterian	Jerry Clothier Carroll Coakley Tom Reesor Steve Sayers	Mark Steimer
	Community Evangelistic	Chris Martin	
	CrossWalk Community	Francis Clepper James Slyman	
Signal Mountain, TN	Signal Mountain Presbyterian	Priscilla Caine Ronald Eytchison Steve Frost Bruce Novkov Donna Peterson Clarise Smith Henry Smith Charles Zeiser	David Burke Bill Dudley Timothy Filston Chris Robinson
Other ministers on the roll of Presbytery			Robert Hodge

**Presbytery of the West**

<b>City, State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>
Surprise, AZ	Grace Community	Ralph Cleaver	Cooper McWhirter
Clayton, CA	Clayton Community		Shawn Robinson
Fresno, CA	Millbrook Presbyterian	Lee Ault Norma Ault Carl Campbell	Jerry Voss
San Diego, CA	Covenant Presbyterian		David Fenska
Sanger, CA	Sanger Community		Dave Long
Aurora, CO	Cornerstone Community	Jack Nelson	
	Covenant Community		Marc Huebl
Englewood, CO	Cherry Creek Presbyterian	Jan Bole Alan Johnson Kay Kayser Scott Kayser Candace McCune Melvin Medema Ken Roberts	Bruce Finfrock Zachary Hicks Maurice Martin Don Sweeting
Fort Collins, CO	Christ Fellowship		Ed Davis
Golden, CO	Lookout Mtn. Community		Adam Long
Highlands Ranch, CO	Cherry Hills Community	Barbara Matthews Cecil Matthews	Ramona Spilman
Lakewood, CO	Bear Creek EPC	Ted Brandsma	
Leoti, KS	Christ Covenant		Bob Everest
Omaha, NE	Covenant Presbyterian		Kevin McDonald
Levelland, TX	First Presbyterian		Jon Sharpe
Ephrata, WA	Comm. Church of Ephrata		Robert Hock
Gig Harbor, WA	Grace EPC		Larry Carlson
Renton, WA	First EPC	Dale Smith	
Other ministers on the roll of Presbytery			Sharon Beekmann George Carey Mark Ingles Jeff Jeremiah George Wood

**Total Enrollment**

Number of Churches Represented: 125

176 Teaching Elders

183 Ruling Elders

**359 Commissioners**

**Requests to be Excused**

The following Teaching Elders submitted written requests to be excused from the 29th General Assembly: TE Howard Finkel (Westminster Presbyterian, Bluefield, WV), RE Ted Galyon (Second Presbyterian, Memphis, TN), TE Tommy Jordan (Sylvania EPC, Ward, AR), TE Tim

MacGowan (Living Hope EPC, Haymarket, VA), TE Ron Odum (Cornerstone EPC, Franklin, NC), TE Bryan Slater (North Grove EPC, Rocky Point, NC) and TE Don Van Dyke (Lake City EPC, Lake City, MI).

**29-5 INTRODUCTION OF MISSIONARIES**

With the permission of the Assembly, George Carey introduced the EPC missionaries present.

<u>Missionary</u>	<u>Field of Service</u>
*Bailey, Benjamin and Monica Kelly, Stephen	US/Muslim people group
Kim, Jeff and Veronique Livingstone, Greg and Sally	France England/Muslim World
Mindling, Tim and Karen Abigail, Tim, Peter	US Based/International
N., David	East Asia
S., Ryan	Middle East/Arab Gulf
Snowden, Tami	US based/Muslim World
Tabitha	
*Thrash, Phil and Diane Kelsey	Germany

\*Indicates a missionary serving directly under World Outreach

Ellis Deibler, retired World Outreach missionary, led the assembly in prayer for all EPC missionaries.

**29-6 PROCEDURAL MOTIONS**

That **Recommendation #1**, “that the Assembly enroll Ruling and Teaching Elders who are members only of transitional presbyteries as corresponding members of the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly with voice but not vote” be adopted.

Adopted

That **Recommendation #2**, “that the Assembly adopt the following procedure for creation of an omnibus consent motion at its 2009 meeting:

If a standing committee, by majority vote, believes any of its recommendations will receive a consensus support of the Assembly, it may designate in its report that these items are to be included in an omnibus motion which will contain all such items from all committees. This designation may be challenged by motion at the time of the presentation of the omnibus. The omnibus motion itself may be divided only by a majority vote of 2/3 or greater. Constitutional amendments and recommendations regarding budgets

may not be designated for inclusion in an omnibus motion.

Grounds: An omnibus consent motion allows the Assembly to streamline its business by putting several routine business that should receive consensus agreement in one motion. The Assembly has utilized an omnibus consent motion in 2007 and 2008 and the proposed process for 2009 reflects learning from the previous two years. If approved, the Committee on Administration will evaluate the 2009 procedure with a view to proposing an amendment that would make creation of an omnibus consent motion part of the *Rules for Assembly*."

\_\_\_\_\_*Adopted*

## 29-7 ADOPTION OF DOCKET

ON MOTION: The docket was adopted as follows:

**Thursday, June 25, 2009**

- 8:30 Opening Worship – TE Richard Alberta preaching
- 9:30 **29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly – Session 1**
- 1.1 Assembly Convenes (Allen Roes, Moderator of the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly)
  - 1.2 Constituting Prayer (RE David Satterthwaite, Moderator-elect of the Midwest Presbytery)
  - 1.3 Election of recording clerks: TE Bob Garment, TE Howard Shockley
  - 1.4 Election of minutes committee: RE Ted Brandsma, RE John Manon and TE Cooper McWhirter
  - 1.5 Local arrangements announcements (RE Jim Walker, Cornerstone Presbyterian)
  - 1.6 Introduction of World Outreach Missionaries (George Carey, World Outreach Director)
  - 1.7 Call for the quorum
  - 1.8 Procedural motions
    - a. Recommendation #1: enroll transitional members as corresponding members with voice but not vote
    - b. Recommendation #2: procedure for omnibus motion
  - 1.9 Adoption of docket for the day
  - 1.10 Nominating Committee – partial report (RE Jim Slyman)
    - a. Nomination of Moderator of the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly:  
TE Nate Atwood

- b. Seconding speech: TE Bill Meyer
  - c. Election of Moderator
  - d. Outgoing Moderator's Address: (RE Allen Roes)
  - e. Presentation to Outgoing Moderator
- 1.11 Ratification of descending overtures from the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly
  - 1.12 Receive minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly
  - 1.13 Report of the Stated Clerk (TE Jeff Jeremiah)
  - 1.14 Announcements from the Board of Benefits (TE Ron Horgan, Chairman)
  - 1.15 Report of the Permanent Judicial Commission (RE John Graham, Moderator)
    - a. Recommendation #14 – Overture 09-D must be presented to the General Assembly as an amendment to the Constitution
    - b. Recommendation #35 - approve the creation of an interim committee to explore ways to include those pastors and churches with conflicting positions on women Teaching Elders in the presbyteries of the EPC
    - c. Recommendation #15 – sustain Preliminary Judgment regarding the matter of Samuel L Jones and the Presbytery of the East
  - 1.16 Nominating Committee - partial report (RE Jim Slyman)
    - a. Introduction of Moderator-elect Nominee Rob Liddon
    - b. Standing Committee Assignments
    - c. Introduction of Standing Committee Chairmen
  - 1.17 Committee instruction (Jeff Jeremiah)
  - 1.18 Introduction of Special Guests:
    - a. Ric Cannada (Chancellor of Reformed Theological Seminary)
    - b. Mike Milton (PCA; Acting President Reformed Theological Seminary-Orlando and Reformed Theological Seminary-Charlotte)
    - c. Darwin Glassford (President of Calvin Theological Seminary)
    - d. Nupanga Weanzana (President of Bangui Evangelical School of Theology in the Central African Republic)
  - 1.19 Introduction of New Churches
    - a. TE Nate Atwood (Kempsville Presbyterian, Virginia Beach, VA)
    - b. Roster of new churches
    - c. Prayer

- 1.20 Greetings from Fraternal Guests:
  - a. Dr. Adonias da Costa Silveira (chair of the Inter-church Relations Committee Brazilian Presbyterian Church (IPB))
  - b. Dr. Davi Gomes (Corresponding Secretary of the Brazilian Presbyterian Church (IPB))

1.21 “Face to Face” (TE Ed McCallum)

Adjourn first session with prayer

10:15 – 4 Women In Ministry: Dearborn Inn, The Henry Ford

12 – 1:15 Network Lunches:

- Chaplains -- 215
- Fraternal Guests -- 214
- Training Christian Leaders in Africa (Nupanga Weanzana) -- 601
- Red Card (Tami Snowden) -- 603
- Z-4:10 Charlotte Conference -- 605
- Children’s Ministries -- 211
- Church Planters -- 213

1:45 **29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly – Session 2**

2.1 Opening Prayer

2.2 Introductions of Chaplains (TE George Yates)

2.3 Greetings from Fraternal Delegate: Christian Reformed Church General Secretary Jerry Dykstra (TE Don Fortson III)

2.4 2009 Bart Hess Award (TE Shawn Robinson)

2.5 Incoming Moderator’s Address (TE Nate Atwood)

2.6 Matters received and referred

2.7 Standing Committee Meetings (3:00-5:00):

- Administration – 401/403
- Christian Education & Publications – 201
- College – 203
- Fraternal Relations – 213
- Memorials & Appreciation – 208
- Ministerial Vocation – 211
- National Outreach – 601
- Nominating – 402
- Overtures & Resolutions – 212
- Permanent Judicial Commission – 206
- Women In Ministry – 215
- Student Ministries – 214
- Theology – 404/406
- World Outreach – 205/207



7:30 – 9:00 Evening Worship – TE Don Fortson III preaching  
Investiture of 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Moderator

9:00 – 10:00 Reception for visitors and observers – Hess Hall

**29-8 ELECTION OF 29th GENERAL ASSEMBLY MODERATOR**  
RE Jim Slyman, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, opened his report with prayer. Mr. Slyman placed in nomination the name of Teaching Elder Nate Atwood (Mid-Atlantic Presbytery) as Moderator of the 29th General Assembly. He then introduced TE Bill Meyer, to speak on behalf of the nomination.

There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed.

**ON MOTION:** The Assembly elected Teaching Elder Nate Atwood as Moderator of the 29th General Assembly by acclamation.

**29-9 OUTGOING MODERATOR’S ADDRESS**  
The retiring Moderator, RE Allen Roes, offered prayer followed by reflections on his year of ministry as Moderator of the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (see pp. 232-233).

The retiring Moderator declared Reverend Atwood to be the Moderator of the 29th General Assembly and passed the gavel to him.

The newly elected Moderator addressed the assembly briefly as he assumed the chair.

On behalf of the Assembly, Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah, Stated Clerk, presented the retiring Moderator with a plaque of appreciation and a lapel pin representing the Moderator’s Cross.

**29-10 RATIFICATION VOTE ON DESCENDING OVERTURES**  
The Stated Clerk offered prayer and reviewed the procedures for ratification of descending overtures.

**DESCENDING OVERTURE 08-A**

That the *Book of Government* §11-8.A be amended to allow Presbytery to renew the term of a minister appointed as Stated Supply.

<b>Existing Wording G.11-8.A</b>	<b>Proposed Wording (additions in <i>italics</i>)</b>
Stated Supply. Invited to serve for a definite period of time of no less than one month and no more than	Stated Supply: Invited to serve for a definite period of <i>not</i> less than one month and <i>no</i> more than

twelve. The Stated Supply may be appointed by the Presbytery to Moderate the Church Session during the time of service.	twelve months (the “invited period of service”). Before the end of any invited period of service, the invitation may be extended for an additional period not to exceed twelve months by approval of the Church Session and the Presbytery on recommendation from the Ministerial Committee. The Stated Supply may be appointed by the Presbytery to moderate the Church Session during the time of service.
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Grounds: The proposed amendment is intended to clarify any ambiguity as to whether or not a minister’s term as stated supply may be renewed, making the possibility of renewal explicit and stipulating how such renewal is to be approved.

**VOTE OF THE PRESBYTERIES**

**Overture 08-A**

<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Central South	58	0
East	36	0
Florida	30	0
Mid-America	43	0
Mid-Atlantic	79	0
Midwest	55	0
Southeast	64	0
West	82	0
		<i>Passed</i>

**DESCENDING OVERTURE 08-B**

That *The Book of Government* be amended at §2-3, §11-4, §11-10, §11-12, §15-10, and §16-14 to allow presbyteries to establish the status of “Associate Member.”

<b>Existing Wording G.2-3</b>	<b>Proposed Wording (additions in italics)</b>
The courts of the Church shall be: The Session, the Presbytery, and the General Assembly. The Session shall be composed of the Minister(s) called by the	The courts of the Church shall be: The Session, the Presbytery, and the General Assembly. The Session shall be composed of the Minister(s) called by the

Existing Wording G.2-3	Proposed Wording (additions in <i>italics</i> )
<p>congregation, and active Ruling Elders of a particular church. The Presbytery shall be composed of all Ministers belonging to it, and two Ruling Elders from each particular Church or two Ruling Elders for each minister from each particular church within its bounds. The basis of representation to General Assembly shall be the same as representation to Presbytery. The Board of Deacons, while useful in service and ministry, is not a court of the church and is under the supervision and control of the Church Session.</p>	<p>congregation, and active Ruling Elders of a particular church. The Presbytery shall be composed of all Ministers belonging to it, and two Ruling Elders from each particular Church or two Ruling Elders for each minister from each particular church within its bounds. The basis of representation to General Assembly shall be the same as representation to Presbytery. The Board of Deacons, while useful in service and ministry, is not a court of the church and is under the supervision and control of the Church Session.</p> <p><i>A minister who is retired or serving in a capacity which may impede or prevent regular and/or required attendance at Presbytery meetings may, upon request, be granted the status of Associate Member, according to the process stipulated in G.16-14. Associate members are entitled to serve with voice and vote on all committees of Presbytery and General Assembly. Associate Members are entitled to serve with voice but not vote on Commissions to ordain and install pastors and to receive churches. Associate Members shall have voice but not vote at all Presbytery and General Assembly meetings. Associate Members are not eligible to serve as officers of any court but do retain all rights and privileges of ordination and are to be afforded the same pastoral care as Active Members. Any Associate Member called to serve as Stated Supply or Interim Supply shall automatically be returned to active membership status during such service.</i></p>

<b>Existing Wording G.2-3</b>	<b>Proposed Wording (additions in italics)</b>
<p>When a disproportionate ratio of Ruling Elders to Teaching Elders occurs in a Presbytery, the Presbytery will move to correct the ratio by suggesting to member churches on a yearly alphabetical rotational basis that they have the right to appoint an additional elder to the Presbytery. The Presbytery shall on this basis invite churches to add one additional Ruling Elder until this disparity is corrected.</p> <p>These same churches shall be invited by the General Assembly to add one additional Ruling Elder until this disparity is corrected for meetings of the General Assembly.</p>	<p>When a disproportionate ratio of Ruling Elders to Teaching Elders occurs in a Presbytery, the Presbytery will move to correct the ratio by suggesting to member churches on a yearly alphabetical rotational basis that they have the right to appoint an additional elder to the Presbytery. The Presbytery shall on this basis invite churches to add one additional Ruling Elder until this disparity is corrected. <i>Associate Members are not counted as part of the ratio of ruling and teaching elders.</i></p> <p>These same churches shall be invited by the General Assembly to add one additional Ruling Elder until this disparity is corrected for meetings of the General Assembly.</p>

<b>Existing Wording G.11-4</b>	<b>Proposed wording (additions in italics)</b>
<p>Calling must always be to a specific task. A particular church must call a Ruling Elder or Deacon to office within that congregation. A Minister must be called by some specific agency to a particular task deemed appropriate to the ordaining, installing or approving Presbytery.</p>	<p>Calling must always be to a specific task. A particular church must call a Ruling Elder or Deacon to office within that congregation. A Minister must be called by some specific agency to a particular task deemed appropriate to the ordaining, installing or approving Presbytery <i>except in the case of retired ministers being received from another denomination as Associate Members (G.2.3; 11-10; 16-14).</i></p>

<b>Existing Wording G.11-10</b>	<b>Proposed Wording (additions in italics)</b>
<p>In the event the Minister being called is from some other Presbytery or other church body, the receiving Presbytery shall not enroll that person without a valid call. The dismissing church body shall be informed by the calling</p>	<p>In the event the Minister being called is from some other Presbytery or other church body, the receiving Presbytery shall not enroll that <del>person</del> <i>Minister</i> without a valid call <i>unless the Minister is retired and being enrolled as an</i></p>

<p>Presbytery for the purpose of taking appropriate action. The Presbyteries shall deal directly with each other through their stated clerks in certifying both the call of the church and the credentials of the Minister or Candidate.</p>	<p><i>Associate Member under the stipulations of G.2-3 and G.16-14.</i> The dismissing church body shall be informed by the calling receiving Presbytery for the purpose of taking appropriate action. The Presbyteries shall deal directly with each other through their stated clerks in certifying both the call of the church and the credentials of the Minister or Candidate.</p>
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<p><b>Existing Wording G.11-12</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed Wording (additions in <i>italics</i>)</b></p>
<p>If a Minister desires to accept a call outside the structures of the Church, he or she shall present a request to the Presbytery, indicating the nature of the work and the terms of call. If the Presbytery approves the nature of the work as appropriate to the Gospel ministry, it may approve it for a definite period of time. After the expiration of that time, the Minister must receive further approval to continue.</p> <p>In the event that the outside of bounds ministry falls within the geographic boundaries of a Presbytery not currently his own, a Minister shall inform the appropriate committees of both Presbyteries, seeking the advice and approval of both Presbyteries regarding potential plans for ministry or work</p>	<p>If a Minister desires to accept a call outside the structures of the Church, he or she shall present a request to the Presbytery, indicating the nature of the work and the terms of call. If the Presbytery approves the nature of the work as appropriate to the Gospel ministry, it may approve it for a definite period of time. After the expiration of that time, the Minister must receive further approval to continue.</p> <p><i>If the nature of this call impedes or prevents regular and/or required attendance at Presbytery meeting, the Minister may be granted the status of Associate Member (G.2-3; 11.10; 16-14).</i></p> <p>In the event that the outside of bounds ministry falls within the geographic boundaries of a Presbytery not currently his own, a Minister shall inform the appropriate committees of both Presbyteries, seeking the advice and approval of both Presbyteries regarding potential plans for ministry or work</p>

<b>Existing Wording G.15-10</b>	<b>Proposed Wording (additions in <i>italics</i>)</b>
<p>Retired Ministers: A Minister who is retired according to the provision of G.15-9 remains a full member of Presbytery. Membership may be transferred to another Presbytery. A Retired Minister who does not participate in the life of the Presbytery by attending at least one Stated Meeting during a calendar year, may be placed on Inactive Status at the discretion of the Presbytery. After at least one year, the Retired Minister may request Presbytery to be restored to Active Status. The Presbytery shall make the determination based on the Minister's participation in the meetings of the Presbytery and need not require a specific call to be restored to Active Status. A Retired Minister on Inactive Status shall not be removed from the Presbytery rolls for that cause and is to be afforded the same pastoral care as Retired Ministers on Active Status.</p>	<p>Retired Ministers: A Minister who is retired according to the provision of G.15-9 remains a full member of Presbytery. Membership may be transferred to another Presbytery.</p> <p>A. A Retired Minister who does not participate in the life of the Presbytery by attending at least one Stated Meeting during a calendar year may be placed on Inactive Status at the discretion of the Presbytery. After at least one year, the Retired Minister may request Presbytery to be restored to Active Status. The Presbytery shall make the determination based on the Minister's participation in the meetings of the Presbytery and need not require a specific call to be restored to Active Status. A Retired Minister on Inactive Status shall not be removed from the Presbytery rolls for that cause and is to be afforded the same pastoral care as Retired Ministers on Active Status.</p> <p>B. <i>A retired minister may be granted the status of Associate Member as defined in G.2-3, 11.10, and 16-14.</i></p>

<b>Existing Wording G.16-14</b>	<b>Proposed Wording (additions in <i>italics</i>)</b>
<p>The Presbytery: The Presbytery has the oversight of the life of a number of churches within a designated area. It is composed of all the ministers of the Presbytery and at least two Ruling Elders elected by the Church Session. The Church Session shall elect two additional Ruling Elders for each</p>	<p>The Presbytery: The Presbytery has the oversight of the life of a number of churches within a designated area. It is composed of all the ministers of the Presbytery and at least two Ruling Elders elected by the Church Session. The Church Session shall elect two additional Ruling Elders for each</p>

<p>additional Pastor, whether Associate or Assistant. In any case, a particular church shall have no fewer than two Ruling Elders for each 500 members or major portion thereof.</p>	<p>additional Pastor, whether Associate or Assistant. In any case, a particular church shall have no fewer than two Ruling Elders for each 500 members or major portion thereof.</p> <p><i>The Presbytery may establish a roll of Associate Members as defined in G.2-3. Presbyteries may place an ordained Minister of Presbytery on the roll of Associate Members upon that Minister's request and upon recommendation of the Ministerial Committee and a 2/3 vote of Presbytery. Presbyteries may, by 2/3 vote, receive an ordained Minister from another Reformed body as an Associate Member, following the normal process of examination (G.13-5).</i></p> <p><i>An Associate Member may request to be placed on Active Status. The Presbytery may do so upon recommendation by the Ministerial Committee and provided the Minister has a call Presbytery approves, or provided the Minister is being transferred to another body in order to receive a call.</i></p>
<p>When a disproportionate ratio of Ruling Elders to Teaching Elders occurs in a Presbytery, the Presbytery will move to correct the ratio by suggesting to member churches on a yearly alphabetical rotational basis that they have the right to appoint an additional elder to the Presbytery. The Presbytery shall on this basis invite churches to add one additional Ruling Elder until this disparity is corrected.</p>	<p>When a disproportionate ratio of Ruling Elders to Teaching Elders occurs in a Presbytery, the Presbytery will move to correct the ratio by suggesting to member churches on a yearly alphabetical rotational basis that they have the right to appoint an additional elder to the Presbytery. The Presbytery shall on this basis invite churches to add one additional Ruling Elder until this disparity is corrected. <i>Associate Members are not counted as part of the ratio of ruling and teaching elders (G.2-3)</i></p>

Grounds: These proposed amendments are intended to address an issue developing in presbyteries that have a significant number of ministers on the retired roll and/or in out of bounds callings that prevent regular attendance, making it impossible in some situations to fulfill the parity adjustment requirements currently stipulated in G.2-3. The amendment allows, but does not require, presbyteries to create a roll of Associate Members addressing parity adjustment by removing them from the 2:1 ratio while maintaining the possibility of the Associate Member contributing expertise in the work of Presbytery. As Associate Members, ministers would not lose the privilege offered by ordination to preach, conduct baptisms, administer the Lord's Supper, or conduct weddings.

Having the status of Associate Member available gives presbyteries an option other than inactive status for Retired Ministers who have faithfully served EPC for many years but now find themselves physically unable to attend. It also gives presbyteries the option of receiving a retired minister from another denomination as an Associate Member without a call in hand.

The proposed amendment does *not* give presbyteries authority to place a Minister on the Associate Member roll without that Minister's request.

### VOTE OF THE PRESBYTERIES

#### Overture 08-B

Presbytery	Yes	No
Central South	49	0
East	36	0
Florida	32	0
Mid-America	43	0
Mid-Atlantic	83	0
Midwest	53	0
Southeast	66	0
West	82	0
		<i>Passed</i>

**ON MOTION:** Overtures 08-A and 08-B were ratified.

#### 29-11 RECEPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 28<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Assembly received the minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Adoption of the minutes will be accomplished by the Committee on Administration (November 2009) as allowed in *Robert's Rules of Order*. The Stated Clerk asked that additions or corrections to this document be forwarded to the General Assembly Office no later than September 1, 2009.



**29-12 REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK**

TE Jeff Jeremiah opened his report with prayer and referenced his written report (see pp. 288-298). The Clerk deferred his oral remarks until the Saturday session.

**29-13 REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BENEFITS**

TE Ron Horgan, Chairman, opened his report with prayer and introduced Michael Leighton, Benefits Director. Mr. Leighton invited the Assembly to a breakfast meeting on Friday with Fidelity Investments. A representative from Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield will be available for discussion during lunch on Friday.

**29-14 REPORT OF THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

Chairman RE John Graham opened the report with prayer.

That **Recommendation #14**, “that the Assembly sustain the Permanent Judicial Commission’s ruling finding that **Overture 09-D** from the Mid-America Presbytery is not compatible with the Constitution of the Church and may not be acted upon by a General Assembly as an Act of the General Assembly, and requires an amendment to the Constitution to be enacted” be adopted..

\_\_\_*Adopted*

That **Recommendation # 15**, “that the Assembly sustain the Permanent Judicial Commissions’ ruling finding that the Preliminary Judgment regarding the matter of Samuel L. Jones and the Presbytery of the East be sustained” be adopted.

\_\_\_*Adopted.*

That **Recommendation #35**, “that the Assembly refer to the Standing Committee on Overtures and Resolutions a recommendation from the Permanent Judicial Commission to create an interim committee to explore ways to include those pastors and churches with conflicting positions on women Teaching Elders in the presbyteries of the EPC. This committee will be appointed by the Moderator, will include two representatives from each presbytery and include all positions held within the EPC on women Teaching Elders. The committee will report to the 30th General Assembly in 2010” be adopted.

\_\_\_*Adopted*

The Moderator prayed for Mr. Graham as he left the Assembly to attend the funeral of Joyce Flanagan and to represent the denomination at the service.

**29-15 PARTIAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Nominating Committee RE Jim Slyman opened his report with prayer.

The Chairman presented the slate of nominees for Permanent Committees for first reading:

The Chairman introduced the nominee for Moderator-elect, RE Rob Liddon.

**Committee on Administration**

Class of 2012	TE Jeff Chadwick	(Southeast)
	RE Hadley DePuy	(East)
	RE Gary Fields	(West)
Class of 2010	TE Doug Klein	(West)

**Board of Benefits**

Class of 2012	RE John Baird	(Midwest)
	TE Ron Horgan	(Mid-Atlantic)
Class of 2011	RE Jamie Doss	(Southeast)

**Committee on Christian Education & Publications**

Class of 2012	TE David Brogren	(West)
	Ms. Bonnie Linder	(Midwest)

**Committee on College Ministries**

Class of 2012	RE Jeff Sich	(Mid-America)
	Mr. Dan Rose	(Midwest)

**EPC Foundation**

Class of 2012	Mr. Ron Chiricosta	(Mid-Atlantic)
	RE Ted Hailes	(Central South)

**Committee on Fraternal Relations**

Class of 2012	TE Jimmy McGuire	(Midwest)
	TE Rob Norris	(East)

**Committee on Ministerial Vocation**

Class of 2012	RE Walter Brown	(East)
	TE Fred Lian	(West)
Class of 2010	TE George Yates	(East)

**Committee on National Outreach**

Pending approval of Recommendation #11 to form the National Outreach Committee with three members, the following three names are placed in nomination:

Class of 2012	RE Carolyn Nystrom	(Mid-America)
Class of 2011	RE Francis Clepper	(Southeast)
Class of 2010	TE Ben Borsay	(Midwest)

**Permanent Judicial Commission**

Class of 2012	TE Steve Riser	(Southeast)
	RE Jim Rimmel	(East)
	RE Ron Schwedland	(Midwest)

**Presbytery Review**

Class of 2012	TE Dennis Flach	(Central South)
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**Committee on Student Ministries**

Class of 2012	Ms. Jessica Gable	(East)
	Mr. Shawn Stewart	(Mid-Atlantic)
	Mr. Jay Westra	(Mid-America)

**Committee on Theology**

Class of 2012	TE Mike Glodo	(Florida)
	RE Dick Miller	(Central South)

**Committee on Women In Ministry**

Class of 2012	Ms. Dianne Buehler	(Central South)
	Ms. Lilian Werner	(Mid-America)

**World Outreach**

Class of 2012	Ms. Cathy Hartman	(West)
	TE James Murphy	(West)
	RE Bob Sluka	(Midwest)
Class of 2010	Ms. Helena Wolf	(East)

The Chairman then explained the process of Standing Committee assignments and introduced the Chairman and Clerk of each Committee.

**Administration**

TE John Crimmins, Chairman  
RE David Satterthwaite, Clerk

**Christian Education & Publications**

RE Rodger Nienhuis, Chairman  
RE Lesa Hart, Clerk

**College Ministries**

TE Rick Stauffer, Chairman  
RE Dexter Kuhlman, Clerk

**Fraternal Relations**

RE Candace McCune, Chairman  
TE Ron DiNunzio, Clerk

**Memorials & Appreciation**

RE John Baird, Chairman  
TE Ken Van Kampen, Clerk

**Ministerial Vocation**

TE Bob Wilbur, Chairman

TE Austin Olive, Clerk

**National Outreach**

RE Bill Brooks, Chairman

TE David Galbraith, Clerk

**Overtures & Resolutions**

TE George Yates, Chairman

TE Michael Thomas, Clerk

**Student Ministries**

TE Chris Lawson, Chairman

RE Jonas (Joe) McCoy, Clerk

**Theology**

RE Alan Shaffer, Chairman

RE Peter Scribner, Clerk

**Women In Ministry**

RE Jean Smith, Chairman

RE Barbara Matthews, Clerk

**World Outreach**

TE Don Neighbors, Chairman

TE Rich Lanning, Clerk

**29-16 INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

The Moderator introduced special guests to the Assembly:

Ric Cannada, Reformed Theological Seminary

Mike Milton, Presbyterian Church of America

Darwin Glassford, Calvin Seminary

Nupanga Weanzana, Babgui Evangelical School, Central African Republic

Following miscellaneous announcements, the Moderator introduced TE Mark Jumper, Pastor of the New Hope EPC of Libertyville, IL who offered prayer as the Assembly adjourned for lunch.

**MINUTES - THURSDAY AFTERNOON**

**June 25, 2009**

**29-17 CONVENING OF THE THIRD SESSION**

Moderator Nate Atwood called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. with prayer.

## **29-18 NEW CHURCHES**

TE Steve Bryant of Grace Chapel greeted the assembly giving God thanks for their transition into the EPC.

### **Central South Presbytery**

- 1) First Presbyterian Church, Corinth, MS (received from PCUSA, October 2008)
- 2) First Presbyterian Church, Opelika, AL (received from PCUSA, November 2008)
- 3) Woodland Presbyterian Church, New Orleans, LA (received from transitional membership in NWEPC, April 2009)
- 4) Highland Heights Presbyterian Church, Cordova, TN (received from PCUSA, April 2009)
- 5) Fruitland Presbyterian Church, Fruitland, TN (received as transitional member, May 2009)
- 6) Greenfield Presbyterian, Greenfield, TN (received as transitional member, May 2009)

### **East Presbytery**

- 7) Lancaster Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, NY (received from independence, September 2008)
- 8) Redeemer EPC (mission church), Kingstowne, VA (constituted September 2008)
- 9) Oreland EPC, Orland, PA (received from PCUSA, February, 2009)
- 10) The Presbyterian Church of Portersville, Portersville, PA (received from PCUSA, April 2009)

### **Mid-America Presbytery**

- 11) Resurrection Presbyterian Church, Downers Grove, IL (received from independence, March 2009)

### **Mid-Atlantic Presbytery**

- 12) Christ Covenant (mission church), Fredericksburg, VA (constituted October 2008)
- 13) Rock Presbyterian Church, Greenwood, SC (received from independence, October 2008)
- 14) Hope Church (mission Church), Raleigh, NC (constituted February 2009)
- 15) Stuart Presbyterian Church, Stuart, VA (received from PCUSA, February 2009)

### **Midwest Presbytery**

- 16) Discovery Church (mission church), Evansville, IN (constituted June 2008)
- 17) The Well (mission church), Brighton, MI (constituted June 2008)
- 18) First Presbyterian Church, Kokomo, IN (received as transitional member from independence, (November 2009)
- 19) Covenant Church, West Lafayette, IN (received as transitional member, From PCUSA, April 2009)

- 20) Grace Point EPC, Nappanee, IN (received as transitional member, from PCUSA, April 2009)
- 21) First Presbyterian Church, Frankfort, IN (received as transitional member, from PCUSA, April 2009)

**Southeast Presbytery**

- 22) Timberridge Presbyterian Church, McDonough, GA (received from independence, October 2008)
- 23) Sunset Presbyterian Church, Portland, OR (received as transitional member from PCUSA, January 2009)

**New Wineskins/EPC Transitional Presbytery**

- 24) Grace Community Fellowship (mission church), Ottawa, KS (received from PCUSA June, 2008)
- 25) Trinity Presbyterian Church, Liverpool, NY (received from independence, August 2008)
- 26) Attica-Williamsport Presbyterian, Attica, IN (received from independence, August 2008)
- 27) Fourth Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA (received from PCUSA, September 2008)
- 28) Fallbrook Presbyterian Church, Fallbrook, CA (received from PCUSA, October 2008)
- 29) Covenant Presbyterian Church (The Barn), Simsbury, CT (received from PCUSA, October 2008)
- 30) River Church South, Gonzales, LA (received from PCUSA November, 2008)
- 31) First Presbyterian Church of College Corner, College Corner, OH (received from independence, December, 2008)
- 32) Fort Palmer Presbyterian Church, Bolivar, PA (received from PCUSA, January, 2009)
- 33) Sierra Presbyterian Church, Nevada City, CA (received from PCUSA, February 2009)
- 34) Wallace St. Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, IN (received from PCUSA, April 2009)
- 35) New Creation EPC (mission church), Joplin, MO (constituted April 2009)
- 36) Chippewa United Presbyterian Church, Beaver Falls, PA (received from PCUSA, April 2009)
- 37) Sunset Presbyterian Church, Portland, OR (received from Presbytery of the West May 2009)

**29-19 INTRODUCTION OF CHAPLAINS**

TE George Yates introduced the military chaplains in attendance:

Tim Foster - US Navy Reserves  
 Mark Ingles – US Air Force

The Moderator offered prayer for all Chaplains endorsed by the EPC.

**29-20 FRATERNAL GREETINGS**

TE Don Fortson opened his report with prayer and introduced Fraternal Guests who then addressed the court.

- ◆ Dr. Davi Charles Gomes, Secretary of the Commission on Inter-Ecclesiastical Relations for the Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPB) and his translator, Dr. Adonias da Costa Silveira, (chair of the Inter-Ecclesiastical Relations Commission.
- ◆ Jerry Dykstra, General Secretary, Christian Reformed Church.

**29-21 PRESENTATION OF THE 2009 BART HESS AWARD**

TE Shawn Robinson explained the background and purpose of the Bartlett Hess award and announced the 2009 winner, All Saints EPC in Memphis, Tennessee. Reverend Robinson then invited representatives of the church forward for prayer. Pastor Waring Porter of All Saints addressed the assembly and described what God is doing in Memphis.

**29-22 ADDRESS OF THE INCOMING MODERATOR**

TE Nate Atwood offered a few brief remarks concerning the unique calling of the EPC and why Biblically grounded denominations are still vital in a post-modern era. Reverend Atwood referred to the written report of the Committee on Administration to outline some key elements which characterize the EPC (see pp. 111 -154).

**29-23 MATTERS RECEIVED AND REFERRED**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- **Communication 09-01** from Moderator Allen Roes dated June 2009 Re: Nominations to the Nominating Committee Class of 2012, and the 2009-2010 Nominating Committee, and Board of Pension and Benefits chairmen.  
*Referred to the Floor (p. 67)*
- **Communication 09-02** from Moderator Allen Roes dated 18 May 2009 Re: Appointment of RE Jim Slyman to Chair the Permanent Nominating Committee.  
*Referred to the Floor as information*
- **Communication 09-03** from Dr. Davi Charles Gomes, Secretary of the Commission on Inter-Ecclesiastical Relations of the Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPB) dated 15 April 2009 Re: an invitation to Stated Clerk Jeffrey Jeremiah to attend the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IPB in Rio de Janeiro on 12 August 2009.  
*Referred to the Committee on Fraternal Relations (p.72)*

- **Communication 09-04** from Dr. Michael A Milton, President of Reformed Theological Seminary undated Re: Fraternal Greetings from the Presbyterian Church in America.  
*Referred to the Committee on Fraternal Relations (p. 71)*
- **Communication 09-05** from Dr. Donald W. Sweeting, Senior Pastor of Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church undated Re: offering to host the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2010.  
*Referred to the Committee on Administration (p.69)*
- **Communication 09-06** from Dr. R. Craig Strickland, Senior Pastor of the Hope Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Cordova, TN dated 27 January 2009 Re: offering to host the 31<sup>st</sup> General Assembly in 2011.  
*Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 69)*

## OVERTURES

- **Overture 09-A** from the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic requesting that the General Assembly develop a position paper regarding stem cells, the human embryo, and related questions of bioethics and human life.  
*Referred to the Committee on Theology (p. 60)*
- **Overture 09-B** from the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic requesting that the General Assembly instruct the Moderator to appoint a Committee to review the *Book of Government* with input from the Stated Clerks of all presbyteries for the purpose of identifying portions which could prove confusing in meaning or application and to recommend revisions as needed.  
*Referred to the Committee on Overtures and Resolutions (p.61)*
- **Overture 09-C** from the Presbytery of the Midwest to amend the *Book of Discipline* Sections 3-5 and 10-7 to allow Disciplinary cases to be concluded even without permission from the defendant even if the defendant renounces the jurisdiction of the court.  
*Referred to the Committee on Overtures and Resolutions (p.61)*
- **Overture 09-D** from the Presbytery of Mid-America to form two experimental “affinity presbyteries” within its boundaries based on their policies concerning the ordination of women as Teaching Elders.  
*Referred to the Permanent Judicial Commission (p.21)*  
(see Minutes 29-14)



**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Procedural Recommendations**

**Recommendation # 1** (from Committee on Administration)

That the Assembly enroll ruling and teaching elders who are members only of transitional presbyteries as corresponding members of the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly with voice but no vote.

*Referred to the Floor (p. 9)*

**Recommendation #2** (from Committee on Administration)

That the Assembly adopt the following procedure for creation of an omnibus consent motion at its 2009 meeting:

If a standing committee, by majority vote, believes any of its recommendations will receive a consensus support of the Assembly, it may designate in its report that these items are to be included in an omnibus motion which will contain all such items from all committees. This designation may be challenged by motion at the time of the presentation of the omnibus. The omnibus motion itself may be divided only by a majority vote of 2/3 or greater. Constitutional amendments and recommendations regarding budgets may not be designated for inclusion in an omnibus motion.

Grounds: An omnibus consent motion allows the Assembly to streamline its business by putting several routine business that should receive consensus agreement in one motion. The Assembly has utilized an omnibus consent motion in 2007 and 2008 and the proposed process for 2009 reflects learning from the previous two years. If approved, the Committee on Administration will evaluate the 2009 procedure with a view to proposing an amendment that would make creation of an omnibus consent motion part of the "Rules for Assembly."

*Referred to the Floor (p. 9)*

**From the Committee on Administration**

**Recommendation #3**

That the Assembly amend *Book of Government* § 16-22, updating the responsibilities of the General Assembly.

<b>Current Wording G.16-22</b>	<b>Proposed substitute wording G.16-22</b>
§16-22 Duties: In maintaining the spiritual supervision of all churches and Presbyteries, the General Assembly has the following duties and powers:	§16-22 Mission of the General Assembly. In overseeing the total work of the Church, the General Assembly:

<p>A. To assume review and control of the Presbyteries through an annual review of minutes, to remand what may be contrary to the Constitution, and to see that all lawful injunctions are followed.</p> <p>B. To make final decisions on judicial cases brought before it in accordance with the <i>Book of Discipline</i>.</p> <p>C. To establish, unite, divide, or dissolve Presbyteries.</p> <p>D. To create separately or in conjunction with the Presbyteries those agencies or institutions needed for education or other purposes which would enhance the life and ministry of the whole church.</p> <p>E. To establish those boards and agencies necessary to serve the whole Church. This shall include the establishment of a disability and retirement program for Ministers and other full-time church personnel.</p> <p>F. To make evangelism, lay renewal, church extension and world missions its priorities and to undertake the support of agencies for that purpose.</p> <p>G. To approve and recommend to the Presbyteries such changes in the constitutional documents as it deems wise, fit and helpful. Such changes reported to the General Assembly by its Permanent Judicial Commission, and</p>	<p>A. Equips and encourages EPC leaders, churches and presbyteries to pursue God's mission in the world. In doing so, it has the responsibility:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To support the presbyteries and churches in making evangelism and discipleship their priorities. This may include establishing committees, boards, agencies, training events, networks and/or staff positions.</li> <li>2. To provide human resource services by establishing those committees, boards and agencies necessary to serve the ministers, missionaries and full time staff of the whole Church. This may include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A health, disability and retirement program for Ministers, Missionaries and other full-time church staff.</li> <li>b. An agency for aiding churches and presbyteries in calling Ministers and other staff members.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. To create separately or in conjunction with the Presbyteries those agencies or institutions needed for education or other purposes which would enhance the life and ministry of the whole church.</li> </ol> <p>B. Ensures the denomination's</p>
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<p>upon approval by the Assembly shall be referred to the Presbyteries, and upon approval by a %'s majority of the Presbyteries and in a succeeding Assembly (unless constitutional provisions hereafter stated require a different vote) shall be enacted.</p> <p>H. To organize itself as it deems best for the propagation of the Gospel, the advancement of the Kingdom, and the edification of the whole Church.</p> <p>I. To provide services to the Presbyteries and particular churches, to offer encouragement, training, and other helps in conjunction with the Presbyteries that the whole Church may be effective in its total ministry.</p> <p>J. To oversee the affairs of the whole Church, including correspondence and cooperation with other denominations.</p> <p>K. To recommend measures for ministry to the various churches under its supervision.</p> <p>L. To maintain a central agency for aiding churches in securing Pastors and for assisting Ministers of the Word in relocation. Such agency shall always work through the Ministerial Committee of Presbytery.</p> <p>M. To provide guidance for the theological preparation of</p>	<p>connectional life is consistent with Presbyterian polity as it is expressed in God's Word. In doing so, it has the responsibility:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To assume review and control of the Presbyteries through an annual review of minutes, to remand what may be contrary to the Constitution, and to see that all lawful injunctions are followed.</li> <li>2. To establish, unite, divide, or dissolve Presbyteries.</li> <li>3. To approve and recommend to the Presbyteries such changes in the constitutional documents as it deems wise, fit and helpful. Such changes reported to the General Assembly by its Permanent Judicial Commission shall, upon approval: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Be referred to the Presbyteries, and</li> <li>b. Upon approval by a three-fourths percent majority of the Presbyteries and in a succeeding Assembly (unless constitutional provisions hereafter stated require a different vote) shall be enacted.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. To make final decisions on judicial cases brought before it in accordance with the <i>Book of Discipline</i>.</li> </ol>
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<p>candidates in mission fields outside North America where Presbyteries do not yet exist, and to arrange for the ordination, where appropriate, of those persons who are duly called and prepared for the office of Minister, Elder or Deacon.</p>	<p>5. To provide guidance for the theological preparation of candidates in mission fields outside North America where Presbyteries do not yet exist, and to arrange for the ordination, where appropriate, of those persons who are duly called and prepared for the office of Minister, Elder or Deacon.</p> <p>6. To hold presbyteries accountable, by exercising the principle of review and control through an annual review of minutes, for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Encouraging and equipping their local churches to fulfill the Great Commission, and</li> <li>b. Following the Constitution and all lawful injunctions.</li> </ul> <p>C. Shall organize itself as it deems best for the propagation of the Gospel, the advancement of the Kingdom, and the edification of the whole Church.</p>
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Grounds: The current G.16-22 is a list of un prioritized responsibilities. The proposed substitute frames the duties and responsibilities of the General Assembly in two key areas, providing needed focus, which will help us to be more effective. As we become a robust denomination of evangelical, Reformed, Presbyterian, and missional churches, it is appropriate that we state our priorities in a way that propels us to:

1. equip and encourage presbyteries, churches and leaders for mission
2. ensure our connectional life is consistent with our Presbyterian polity, and
3. continually evaluate our structures and effectiveness

*Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 53)*

**Recommendation #4**

That the Assembly approve the revised 2009 Administrative Budget of \$1,376,394 (see p. 124).

*Referred to the Committee on Administration (p.56)*

**Recommendation #5**

That the Per Member Asking (PMA) be reduced from \$25 to \$23 beginning July 1, 2009.

*Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 56)*

**Recommendation #6**

That the Assembly approve the 2010 Benevolence Askings of \$328,000 (see p. 125).

*Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 59)*

**Recommendation #30**

That the Assembly approve an Administrative Budget for 2010 of \$1,333,216 (see p. 126).

*Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 56)*

**Recommendation #31**

That the Assembly designate the 2009 Thanksgiving Offering to the "St. Andrews Presbytery Celebration."

Grounds: With new "Articles of Agreement" approved by the 29th Assembly and, if the way be clear, by the St. Andrews Presbytery, it is fitting to provide a denomination-wide opportunity to thank God for all he has done in the 21-year relationship of the EPC and St. Andrews Presbytery in Argentina and what he will continue to do though this partnership in ministry. This offering will provide a way to let the work of St. Andrews Presbytery be known more widely in the EPC and for churches and individuals to be active in this partnership through their prayer and gifts. Funds given to the 2009 Thanksgiving Offering will support church planting and leadership development of ministers and ruling elders in the St. Andrews Presbytery.

*Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 60)*

**Recommendation #32**

That the Assembly elect the Reverend Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah to serve a second three-year term as Stated Clerk of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, commencing January, 2010 (see pp. 128-132).

*Referred to the Floor (p. 73)*

<b>From the Board of Benefits</b>
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**Recommendation #7**

That ministers drawing retirement income from the EPC Defined

Contribution Retirement Plan (403(b)) be allowed to designate up to 100% of their retirement income for housing allowance, as permitted by applicable regulations adopted pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code.

Grounds: Doing so allows retired ministers to take advantage of this significant tax benefit in retirement, thereby making more of their retirement income available for living expenses. Adopting this recommendation on an annual basis provides retired ministers with a readily available reference if asked by tax authorities.

*Referred to the Floor (p. 63)*

**From the Committee on Christian Education & Publications**

None

**From the Committee on College Ministries**

None

**From the Foundation Board**

None

**From the Committee on Fraternal Relations**

**Recommendation #33**

That the Assembly approve the proposed Articles of Agreement for 2009-2014 with the St. Andrews Presbytery of Argentina (see pp. 210-217).

*Referred to the Fraternal Relations Committee (p. 72)*

**From the Committee on Ministerial Vocation**

**Recommendation #8**

Regarding a referral from the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2008) to consider putting a limit on the number of times the invited period of service for a Stated Supply pastor may be renewed: *The Ministerial Vocation Committee recommends that no limit be specified in the Book of Government for renewals of invited terms of service for Stated Supply pastors.*

Grounds: Descending Overture 08-A (see text below), if approved by presbyteries and ratified by the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, clarifies that an invitation to a minister to serve as stated supply may be renewed. While realizing that the amendment leaves open the possibility of a "permanent" stated supply ("endless" renewals), it is better to leave decisions on the number of term renewals in the hands of Sessions and Presbyteries who are closer to the particular situations rather than mandate limits constitutionally.

Descending Overture 08-A: That the *Book of Government* 11-8.A be amended to allow Presbytery to renew the term of a minister appointed as Stated Supply

Existing Wording G.11-8.A	Proposed Wording (additions in <i>italics</i> )
<p>Stated Supply. Invited to serve for a definite period of time of no less than one month and no more than twelve. The Stated Supply may be appointed by the Presbytery to Moderate the Church Session during the time of service.</p>	<p>Stated Supply: Invited to serve for a definite period of <i>not</i> less than one month and <i>no</i> more than twelve <i>months (the "invited period of service")</i>. <i>Before the end of any invited period of service, the invitation may be extended for an additional period not to exceed twelve months by approval of the Church Session and the Presbytery on recommendation from the Ministerial Committee.</i> The Stated Supply may be appointed by the Presbytery to moderate the Church Session during the time of service.</p>

*Referred to the Ministerial Vocation Committee (p. 64)*

**Recommendation #9**

Regarding endorsing Deacons as institutional chaplains, (Recommendation #46 referred from the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly - see pp. 226-227) referred jointly to the Ministerial Vocation Committee and Theology Committee by the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly for further study and recommendation to the 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly: *The Ministerial Vocation Committee, in concurrence with the Theology Committee, recommends that the Assembly not approve Recommendation #46 to the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.*

Grounds: As the nature of the office of Ruling Elder and Deacon differ, so does the power of order inherent in those offices.

1. A Deacon who serves in a capacity outside the local church is beyond the authority of the particular church to commission, certify, or endorse. This, however, should not prohibit an individual from serving as a paid or volunteer chaplain.
2. A Deacon is not authorized to administer any sacraments, which could be a hindrance in exercising chaplaincy ministry.
3. Commissioned Pastors, who must be Ruling Elders (G.10-6E), are examined and given their commissions by presbyteries. Presbyteries cannot exercise appropriate accountability and oversight of Deacons who are not eligible to be members of that court. Further, it is not appropriate for the Stated Clerk, as the denomination's registered endorsing agent for chaplains, to bypass the middle judicatory in granting endorsements.

*Referred to the Ministerial Vocation Committee (p. 64)*

## **Recommendation #10**

Regarding Ascending Overture 08-B to the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2008 - see pp. 228-229) to amend the *Book of Government* to create the calling of "co-pastor" referred jointly to the Ministerial Vocation Committee and Theology Committee for findings and recommendations: *The Ministerial Vocation Committee recommends that Ascending Overture 08-B not be approved.*

**Grounds:** Ascending Overture 08-B came to the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly with no grounds for approval attached. The combined weight of the following reasons led the Ministerial Vocation Committee to recommend against adopting Overture 08-B:

1. *The biblical principle of plurality of leadership*, which some may advance as an argument in favor of co-pastor relationships, is already adequately addressed in the EPC's polity through the parity of Teaching and Ruling Elders in courts of the church. Further, the current structure of pastor/associate/assistant pastors allows adequate flexibility in structuring staff leadership.
2. *The argument of reduction to the absurd*. Opening the door to "co pastors" means not simply two pastors, but multiple pastors with equal authority, leading to confusion rather than clarity and order (1 Cor. 14:33, 40).
3. *The need for clearly identified leadership*. The current system, which identifies the pastor as Moderator as one of the two officers of the church (the other being the Clerk of Session), is clear, definitive, and effective. There are no co-presidents, no co-commanders-in-chiefs, no co-sheriffs, because no one is really in charge in situations that require immediate action situations and that demand command presence leadership.
4. *The issue of pastoral succession*. "Co-pastors" could be used to circumvent the benefits of the intentional interim ministry process in pastoral leadership transitions (*Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees*, Section 15), potentially incurring various problems: a) allowing pastors the opportunity to act manipulatively to select their successor thereby repeating the mistakes of their pastoral tenure at that church, b) does not give the new pastor the opportunity to make a fresh, healthy start, and, 3) does not allow the congregation to adequately exercise their responsibility to call their own Pastor and wisely reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them through the Bible regarding what God is calling their church to look like in the future.
5. *Unneeded difficulties*. A significant amount of time is needed to become aware of and navigate around the "landmines" of co-pastor relationships (see Question for Discernment on the web site of the



**From the Committee on National Outreach**

**Recommendation #11**

That the Assembly approve the following revision to the Rules for Assembly, 10-I.C:

<b>Existing Wording 10-1.C</b>	<b>Proposed Wording (additions in italics)</b>
<p>C. Committee on National Outreach</p> <p>1. Membership to be nine members, including three "at large" members in order to add greater breadth and depth of experience. Chairman is to be elected by committee.</p> <p>2. Duties: to give oversight and planning to the domestic ministries in church planting, evangelism, and church planting, evangelism, and church development.</p>	<p>C. Committee on National Outreach</p> <p>1. Membership to be <i>three</i> <del>nine</del> members, including <del>three</del> "at large" members in order to add greater breadth and depth of experience. Chairman is to be elected by committee.</p> <p>2. Duties: <del>to give oversight and planning to the domestic ministries in church planting, evangelism, and church planting, evangelism, and church development.</del></p> <p><i>a. To coordinate, encourage and provide resources for church planting, evangelism, and church development efforts of presbyteries and churches.</i></p> <p><i>b. To provide oversight of Church Planter Assessing and Equipping, the Home Missionary application process, the Urban Ministries Network (UMN) and to encourage the pursuit of ethnic domestic ministry opportunities.</i></p>

Grounds: For the past three years the National Outreach Committee has engaged in a thorough review of its mission and ministry to the EPC. It has

identified those activities that are best done at the national committee level and sought to "push down" to the presbyteries those activities that are best pursued at that level. During this time, the NOC met jointly with presbytery Church Development Committee chairmen. Recognizing that the CDC's are closer to the local level, NOC asked the CDC's to experiment with meeting and taking care of those items focusing on church planting and church revitalization. Given the success of this experiment we are unanimous in proposing this change.

NOC has concluded that the best way to pursue church planting, church revitalization and evangelism is to support the presbyteries and churches as they take responsibility for these activities. Through the Church Development Committees (in some cases, Church Planting and Church Revitalization Committees), the presbyteries are organizing themselves to accomplish these tasks. NOC's role in this reconfiguration would be to serve the presbyteries by gathering CDC chairs twice a year for networking, coordinating, encouraging and providing resources to the work of the presbyteries.

At the national level, NOC believes its future role is to oversee Church Planter Assessing and Equipping, the Home Missionary application process and the Urban Ministries Network (UMN), and to encourage the pursuit of ethnic domestic ministry opportunities as they arise. Given this change of responsibilities, the NOC believes that a committee consisting of three persons, working with the Stated Clerk's office, can handle these responsibilities.

*Referred to the National Outreach Committee (p. 56)*

**National Transitional Presbytery**

None

**From the New Wineskins/EPC Commission**

**Recommendation #12**

That the General Assembly instruct the Committee on Administration to have the responsibility for directing the process of our becoming a missional denomination.

*Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 69)*

**From the Nominating Committee**

**Recommendation #13:**

That the Rules for Assembly 11-4 be amended to allow for the Nominating Committee to begin its work earlier in the year as follows:

Current Wording of Rules for Assembly 11-4	Proposed Wording for Rules for Assembly 11-4
<p>11-4 Duties:</p> <p>1. Nominees for Moderator-elect: The committee shall advise each Presbytery following the meeting of the Assembly of the privilege of that Presbytery to recommend to the committee a person for Moderator-elect of the General Assembly. Such recommendation shall be forwarded to the committee no later than March 31 of that year. After March 31, the committee shall evaluate the recommendations of the Presbyteries, as well as other recommendations it may receive, and at the next meeting of the Assembly shall recommend no more than two persons as its nominees for Moderator-elect. At that time, nominations may also be made from the floor. Election shall be by a majority vote of the Assembly. Nominees of the committee shall be advised of their pending nomination, ordinarily no less than thirty days prior to the meeting of the General Assembly.</p>	<p>11-4 Duties:</p> <p>1. Nominees for Moderator-elect: The committee shall advise each Presbytery following the meeting of the Assembly of the privilege of that Presbytery to recommend to the committee a person for Moderator-elect of the General Assembly. Such recommendation shall be forwarded to the committee no later than <del>March 31</del> <i>February 28</i> of that year. After <del>March 31</del> <i>February 28</i>, the committee shall evaluate the recommendations of the Presbyteries as well as other recommendations it may receive, and at the next meeting of the Assembly shall recommend no more than two persons as its nominees for Moderator-elect. At that time, nominations may also be made from the floor. Election shall be by a majority vote of the Assembly. Nominees of the committee shall be advised of their pending nomination, ordinarily no less than thirty days prior to the meeting of the General Assembly.</p>
<p>2. Nominees for Moderator: Ordinarily, the Committee shall nominate the Moderator-elect for Moderator of the succeeding Assembly. However, if the Moderator-elect is unable or declines such nomination or the Committee deems it unwise to do so, it shall nominate at least 1 but not more than 2 candidates for Moderator utilizing the same procedures as for Mod.-elect.</p>	<p>(No change proposed)</p>

<p>3. To nominate to the Assembly persons for vacancies of all Assembly permanent committees. Recommendations from Sessions or Presbyteries shall be forwarded to the Committee no later than April 30 of that year. The Endorsement for Nomination form shall be used and shall reflect official action of the Session or the Presbytery.</p>	<p>3. To nominate to the Assembly persons for vacancies of all Assembly permanent committees. Recommendations from Sessions or Presbyteries shall be forwarded to the Committee no later than <del>April 30</del> <i>February 28</i> of that year. The Endorsement for Nomination form shall be used and shall reflect official action of the Session or Presbytery.</p>
<p>4. To name from the Commissioners to the Assembly those who will serve on the various standing committees of the Assembly.</p>	<p>(No change proposed)</p>
<p>5. The Committee shall meet in May each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator-elect or Moderator of the General Assembly as the case may be and for permanent committees.</p>	<p>5. The Committee shall meet in <del>May</del> <i>March</i> each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator-elect or Moderator of the General Assembly as the case may be and for permanent committees.</p>

Grounds: The proposed changes move the endorsing and nominating process earlier in the year. By doing so, the Nominating Committee will be less rushed and have better opportunity to make considered decisions regarding nominees for Moderator-elect and for permanent committees.

*Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 70)*

**From the Permanent Judicial Commission**

**Recommendation #14**

That the Assembly sustain the opinion of the Permanent Judicial Commission that **Overture 09-D** (see pp. 190-193) as framed is not compatible with the Constitution of the Church, and that any such proposal must be presented to the General Assembly as an amendment to the Constitution and follow the process set forth therein.

*Referred to the Floor (p. 21)*

**Recommendation #15**

That the Preliminary Judgment regarding the matter of Samuel L. Jones and the Presbytery of the East be sustained (see pp. 263-264).

*The PJC notes that "In voting on the Preliminary Judgment, questions for clarification will be entertained; but the merits of the case are non-*

*debatable. Without amendment the General Assembly shall vote to sustain or not to sustain the judgment of the Commission, in which case the vote is final and becomes the decision of the General Assembly. If the judgment of the Permanent Judicial Commission is not sustained, the Assembly shall determine whether the case shall be remanded to the Commission or committed to a Judicial Commission." BOG 16-27.B.3*

*Referred to the Floor (p. 21)*

**Recommendation #35**

That the Assembly create an interim committee to explore ways to include those pastors and churches with conflicting positions on women Teaching Elders in the presbyteries of the EPC. This Committee will be appointed by the Moderator, will include at least one representative from each presbytery and include all positions held within the EPC on women Teaching Elders. The committee will report to the 30th General Assembly in 2010.

*Referred to the Committee on Overtures and Resolutions (p. 62)*

<b>From the Presbytery Review Committee</b>
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**Recommendation #16**

That the Assembly receive the responses of the presbyteries (see pp. 270-287) to exceptions from the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and to notations requiring responses as adequate with the exception of:

Response B.1 from the Southeast Presbytery. Minutes should be corrected (2-06.1) to read “that Michael Thomas be ordained...” rather than “re-ordained” in order to reflect the constitutional language of G.13-7.

*Referred to the Floor (p. 74)*

**Regarding the Presbytery of the Central South**

**Recommendation #17**

That the Assembly approve the minutes of the Central South Presbytery with the following exceptions:

- a. 74.22.3 (page 88): Terms of call for Assistant Pastors Wells and Rieves do not include the length of term or primary duties as required by G.11-7.
- b. 74:22 (page 89): Ruling Elder/Teaching Elder parity on Administrative Commission is the opposite of what is required (G.16-26B.2.e).
- c. 75.14b (page 99); 76:11 (page 123): Presbytery does not “approve” minutes of Administrative Commissions. Administrative Commissions report their actions which are included in the minutes (G.16-26B). Minutes should be corrected to read the “The report of the Administrative Commission to install...was received and the Commission, having completed its work, was dissolved..”

- d. 75.17 (pages 105-107): Omission: Minutes show that nominations were presented to the presbytery but the process and results of any election are missing. Minutes should be corrected to indicate which (or all) of the nominees were elected.

And that the Assembly send the following advice to the Central South Presbytery:

It was noted that some administrative commissions formed by the presbytery had equal numbers of Ruling and Teaching Elders. *Book of Government* 16-26.B.2.e requires that “administrative commissions of Presbytery and General Assembly shall be composed of Ministers and Elders in proportion as near to two Ruling Elders to one Minister as possible.” The presbytery should be more diligent to form administrative commissions according to this requirement. Three ruling elders and two teaching elders on a Commission with the minimum number of five would meet this requirement (see pp. .

*Referred to the Floor (p. 74)*

### **Regarding the Presbytery of the East**

#### **Recommendation #18**

That the minutes of the Presbytery of the East be approved.

*Referred to the Floor (p. 75)*

### **Regarding the Presbytery of Florida**

#### **Recommendation #19**

That the minutes of the Presbytery of Florida be approved.

*Referred to the Floor (p.75)*

### **Regarding the Presbytery of Mid-America**

#### **Recommendation #20**

That the minutes of the Presbytery of Mid-America be approved with the following exceptions:

- a. 51.05 (page 55): Presbytery did not appoint a temporary governing body for Mercy Road Fellowship as required by G.5-3.
- b. 52.01 (page 582): The presbytery improperly elected a Moderator Pro-tem, citing *Roberts Rules of Order*, when constitutional provisions (G.16-15) take precedence (i.e., most recently elected Moderator, or, if no former Moderator is present, the Minister present with the earliest date of ordination).
- c. 52.03 (pages 587-590): Actions of Administrative Commissions are reported in presbytery minutes, not the Commission minutes themselves. Minutes should be rewritten to delete commission

minutes and replaced with a summary of their actions (G.16-26B).

*Referred to the Floor (p. 75)*

### **Regarding the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic**

#### **Recommendation #21**

That the minutes of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery be approved with the following exceptions:

- a. Addendum 59.22B (Page 359): In order to fulfill requirements of Act of Assembly 98-04, the substance of the addendum should be in the body of the minutes.
- b. 60.21 (Page 13): Presbytery did not assign advisors for candidates Campbell and Tepper.

And that the Assembly send the following advice to the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery:

While the Teaching/Ruling elder ratio at presbytery meetings was generally good, Minutes show a conspicuous number of absences of churches, and teaching and ruling elders. Presbytery is encouraged to seek methods to increase their percentage of potential attendance at stated meetings.

*Referred to the Floor (p. 75)*

### **Regarding the Presbytery of the Midwest**

#### **Recommendation #22**

That the minutes of the Midwest Presbytery be approved with the following exceptions:

- a. 124<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting (second paragraph), 125-8 and 125-1. Misstatements: Neither Charles Sheldon nor Trey McClain are potential or actual candidates under care. Minutes should be corrected to indicate that Reverend Sheldon and Reverend McClain are ministers seeking transfer from a non-Reformed body. The term “candidate” should not be used in these situations, as that status sets up requirements (G.12) that are not appropriate for ordained ministers.
- b. 125-9 (*sic.*) (page 392). Omission: Minutes do not indicate what was dropped from *Guidelines for Ordination of Women* and the document was not attached to the Minutes. Minutes are remanded to the Presbytery for correction and re-submission with attachments to the General Assembly immediately following the Presbytery’s September 2009 stated meeting.
- c. 129-9 (page 400). Omission: Terms of call for Assistant Pastor Minter does not include the length of term as required by G.11-7.
- d. 124-16 (page 377). Omission: The presbytery did not make a

determination on the recommendation of the Judicial Investigative Committee regarding a strong presumption of guilt as required by D.5-3B and did not act on the recommendation of the Judicial Investigative Committee to refer the matter the Ministerial Committee. The Judicial Investigative Committee has authority to recommend, not to act (G.6-1C).

- e. 128-7 (page 6). Omission: Minutes do not indicate that the required 2/3 vote to grant extraordinary status was received (G.12-2H).

*Referred to the Floor (p. 76)*

### Regarding the Presbytery of the Southeast

#### Recommendation #23

That the minutes of the Presbytery of the Southeast be approved with the following exceptions:

- a. 75-23 (Page 17). Omission: There is no record of TE Allison or TE Richards signing the required Ministerial Obligation (G.16-16L).
- b. 75-23 (Page 17). Minutes should record that exceptions to the Confession were allowed or disallowed, but not state the specific exceptions (Act of Assembly 03-09)
- c. 76-24 (Pages 10-11. Omission: Minutes do not indicate that candidates Emmons and Smeester have been members of EPC congregations for the required six months (G.12-2).

*Referred to the Floor (p. 76)*

#### Recommendation #24

That the Assembly send the following advice to the New Wineskins/EPC Transitional Presbytery:

- a. Work toward a Ruling to Teaching Elder ratio of 2:1.
- b. Minutes should be signed by hand, not with a typed signature.

*Referred to the Floor (p. 77)*

#### Recommendation #25

That the Assembly send the following advice to all presbyteries:

- 1. When receiving churches and ministers, presbytery minutes should indicate the dismissing body.
- 2. Presbytery minutes should reflect the requirements of G.16-26B, namely, that minutes of commissions are not approved by presbytery. Commissions report their actions, and their actions are recorded in the presbytery minutes. Minutes of Commissions should be kept separately.

*Referred to the Floor (p. 77)*



**From the Committee on Student Ministries**

None

**From the Committee on Theology**

**Recommendation #26**

That the Assembly adopt the following definition of a missional church and denomination:

Our denomination wants to clarify for its member churches who we are and what we do as the United States becomes a mission field that is larger, more spiritually diverse and more antagonistic to the Gospel than ever before.

The term "missional" has become common and therefore highly nuanced. We desire to define missional in a simple and specific way so that each EPC church can commit to a unified, obedient pursuit of the expansion of the Kingdom of God.

1. A missional church grasps that God is a missionary God and that "it is not so much that God has a mission for His church in the world, but that God has a Church for His mission in the world."\*
2. A missional church believes that the mission of God is rooted unalterably in the Bible, God's infallible Word. Therefore, a missional church believes that the essence of God's mission is to extend the reign of God and is summed up in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. A missional church is a visible community of authentic disciples of Jesus Christ who *gather* for celebration, prayer and teaching and then *disperse* locally and globally as His missionaries to love and serve people. In so doing, a missional church both *pursues* and *welcomes* those who are searching as they are drawn into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. The greater purpose in all of this is that the earth will be filled with the worship of God.
4. A missional church believes that it is more than just a collection of individuals, but that it is a community called together by God both to love Him and serve Him.
5. A missional church is concerned with more than maintaining programs for existing members; it is called to mobilize itself both individually and as a community to daily self-sacrifice for the hurting world around them. A missional church is both inwardly strong and outwardly focused.

6. A missional church perceives that the essence of these things is the essence of its existence. Therefore, a missional church will constantly seek to reevaluate itself as to whether or not its emphasis, organization, and activity effectively positions the church to partner with God in His mission.
7. A missional denomination
  - a. Believes that the location of ministry is the local church
  - b. Is made up of local congregations committed to being missional
  - c. Believes that the Presbyteries and General Assembly, being expressions of the larger church, have an important role to play in identifying, equipping and supporting leaders and churches. They are a key link in the principle of mutual accountability toward missional ministry and Biblical standards.
  - d. Constantly examines whether its polity, structures and programs are supporting or inhibiting that missional commitment

\* J. Andrew Kirk, What is Mission? Theological Explorations (London: Darton, Longman and Todd; Minneapolis: fortress Press, 1999), pp 23-37.

*Referred to the Theology Committee (p.52)*

**Recommendation #27**

The Permanent Committee on Theology recommends that the Assembly approve Overture 08-B (see pp. 228-229).

1. There are no biblical or theological grounds for disapproving this overture.
2. Disallowing this overture prevents the presbytery and church from considering this arrangement.
3. Approving this overture allows the presbytery and church to consider if co-pastor is an appropriate arrangement.
4. The committee recognizes that there are valid pastoral/pragmatic concerns with regard to this category, and we trust that the presbytery and church considering co-pastors will ensure that all potential issues arising from this arrangement are addressed and resolved.

*Referred to the Ministerial Vocation Committee (p. 64)*

**Recommendation #28**

That the Assembly not adopt the amendment of G.10-9 to allow for commissioning or endorsing of EPC deacons as Chaplains (see pp. 226-227).

**Grounds:**

1. Any officer of the church (ruling elders and/or deacons), regardless

of their spiritual gifts, serving in a capacity outside the local church, is beyond the authority of the church to: commission, certify, recommend and endorse. This, however, should not prohibit an individual from serving as a paid or volunteer chaplain.

2. A deacon/deaconess is not authorized to administer any sacrament.
3. It is clear to this committee that appropriate accountability and oversight cannot be exercised by either the local church or the presbytery.

*Referred to the Ministerial Vocation Committee (p. 64)*

**From the Committee on Women in Ministry**

None

**From the Committee on World Outreach**

**Recommendation #29**

That the Assembly approve PAACS (Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons) as an Approved Resource (see p334-336).

Grounds: PAACS is a highly respected ministry as witnessed by EPC doctors

*Referred to the World Outreach Committee (p. 72)*

**ON MOTION:** The Assembly referred all Communications, Overtures, and Recommendations as noted

**29-24 INSTRUCTIONS TO STANDING COMMITTEES**

The Stated Clerk gave final instructions for the work of the Standing Committees

**29-25 FACE TO FACE OPPORTUNITIES**

Assistant Stated Clerk Ed McCallum gave instructions on how to list openings or seek openings through the face to face process.

<b><u>CHURCH</u></b>	<b><u>POSITION</u></b>
Bethlehem Steltz Reformed (Glen Rock, PA)	Pastor
College Corner (College Corner, OH)	Youth Leader
College Corner (College Corner, OH)	Worship Leader
Covenant Church (West Lafayette, IN)	Pastor
Fair Oaks (Fair Oaks, CA)	Worship Dir.
Forks of the Brandywine (Glen Moore, PA)	Pastor
Gateway Comm. EPC (Slippery Rock, PA)	Dir. of Outreach
Mt. Pleasant Comm. (Mt. Pleasant, MI)	Pastor
Reynolda (Winston Salem, NC)	Asst. Pastor
River Community (Prairieville, LA)	Pastor
Warsaw EPC (Warsaw, IN)	Pastor

**29-26 STANDING COMMITTEES MEET**

Recording Clerk Howard Shockley prayed for the work of the Standing Committees. Standing committees met in session from 3:10 - 5:00 p.m.

**29-27 EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE**

The Assembly convened at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of Cornerstone Presbyterian Church with worship as outlined below.

**29-28 EVENING WORSHIP**

Worship began at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary of Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Brighton, Michigan. The Assembly continued in worship as noted below:

**Thursday evening, June 25<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 p.m.**

Pre-Service Music	<i>Celebrate the Lord of Love</i>	
Chimes		
Call to Worship		
Congregational	<i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>	
Worship	<i>The Solid Rock</i>	
Prayer	<i>The Disciples' Prayer</i>	
	<i>The Apostles' Creed</i>	
Prayer & Investiture of Moderator		RE Allen Roes
Of the 29 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly		
Offering		
Doxology		
Prayer of Dedication		
Offertory	<i>Lord, You're Holy</i>	Cornerstone Choir
		Kim Hardy, Soloist
God's Word	<i>Rejoicing In Our Heritage</i>	Dr. Donald Fortson III
Proclaimed	Ephesians 4:1-16	
Hymn of Response	<i>A Mighty Fortress Is Our God</i>	
Benediction		
Response		

**MINUTES - FRIDAY MORNING**

**Third Session  
June 26, 2009**

**29-29 MODERATOR'S SERVICE OF COMMUNION AND PRAYER**

The Assembly gathered for worship at 8:30 a.m. in the sanctuary of Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church with the order of service proceeding as noted below.

**Order of Worship**  
**Friday Morning, June 26, 2009**

Pre-Service Music	<i>Worthy Is the Lamb</i> <i>All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name</i>	Cornerstone Choir
Greetings		Dr. Richard Alberta
Chimes		
Call to Worship	<i>Crown Him With Many Crowns</i>	Hymn #345
Prayer		
Offering		
Doxology		
Prayer of Dedication		
Offertory	<i>You Are Holy</i> John 3:25-30	Cornerstone Choir
God's Word	<i>Biblical Servant Leadership</i>	RE Allen Roes
Proclaimed		Moderator 28 <sup>th</sup> Assembly
Song of Preparation	<i>Before the Throne of God Above</i>	
Celebration of the Lord's Supper & Meditations		Dr. Richard Alberta Dr. Michael Moses Past GA Moderators
Service of Healing and Prayer		
Song of Reflection	<i>He Is Able</i>	
Song of Affirmation	<i>Spirit Song</i>	
Benediction		

**29-30 CONVENING OF THE THIRD SESSION AND ADOPTION OF DOCKET**

Moderator Nate Atwood called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. with prayer offered by RE Scott Knight, Moderator of Florida Presbytery.

The docket for Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> was presented for approval.

**ON MOTION:** The docket was adopted as follows:

- 8:30 Moderator's Service of Communion and Prayer, RE Allen Roes speaking
- 10:30 **29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly – Session 3**
  - 3.1 Opening Prayer (RE Scott Knight, Florida Presbytery)
  - 3.2 Approval of Docket and Announcements
  - 3.3 Theology Committee Report – Partial Report  
Recommendation #26: adopt the Definition of Missional Church and Denomination
  - 3.4 Committee on Administration – Partial Report (TE John Crimmins)
    - a. Recommendation #3: *Book of Order* Revision

- b. Recommendation #4: revised 2009 Budget
- c. Recommendation #5: Per Member Asking (PMA) Reduction
- d. Recommendation #30: 2010 Budget

3.5 National Outreach Committee Report  
Recommendation #11: reduction in size of the Permanent National Outreach Committee

3.6 Special Presentation – Board of Benefits and Committee on Administration recognition of Janet Bain (TE Ron Horgan and RE Allen Roes)

Adjourn third session (prayer led by TE Jeff Juday, WO Missionary, Midwest Presbytery)

12:00 Network Lunches: Those with meal tickets may pick up lunches in Hess Hall. Commissioners and visitors may eat there or proceed to one of the various networking groups which may be of interest.

- Benefits Q&A – Hess Hall West
- Literature & Evangelism International -- 601
- Mid-America Presbytery Meeting -- 211
- Newly Ordained Ministers -- 213
- “Tall Steeple” Pastors & Wives -- 214
- Z-4:10 Network (small church) -- 605

1:30 **29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly – Session 4**

- 4.1 Opening Prayer (TE Rus Howard, NWEPC Transitional Presbytery Council)
- 4.2 Greetings from Fraternal Guest Reverend David Gitthi (past Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa)
- 4.3 Nominating Committee - Partial Report (RE Jim Slyman)
  - a. Introduce members of Permanent Nominating Committee
  - b. Second reading of Nominations for Permanent Committees
  - c. Moderator’s appointments and nominations – Communication 09-01
- 4.4 Administration – Partial Report  
Recommendation #6: that the Assembly approve the 2010 Benevolence Askings of \$328,000.  
Recommendation #31: 2009 Thanksgiving Offering
- 4.5 Overtures and Resolutions Report (TE George Yates)
  - a. Overture 09-B: to appoint a committee to review the *Book of Order*
  - b. Overture 09-C: to amend the *Book of Discipline*
  - c. Recommendation #35: that the Assembly approve the creation of an interim committee to explore ways to

include those pastors and churches with conflicting positions on women Teaching Elders in the presbyteries of the EPC.

- 4.55 Partial Report of the Theology Committee
- 4.6 New Wineskins/EPC Transitional Presbytery Commission Report (TE Bill Meyer, Chairman and TE Dean Weaver, Co-Chairman)
- 4.7 Board of Benefits (TE Ron Horgan, Chairman and Mr. Mike Leighton, EPC Director of Benefits)
  - a. Recommendation #7 – housing allowances for retired ministers
- 4.8 Ministerial Vocation Committee Report (TE Bob Wilbur)
  - a. Recommendation #8: putting a limit on the number of times Stated Supply pastor may be renewed
  - b. Recommendation #9/Recommendation #28: adopt amendment of G.10-9 to allow for commissioning or endorsing of EPC deacons as Chaplains
  - c. Recommendation #10: to approve Overture 08-B to amend the *Book of Government* to create the calling of “co-pastor”
  - d. Recommendation #27: to *not* approve Overture 08-B to amend the *Book of Government* to create the calling of “co-pastor”
- 4.9 World Outreach Director’s Report (TE George Carey)
- 4.10 Student Ministries Interim Director’s Report (Mr. Rob Craig)
- 4.11 2010 General Assembly (TE Don Sweeting, Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church)

Adjourn fourth session with prayer

7:30-9:00          Worship, TE Scott McKee preaching

9:00-10:00        Reception for visitors and observers – Hess Hall

**29-31 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jeff Jeremiah and others made several announcements and addressed various housekeeping items. Jim Walker, Local Arrangements Coordinator, brought greetings and made opening announcements.

**29-32 PARTIAL REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY**

RE Alan Shaffer, Chairman, opened the report with prayer.

That **Recommendation #26** be adopted, “that the Assembly adopt the following definition of a missional church and denomination be adopted as amended (*changes in bold italics*):

Our denomination wants to clarify for its member churches who we are and what we do as the United States *and many other nations become mission fields that are larger*, more spiritually diverse and more antagonistic to the Gospel than ever before.

The term “missional” has become common and therefore highly nuanced. We desire to define missional in a simple and specific way so that each EPC church can commit to a unified, obedient pursuit of the expansion of the Kingdom of God.

1. A missional church grasps that God is a missionary God and that “it is not so much that God has a mission for His church in the world, but that God has a Church for His mission in the world.”\*
2. A missional church believes that the mission of God is rooted unalterably in the Bible, God’s infallible Word. Therefore, a missional church believes that the essence of God’s mission is to extend the reign of God and is summed up in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. A missional church is a visible community of authentic disciples of Jesus Christ who *gather* for celebration, prayer and teaching and then *disperse* locally and globally as His missionaries to love and serve people. In so doing, a missional church both *pursues* and *welcomes those who are searching sinners* as they are drawn into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. The greater purpose in all of this is that the earth will be filled with the worship of God.
4. A missional church believes that it is more than just a collection of individuals, but that it is a community called together by God both to love Him and serve Him.
5. A missional church is concerned with more than maintaining programs for existing members; it is called to mobilize *itself- its people* both individually and as a community to daily self-sacrifice for the hurting world around them. A missional church is both inwardly strong and outwardly focused.
6. A missional church perceives that the essence of these things is the essence of its existence. Therefore, a missional church will constantly seek to reevaluate itself as to whether or not *it’s its* emphasis, organization, and activity effectively positiong the church to partner with God in His mission.
7. A missional denomination
  - a. Believes ~~that the location of ministry is~~ *ministry begins with the* local church
  - b. Is made up of local congregations committed to being missional
  - c. Believes that the Presbyteries and General Assembly, being expressions of the larger church, have an important role to play in



identifying, equipping and supporting leaders and churches. They are a key link in the principle of mutual accountability toward missional ministry and Biblical standards.

- d. Constantly examines whether its polity, structures and programs are supporting or inhibiting that missional commitment...

\* J. Andrew Kirk, What is Mission? Theological Explorations (London: Darton, Longman and Todd; Minneapolis: fortress Press, 1999), pp 23-37.

\_\_\_Adopted

**29-33 PARTIAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION**

TE John Crimmins, Chairman, opened the report with prayer.

That **Recommendation #3**, “that the Assembly amend the *Book of Government* §16-22, updating the responsibilities of the General Assembly” be adopted as follows.

<b>Current Wording G.16-22</b>	<b>Proposed wording G.16-22</b>
<p>§16-22 Duties: In maintaining the spiritual supervision of all churches and Presbyteries, the General Assembly has the following duties and powers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. To assume review and control of the Presbyteries through an annual review of minutes, to remand what may be contrary to the Constitution, and to see that all lawful injunctions are followed.</li> <li>B. To make final decisions on judicial cases brought before it in accordance with the <i>Book of Discipline</i>.</li> <li>C. To establish, unite, divide, or dissolve Presbyteries.</li> <li>D. To create separately or in conjunction with the Presbyteries those agencies or institutions needed for education or other purposes which would enhance the life and ministry of the whole church.</li> </ul>	<p>§16-22 Mission of the General Assembly. In overseeing the total work of the Church, the General Assembly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Equips and encourages EPC leaders, churches and presbyteries to pursue God’s mission in the world. In doing so, it has the responsibility:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To support the presbyteries and churches in making evangelism and discipleship their priorities. This may include establishing committees, boards, agencies, training events, networks and/or staff positions.</li> <li>2. To provide human resource services by establishing those committees, boards and agencies necessary to serve the ministers, missionaries and full time staff of the whole Church. This may include:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A health, disability and</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p>E. To establish those boards and agencies necessary to serve the whole Church. This shall include the establishment of a disability and retirement program for Ministers and other full-time church personnel.</p> <p>F. To make evangelism, lay renewal, church extension and world missions its priorities and to undertake the support of agencies for that purpose.</p> <p>G. To approve and recommend to the Presbyteries such changes in the constitutional documents as it deems wise, fit and helpful. Such changes reported to the General Assembly by its Permanent Judicial Commission, and upon approval by the Assembly shall be referred to the Presbyteries, and upon approval by a <math>\frac{3}{4}</math>'s majority of the Presbyteries and in a succeeding Assembly (unless constitutional provisions hereafter stated require a different vote) shall be enacted.</p> <p>H. To organize itself as it deems best for the propagation of the Gospel, the advancement of the Kingdom, and the edification of the whole Church.</p> <p>I. To provide services to the Presbyteries and particular churches, to offer encouragement, training, and other helps in conjunction with the Presbyteries that the whole Church may be effective in its total ministry.</p> <p>J. To oversee the affairs of the whole Church, including correspondence and cooperation with other denominations.</p> <p>K. To recommend measures for</p>	<p>retirement program for Ministers, Missionaries and other full-time church staff.</p> <p>b. An agency for aiding churches and presbyteries in calling Ministers and other staff members.</p> <p>3. To create separately or in conjunction with the Presbyteries those agencies or institutions needed for education or other purposes which would enhance the life and ministry of the whole church.</p> <p>B. Ensures the denomination's connectional life is consistent with Presbyterian polity as it is expressed in God's Word. In doing so, it has the responsibility:</p> <p>1. To establish, unite, divide, or dissolve Presbyteries.</p> <p>2. To approve and recommend to the Presbyteries such changes in the constitutional documents as it deems wise, fit and helpful. Such changes reported to the General Assembly by its Permanent Judicial Commission shall, upon approval:</p> <p>a. Be referred to the Presbyteries, and</p> <p>b. Upon approval by a <math>\frac{3}{4}</math>'s majority of the Presbyteries and in a succeeding Assembly (unless constitutional provisions hereafter stated require a different vote) shall be enacted.</p> <p>3. To make final decisions on judicial cases brought</p>
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<p>ministry to the various churches under its supervision.</p> <p>L. To maintain a central agency for aiding churches in securing Pastors and for assisting Ministers of the Word in relocation. Such agency shall always work through the Ministerial Committee of Presbytery.</p> <p>M. To provide guidance for the theological preparation of candidates in mission fields outside North America where Presbyteries do not yet exist, and to arrange for the ordination, where appropriate, of those persons who are duly called and prepared for the office of Minister, Elder or Deacon.</p>	<p>before it in accordance with the <i>Book of Discipline</i>.</p> <p>4. To provide guidance for the theological preparation of candidates in mission fields outside North America where Presbyteries do not yet exist, and to arrange for the ordination, where appropriate, of those persons who are duly called and prepared for the office of Minister, Elder or Deacon.</p> <p>5. To hold presbyteries accountable, by exercising the principle of review and control through an annual review of minutes, for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Encouraging and equipping their local churches to fulfill the Great Commission, and</li> <li>b. Remanding what may be contrary to the Constitution and to see that all lawful injunctions are followed.</li> </ol> <p>C. Shall organize itself as it deems best for the propagation of the Gospel, the advancement of the Kingdom, and the edification of the whole Church.</p>
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Grounds: The current G.16-22 is a list of unprioritized responsibilities. The proposed substitute frames the duties and responsibilities of the General Assembly in two key areas, providing needed focus, which will help us to be more effective. As we become a robust denomination of evangelical, Reformed, Presbyterian, and missional churches, it is appropriate that we state our priorities in a way that propels us to:

1. equip and encourage presbyteries, churches and leaders for mission
2. ensure our connectional life is consistent with our Presbyterian polity, and
3. continually evaluate our structures and effectiveness

(NOTE: the recommendation includes changes recommended by the Permanent Judicial Commission.)

\_\_\_ *Adopted*

That **Recommendation #4**, “that the Assembly approve the revised 2009 Administrative Budget of \$1,376,394 with the provision that the Committee on Administration can restore up to \$100,000 of the 2009 budget cuts as funds become available” be adopted (see p. 124).

\_\_\_ *Adopted*

That **Recommendation #5**, “that Per Member Asking (PMA) be reduced from \$25 to \$23 beginning July 1, 2009” be adopted.

\_\_\_ *Adopted*

That **Recommendation #30**, “that the Assembly approve an Administrative Budget for 2010 of \$1,333,216 with the provision that the Committee on Administration can restore up to \$100,000 of the 2010 budget cuts as funds become available” be adopted (see p. 126).

\_\_\_ *Adopted*

**29-34 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL OUTREACH**

RE Bill Brooks, Chairman, opened the report with prayer.

That **Recommendation #11** be adopted, “that the Assembly approve the following revision to the *Rules for Assembly*, 10-1.C: ...”

Existing Wording 10-1.C	Proposed Wording (additions in <i>italics</i> )
<p>C. Committee on National Outreach</p> <p>1. Membership to be nine members, including three "at large" members in order to add greater breadth and depth of experience. Chairman is to be elected by committee.</p> <p>2. Duties: to give oversight and planning to the domestic ministries in church planting, evangelism, and church development.</p>	<p>C. Committee on National Outreach</p> <p>1. Membership to be <i>three nine members including three members including three "at large" members in order to add greater breadth and depth of experience.</i> Chairman is to be elected by committee.</p> <p>2. Duties: <i>to give oversight and planning to the domestic ministries in church planting, evangelism, and church development.</i></p> <p><i>a. To coordinate, encourage and provide resources for church planting, evangelism, and church development efforts of presbyteries and churches.</i></p>

	<p><i>b. To provide oversight of Church Planter Assessing and Equipping, the Home Missionary application process, the Urban Ministries Network (UMN) and to encourage the pursuit of ethnic domestic ministry opportunities.</i></p>
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Grounds: For the past three years the National Outreach Committee has engaged in a thorough review of its mission and ministry to the EPC. It has identified those activities that are best done at the national committee level and sought to "push down" to the presbyteries those activities that are best pursued at that level. During this time, the NOC met jointly with presbytery Church Development Committee chairs. Recognizing that the CDC's are closer to the local level, NOC asked the CDC's to experiment with meeting and taking care of those items focusing on church planting and church revitalization. Given the success of this experiment we are unanimous in proposing this change.

NOC has concluded that the best way to pursue church planting, church revitalization and evangelism is to support the presbyteries and churches as they take responsibility for these activities. Through the Church Development Committees (in some cases, Church Planting and Church Revitalization Committees), the presbyteries are organizing themselves to accomplish these tasks. NOC's role in this reconfiguration would be to serve the presbyteries by gathering CDC chairs twice a year for networking, coordinating, encouraging and providing resources to the work of the presbyteries.

At the national level, NOC believes its future role is to oversee Church Planter Assessing and Equipping, the Home Missionary application process and the Urban Ministries Network (UMN), and to encourage the pursuit of ethnic domestic ministry opportunities as they arise. Given this change of responsibilities, the NOC believes that a committee consisting of three persons, working with the Stated Clerk's office, can handle these responsibilities.

—*Adopted*

**29-35 FRATERNAL GREETINGS**

TE Don Fortson introduced Fraternal Guest David Gitthi, Past Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa who spoke of the church growth in Southeast Asia and Africa as the result of the work of the Holy Spirit. He requested prayer for more ministers as their need is great. Dr Gitthi advised the Assembly to pay attention to what we have learned so we don't drift from using the scriptures as our foundation. TE Fortson offered prayer.

**29-36 PARTIAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Nominating Committee RE Jim Slyman opened his report with prayer and introduced members of the Permanent Committee on Nominations.

The Chairman presented the slate of nominees for Permanent Committees for second reading:

The Chairman introduced the nominee for Moderator-elect, RE Rob Liddon.

**Committee on Administration**

Class of 2012	TE Jeff Chadwick	(Southeast)
	RE Hadley DePuy	(East)
	RE Gary Fields	(West)
Class of 2010	TE Doug Klein	(West)

**Board of Benefits**

Class of 2012	RE John Baird	(Midwest)
	TE Ron Horgan	(Mid-Atlantic)
Class of 2011	RE Jamie Doss	(Southeast)

**Committee on Christian Education & Publications**

Class of 2012	TE David Brogren	(West)
	Ms. Bonnie Linder	(Midwest)

**Committee on College Ministries**

Class of 2012	RE Jeff Sich	(Mid-America)
	Mr. Dan Rose	(Midwest)

**EPC Foundation**

Class of 2012	Mr. Ron Chiricosta	(Mid-Atlantic)
	RE Ted Hailes	(Central South)

**Committee on Fraternal Relations**

Class of 2012	TE Jimmy McGuire	(Midwest)
	TE Rob Norris	(East)

**Committee on Ministerial Vocation**

Class of 2012	RE Walter Brown	(East)
	TE Fred Lian	(West)
Class of 2010	TE George Yates	(East)

**Committee on National Outreach**

Pending approval of Recommendation #11 to form the National Outreach Committee with three members, the following three names are placed in nomination:

Class of 2012	RE Carolyn Nystrom	(Mid-America)
Class of 2011	RE Francis Clepper	(Southeast)
Class of 2010	TE Ben Borsay	(Midwest)

**Permanent Judicial Commission**

Class of 2012	TE Steve Riser	(Southeast)
	RE Jim Rimmel	(East)
	RE Ron Schwedland	(Midwest)

**Presbytery Review**

Class of 2012	TE Dennis Flach	(Central South)
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**Committee on Student Ministries**

Class of 2012	Ms. Jessica Gable	(East)
	Mr. Shawn Stewart	(Mid-Atlantic)
	Mr. Jay Westra	(Mid-America)

**Committee on Theology**

Class of 2012	TE Mike Glodo	(Florida)
	RE Dick Miller	(Central South)

**Committee on Women In Ministry**

Class of 2012	Ms. Dianne Buehler	(Central South)
	Ms. Lilian Werner	(Mid-America)

**World Outreach**

Class of 2012	Ms. Cathy Hartman	(West)
	TE James Murphy	(West)
	RE Bob Sluka	(Midwest)
Class of 2010	Ms. Helena Wolf	(East)

The Chairman presented the nominations made by the Moderator to serve on the Permanent Committee on Nominations and to serve as the Board of Benefits Chairman.

Permanent Committee on Nominations Class of 2012:

TE Alan Wright	(Mid-Atlantic)
RE Tom Reesor	(Southeast)
TE Edward G. Davis	(West)

RE Milton Knowlton (Central South) as Chairman of the Board of Benefits for 2009-2010

**29-37 FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION**

TE John Crimmins opened his report with prayer.

That **Recommendation #6**, “that the Assembly approve the 2010 Benevolence Askings of \$328,000” be adopted (see p. 125).

\_\_\_*Adopted*

That **Recommendation #31**, “that the Assembly designate the 2009 Thanksgiving Offering to the St. Andrews Presbytery Celebration” be adopted.

Grounds: With new "Articles of Agreement" approved by the 29th Assembly and, if the way be clear, by the St. Andrews Presbytery, it is fitting to provide a denomination-wide opportunity to thank God for all he has done and will continue to do in this third decade of partnership in ministry. This offering will provide a way to let the work of St. Andrews Presbytery be known more widely in the EPC and for churches and individuals to be active in this partnership through their prayer and gifts. Funds given to the 2009 Thanksgiving Offering will support church planting and leadership development of ministers and ruling elders in the St. Andrews Presbytery.

\_\_\_*Adopted*

**29-38 FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY**

RE Alan Shaffer, Chairman, opened his report with prayer.

That Overture 09-A, that the Assembly adopt the following substitute motion for Overture 09-A:

- a. That the Permanent Committee on Theology:
  - i. send to our churches a suggested bibliography on this topic,
  - ii. compile our position statements through the years which speak to sanctity of life issues, and
  - iii. consider revising current position papers or creating a pastoral letter to address this subject.

The Permanent Committee is encouraged to consult with the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery on this work.

- b. That the Mid-Atlantic or any other presbytery be encouraged to petition the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the EPC with a proposed position statement concerning the question of embryonic stem cell research.

\_\_\_*Adopted as Amended*

**29-39 WORLD OUTREACH DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

TE George Carey introduced himself and his wife, Nita, and provided background of his years in ministry. He noted the large learning curve as the new Director of World Outreach. His goals include doubling the number of EPC churches supporting missionaries through WO in 1-2 years, creating catalogs of short-term mission trips, missionaries serving in the United States and Presbytery Mission Chairmen. He plans to visit 5 (if not more) foreign mission fields annually and as many Presbyteries as possible. WO will be seeking to recruit missionaries from cradle and up. Forty percent of the people in the world have never heard of Jesus and over



6000 groupings in the world don't have a church or Christians in their midst. George challenged the Assembly to fulfill the words of scripture and pray to the Lord of the harvest to send workers into the harvest field - workers at home and workers away from home and closed his report with prayer.

Moderator Atwood noted the unfortunate termination of EPC staff member Missy Levy due to the budget shortfall

**29-40 SPECIAL PRESENTATION – BOARD OF BENEFITS & COA**

TE Ron Horgan of the Board of Benefits and RE Allen Roes, Chairman of the COA opened the presentation and shared with the Assembly the remarkable career of Janet Bain. Allen Roes presented Janet with a special gift. Janet has served the EPC for more than 25 years. Janet addressed the Assembly briefly. Ron Horgan led the court in prayer.

**29-41 ADJOURNMENT FOR LUNCH**

The Moderator adjourned the Assembly for lunch at 12:15 p.m. with prayer offered by TE Jeff Juday.

**29-42 CONVENING OF THE THIRD SESSION**

Moderator Nate Atwood called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. with prayer offered by TE Rus Howard (NWEPC Transitional Presbytery Council).

**29-43 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON OVERTURES AND RESOLUTIONS**

TE George Yates, Chairman, opened the report with prayer.

That **Overture 09-B**, “that the Moderator of the 29th General Assembly appoint a committee to review the *Book of Order* with the input of the Stated Clerks of all presbyteries for the purpose of identifying terms, sentences, paragraphs, and/or sections that are not clear and/or which may cause confusion when applied, and further, to offer revisions as needed, to assure clarity of intent and meaning of implementation” be adopted.

Grounds: Given some presbyteries experience of occasional lack of clarity in the wording of some parts of the *Book of Order*, this seems an effort worth undertaking.

\_\_\_*Adopted*

That **Overture 09-C** from the Presbytery of the Midwest to amend §3-5 and §10-7 in the *Book of Discipline* as follows be adopted as amended:

§3-5 A “Renunciation of Jurisdiction” shall have the effect of terminating membership in the church and removing an officer from membership and ordained office in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and terminating that person’s exercise of office. Though a court may pronounce a judgment of admonition, suspension, removal from office, or excommunication against a person who has renounced jurisdiction, it need not do so unless the court deems it necessary for the purity and welfare of the church or the benefit of the offender and may not do so without first giving written notice to the person making such renunciation and providing that person an opportunity to respond within fifteen days of the written notice.

§10-7 The administration of church sanctions shall be suited to the nature of the offense. For private offenses, sanctions should be administered in the presence of the court alone, or in private by one or more members of the court. In the case of public offenses, the degree of sanction and mode of administering it shall be within the discretion of the court, acting in accordance with paragraphs below which deal with particular sanctions.

If the charge is one of serious immorality or heresy, and the accused person persists in his rebellion, the court may proceed to inflict the highest sanction.

When a Minister is removed from office, his pastoral relationship shall be dissolved; but when he is suspended, it shall be left to the discretion of the Presbytery whether the sanction shall include the dissolution of the pastoral relationship.

When a Presbytery shall remove a Minister from his office without excommunication, it shall assign him to membership at some particular church subject to the approval of the Session of that particular church.

Grounds: Following the recommended changes in wording from the Permanent Judicial Commission, the committee made one small change in wording to clarify the intent to allow healing in churches with the least amount of legal liability.

\_\_\_ *Adopted*

That **Recommendation #35**, “that the General Assembly approve the creation of an interim committee to explore ways to provide a pathway to unity while protecting freedom of conscience among those pastors and churches with conflicting positions on women Teaching Elders in the presbyteries of the EPC. This committee will be appointed by the Moderator, will include two representatives from each presbytery and include all positions held within the EPC on women Teaching Elders. The committee will report to the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2010.

\_\_\_ *Adopted*

A comment was offered from the floor as follows:

A Commissioner rose to note the financial needs of the General Assembly office led to cutting staff and limiting their ability to minister to our churches. The Commissioner, appealing to the generosity of the Presbyteries, urged that they seriously consider funding the travel of their two delegates to the interim committee established above so that the Assembly does not incur this additional expense.

**29-44 REPORT OF THE NEW WINESKINS/EPC TRANSITIONAL PRESBYTERY COMMISSION**

TE Bill Meyer introduced Commission Co-Chairman, TE Dean Weaver, and opened the report with prayer. He referenced the report in the Commissioners Handbook (see pp. 239–246) noting the list of churches and pastors received to date (see pp. 242-243) and the “Becoming One” work in progress (see pp. 244-246). Reverend Meyer encouraged the geographical Presbytery Stated Clerks, Ministry Committee Chairmen and Church Development Committee Chairmen to view the churches listed and contact those within their boundaries to initiate contact as that would be very helpful as they both move through this process.

Dr. Weaver noted the “Becoming One” process is a description of what God is doing in the EPC - a process graciously initiated by the General Assembly two years ago. About 70 churches have gone through considerable transition since then. All congregations desire to become one and participate fully in the EPC in every way.

**29-45 REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BENEFITS**

TE Ron Horgan, Chairman, opened his report with prayer.

Michael Leighton made a presentation on the EPC insurance wellness program and explained various upcoming webinar subjects.

That **Recommendation #7**, “that ministers drawing retirement income from the EPC Defined Contribution Retirement Plan (403b) be allowed to designate up to 100% of their retirement income for housing allowance, as permitted by applicable regulations adopted pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code” be adopted.

Grounds: Doing so allows retired ministers to take advantage of this significant tax benefit in retirement, thereby making more of their retirement income available for living expenses. Adopting this recommendation on an annual basis provides retired ministers with a readily available reference if asked by tax authorities.

—*Adopted*

**29-46 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL VOCATION**  
TE Bob Wilbur, Chairman, opened the report with prayer,

That **Recommendation #8**, “that the referral from the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2008) to consider putting a limit on the number of times the invited period of service for a Stated Supply pastor may be renewed, that *no* limit be specified in the *Book of Government* for renewals of invited terms of service for Stated Supply” be adopted.

\_\_\_*Adopted*

That **Recommendation #9**, “that the Assembly not adopt the amendment to G.10-9 proposed to the 28th Assembly, which would allow for commissioning or endorsing EPC Deacons as chaplains” be adopted.

\_\_\_*Adopted*

That **Recommendation #10 and Recommendation #28**, “that Ascending Overture 08-B (2008) to amend the *Book of Government* to create the calling of “co-pastor” not be adopted” be adopted.

\_\_\_*Adopted*

That **Recommendation #27**, “that the Assembly approve Overture 08-B to amend the *Book of Government* to create the calling of “co-pastor” be adopted” not be adopted.

\_\_\_*Adopted*

*Note: The Committee received two different recommendations (Recommendation #10 and Recommendation #27) on this Overture. The Permanent Committee on Theology had recommended passage of the recommendation while the Permanent Committee on Ministerial Vocation recommended that the Overture not be passed. The above motions concur with the Ministerial Vocation recommendation but not that of the Theology Committee.*

**29-47 REPORT OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES**

Mr. Rob Craig, Interim Director of Student Ministries, opened his report with prayer and introduced Permanent Committee Chairman TE Brandon Bates. Referencing the committee’s written report (see pp. 299-301) Mr. Bates noted 3 themes which come up repeatedly:

- 1) The world is falling apart and the future is uncertain.
- 2) God is on His throne and the gospel is the only hope for the world.
- 3) At the EPC we are preparing this denomination for the future, embracing the gospel as its hope for the world and future generations

Noting youth ministry has become expendable in some churches, Mr. Craig encouraged the Assembly to view student ministries as we do education - as an investment in an uncertain future. Studies show 50-80%

of college students walk away from their faith. Further studies show 80% will follow Christ if they have a parent or mentor practicing their faith. Student Ministries has expanded to student and family ministries as a result of these studies. In the past year their mission statement, value, strategy and short and long term goals have been rewritten. The three components to prepare for the future are to equip, provide and protect. We may not live to see the uncertain future, but our students will and our job is to prepare them for it.

**29-48 REPORT ON PLANS FOR THE 2010 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

TE Don Sweeting, Pastor of Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church spoke of the church's eagerness to welcome commissioners and guests to the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, June 23-26, 2010.

**29-49 FINAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Nominating Committee RE Jim Slyman opened his report with prayer.

The Chairman presented the slate of nominees for Permanent Committees for final reading and vote:

Mr. Slyman presented a biographical overview of RE Rob Liddon after which RE John Adamson offered a seconding speech on Mr. Liddon's behalf.

**ON MOTION:** RE Rob Liddon was elected as Moderator-elect.

Mr. Liddon addressed the Assembly briefly after which the new Moderator-elect led the Assembly in prayer.

The Chairman presented the slate of nominees for Permanent Committees for final reading as follows:

**Committee on Administration**

Class of 2012	TE Jeff Chadwick	(Southeast)
	RE Hadley DePuy	(East)
	RE Gary Fields	(West)
Class of 2010	TE Doug Klein	(West)

**Board of Benefits**

Class of 2012	RE John Baird	(Midwest)
	TE Ron Horgan	(Mid-Atlantic)
Class of 2011	RE Jamie Doss	(Southeast)

**Committee on Christian Education & Publications**

Class of 2012	TE David Brogren	(West)
	Ms. Bonnie Linder	(Midwest)

<b>Committee on College Ministries</b>		
Class of 2012	RE Jeff Sich Mr. Dan Rose	(Mid-America) (Midwest)
<b>EPC Foundation</b>		
Class of 2012	Mr. Ron Chiricosta RE Ted Hailes	(Mid-Atlantic) (Central South)
<b>Committee on Fraternal Relations</b>		
Class of 2012	TE Jimmy McGuire TE Rob Norris	(Midwest) (East)
<b>Committee on Ministerial Vocation</b>		
Class of 2012	RE Walter Brown TE Fred Lian	(East) (West)
Class of 2010	TE George Yates	(East)
<b>Committee on National Outreach</b>		
Class of 2012	RE Carolyn Nystrom	(Mid-America)
Class of 2011	RE Francis Clepper	(Southeast)
Class of 2010	TE Ben Borsay	(Midwest)
<b>Permanent Judicial Commission</b>		
Class of 2012	TE Steve Riser RE Jim Rimmel RE Ron Schwedland	(Southeast) (East) (Midwest)
<b>Presbytery Review</b>		
Class of 2012	TE Dennis Flach	(Central South)
<b>Committee on Student Ministries</b>		
Class of 2012	Ms. Jessica Gable Mr. Shawn Stewart Mr. Jay Westra	(East) (Mid-Atlantic) (Mid-America)
<b>Committee on Theology</b>		
Class of 2012	TE Mike Glodo RE Dick Miller	(Florida) (Central South)
<b>Committee on Women In Ministry</b>		
Class of 2012	Ms. Dianne Buehler Ms. Lilian Werner	(Central South) (Mid-America)
<b>World Outreach</b>		
Class of 2012	Ms. Cathy Hartman TE James Murphy RE Bob Sluka	(West) (West) (Midwest)
Class of 2010	Ms. Helena Wolf	(East)

**ON MOTION:** There being no other nominations, the slate was elected as presented.

The Chairman presented the nominations made by the Moderator to serve on the Permanent Committee on Nominations and to serve as the Board of Benefits Chairman.

**ON MOTION:** The Permanent Committee on Nominations Class of 2012 was elected as follows:

TE Alan Wright	(Mid-Atlantic)
RE Tom Reesor	(Southeast)
TE Edward G. Davis	(West)

**ON MOTION:** RE Milton Knowlton (Central South) was elected as Chairman of the Board of Benefits for 2009-2010

**29-50 ADJOURNMENT OF FOURTH SESSION**

The Moderator adjourned the third session with prayer at 3:33 p.m.

**29-51 EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE**

The Assembly convened at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church with worship as outlined below.

**Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 p.m.**

Pre-Worship Music	<i>A New Hallelujah</i>	Cornerstone Choir
Greetings		Dr. Richard Alberta
Chimes		
Call to Worship	<i>Great Is The Lord How Great Is Our God How Great Thou Art</i>	
Prayer		Dr. Arthur J Hunt
	Administrative Pastor, Cornerstone EPC	
Anthem	<i>Cast All Your Cares</i>	Cornerstone Choir
Commissioning of New Missionaries		RE Jim Thomason TE George Carey
Offering		
Doxology		
Prayer of Dedication		
Offertory	<i>Mighty Wind/Revive Us Again</i>	Choirs & GIGband
God's Word	<b><u>The New Reformation</u></b>	Dr. Scott McKee
Proclaimed	<i>Matthew 9:14-17</i>	Senior Pastor, Ward EPC
Congregational	<i>To God Be the Glory</i>	Hymn #363
Response		
Benediction		

Response  
Postlude

**MINUTES – SATURDAY MORNING**

**Fifth Session  
June 27, 2009**

**29-52 MORNING WORSHIP**

The Assembly gathered for worship at 8:30 a.m. in the sanctuary of Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church with the order of service proceeding as noted below.

**Saturday, June 27, 2009  
8:30 a.m.**

Pre-Worship Music	<i>Be Unto Your Name</i>	Cornerstone Choir
Greetings		Dr. Arthur J. Hunt
Chimes		
Call to Worship	<i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i>	Hymn #337
Prayer		
Anthem	<i>There Are No Orphans of God</i>	Cornerstone Choir
God's Word Proclaimed	<i>God's Renewal</i>	Rev. Brad Werner
	John 3:16	Gateway to Grace, St. Louis
Congregational Response	<i>Amazing Grace</i> <i>(My Chains Are Gone)</i>	
Closing Prayer		
Postlude		

**29-53 CONVENING OF THE FIFTH SESSION AND ADOPTION OF DOCKET**

Moderator Nate Atwood called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. with prayer offered by RE Frank Clepper, Moderator of Southeast Presbytery.

The Stated Clerk reported on TE John Graham's trip to Joyce Flanagan's funeral.

The docket for Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> was presented for approval.

**ON MOTION:** The docket was adopted as follows:

- 8:30 Worship, TE Brad Werner preaching
- 9:15 **28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly – Session 5**
  - 5.1 Opening Prayer (RE Frank Clepper, Moderator, Southeast Presbytery)
  - 5.2 Docket and Announcements
  - 5.3 Omnibus Motion



- 5.4 Greetings from Fraternal Guest Guille Mac Kenzie, St. Andrews Presbytery
- 5.5 Fraternal Relations Report (RE Candace McCune)
  - a. Communication 09-03
  - b. Minutes of the Permanent Committee
  - c. Additional Recommendation
- 5.6 Women In Ministry Director's Report (Jacky Gatliff)
- 5.7 Women In Ministry (RE Jean Smith)  
Additional Recommendation
- 5.8 Permanent Committee on Administration (RE Allen Roes)  
Recommendation #32: re-elect TE Jeff Jeremiah to serve a second three-year term as Stated Clerk of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church
- 5.9 Election of the Stated Clerk
- 5.10 Remarks by Stated Clerk
- 5.11 Presbytery Review Report (RE Carl Martin)  
Recommendations 16-25  
Recommendation 34
- 5.12 Memorials and Appreciations Report (RE John Baird)

Adjournment of the Assembly

Closing Hymn

Benediction (RE Cecil Matthews, Moderator, Presbytery of the West)

**29-54 PRESENTATION OF THE OMNIBUS MOTION**

The following recommendations are presented to be adopted as a whole. Commissioners were given the right to move that any item be withdrawn and considered separately.

<b>FROM THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION</b>
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That **Communication 09-05**, “that an invitation from Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church, Englewood, CO to host the 30th General Assembly in 2010 be accepted with appreciation” *be adopted.*

That **Communication 09-06**, “that an invitation from Hope Presbyterian Church, Cordova, TN to host the 31st General Assembly in 2011” be accepted with appreciation” *be adopted.*

That **Recommendation #12** from the New Wineskins/EPC Commission “that the General Assembly instruct the Committee on Administration to have the responsibility for directing the process of our becoming a missional denomination” *be adopted.*

That **Recommendation #13** from the Nominating Committee “that the *Rules for Assembly 11-4* be amended to allow for the Nominating Committee to begin its work earlier in the year as follows” ***be adopted***.

Current Wording of <i>Rules for Assembly 11-4</i>	Proposed Wording for <i>Rules for Assembly 11-4</i>
<p><b>11-4</b> Duties:</p> <p><b>1.</b> Nominees for Moderator-elect: The committee shall advise each Presbytery following the meeting of the Assembly of the privilege of that Presbytery to recommend to the committee a person for Moderator-elect of the General Assembly. Such recommendation shall be forwarded to the committee no later than March 31 of that year. After March 31, the committee shall evaluate the recommendations of the Presbyteries, as well as other <b>recommendations</b> it may receive, and at the next meeting of the Assembly shall recommend no more than two persons as its nominees for Moderator-elect. At that time, nominations may also be made from the floor. Election shall be by a majority vote of the Assembly. Nominees of the committee shall be advised of their pending nomination, ordinarily no less than thirty days prior to the meeting of the General Assembly.</p>	<p><b>11-4</b> Duties:</p> <p><b>1.</b> Nominees for Moderator-elect: The committee shall advise each Presbytery following the meeting of the Assembly of the privilege of that Presbytery to recommend to the committee a person for Moderator-elect of the General Assembly. Such recommendation shall be forwarded to the committee no later than <del>March 31</del> <b>February 28</b> of that year. After <del>March 31</del> <b>February 28</b>, the committee shall evaluate the recommendations of the Presbyteries, as well as other recommendations it may receive, and at the next meeting of the Assembly shall recommend no more than two persons as its nominees for Moderator-elect. At that time, nominations may also be made from the floor. Election shall be by a majority vote of the Assembly. Nominees of the committee shall be advised of their pending nomination, ordinarily no less than thirty days prior to the meeting of the General Assembly.</p>
<p><b>2.</b> Nominees for Moderator: Ordinarily, the Committee shall nominate the Moderator-elect for Moderator of the succeeding Assembly. However, if the Moderator-elect is unable or</p>	<p>(No change proposed)</p>

<p>declines such nomination or the Committee deems it unwise to do so, it shall nominate at least one but not more than two candidates for Moderator utilizing the same procedures as for Moderator-elect.</p>	
<p>3. To nominate to the Assembly persons for vacancies of all Assembly permanent committees. Recommendations from Sessions or Presbyteries shall be forwarded to the Committee no later than April 30 of that year. The Endorsement for Nomination form shall be used and shall reflect official action of the Session or the Presbytery.</p>	<p>3. To nominate to the Assembly persons for vacancies of all Assembly permanent committees. Recommendations from Sessions or Presbyteries shall be forwarded to the Committee no later than <del>April 30</del> <b>February 28</b> of that year. The Endorsement for Nomination form shall be used and shall reflect official action of the Session or Presbytery</p>
<p>4. To name from the Commissioners to the Assembly those who will serve on the various standing committees of the Assembly.</p>	<p>(No change proposed)</p>
<p>5. The Committee shall meet in May each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator-elect or Moderator of the General Assembly as the case may be and for permanent committees.</p>	<p>5. The Committee shall meet in <del>May</del> <b>March</b> each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator-elect or Moderator of the General Assembly as the case may be and for permanent committees.</p>

Grounds: The proposed changes move the endorsing and nominating process earlier in the year. By doing so, the Nominating Committee will be less rushed and have better opportunity to make considered decisions regarding nominees for Moderator-elect and for permanent committees

**FROM THE COMMITTEE ON FRATERNAL RELATIONS**

That **Communication 09-04**, a letter from Dr. Michael Milton, President, Professor of Practical Theology, Reformed Theological Seminary, be received with thanks” **be adopted.**

That **Recommendation # 33**, from the Fraternal Relations Committee, “that the Assembly approve the proposed Articles of Agreement for 2009-2014 with the St. Andrews Presbytery of Argentina be adopted.”

**FROM THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD OUTREACH**

That **Recommendation #29**, “that the Assembly approve PAACS (Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons) as an Approved Resource” be adopted.

Grounds: PAACS is a highly respected ministry as witnessed by EPC doctors

**ADDITIONAL MOTIONS**

That the written reports of the following standing committees, with no recommendations coming to the floor, be received and that the minutes of all Permanent Committees be approved with notations be adopted:

- Christian Education & Publications
- College Ministries
- Student Ministries

**ON MOTION**: The Assembly approved the omnibus motion.

**29-55 FRATERNAL GREETINGS**

The Moderator introduced Fraternal Guest Guille Mac Kenzie, from St. Andrews Presbytery.

Reverend Guille Mac Kenzie greeted the assembly noting the inclusion in the omnibus motion of the extension of the Articles of Agreement between the EPC and St. Andrews Presbytery. He gave thanks for the over two decades, since 1987, of relationship we’ve shared and our ministry among them. They desire this relationship to be beneficial and a blessing for the EPC as well. They humbly acknowledge there is not much they can teach us, but they want to bless us with what they can do: pray. They offered assistance to any churches interested in Hispanic ministry as they have many candidates in their Presbytery who could help.

Jeff Jeremiah stated he looked forward to August meeting with the Presbytery of St. Andrews to finalize the agreement with them and offered prayer for Guille, the leaders and the people of St. Andrews.

**29-56 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FRATERNAL RELATIONS**

That **Communication 09-03**, “that the invitation from the Presbyterian Church of Brazil for the EPC to send representatives to their 150th

Anniversary Celebration (the number to be determined by the Office of the Stated Clerk) be received with thanks and representatives sent” be adopted.

\_\_\_*Adopted*

**ON MOTION:** That the Permanent Committee on Fraternal Relations continue to communicate with the PC(USA) according to biblical principles and to encourage “face-to-face” talks.

RE Candace McCune closed the report with prayer.

**29-57 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR WOMEN IN MINISTRY**

A video report from Mrs. Jacky Gatliff, Director of Women In Ministry, was presented to the assembly. Three REAL (Reaching, Equipping, Advancing, Leading) training events were held this past year to equip women to serve as ministry leaders both inside and outside the walls of the church. Women of all ages participated. The Faith Focus/Eagles’ Wings partnership provided EPC women the opportunity to be educated and involved in the elimination of sex trafficking. A six-week Bible study, *Embracing an Aching Heart*, is available through the EPC General Assembly office. The Eagles’ Wings transition home for girls in Albania who must leave the state orphanages at 14 opened this year. Five women joined Jacky for week long trip to Albania and in 2010 2 teams will return to further train and equip the staff to care for these girls.

Jacky closed her report noting the women in the EPC who are using their gifts and serving passionately in ministry.

**29-58 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN MINISTRY**

RE Jean Smith, Chairman, opened the report with prayer.

**ON MOTION:** The Standing Committee on Women in Ministry requested that the COA revisit the budget in an effort to fund the Director of Women In Ministry on a full time basis for 2010 and beyond.

**29-59 REPORT OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION**

RE Allen Roes, Chairman, opened the report with prayer.

That **Recommendation #32**, “that the Assembly elected the Reverend Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah to serve a second three-year term as Stated Clerk of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, commencing January, 2010” be adopted.

\_\_\_*Adopted*

The Moderator led the court in prayer for Dr. Jeremiah.

The Stated Clerk offered personal remarks and observations from the past year's work.

**29-60 REPORT OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON PRESBYTERY REVIEW**

RE Carl Martin opened the report with prayer.

**Recommendations to the Assembly**

*Note: An asterisk (\*) indicates that notations requiring responses will be forwarded to the presbytery (Rules for Assembly 9-11C.2)*

**Regarding Responses of Presbyteries to Exceptions and Answerable Notations from the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

**Recommendation #16:** That the Assembly receive the responses of the presbyteries to exceptions from the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and to notations requiring responses as adequate with the exception of:

Response B.1 from the Southeast Presbytery. Minutes should be corrected (2-06.1) to read "that Michael Thomas be ordained..." rather than "re-ordained" in order to reflect the constitutional language of G.13-7.

**Regarding the Presbytery of the Central South**

**Recommendation #17: That the Assembly approve the minutes of the Central South Presbytery with the following exceptions:**

- a. 74.22.3 (page 88): Terms of call for Assistant Pastors Wells and Rieves do not include the length of term or primary duties as required by G.11-7.
- b. 74:22 (page 89): Ruling Elder/Teaching Elder parity on Administrative Commission is the opposite of what is required (G.16-26B.2.e).
- c. 75.14b (page 99); 76:11 (page 123): Presbytery does not "approve" minutes of Administrative Commissions. Administrative Commissions report their actions which are included in the minutes (G.16-26B). Minutes should be corrected to read the "The report of the Administrative Commission to install...was received and the Commission, having completed its work, was dissolved.."
- d. 75.17 (pages 105-107): Omission: Minutes show that nominations were presented to the presbytery but the process and results of any election are missing. Minutes should be corrected to indicate which (or all) of the nominees were elected.

And that the Assembly send the following advice to the Central South Presbytery:

It was noted that some administrative commissions formed by the

presbytery had equal numbers of Ruling and Teaching Elders. *Book of Government* 16-26.B.2.e requires that “administrative commissions of Presbytery and General Assembly shall be composed of Ministers and Elders in proportion as near to two Ruling Elders to one Minister as possible.” The presbytery should be more diligent to form administrative commissions according to this requirement. Three ruling elders and two teaching elders on a Commission with the minimum number of five would meet this requirement.

#### **Regarding the Presbytery of the East**

**Recommendation #18:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of the East be approved.

#### **Regarding the Presbytery of Florida**

**Recommendation #19:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of Florida be approved.\*

#### **Regarding the Presbytery of Mid-America**

**Recommendation #20:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of Mid-America be approved with the following exceptions:

- a. 51.05 (page 55): Presbytery did not appoint a temporary governing body for Mercy Road Fellowship as required by G.5-3.
- b. 52.01 (page 582): The presbytery improperly elected a Moderator Pro-tem, citing *Roberts Rules of Order*, when constitutional provisions (G.16-15) take precedence (i.e., most recently elected Moderator, or, if no former Moderator is present, the Minister present with the earliest date of ordination).
- c. 52.03 (pages 587-590): Actions of Administrative Commissions are reported in presbytery minutes, not the Commission minutes themselves. Minutes should be rewritten to delete commission minutes and replaced with a summary of their actions (G.16-26B).

#### **Regarding the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic**

**Recommendation #21:** That the minutes of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery be approved with the following exceptions:

- a. Addendum 59.22B (Page 359): In order to fulfill requirements of Act of Assembly 98-04, the substance of the addendum should be in the body of the minutes.
- b. 60.21 (Page 13): Presbytery did not assign advisors for candidates Campbell and Tepper.

And that the Assembly send the following advice to the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery:

While the Teaching/Ruling elder ratio at presbytery meetings was generally good, Minutes show a conspicuous number of absences of churches, and teaching and ruling elders. Presbytery is encouraged to seek methods to increase their percentage of potential attendance at stated meetings.

### **Regarding the Presbytery of the Midwest**

**Recommendation #22:** That the minutes of the Midwest Presbytery be approved with the following exceptions:

- a. 124<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting (second paragraph), 125-8 and 125-1. Misstatements: Neither Charles Sheldon nor Trey McClain are potential or actual candidates under care. Minutes should be corrected to indicate that Reverend Sheldon and Reverend McClain are ministers seeking transfer from a non-Reformed body. The term “candidate” should not be used in these situations, as that status sets up requirements (G.12) that are not appropriate for ordained ministers.
- b. 125-9 (*sic.*) (page 392). Omission: Minutes do not indicate what was dropped from *Guidelines for Ordination of Women* and the document was not attached to the Minutes. Minutes are remanded to the Presbytery for correction and re-submission with attachments to the General Assembly immediately following the Presbytery’s September 2009 stated meeting.
- c. 129-9 (page 400). Omission: Terms of call for Assistant Pastor Minter does not include the length of term as required by G.11-7.
- d. 124-16 (page 377). Omission: The presbytery did not make a determination on the recommendation of the Judicial Investigative Committee regarding a strong presumption of guilt as required by D.5-3B and did not act on the recommendation of the Judicial Investigative Committee to refer the matter the Ministerial Committee. The Judicial Investigative Committee has authority to recommend, not to act (G.6-1C).
- e. 128-7 (page 6). Omission: Minutes do not indicate that the required 2/3 vote to grant extraordinary status was received (G.12-2H).

### **Regarding the Presbytery of the Southeast**

**Recommendation #23:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of the Southeast be approved with the following exceptions:

- a. 75-23 (Page 17). Omission: There is no record of TE Allison or TE Richards signing the required Ministerial Obligation (G.16-16L).
- b. 75-23 (Page 17). Minutes should record that exceptions to the Confession were allowed or disallowed, but not state the specific exceptions (Act of Assembly 03-09)
- c. 76-24 (Pages 10-11). Omission: Minutes do not indicate that candidates



Emmons and Smeester have been members of EPC congregations for the required six months (G.12-2).

### **Regarding the Presbytery of the West**

**Recommendation #34:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of the West be approved with the following exceptions:

- a. 84-22B, C, 84-14B (Page 10-161): Minutes should record that exceptions to the Confession were allowed or disallowed, but not state the specific exceptions (Act of Assembly 03-09).
- c. 85-21D, E: There is no record of TE Voss or TE McKinney signing the required Ministerial Obligation (G.16-16L).
- d. 85-27A, D: Terms of call for Assistant Pastor Hicks does not include the length of term or primary duties as required by G.11-7. There is no record of TE Hicks signing the required Ministerial Obligation (G.16-16L). Terms of call for Assistant Pastor Craig does not include required length of term.

And that the Assembly send the following advice to the Presbytery of the West:

The presbytery is encouraged to find a different title for the Denver Seminary Commission. The word "Commission" is confusing in light of its use in G.16-26. It is clearly not intended to function in that fashion.

### **Regarding the New Wineskins/EPC Transitional Presbytery**

**Recommendation #24:** That the Assembly send the following advice to the New Wineskins/EPC Transitional Presbytery:

- a. Work toward a Ruling to Teaching Elder ratio of 2:1.
- b. Minutes should be signed by hand, not with a typed signature.

### **Other Recommendations**

**Recommendation #25:** That the Assembly send the following advice to all presbyteries:

1. When receiving churches and ministers, presbytery minutes should indicate the dismissing body.
2. Presbytery minutes should reflect the requirements of G.16-26B, namely, that minutes of commissions are not approved by presbytery. Commissions report their actions, and their actions are recorded in the presbytery minutes. Minutes of Commissions should be kept separately.

**ON MOTION:** To approve the recommendations of the committee.

The Committee is referring the following matters to the Stated Clerk:

1. The Committee requests an opinion from the Stated Clerk on the constitutionality of granting anonymity in presbytery minutes to a person who has been formally charged in a disciplinary procedure and in which an investigation or trial is in process or has been completed. There is a trend toward anonymity in recent minutes, but this is not the historic precedent and the practice is not consistent.
2. The Committee requests an opinion from the Stated Clerk on whether or not it lawful to establish quorum in a representative body by both real and virtual presence of commissioners.
3. The Committee requests that the Stated Clerk correspond with the Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) informing him that the Denver Presbytery PC(USA) was not acting in accord with the EPC's existing corresponding relationship with the PC(USA) in not allowing ministers to be received from other denominations by dismissal. There was no need in this case for Reverend Spear to be removed from the rolls of the West Presbytery so he could be dismissed to the Denver Presbytery.

**ON MOTION:** To approve the referrals of the committee.

**29-61 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS AND APPRECIATION**

RE John Baird, Chairman, opened the report with prayer.

*Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."*

Revelation 14:13

**Memorials**

The 29th General Assembly remembers with gratitude those Ministers and Ruling Elders who died during the Assembly year.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Years of Service</b>
RE William F. Backstrom	Covenant	2-9-08	40
RE Robert E. Bacon	Central Presbyterian	6-12-08	16
RE Harry Dean Baird, Jr.	Second Presbyterian	4-6-09	18
RE Arthur Christensen	First Presbyterian	Oct. 2008	30+
RE Robert Dahlstrom	Valley Community	2-1-09	5
RE Frank Dunbar	North Park EPC	2-16-09	3
RE Keith Edmonds	Calvary Presbyterian	5-4-09	unknown

<b>Name</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Years of Service</b>
RE William Brooks Gassaway	Second Presbyterian	1-12-09	6
RE Marilyn M. Graham	Heritage EPC	5-16-09	22
RE Bill Gross	North Park EPC	1-25-09	6
RE Marge Haddick	Baldwin Community	Feb. 2008	6
RE Harold W. Hegel	Central Presbyterian	7-20-08	36
RE Emmett Howard	First Presbyterian	3-26-09	2
RE Judith Powell Hunter	First Presbyterian	9-7-08	unknown
RE Rodney J. Jenison	Cornerstone EPC	6-19-08	3
RE Edward Jones	Calvary Presbyterian	12-20-08	unknown
TE Russell Loudon II	Emmanuel Presbyterian	8-16-08	6.5
RE Craig Alan Lyle	Perrow Presbyterian	9-15-08	22
RE Donald MacLeod	Highview EPC	4-18-09	6
RE Ronald H. Rawlings	Rock Presbyterian	6-8-08	35
RE William Reid	Ward EPC	10-28-08	41
RE Irv Rinehart (Moderator, 2nd Gen. Ass'y)	Cherry Creek Presbyterian	7-20-08	49
RE J. T. Sandy	Faith EPC	9-5-08	10
RE Richard Smeallie	Fellowship of Christ	10-22-08	30+
RE Chuck Stauffer	North Park EPC	12-29-08	6
RE Rollin V. Wilson, Jr.	Second Presbyterian	11-7-08	37
RE Margaret Wolds-Good	Ward Presbyterian	5-24-09	7
RE C. Paul Wright	New Covenant Church	Aug. 2008	2

### **Appreciation**

The Assembly expresses its heartfelt appreciation to the Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church staff and over 300 volunteers, its pastor, Reverend Dr. Richard Alberta, the General Assembly staff, and all those who had a part in welcoming us to this Assembly.

We express our gratitude to the fine keynote speakers, Dr. Richard Alberta, Dr. S. Donald Fortson III, Dr. Scott McKee, Mr. Allen Roes, Reverend Brad Werner, and to the worship and workshop leaders Dr. John Perkins, Dr. Amy Sherman, Dr. Rodger Woodworth, Mr. Chris Martin, Reverend Kevin Brown, Dr. Eli Morris, and Dr. Robert Lupton.

We thank the outgoing Moderator, Mr. Allen Roes for his service this past year, incoming moderator Dr. Nate Atwood for his willingness to serve, and Stated Clerk Dr. Jeff Jeremiah for his continuing service.

The committee recommended that future Memorials and Appreciation reports contain the city and state of the church that the particular ruling or teaching elder served.

**29-62 ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING WORSHIP**

The Moderator led the court in worship as the Assembly concluded its business.

**ON MOTION:** To adjourn the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

The Clerk introduced TE Richard Alberta who joined him in leading the court in *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*.

The 30th General Assembly will meet June 24-26, 2010 at Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church, Englewood, CO.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffery Jeremiah". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

Jeff Jeremiah  
Stated Clerk

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**Committee on Administration**  
**Standing Committee Report**  
**29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

The Standing Committee on Administration convened at 3:15 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2009 and met once. Chairman TE John Crimmins opened the meeting with prayer. RE David Satterthwaite served as Clerk for the committee.

**A. Business Referred to Committee:**

1. **Communication 09-05**
2. **Communication 09-06**
3. **Recommendation #3, and corresponding report from the Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC -4 – PJC -6)**
4. **Recommendation #4**
5. **Recommendation #5**
6. **Recommendation #6**
7. **Recommendation #12**
8. **Recommendation #13**
9. **Recommendation #30**
10. **Recommendation #31**
11. **Minutes of the Permanent Committee on Administration**

**B. Recommendations**

1. That **Recommendation #3** from the Committee on Administration “that the Assembly amend the *Book of Government* §16-22, updating the responsibilities of the General Assembly” be adopted.

<b>Current Wording G.16-22</b>	<b>Proposed wording G.16-22</b>
<p>§16-22 Duties: In maintaining the spiritual supervision of all churches and Presbyteries, the General Assembly has the following duties and powers:</p> <p>A. To assume review and control of the Presbyteries through an annual review of minutes, to remand what may be contrary to the Constitution, and to see that all lawful injunctions are followed.</p> <p>B. To make final decisions on judicial cases brought before it in accordance with the Book of Discipline.</p> <p>C. To establish, unite, divide, or dissolve Presbyteries.</p>	<p>§16-22 Mission of the General Assembly. In overseeing the total work of the Church, the General Assembly:</p> <p>A. Equips and encourages EPC leaders, churches and presbyteries to pursue God’s mission in the world. In doing so, it has the responsibility:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To support the presbyteries and churches in making evangelism and discipleship their priorities. This may include establishing committees, boards, agencies, training events, networks and/or staff positions.</li> <li>2. To provide human resource services by establishing those</li> </ol>

<p>D. To create separately or in conjunction with the Presbyteries those agencies or institutions needed for education or other purposes which would enhance the life and ministry of the whole church.</p> <p>E. To establish those boards and agencies necessary to serve the whole Church. This shall include the establishment of a disability and retirement program for Ministers and other full-time church personnel.</p> <p>F. To make evangelism, lay renewal, church extension and world missions its priorities and to undertake the support of agencies for that purpose.</p> <p>G. To approve and recommend to the Presbyteries such changes in the constitutional documents as it deems wise, fit and helpful. Such changes reported to the General Assembly by its Permanent Judicial Commission, and upon approval by the Assembly shall be referred to the Presbyteries, and upon approval by a ⅔'s majority of the Presbyteries and in a succeeding Assembly (unless constitutional provisions hereafter stated require a different vote) shall be enacted.</p> <p>H. To organize itself as it deems best for the propagation of the Gospel, the advancement of the Kingdom, and the edification of the whole Church.</p> <p>I. To provide services to the Presbyteries and particular churches, to offer encouragement, training, and other helps in conjunction with the Presbyteries that the whole Church may be effective in its total ministry.</p> <p>J. To oversee the affairs of the whole Church, including correspondence</p>	<p>committees, boards and agencies necessary to serve the ministers, missionaries and full time staff of the whole Church. This may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A health, disability and retirement program for Ministers, Missionaries and other full-time church staff.</li> <li>b. An agency for aiding churches and presbyteries in calling Ministers and other staff members.</li> </ol> <p>3. To create separately or in conjunction with the Presbyteries those agencies or institutions needed for education or other purposes which would enhance the life and ministry of the whole church.</p> <p>B. Ensures the denomination's connectional life is consistent with Presbyterian polity as it is expressed in God's Word. In doing so, it has the responsibility:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To establish, unite, divide, or dissolve Presbyteries.</li> <li>2. To approve and recommend to the Presbyteries such changes in the constitutional documents as it deems wise, fit and helpful. Such changes reported to the General Assembly by its Permanent Judicial Commission shall, upon approval: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Be referred to the Presbyteries, and</li> <li>b. Upon approval by a ⅔'s majority of the Presbyteries and in a succeeding Assembly (unless constitutional provisions hereafter stated require a different vote) shall be enacted.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. To make final decisions on judicial cases brought before it in</li> </ol>
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<p>and cooperation with other denominations.</p> <p>K. To recommend measures for ministry to the various churches under its supervision.</p> <p>L. To maintain a central agency for aiding churches in securing Pastors and for assisting Ministers of the Word in relocation. Such agency shall always work through the Ministerial Committee of Presbytery.</p> <p>M. To provide guidance for the theological preparation of candidates in mission fields outside North America where Presbyteries do not yet exist, and to arrange for the ordination, where appropriate, of those persons who are duly called and prepared for the office of Minister, Elder or Deacon.</p>	<p>accordance with the <i>Book of Discipline</i>.</p> <p>4. To provide guidance for the theological preparation of candidates in mission fields outside North America where Presbyteries do not yet exist, and to arrange for the ordination, where appropriate, of those persons who are duly called and prepared for the office of Minister, Elder or Deacon.</p> <p>5. To hold presbyteries accountable, by exercising the principle of review and control through an annual review of minutes, for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Encouraging and equipping their local churches to fulfill the Great Commission, and</li> <li>b. Remanding what may be contrary to the Constitution and to see that all lawful injunctions are followed.</li> </ol> <p>C. Shall organize itself as it deems best for the propagation of the Gospel, the advancement of the Kingdom, and the edification of the whole Church.</p>
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Grounds: The current G.16-22 is a list of unprioritized responsibilities. The proposed substitute frames the duties and responsibilities of the General Assembly in two key areas, providing needed focus, which will help us to be more effective. As we become a robust denomination of evangelical, Reformed, Presbyterian, and missional churches, it is appropriate that we state our priorities in a way that propels us to:

1. equip and encourage presbyteries, churches and leaders for mission
2. ensure our connectional life is consistent with our Presbyterian polity, and
3. continually evaluate our structures and effectiveness

(NOTE: the recommendation includes changes recommended by the Permanent Judicial Commission.)

That **Recommendation #4** from the Committee on Administration be adopted as amended: “that the Assembly approve the revised 2009 Administrative Budget of \$1,376,394 (see attachment ADM-D) with the provision that the Committee on Administration can restore up to \$100,000 of the 2009 budget cuts as funds become available.”

3. That **Recommendation #5** from the Committee on Administration “that Per Member Asking (PMA) be reduced from \$25 to \$23 beginning July 1, 2009” be adopted.
4. That **Recommendation #6** from the Committee on Administration “that the Assembly approve the 2010 Benevolence Askings of \$328,000 (see page ADM-14 in the Commissioners Handbook” be adopted.
5. That **Recommendation #30** from the Committee on Administration be adopted as amended “that the Assembly approve an Administrative Budget for 2010 of \$1,333,216 (see page ADM-15 in the Commissioners Handbook) with the provision that the Committee on Administration can restore up to \$100,000 of the 2010 budget cuts as funds become available.”

That **Recommendation #31** from the Committee on Administration “that the Assembly designate the 2009 Thanksgiving Offering to the St. Andrews Presbytery Celebration” be adopted.

Grounds: With new "Articles of Agreement" approved by the 29th Assembly and, if the way be clear, by the St. Andrews Presbytery, it is fitting to provide a denomination-wide opportunity to thank God for all he has done and will continue to do in this third decade of partnership in ministry. This offering will provide a way to let the work of St. Andrews Presbytery be known more widely in the EPC and for churches and individuals to be active in this partnership through their prayer and gifts. Funds given to the 2009 Thanksgiving Offering will support church planting and leadership development of ministers and ruling elders in the St. Andrews Presbytery.

6. That the **minutes** of the permanent Committee dated October 28-29, 2008, November 6, 2008, January 19-20, 2009, January 27, 2009, February 18, 2009, and April 20-21, 2009 and June 11, 2009 be approved with minor notations.

#### **C. Additional Recommendations from the Standing Committee**

1. Following the procedure approved by the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the Committee voted to place the following recommendations on an omnibus motion:
  - Communication 09-05
  - Communication 09-06
  - Recommendation #12
  - Recommendation #13

#### **D. Other**

The committee recognizes the need to inform the General Assembly that a taskforce is in place to study the possible relocation of the General Assembly Office (ADM-16).

TE Bill Dudley and RE Jerry Alpert closed the meeting with prayer.

The Standing Committee acknowledges with appreciation the excellent work of the permanent Administration Committee and GA staff Annette Minard.

Respectfully submitted,  
TE Chairman  
RE Clerk

**Committee on Christian Education & Publications**  
**Standing Committee**  
**29th General Assembly**

The Standing Committee on Christian Education & Publication convened at 3:20 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2009 and met once. Chairman RE Rodger Nienhuis opened the meeting with prayer. RE Lesa Hart served as Clerk for the committee.

**A. Business Referred to Committee**

1. Minutes of the permanent committee

**B. Recommendations**

1. That the **minutes** of the permanent Christian Education & Publications Committee dated September 19-20, 2008 and April 3, 2009 be approved with minor notations.

**C. Additional Recommendations from the Standing Committee**

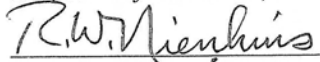
1. Following the procedure approved by the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the Committee voted to place the following recommendations on an omnibus motion:

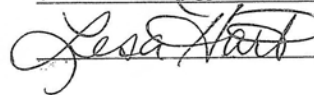
No recommendations were referred to the committee.

RE Rodger Nienhuis closed the meeting with prayer.

The Standing Committee on Christian Education & Publications commends the Permanent Committee for its work this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

 \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman

 \_\_\_\_\_, Clerk

Committee on College Ministries

Standing Committee Report  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

The Standing Committee on College Ministries convened at 3:25 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2009 and met once. Chairman TE Rick Stauffer opened the meeting with prayer. RE Dexter Kuhlman served as Clerk for the committee.

**A. Business Referred to Committee:**

1. None

NOTE: Minutes of the permanent Committee on College Ministries normally referred to the standing committee for review were unavailable due to the loss of the laptop on which they were stored.

**B. Recommendations**

No recommendations were referred to the committee.

**C. Additional Recommendations from the Standing Committee**

1. Following the procedure approved by the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the Committee voted to place the following recommendations on an omnibus motion:

No recommendations were referred to the committee.

**D. Other**

Received a ministry report from TE Jonathan Weyer at Ohio State University with the Coalition for Christian Outreach. Received a ministry report from RE James Paternoster, a member of the Permanent College Ministry Committee.

RE Craig Vanbiber closed the meeting with prayer.

The Standing Committee commends the permanent College Ministries Committee for its fine work during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Rick A. Stauffer, Chairman

  
Dexter Kuhlman, Clerk

Fraternal Relations Committee

Standing Committee Report  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

The Standing Committee on Fraternal Relations convened at 3:20 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2009 and met once. Chairman RE Candace McCune opened the meeting with prayer. TE Ron DiNunzio served as Clerk for the committee.

**A. Business Referred to Committee:**

1. **Communication 09-03**
2. **Communication 09-04**
3. **Recommendation #33**
4. **Minutes** of the permanent committee

**B. Recommendations**

1. That **Communication 09-03**, an invitation from the Presbyterian Church of Brazil for the EPC to send representatives to their 150th Anniversary Celebration, the number to be determined by the Office of the Stated Clerk, be received with thanks and representatives sent.
2. That the **Minutes** of the permanent Committee dated June 11, 2009 be approved with minor notations.

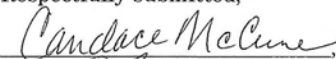

**C. Additional Recommendations from the Standing Committee**

1. Following the procedure approved by the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the Committee voted to place the following recommendations on an omnibus motion:
  - **Communication 09-04**
  - **Recommendation #33**
2. To refer to the Permanent Committee on Fraternal Relations to continue to communicate with the PC(USA) according to biblical principles and to encourage "face-to-face" talks.

TE George Wood closed the meeting with prayer.

The Standing Committee acknowledges with appreciation the excellent work of the Permanent Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

 Chairman  
 Clerk

**Committee on Memorials & Appreciation  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

The Standing Committee on Memorials and Appreciation convened at 3:15 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2009 and met once. Chairman RE John Baird opened the meeting with prayer. TE Ken Van Kampen served as committee Clerk.

**Memorials**

The 29th General Assembly remembers with gratitude those Ministers and Ruling Elders who died during the Assembly year.

Name	Church	Date of Death	Years of Service
RE William Forrest Backstrom	Covenant	2-9-08	40
RE Robert E. Bacon	Central Presbyterian	6-12-08	16
RE Harry Dean Baird, Jr.	Second Presbyterian	4-6-09	18
RE Arthur Christensen	First Presbyterian	Oct. 2008	30+
RE Robert Dahlstrom	Valley Community	2-1-09	5
RE Frank Dunbar	North Park EPC	2-16-09	3
RE Keith Edmonds	Calvary Presbyterian	5-4-09	unknown
RE William Brooks Gassaway	Second Presbyterian	1-12-09	6
RE Marilyn Marie Graham	Heritage EPC	5-16-09	22
RE Bill Gross	North Park EPC	1-25-09	6
RE Marge Haddick	Baldwin Community	Feb. 2008	6
RE Harold W. Hegel	Central Presbyterian	7-20-08	36
RE Emmett Howard	First Presbyterian	3-26-09	2
RE Judith Powell Hunter	First Presbyterian	9-7-08	unknown
RE Rodney J. Jenison	Cornerstone EPC	6-19-08	3
RE Edward Jones	Calvary Presbyterian	12-20-08	unknown
TE Russell Loudon II	Emmanuel Presbyterian	8-16-08	6.5
RE Craig Alan Lyle	Perrow Presbyterian	9-15-08	22
RE Donald MacLeod	Highview EPC	4-18-09	6
RE Ronald H. Rawlings	Rock Presbyterian	6-8-08	35
RE William Reid	Ward EPC	10-28-08	41
RE Irv Rinehart (Moderator, 2nd General Assy.)	Cherry Creek Presbyterian	7-20-08	49
RE J. T. Sandy	Faith EPC	9-5-08	10
RE Richard Smeallie	Fellowship of Christ	10-22-08	30+
RE Chuck Stauffer	North Park EPC	12-29-08	6
RE Rollin V. Wilson, Jr.	Second Presbyterian	11-7-08	37
RE Margaret Wolds-Good	Ward Presbyterian	5-24-09	7
RE C. Paul Wright	New Covenant Church	Aug. 2008	2

### Appreciation

The Assembly expresses its heartfelt appreciation to the Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church staff and over 300 volunteers, its pastor, Reverend Dr. Richard Alberta, the General Assembly staff, and all those who had a part in welcoming us to this Assembly.

We express our gratitude to the fine keynote speakers, Dr. Richard Alberta, Dr. S. Donald Fortson III, Dr. Scott McKee, Mr. Allen Roes, Rev. Brad Werner, and to the worship and workshop leaders Dr. John Perkins, Dr. Amy Sherman, Dr. Rodger Woodworth, Mr. Chris Martin, Rev. Kevin Brown, Dr. Eli Morris, and Dr. Robert Lupton.

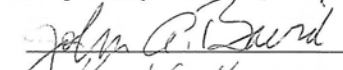
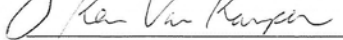
We thank the outgoing Moderator, Mr. Allen Roes for his service this past year, incoming moderator Dr. Nate Atwood for his willingness to serve, and Stated Clerk Dr. Jeff Jeremiah for his continuing service.

#### C. Additional Recommendations from the Standing Committee

1. That future Memorial and Appreciation reports contain the city and state of the church that the particular ruling or teaching elder served.

TE Roger Spence closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

 Chairman  
 Clerk



**Committee on Ministerial Vocation**  
**Standing Committee Report**  
**29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

The Standing Committee on Ministerial Vocation convened at 3:28 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2009 and met once. Chairman TE Bob Wilbur opened the meeting with prayer. TE Austin Olive served as Clerk for the committee.

**A. Reception of guests:** Calvin Frett & Ed Lochmoeller described the ministry & function of the Pastor in Residence program to the Committee.

**B. Business Referred to Committee:**

1. **Recommendation #8**
2. **Recommendation #9 and #28**
3. **Recommendation #10**
4. **Recommendation #27**
5. **Minutes** of the permanent Committee on Ministerial Vocation

**C. Recommendations**

1. That **Recommendation #8** from the Ministerial Vocation Committee “that no limit be specified in the *Book of Government* for renewals of invited terms of service for Stated Supply (see page MVC-2 in the Commissioners Handbook)” be adopted.
2. That **Recommendations #9 and #28** from the Ministerial Vocation and Theology Committees “that the Assembly not adopt the amendment to G.10-9 proposed to the 28th Assembly, which would allow for commissioning or endorsing EPC Deacons as chaplains (see MVC-Attachment C)” be adopted.
3. That **Recommendation #10** from the Ministerial Vocation Committee “that Ascending Overture 08-B (2008) to amend the *Book of Government* to create the calling of “co-pastor” not be adopted (see MVC Attachment D in the Commissioners Handbook),” be adopted.
4. That **Recommendation #27** from the Permanent Committee on Theology “that Overture 08-B (2008) to amend the Book of Government to create the calling of ‘co-pastor’ be adopted (see pages MVC-9 – MVC-10 / MVC Attachment D in the Commissioners Handbook),” not be adopted.
5. That the **Minutes** of the permanent committee dated July 28 – August 4, 2008, September 16-19, 2008, October 10-11, 2008, October 30, 2008 February 27, 2009 and March 11-13, 2009 be approved with minor notations.

**D. Additional Recommendations from the Standing Committee**

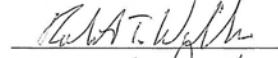
1. Following the procedure approved by the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the Committee voted to place the following recommendations on an omnibus motion:

No recommendations were approved for the omnibus motion.

TE Bob Wilbur closed the meeting with prayer at 4:18pm.

The Standing Committee commends the permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee for its fine work during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

 , Chairman

 , Clerk

**Committee on National Outreach**  
**Standing Committee Report**  
**29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

The Standing Committee on National Outreach convened at 3:23 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2009 and met once. Chairman RE Bill Brooks opened the meeting with prayer. TE David Galbraith served as Clerk for the committee.

**A. Business Referred to Committee:**

1. **Recommendation #11**
2. **Minutes** of the permanent Committee on National Outreach

**B. Recommendations:**

1. That **Recommendation #11** from the permanent Committee on National Outreach be adopted "that the Assembly approve the following revision to the *Rules for Assembly*, 10-1.C: ..."

Existing Wording 10-1.C	Proposed Wording (additions in <i>italics</i> )
<p>C. Committee on National Outreach</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Membership to be nine members, including three "at large" members in order to add greater breadth and depth of experience. Chairman is to be elected by committee.</li> <li>2. Duties: to give oversight and planning to the domestic ministries in church planting, evangelism, and church development.</li> </ol>	<p>C. Committee on National Outreach</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Membership to be <i>three nine members including three members including three "at large" members in order to add greater breadth and depth of experience.</i> Chairman is to be elected by committee.</li> <li>2. Duties: <i>to give oversight and planning to the domestic ministries in church planting, evangelism, and church development.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>To coordinate, encourage and provide resources for church planting, evangelism, and church development efforts of presbyteries and churches.</i></li> <li>b. <i>To provide oversight of Church Planter Assessing and Equipping, the Home Missionary application process, the Urban Ministries Network (UMN) and to encourage the pursuit of ethnic domestic ministry opportunities.</i></li> </ol> </li> </ol>

Grounds: For the past three years the National Outreach Committee has engaged in a thorough review of its mission and ministry to the EPC. It has identified those activities that are best done at the national committee level and sought to "push down" to the presbyteries those activities that are best

pursued at that level. During this time, the NOC met jointly with presbytery Church Development Committee chairs. Recognizing that the CDC's are closer to the local level, NOC asked the CDC's to experiment with meeting and taking care of those items focusing on church planting and church revitalization. Given the success of this experiment we are unanimous in proposing this change.

NOC has concluded that the best way to pursue church planting, church revitalization and evangelism is to support the presbyteries and churches as they take responsibility for these activities. Through the Church Development Committees (in some cases, Church Planting and Church Revitalization Committees), the presbyteries are organizing themselves to accomplish these tasks. NOC's role in this reconfiguration would be to serve the presbyteries by gathering CDC chairs twice a year for networking, coordinating, encouraging and providing resources to the work of the presbyteries.

At the national level, NOC believes its future role is to oversee Church Planter Assessing and Equipping, the Home Missionary application process and the Urban Ministries Network (UMN), and to encourage the pursuit of ethnic domestic ministry opportunities as they arise. Given this change of responsibilities, the NOC believes that a committee consisting of three persons, working with the Stated Clerk's office, can handle these responsibilities...

2. That the **Minutes** of the permanent National Outreach Committee dated October 20-21, 2008 and March 11-12, 2009 be approved with minor notations.

**C. Additional Recommendations from the Standing Committee**


1. Following the procedure approved by the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the Committee voted to place the following recommendations on an omnibus motion:

No recommendations were approved for the omnibus motion.

TE Bill Meyer closed the meeting at 4:05 p.m. with prayer.

The standing committee commended the Permanent Committee on National Outreach for their good work during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk

**Committee on Overtures and Resolutions**  
**Standing Committee Report**  
**29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

The Standing Committee on Overtures and Resolutions convened at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2009 and met once. Chairman TE George Yates opened the meeting with prayer. TE Michael Thomas served as Clerk for the committee.

**A. Business Referred to Committee:**

1. Overture 09-B
2. Overture 09-C
3. Recommendation #35

**B. Recommendations**

1. That **Overture 09-B** from the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic “that the Moderator of the 29th General Assembly appoint a committee to review *The Book of Order* with the input of the Stated Clerks of all presbyteries for the purpose of identifying terms, sentences, paragraphs, and/or sections that are not clear and/or which may cause confusion when applied, and further, to offer revisions as needed, to assure clarity of intent and meaning of implementation” be adopted.

Grounds: Given some presbyteries experience of occasional lack of clarity in the wording of some parts of the Book of Order, this seems an effort worth undertaking.

2. That **Overture 09-C** from the Presbytery of the Midwest to amend §3-5 and §10-7 in the *Book of Discipline* as follows” be adopted as amended (see below):

Current wording of D.3-5, second paragraph	Proposed wording to D.3-5, second paragraph
A “Renunciation of Jurisdiction” shall have the effect of terminating membership in the church and removing an officer from membership and ordained office in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and terminating that person’s exercise of office. The court should never engage in unnecessary actions under Chapter 10 et al, should the member be found guilty. Though a court may pronounce a judgment of admonition, suspension, removal from office, or excommunication against a person who has renounced jurisdiction, it need not do so and should not do so unless (1) the offender has given his or	A “Renunciation of Jurisdiction” shall have the effect of terminating membership in the church and removing an officer from membership and ordained office in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and terminating that person’s exercise of office. <del>The court should never engage in unnecessary actions under Chapter 10 et al, should the member be found guilty.</del> Though a court may pronounce a judgment of admonition, suspension, removal from office, or excommunication against a person who has renounced jurisdiction, it need not do so <del>and should not do so unless (1) the offender has given his or her permission,</del>

her permission, and (2) it is necessary for the purity of the church or the benefit of the offender.	and <del>(2)</del> <i>unless the court deems it necessary for the purity and welfare of the church or the benefit of the offender and may not do so without first giving written notice to the person making such renunciation and providing that person an opportunity to respond within fifteen days of the written notice.</i>
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Current wording of D.10-7	Proposed wording of D.10-7
The administration of church sanctions shall be suited to the nature of the offense. For private offenses, sanctions should be administered in the presence of the court alone, or in private by one or more members of the court. In the case of public offenses, the degree of sanction and mode of administering it shall be within the discretion of the court, acting in accordance with paragraphs below which deal with particular sanctions.	The administration of church sanctions shall be suited to the nature of the offense. For private offenses, sanctions should be administered in the presence of the court alone, or in private by one or more members of the court. In the case of public offenses, the degree of sanction and mode of administering it shall be within the discretion of the court, acting in accordance with paragraphs below which deal with particular sanctions.
If the charge is one of serious immorality or heresy, and the accused person persists in his rebellion, the court may proceed to inflict the highest sanction.	If the charge is one of serious immorality or heresy, and the accused person persists in his rebellion, the court may proceed to inflict the highest sanction.
When a Minister is removed from office, his pastoral relationship shall be dissolved; but when he is suspended, it shall be left to the discretion of the Presbytery whether the sanction shall include the dissolution of the pastoral relationship.	When a Minister is removed from office, his pastoral relationship shall be dissolved; but when he is suspended, it shall be left to the discretion of the Presbytery whether the sanction shall include the dissolution of the pastoral relationship.
When a Presbytery shall remove a Minister from his office without excommunication, it shall assign him to membership at some particular church subject to the approval of the Session of that particular church.	When a Presbytery shall remove a Minister from his office without excommunication, it shall assign him to membership at some particular church subject to the approval of the Session of that particular church.
In accordance with §3-5, no sanction shall be administered in the case of a person who has renounced jurisdiction in writing to the Clerk or Stated Clerk of the court of original jurisdiction.	<del>In accordance with §3-5, no sanction shall be administered in the case of a person who has renounced jurisdiction in writing to the Clerk or Stated Clerk of the court of original jurisdiction.</del>
In such instances, a case already begun may be concluded only with the	<del>In such instances, a case already begun may be concluded only with the</del>

permission of the accused.	permission of the accused.
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Grounds: Following the recommended changes in wording from the Permanent Judicial Commission, the committee made one small change in wording to clarify the intent to allow healing in churches with the least amount of legal liability.

3. That **Recommendation #35**, referred from the floor of the Assembly, be adopted as amended (see below):

<b>Current wording of Recommendation 35</b>	<b>Amended version approved by Committee</b>
That the General Assembly approve the creation of an interim committee to explore ways to include those pastors and churches with conflicting positions on women Teaching Elders in the presbyteries of the EPC. This committee will be appointed by the Moderator, will include two representatives from each presbytery and include all positions held within the EPC on women Teaching Elders. The committee will report to the 30 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2010.	That the General Assembly approve the creation of an interim committee to explore ways to <del>include</del> <b><i>provide a pathway to unity while protecting freedom of conscience among</i></b> those pastors and churches with conflicting positions on women Teaching Elders in the presbyteries of the EPC. This committee will be appointed by the Moderator, will include two representatives from each presbytery and include all positions held within the EPC on women Teaching Elders. The committee will report to the 30 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2010.

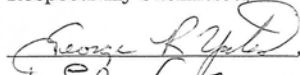

**C. Additional Recommendations from the Standing Committee**

1. Following the procedure approved by the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the Committee voted to place the following recommendations on an omnibus motion:

No recommendations were approved for the omnibus motion.

TE George Yates closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

 Chairman  
 Clerk



Student Ministries Committee

Standing Committee Report  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

The Standing Student Ministries Committee convened at 3:20 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2009 and met once. Chairman TE Chris Lawson opened the meeting with prayer. RE Joe McCoy served as Clerk for the committee.

**A. Business Referred to Committee:**

1. Minutes of the permanent Student Ministries Committee dated October 9-10, 2008 and March 5, 2009.

**B. Recommendations**

1. That the **Minutes** of the permanent Committee on Student Ministries be approved with minor notations.

**C. Additional Recommendations from the Standing Committee**

The committee made no additional recommendations.

Chairman Chris Lawson introduced Rob Craig and Brandon Bates. Each spoke briefly. Rob spoke about a time of transition. The permanent Committee on Student Ministries has written a new Statement of Mission, Vision, and Values to align with the EPC Mission and Vision. Student Ministries is transitioning to a resource for leadership development with core strategies of Equip, Provide and Connect.

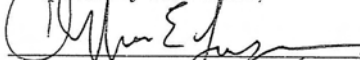
Brandon Bates encouraged churches to contact the permanent Committee on Student Ministries with any needs they have. The committee wants to be a resource for connecting churches together. Great resources are available within the EPC.

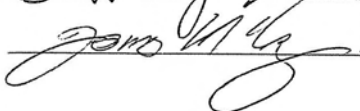
A discussion of strategies for preparing students for membership ensued. Different options and resources were shared. Commissioners were encouraged to share resources they have with other churches and with Rob for distribution.

TE Brandon Bates closed the meeting at 4:00 p.m. with prayer.

The Standing Committee on Student Ministries acknowledges with appreciation the excellent work of the Permanent Committee and Student Ministries staff Rob Craig and Susan Holland. The committee was pleased to hear of the continuing support of full-time Student Ministries staff in their important work for the Kingdom.

Respectfully submitted,

 Chairman

 Clerk

Committee on Theology  
Standing Committee Report  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

The Standing Committee on Theology convened at 3:20 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2009 and met once. Permanent Committee Chairman TE Paul Husband opened the meeting with prayer. TE Pete Scribner served as Clerk for the committee.

**A. Business Referred to Committee:**

1. Overture 09-A
2. Recommendation #26
3. Minutes of the permanent Committee on Theology

**B. Recommendations:**

1. The Standing Committee on Theology recommends that the Assembly adopt the following substitute motion for Overture 09-A:
  - a. That the Permanent Committee on Theology:
    - i. send to our churches a suggested bibliography on this topic,
    - ii. compile our position statements through the years which speak to sanctity of life issues, and
    - iii. consider revising current position papers or creating a pastoral letter to address this subject.

The Permanent Committee is encouraged to consult with the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery on this work.

- b. That the Mid-Atlantic or any other presbytery be encouraged to petition the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the EPC with a proposed position statement concerning the question of embryonic stem cell research.
2. That **Recommendation #26** from the Committee on Theology “that the Assembly adopt the following definition of a missional church and denomination be adopted as amended (*changes in bold italics*):

Our denomination wants to clarify for its member churches who we are and what we do as the United States *and many other nations become mission fields that are larger*, more spiritually diverse and more antagonistic to the Gospel than ever before.

The term “missional” has become common and therefore highly nuanced. We desire to define missional in a simple and specific way so that each EPC church can commit to a unified, obedient pursuit of the expansion of the Kingdom of God.

1. A missional church grasps that God is a missionary God and that “it is not so much that God has a mission for His church in the world, but that God has a Church for His mission in the world.”\*

2. A missional church believes that the mission of God is rooted unalterably in the Bible, God's infallible Word. Therefore, a missional church believes that the essence of God's mission is to extend the reign of God and is summed up in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
  3. A missional church is a visible community of authentic disciples of Jesus Christ who *gather* for celebration, prayer and teaching and then *disperse* locally and globally as His missionaries to love and serve people. In so doing, a missional church both *pursues* and *welcomes those who are searching sinners* as they are drawn into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. The greater purpose in all of this is that the earth will be filled with the worship of God.
  4. A missional church believes that it is more than just a collection of individuals, but that it is a community called together by God both to love Him and serve Him.
  5. A missional church is concerned with more than maintaining programs for existing members; it is called to mobilize *itself its people* both individually and as a community to daily self-sacrifice for the hurting world around them. A missional church is both inwardly strong and outwardly focused.
  6. A missional church perceives that the essence of these things is the essence of its existence. Therefore, a missional church will constantly seek to reevaluate itself as to whether or not ~~it's~~ *its* emphasis, organization, and activity effectively position the church to partner with God in His mission.
  7. A missional denomination
    - a. Believes ~~that the location of ministry is ministry begins with~~ the local church
    - b. Is made up of local congregations committed to being missional
    - c. Believes that the Presbyteries and General Assembly, being expressions of the larger church, have an important role to play in identifying, equipping and supporting leaders and churches. They are a key link in the principle of mutual accountability toward missional ministry and Biblical standards.
    - d. Constantly examines whether its polity, structures and programs are supporting or inhibiting that missional commitment..."
3. That the Minutes of the permanent Committee dated October 31 – November 1, 2008 be approved with minor notations.

### C. Additional Recommendations from the Standing Committee

1. Following the procedure approved by the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the Committee voted to place the following recommendations on an omnibus motion:

No recommendations were approved for the omnibus motion.

RE Alan Shaffer closed the meeting with prayer.

The Standing Committee commends the permanent Committee on Theology for their good work during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan D. Shaffer, Chairman

Dee A., Clerk

**Committee on Women In Ministry**

**Standing Committee  
29th General Assembly**

The Standing Committee on Women In Ministry convened at 3:20 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2009 and met once. Chairman Jean Smith opened the meeting with prayer. Barbara Matthews served as Clerk for the committee. Attendance was taken.

Special Guests were introduced: Libby Cooper, Chair of the Permanent Committee; Jackie Gatliff, Director of Women in Ministry; Alan Smith, COA member and member of this Standing Committee.

Report from Jacky Gatliff: 120 Women in Dearborn at Henry Ford Museum right now. She distributed "Serve. Lead. Glorify." folders to explain what the reorganized Women In Ministry and a full time director have accomplished and what is hoped for the future. The REAL leadership notebook was promoted for the use of local church and regional women in leadership, as was the leadership seminar program. It was suggested that this material could be used by Sessions, men and others with minimal editing. She highlighted the various aspects of the Women in Ministry program.

The situation with regard to the funding of the Director of Women in Ministry and other EPC positions was discussed.

**A. Business Referred to Committee**

**1. Minutes of the permanent committee:**

The Minutes of the permanent committee were reviewed by RE Jim Smith, RE Doug Storlie and RE Scott Van Dyke.

**B. Recommendations**

That the **minutes** of the permanent Women In Ministry Committee dated July 18, 2008; October 9, 2008; and March 12, 2009, be approved with minor notations and corrections.

**C. Additional Recommendations from the Standing Committee**

1. The Standing Committee on Women in Ministry requests that the COA revisit the budget in an effort to fund the Director of Women In Ministry on a full time basis for 2010 and beyond.

The Standing Committee on Women In Ministry commends the Permanent Committee for its work this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m. by a concert of prayer for the Women in Ministry program.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan S. La, Chairman

Barbara J. Mauter, Clerk

Committee on World Outreach

Standing Committee Report  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

The Standing Committee on World Outreach convened at 3:23 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2009 and met once. Chairman TE Don Neighbours opened the meeting with prayer. TE Richard Lanning served as Clerk for the committee.

**A. Business Referred to Committee:**

1. **Recommendation #29**
2. **Minutes** of the permanent Committee on World Outreach

**B. Recommendations**

1. That the **Minutes** of the permanent committee dated June 21, 2008, September 11-13, 2008, January 8-10, 2009 and March 19-21, 2009 be approved with minor notations.

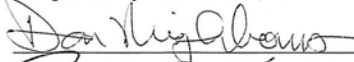
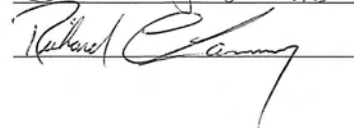
**C. Additional Recommendations from the Standing Committee**

1. Following the procedure approved by the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the Committee voted to place the following recommendations on an omnibus motion:
  - **Recommendation #29**

The Standing Committee on World Outreach commends the Permanent Committee for its work this past year. We also appreciate the thorough presentations made by Dr. Bruce MacFayden and Dr. Kristin Brodie speaking on behalf of PAACS.

TE Don Neighbours closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

 Chairman  
 Clerk

## NOTES



**PART II**  
**APPENDICES**

**NOTES**

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Report of the Committee on Administration  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

The Committee on Administration (RE John Adamson, Central South, TE Nate Atwood, Moderator-elect, RE Gwynn Blair, Florida, RE Hadley “Stretch” DePuy, East, TE Bill Dudley, Southeast, TE Art Hunt, Midwest, TE Jeff Jeremiah, Stated Clerk, RE Janet Juday, Midwest, RE Allen Roes, Moderator, RE Alan Smith, East, TE Bill Vogler, chairman and RE Ed Wedin, Central South) met in person three times, twice at the GA office in Livonia, MI and once in Brooksville, FL. We also held a number of telephone conference calls and communicated regularly via email. The minutes for all these meetings will be reviewed by the standing committee.



*Bill Vogler  
Chairman*

### **Work of the Committee**

1. Pursuing a denomination of evangelical, Presbyterian, Reformed and missional churches.

With the concluding report and dismissal of the Long Range Planning Committee (LRP) at the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the Committee on Administration (COA) understood that it was its responsibility to follow through on LRP’s excellent leadership to the EPC as we pursue God’s vision to become a denomination of evangelical, Presbyterian, Reformed and missional churches. The COA had anticipated this responsibility as it had held a special meeting in January, 2008 to begin examining our vision and mission and to strategize an agenda for the coming years.

Our meetings of October, 2008 and January, 2009, plus the work of a COA subgroup of Moderator Allen Roes, Moderator-elect Nate Atwood, Hadley “Stretch” DePuy, Jeff Jeremiah and Ed McCallum produced four documents that were reviewed and approved at our April, 2009 meeting.

- 1) “Mission, Goals, Vision and Outcomes for 2009-2010” (Attachment ADM-A).
- 2) A revision of Book of Order 16-22 (see Recommendation ADM-3 below).
- 3) “Statement of Benefits of Being in the EPC” (Attachment ADM-B). In an era when it is repeatedly said that denominationalism is dying, the COA believes that denominationalism as the EPC practices it is of value and benefit to our churches and presbyteries.
- 4) A Time for Evaluation (Attachment ADM-C). The COA is convinced that at this juncture of our history, it is appropriate to wrestle with two important questions:
  - a. Is the GA office, committee structure and GA meeting itself structured in the most effective and efficient way to meet our mission and goals?
  - b. Should we do a zero-based organizational review? To be a dynamic organization, we need to do a thorough evaluation of how we’re allocating resources in the GA office.

We believe that in the aftermath of the budget cuts that we were forced to make in early 2009 that providentially now is the time to ask and answer these hard questions.

## 2. Per Member Asking

At our October meeting we discussed the historic trend downward of church support for Per Member Asking (PMA), the primary source of revenue for the General Assembly budget. We agreed that there was an urgency to communicating the value of the work of the General Assembly, and held a special meeting in January to focus exclusively on this problem. As a result of the January meeting I wrote our churches a letter describing the historic support problem and asked for your input and possible solutions. We heard from about 30 churches - thank you for your concern, thoughts and ideas! Because of your response, the COA is recommending to the 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly that PMA be dropped back to \$23 per member (Recommendation ADM-5 below).

## 3. Staffing

After more than 26 years of faithful service to Christ and to the EPC, Janet Bain retired from her position as Benefits Assistant in March. We look forward to recognizing and appreciating Janet at our 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly. Linda DiVeto has succeeded Janet in the Benefits Department, which is headed by Michael Leighton, Director of Benefits.

At our October, 2008 meeting we were very pleased to approve the call to TE George Carey to become the new Director of World Outreach. George began on January 1, 2009. We are very appreciative of the outstanding leadership John McCurry brought to World Outreach as Interim Director in 2008.

Three years ago we decided that the role of the Stated Clerk needed to be different from the past. In calling Jeff Jeremiah to this new role we committed to work closely with him to ensure that he was bringing the leadership we were anticipating. Jeff makes monthly or bi-monthly written reports to us that show how his work is congruent with his position description. This spring we did a thorough review of Jeff's ministry and revised his position description to reflect what we have learned in the past three years.

As you are now aware, a number of reductions in GA office staff will take effect on July 1. The Associate Director of World Outreach (Missy Levy), the Assistant to the Office of the Stated Clerk (Kristen Uppendahl), and the Student Ministries Secretary (Susan Holland) will not longer be with us. The Director of Women in Ministry (Jacky Gatliff) and the Interim Director of Student Ministries (Rob Craig) will move from full time to half time status. We are very sorry to have made these difficult decisions, but we believed we had no choice but to make these cuts in the face of the \$240,000 Per Member Asking (PMA) shortfall we were facing as of March 31.

We can assure you that the GA staff was kept informed about our financial situation before our April 20-21 meeting. Stated Clerk Jeff Jeremiah had debriefed the staff

on December 16, 2008 about the budget challenges we would be facing in 2009, and gave his thoughts as to how cuts may need to occur. He made it clear that cuts to existing staff would be undertaken only as a last resort. On March 6 he announced to the staff that he was leaving the receptionist position vacant, and expressed concern about how PMA support was trending after sixty days. While it was difficult news for all staff to hear in April, they were not caught unaware of the situation.

The question has been raised as to what authority the COA had to make the cuts it did. The COA is effectively the Board of Directors of the EPC. In this role, it has fiduciary responsibility for the General Assembly, its office and its staff. We will not spend money which we do not have. By the end of March it was obvious that the PMA support required to meet the General Assembly-approved 2009 budget was headed to a deficit of \$240,000 for the year.

The COA looked across the whole of the ministry of the General Assembly and made some very difficult decisions that would help ensure that the EPC will be able to pay its bills / remain solvent. We are aware that many of our churches have had to make the same types of difficult choices during this difficult time.

With the exception of the Benefits department (which is funded by Benefits administrative fees), all departments of the Office of the General Assembly were affected by these cuts. World Outreach lost a full time position; Student Ministries lost a part time Secretary and half of the Director's position, Women in Ministries lost half of the Director's position and the Office of the Stated Clerk (OSC) lost two full time positions (Receptionist and Assistant to the OSC).

#### 4. Transitional Presbytery Commissions

We continue to interact closely with the New Wineskins/EPC Transitional Presbytery Commission. COA members Ed Wedin, Bill Vogler and Jeff Jeremiah are members of that group and participate in its bi-weekly telephone conference calls. Commission co-chair Bill Meyer met with the COA in Livonia, Michigan on Monday, October 27 to discuss the Affinity Presbytery proposal the Commission had produced earlier in the month. Members of the COA (Bill Dudley, Bill Vogler, Nate Atwood and Jeff Jeremiah) also met with Commission members Bill Meyer, Dean Weaver, Randy Jenkins and Gerrit Dawson on January 21 in Brooksville, FL. Allen Roes, Bill Vogler, Bill Dudley and Jeff Jeremiah represented the EPC at the Transitional Presbytery meeting at Bay Presbyterian Church in Cleveland, OH November 9-11. We are seeing good progress made in establishing relationships and gaining familiarity with one another. The Commission's report, "Becoming One" details where they see us at the two year mark of this relationship.

The National Transition Presbytery Commission, chaired by John Adamson has not processed as many churches, but they have distinguished themselves for the quick and helpful way they have ministered to churches and pastors coming to them. All of our presbyteries have been receiving new congregations apart from these transitional presbyteries.

5. Revision to World Outreach Manual

By act of the General Assembly, the COA has the authority to approve revisions to the World Outreach Manual. On recommendation from the World Outreach Committee, the COA approved adding section 400.11 to the World Outreach Manual:

*400.11 College Tuition for Missionary Children*

*A college expense line item can be added to the missionary's TOC for a full time under graduate through the age of 24. The line item is not to exceed \$4,000 annually per student based on demonstrated need and sufficient funds in the support account.*

6. Appreciation

I want to thank publicly departing members Ed Wedin and Art Hunt for their ministries for our Lord in the past six and three years, respectively.

**Recommendations to the General Assembly**

**Recommendation ADM-1**

That the Assembly enroll ruling and teaching elders who are members only of transitional presbyteries as corresponding members of the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly with voice but no vote.

**Recommendation ADM-2**

That the Assembly adopt the following procedure for creation of an omnibus consent motion at its 2009 meeting:

If a standing committee believes any of its recommendations will receive a consensus support of the Assembly, it may designate in its report that such items are to be included in an omnibus motion which will contain all such items from all committees. This designation may be challenged by motion at the time of the presentation of the omnibus. The omnibus motion itself may be divided only by a majority vote of 2/3 or greater. Constitutional amendments and recommendations regarding budgets may not be designated for inclusion in an omnibus motion.

Grounds: An omnibus consent motion allows the Assembly to streamline its business by putting several routine business that should receive consensus agreement in one motion. The Assembly has utilized an omnibus consent motion in 2007 and 2008 and the proposed process for 2009 reflects learning from the previous two years. If approved, the Committee on Administration will evaluate the 2009 procedure with a view to proposing an amendment that would make creation of an omnibus consent motion part of the "Rules for Assembly."

**Recommendation ADM-3**

That the Assembly amend Book of Government §16-22, updating the responsibilities of the General Assembly.

<b>Current Wording G.16-22</b>	<b>Proposed substitute wording G.16-22</b>
<p>§16-22 Duties: In maintaining the spiritual supervision of all churches and Presbyteries, the General Assembly has the following duties and powers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. To assume review and control of the Presbyteries through an annual review of minutes, to remand what may be contrary to the Constitution, and to see that all lawful injunctions are followed.</li> <li>B. To make final decisions on judicial cases brought before it in accordance with the Book of Discipline.</li> <li>C. To establish, unite, divide, or dissolve Presbyteries.</li> <li>D. To create separately or in conjunction with the Presbyteries those agencies or institutions needed for education or other purposes which would enhance the life and ministry of the whole church.</li> <li>E. To establish those boards and agencies necessary to serve the whole Church. This shall include the establishment of a disability and retirement program for Ministers and other full-time church personnel.</li> <li>F. To make evangelism, lay renewal, church extension and world missions its priorities and to undertake the support of agencies for that purpose.</li> <li>G. To approve and recommend to the Presbyteries such changes in the constitutional documents as it deems wise, fit and helpful. Such changes reported to the General Assembly by its Permanent Judicial Commission, and upon approval by the Assembly shall be referred to the Presbyteries, and upon approval by a ¾'s majority of the Presbyteries and in a succeeding Assembly (unless constitutional</li> </ul>	<p>§16-22 Mission of the General Assembly. In overseeing the total work of the Church, the General Assembly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Equips and encourages EPC leaders, churches and presbyteries to pursue God's mission in the world. In doing so, it has the responsibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To support the presbyteries and churches in making evangelism and discipleship their priorities. This may include establishing committees, boards, agencies, training events, networks and/or staff positions.</li> <li>2. To provide human resource services by establishing those committees, boards and agencies necessary to serve the ministers, missionaries and full time staff of the whole Church. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A health, disability and retirement program for Ministers, Missionaries and other full-time church staff.</li> <li>b. An agency for aiding churches and presbyteries in calling Ministers and other staff members.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. To create separately or in conjunction with the Presbyteries those agencies or institutions needed for education or other purposes which would enhance the life and ministry of the whole church.</li> </ul> </li> <li>B. Ensures the denomination's connectional life is consistent with Presbyterian polity as it is expressed in God's Word. In doing so, it has the responsibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To assume review and control of the Presbyteries through an</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p>provisions hereafter stated require a different vote) shall be enacted.</p> <p>H. To organize itself as it deems best for the propagation of the Gospel, the advancement of the Kingdom, and the edification of the whole Church.</p> <p>I. To provide services to the Presbyteries and particular churches, to offer encouragement, training, and other helps in conjunction with the Presbyteries that the whole Church may be effective in its total ministry.</p> <p>J. To oversee the affairs of the whole Church, including correspondence and cooperation with other denominations.</p> <p>K. To recommend measures for ministry to the various churches under its supervision.</p> <p>L. To maintain a central agency for aiding churches in securing Pastors and for assisting Ministers of the Word in relocation. Such agency shall always work through the Ministerial Committee of Presbytery.</p> <p>M. To provide guidance for the theological preparation of candidates in mission fields outside North America where Presbyteries do not yet exist, and to arrange for the ordination, where appropriate, of those persons who are duly called and prepared for the office of Minister, Elder or Deacon.</p>	<p>annual review of minutes, to remand what may be contrary to the Constitution, and to see that all lawful injunctions are followed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. To establish, unite, divide, or dissolve Presbyteries.</li> <li>3. To approve and recommend to the Presbyteries such changes in the constitutional documents as it deems wise, fit and helpful. Such changes reported to the General Assembly by its Permanent Judicial Commission shall, upon approval: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Be referred to the Presbyteries, and</li> <li>b. Upon approval by a ¾'s majority of the Presbyteries and in a succeeding Assembly (unless constitutional provisions hereafter stated require a different vote) shall be enacted.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. To make final decisions on judicial cases brought before it in accordance with the <b>Book of Discipline</b>.</li> <li>5. To provide guidance for the theological preparation of candidates in mission fields outside North America where Presbyteries do not yet exist, and to arrange for the ordination, where appropriate, of those persons who are duly called and prepared for the office of Minister, Elder or Deacon.</li> <li>6. To hold presbyteries accountable, by exercising the principle of review and control through an annual review of minutes, for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Encouraging and equipping their local churches to fulfill the</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
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	<p style="text-align: center;">Great Commission, and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">b. Following the Constitution and all lawful injunctions.</p> <p>C. Shall organize itself as it deems best for the propagation of the Gospel, the advancement of the Kingdom, and the edification of the whole Church.</p>
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Grounds: The current G.16-22 is a list of unprioritized responsibilities. The proposed substitute frames the duties and responsibilities of the General Assembly in two key areas, providing needed focus, which will help us to be more effective. As we become a robust denomination of evangelical, Reformed, Presbyterian, and missional churches, it is appropriate that we be state our priorities in a way that propels us to:

1. equip and encourage presbyteries, churches and leaders for mission
2. ensure our connectional life is consistent with our Presbyterian polity, and
3. continually evaluate our structures and effectiveness

**Recommendation ADM-4**

That the Assembly approve the revised 2009 Administrative Budget of \$1,376,394 (see attachment ADM-D).

**Recommendation ADM-5**

Per Member Asking (PMA) be reduced from \$25 to \$23 beginning July 1, 2009.

**Recommendation ADM-6**

That the Assembly approve the 2010 Benevolence Askings of \$328,000 (see Attachment ADM-E).

At the time of printing, three additional recommendations were yet to be finalized. They will be available to view or download online when approved and will be distributed at the General Assembly meeting:

1. Proposed 2010 Administration Budget
2. Recommendation for 2009 Thanksgiving Offering
3. Report from the Committee to Evaluate the Office of the Stated Clerk and recommendation regarding the re-election of Jeff Jeremiah.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Vogler, Chairman

June, 2009

## **MISSION, GOALS, VISION, AND OUTCOMES for 2009-2010**

Because the COA wants our mission to be clear, our goals designed to assure that we fulfill our mission, and our programs designed to meet each goal, the COA is asked to approve the following statement containing the mission, vision, goals and outcomes. Such a plan for 2009-2010 would make it possible to provide measurement for outcomes expected. (Please note that the COA received this document in a slightly different form in April, 2008, and was the basis of the Stated Clerk's report to the General Assembly in 2008).

**Purpose** Our constitution declares that the church is "to organize itself as it deems best for the propagation of the Gospel, the advancement of the kingdom, and the edification of the whole church" (Book of Government, 16.22.H). We believe that we are in an historic moment in which organizing ourselves for the special opportunities and challenges before us is prudent and essential.

### **VISION**

God has called the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to wholeheartedly re-embrace the Great Commission and become a denomination of Missional, Evangelical, Reformed and Presbyterian churches.

**Goals for 2009-2010.** In pursuit of this vision, the following have been established as goals for the COA for the coming year:

- A. To commit the EPC to play a key role in the evangelization of the U.S. and the world for Jesus Christ.
- B. To lead the EPC towards becoming a truly first class equipping, training, leadership development denomination. Towards that end the COA shall:
  1. Provide leadership in discerning, nurturing and promoting missional objectives at the national and Presbytery level in order to help, encourage and enable local churches to pursue this goal.
  2. Provide assistance to the Presbyteries as they offer encouragement, training and other helps that the local congregations may be effective in such areas as evangelism, discipleship, leadership development, strategic planning, financial stewardship, officer training, missional orientation and other facets of effective Christian life and ministry.
- C. To establish only those boards, agencies, committees, commissions, staff positions, institutions, and office structure necessary to meet the goals of the church
- D. To lead the EPC from a culture of "top-down" to a culture of "bottom-up" decision making in order to provide support for activities such as church planting which are initiated by the Presbyteries and local congregations rather than the General Assembly.
- E. To move the mandate of the COA from its traditional management/control role to a serving and encouraging leadership role.

- F. To “push down” activities historically directed out of the national office to Presbyteries and provide or recommend appropriate means of equipping and encouraging presbyteries in their mission.
- G. To encourage Presbyteries to network effectively among themselves.
- H. To draw the General Assembly closer to the larger churches so that it encourages and expresses appreciation for their participation in helping Presbyteries, smaller churches, countless individual missionaries and church plants, and others.
- I. To promote vitality in smaller churches by promoting peer learning and providing or recommending the most appropriate means of equipping and encouraging leaders in small ministry contexts.
- J. To have the COA make annual use of a planning process that will guarantee a review of goals to accommodate necessary change.
- K. To encourage the establishment of networks such as the Urban Ministry Network and Small Church Leaders Network (Z. 4.10).
- L. To provide assistance to the NW/EPC Transitional Presbytery at the request of the NW/EPC Commission.

We believe these goals represent our commitment to transform the EPC structurally into a robust form of Presbyterianism that will play a key role in the evangelism of the United States and the world for Jesus Christ.

We believe that the vision we have for the future of this denomination rests heavily on our commitment to make sure these goals are realized. It will take nothing less than our willingness at the national and Presbytery level to use our organization, our money and our complete focus on serving the local church in order to help, encourage, and enable them to pursue this vision.

Another way to describe our vision for the EPC is to describe what we hope to find as one examines our denomination five years from now. In 2014, anyone observing the EPC would find:

1. A General Assembly that oversees the work of the church by supporting the Presbyteries as they support the local churches.
2. Presbyteries that offer helps to local churches in such areas as evangelism, discipleship, training and other facets of Christian ministry.
3. The re-formation of the Great Commission in the form of the missional church widely accepted and firmly established in priorities.
4. A re-formation of the church - in our practice, not our doctrine.
5. The entire church is now committed to North America and the whole world as a mission field.
6. A church which cares about and is engaged in its community.
7. An exhibition of unity of spirit, purpose and direction.

Attachment ADM-A

8. A church whose meetings focus on ministry and evangelism, not just polity.
9. A church which is outwardly focused (not parochial) and inwardly strong (work together).
10. A church which contends for the faith and holds on to the truth.
11. A church which collaborates in ministry and mission.
12. A church which accepts a culture of “fluidity” and which avoids the old “boxes”.
13. A church which promotes church revitalization so that churches and church plants are helped when the situation requires.
14. A church which is financially solvent buoyed in part by a strong stewardship program at all levels.
15. A church whose larger churches take a major role in the leadership of the denomination at all levels.
16. Elected leaders who lead, not just administer; leaders who are proactive and quick to respond to targets of opportunity.
17. A series of highly active and very effective support networks across the denomination.
18. Churches, pastors, and candidates under care who rate very highly the processes that were used to admit them to a relationship within the EPC.
19. A church which has grown in numbers, not because it has sought growth as a goal, but because it is working valiantly to evangelize and bring the Word of God whenever there are un-churched and non-believers.

## **STATEMENT OF BENEFITS OF BEING IN THE EPC**

In today's world many people question the value of denominations and the Biblical basis of denominations. In the eyes of many they are often arcane, bureaucratically enmeshed, and ineffective. The blunt truth is that in many instances the criticisms are more than fair.

Yet, while bad denominations are a bad idea, we also believe that there is such a thing as a Biblical, effective, and relevant denomination. In short, we think that in God's economy we have the ability – as local churches and leaders – to make each other better as we work together. Indeed, we think that many instinctively grasp the value of being a part of a dynamic, well grounded, goal oriented, and forward looking organization. At the heart of it, we think many intuitively grasp this because God has called us to be a part of a body larger than ourselves. Indeed, this is our Biblical conviction.

Below are a basic statement of our convictions about the value, importance, and imperative of being an active part of a Biblical denomination such as the EPC. We believe:

### ***1. Working together to fulfill the Great Commission matters:***

There are moments in ministry, such as foreign and domestic missions, or national disaster, when linking together with other churches across a national spectrum allows us to take on still larger challenges. Historically the EPC has done this through Argentine outreach, church planting, establishing institutions for training leaders such as the Jumper Center in Brazil, Muslim missions, and national disaster such as Katrina Relief.

### ***2. Denominational standards for professionally trained, regionally ordained and nationally recognized ministers matter:***

In today's world many do little more than ordain themselves, or are ordained by the immediate group of people whom they lead. While we affirm personal calling and the importance of a local body affirming that calling, we view the office of a Presbyterian Teaching Elder as a profession as well as a calling and hold to the historic Presbyterian value of an educated ministry.

By ordaining through the Presbytery and upholding standards of ordination nationally through the General Assembly, our Teaching Elders can legitimately claim that they are professionally trained, regionally ordained and nationally recognized. We believe that challenges of ministry in our culture demand no less than this and that Pastors are more fully positioned to carry out their office when the wider church ordains them.

### ***3. Real networking, training and equipping with like-minded churches and leaders matters:***

We affirm the value of many of the equipping organizations of which local EPC a may be members. That said, we believe there is a unique benefit in networking and learning with (and from) those churches who share our particular beliefs and philosophy of ministry. We seem to have a unique potential to learn and grow with those churches and leaders with whom we are already connected and who share our most basic convictions.

While we are grateful for the increasing emphasis on training and networking within the EPC, we believe that EPC should set as a goal becoming a first class equipping and training organization, unique in that we do this as a denomination.

**4. *Real accountability matters:***

The history of the church makes it clear that accountability – doctrinal, ethical, and ministry practice as expressed through evangelism and discipleship – matters. In too many situations pastors, leaders, or churches are able to evade the responsibilities of their office or calling as a community by being accountable only to those whom they lead or to themselves. Others claim an accountability which has no real basis in vows or authoritative church structure.

Our conviction is that Scriptural accountability is a gift that God gives to the individual, the local church, and the wider church. We believe that ultimately this accountability must be grounded in loving relationships but move beyond this to include truly authoritative structure. We believe that this accountability is vital to the church's integrity and witness in the world.

**5. *Real relationships outside your local church matter:***

We believe that a Scriptural commitment to the unity of the church necessarily places us in relationships beyond our local church. Some of this we've covered above, in the commitment to real accountability and ordination standards. Some of it we've covered above in our beliefs about networking and learning both together and from one another.

Our conviction is that unless we formally commit to these things, the press of ministry and life is such that we are increasingly likely to isolate from other churches and leaders. This isolation leaves us building only on our own ideas, resources, and prayers. It is a prescription not for ministry strength but rather ministry weakness.

We are Presbyterians because of Scriptural conviction, believing that God Himself has called us into community. We believe that in structured community there is great strength and that ultimately to "submit to one another" is integral to the authentic community God calls us to be.

## **A TIME FOR EVALUATION**

*Are the GA office, committee structure, and GA meeting itself structured in the most effective and efficient way to meet our mission and goals?*

*To be a dynamic organization, we need to do a thorough evaluation of how we're allocating resources in the GA office. Perhaps we should have zero-based organizational planning?*

### Conclusion:

For some, the work of building and rebuilding an effective denomination is a waste of time. They don't think it can happen or that it's a worthwhile goal. It's our commitment to Scripture which forces us to disagree. In the New Testament church we see congregations and leaders held together in a web of mutual relationship, teamwork and accountability. The apostles exercised real church authority, not only over individuals but congregations and especially church leaders. Mere networks, no matter how helpful, have no mechanism for church authority. In the same manner, purely congregational church government has no capacity to hold churches as a whole or their leaders accountable to those outside of themselves. In essence, they are closed systems, and both secular and sacred history teach us of the inadvisability of no accountability outside of ourselves.

Our vision is for real accountability – doctrinal, ethical, ministry productivity – partnered with a) real relationships, b) real networking, and c) training/equipping with excellence. We believe this is the best possible world and while we understand why many would choose to set their sights lower – this is no easy task – we think that Biblical Presbyterianism calls us to nothing less than this.

The problem is not that we have been too “Presbyterian” or “denominational”. The problem is that we have degenerated from what our system could be – and at times has produced – into a cheapened form of Presbyterianism which is either a) merely bureaucratic or b) merely autocratic. We propose something much richer, challenging, and filled with much greater potential. Churches and leaders bound together in real relationship, working together and pooling resources so as to a) make each other better in ministry practice, b) experience authentic relationship so as to genuinely encourage one another, and c) hold each other accountable for doctrine, ethics, and ministry effectiveness.

We believe the resources exist already to, at a minimum, move us significantly in this direction. We also believe that many in our denomination intuitively sense the possibilities and are hoping for real change in this direction. We also believe that our steps towards this end include: 1) stating our mission and goals clearly and gaining denominational buy-in and 2) reorganizing the General Assembly Office in order to support this greatly sharpened vision of denominational purpose and calling.

## Attachment ADM-D

<b>EPC General Assembly Recommended 2009 Revised Administration Budget</b>				
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Revised</b>
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>2009</b>
				<b>Budget</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>				
<b>Personnel Disbursements</b>				
Stated Clerk Salary	133,900	133,900	138,000	<b>138,000</b>
Program Staff Salaries	402,000	306,010	377,100	<b>336,673</b>
Support Staff Salaries	177,000	203,338	207,000	<b>166,334</b>
Staff Insurance/Pension	170,000	118,186	180,200	<b>137,087</b>
Executive Expense Allowance	7,300	3,997	7,300	<b>4,300</b>
Staff Travel/Expenses	56,000	49,251	52,000	<b>49,000</b>
Executive Travel	40,000	43,310	50,000	<b>46,500</b>
Taxes/Worker Comp	54,200	52,073	58,600	<b>52,000</b>
Officer/Director Liability	<u>10,500</u>	<u>10,109</u>	<u>10,500</u>	<b><u>10,500</u></b>
	1,050,900	920,174	1,080,700	<b>940,394</b>
<b>Administration Disbursements</b>				
Contingencies	5,000	596	2,000	<b>2,000</b>
Telephone/Internet Access	15,100	9,079	16,000	<b>10,000</b>
Office Supplies	16,200	10,470	12,500	<b>12,500</b>
Printing & Promotion	48,900	27,376	42,500	<b>28,000</b>
Postage	52,200	24,744	40,000	<b>25,000</b>
Technology Support	25,000	22,032	30,300	<b>30,300</b>
Financial Audit	5,000	5,500	5,500	<b>5,700</b>
Professional Fees	13,000	4,896	8,000	<b>5,000</b>
Miscellaneous	2,000	1,275	1,000	<b>1,000</b>
Office Development	4,000	751	4,000	<b>1,000</b>
Committee Travel/Expense	87,400	71,144	85,000	<b>75,000</b>
GA Administration	30,000	28,928	30,000	<b>30,000</b>
Staff Technical Training	4,000	3,425	3,000	<b>3,000</b>
Pension Fund Administration	10,000	8,637	10,000	<b>10,000</b>
Fraternal Relations	14,000	10,118	14,000	<b>10,000</b>
Presbytery Devel/Support	4,000	2,953	3,000	<b>3,000</b>
Leadership Development	2,000	505	10,000	<b>500</b>
Christian Ed/Resource	2,000	535	2,000	<b>2,000</b>
Office Rent and Utilities	164,000	163,574	169,000	<b>169,000</b>
Other Maintenance/Insurance	8,000	7,780	7,000	<b>8,000</b>
Capital Replacement Escrow				
Van Expense	<u>4,000</u>	<u>3,947</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<b><u>5,000</u></b>
	515,800	408,266	499,800	<b>436,000</b>
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>1,566,700</b>	<b>1,328,440</b>	<b>1,580,500</b>	<b>1,376,394</b>



**EPC General Assembly Proposed Benevolence Askings 2010**

<b>Ministerial Vocation</b>	
Pastoral Care of Military Chaplains	\$5,000
Care of Pastors and Spouses	
\$5,000	
Small Church Network	<u>\$5,000</u>
<b>\$15,000</b>	
<b>National Outreach</b>	
Urban Ministry	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Student Ministries</b>	
Ministry Pioneering and Development	\$ 5,000
Student Ministry Scholarships	\$ 2,500
Curriculum/Resource Development	\$ 2,500
Youth Leader Development	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
	<b>\$15,000</b>
<b>College Ministries</b>	
College Ministry Leadership Development	\$5,000
Support for Church Plants in College Towns	<u>\$5,000</u>
	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Women's Ministries</b>	
Per Woman Asking	\$20,000
Faith Focus	<u>\$20,000</u>
	<b>\$40,000</b>
<b>World Outreach</b>	
Argentina – Pastoral Scholarships & Leadership Development	\$35,000
Argentina – Partnerships for Church Planting	\$27,000
Kazakhstan – ARKC Presbytery Development Fund	\$11,000
Kazakhstan – Rakim Church	\$10,000
Church Planting Teams in Muslim World	\$35,000
Muslim Outreach Ministries in the US	\$15,000
Russia - Tyumen Bible College & Outreach Projects	\$15,000
Germany - National Church Plant Pastor	\$50,000
Yemen – International Learning Center	\$25,000
Africa – Theological and Islamics Training	<u>\$15,000</u>
	<b>\$238,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$328,000</b>

## Attachment ADM-F

## PROPOSED 2010 ADMINISTRATION BUDGET

	2008	2008	2009	2009	2010
	Budget	Actual	Budget	w/cutbacks	Budget
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>					
<b>Personnel Disbursements</b>					
Stated Clerk Salary	133,900	133,900	138,000	138,000	138,000
Program Staff Salaries	402,000	306,010	377,100	336,673	298,600
Support Staff Salaries	177,000	203,338	207,000	166,334	148,600
Staff Insurance/Pension	170,000	118,186	180,200	137,087	139,716
Executive Expense Allowance	7,300	3,997	7,300	4,300	4,300
Staff Travel/Expenses	56,000	49,251	52,000	49,000	49,000
Executive Travel	40,000	43,310	50,000	46,500	46,500
Taxes/Worker Comp	54,200	52,073	58,600	52,000	47,000
Officer/Director Liability	<u>10,500</u>	<u>10,109</u>	<u>10,500</u>	<u>10,500</u>	<u>10,500</u>
	1,050,900	920,174	1,080,700	940,394	882,216
<b>Administration Disbursements</b>					
Contingencies	5,000	596	2,000	2,000	2,000
Telephone/Internet Access	15,100	9,079	16,000	10,000	10,000
Office Supplies	16,200	10,470	12,500	12,500	12,500
Printing & Promotion	48,900	27,376	42,500	28,000	28,000
Postage	52,200	24,744	40,000	25,000	25,000
Technology Support	25,000	22,032	30,300	30,300	33,000
Financial Audit	5,000	5,500	5,500	5,700	6,000
Professional Fees	13,000	4,896	8,000	5,000	5,000
Miscellaneous	2,000	1,275	1,000	1,000	1,000
Office Development	4,000	751	4,000	1,000	1,000
Committee Travel/Expense	87,400	71,144	85,000	75,000	75,000
GA Administration	30,000	28,928	30,000	30,000	30,000
Staff Technical Training	4,000	3,425	3,000	3,000	3,000
Pension Fund Administration	10,000	8,637	10,000	10,000	10,000
Fraternal Relations	14,000	10,118	14,000	10,000	15,000
Presbytery Devel/Support	4,000	2,953	3,000	3,000	3,000
Leadership Development	2,000	505	10,000	500	500
Christian Ed/Resource	2,000	535	2,000	2,000	2,000
Office Rent and Utilities	164,000	163,574	169,000	169,000	176,000
Other Maintenance/Insurance	8,000	7,780	7,000	8,000	8,000
Capital Replacement Escrow					
Van Expense	<u>4,000</u>	<u>3,947</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>	5,000
	515,800	408,266	499,800	436,000	451,000
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>1,566,700</b>	<b>1,328,440</b>	<b>1,580,500</b>	<b>1,376,394</b>	<b>1,333,216*</b>

\* CoA can restore up to \$100,000 of the 2009 budget cuts as funds become available.

**TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE POSSIBLE RELOCATION  
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OFFICE**

At its April 2009 meeting the Committee on Administration approved a task force to study the possible relocation of the General Assembly office. In light of the current office lease expiring in December 31, 2011, the Task Force is charged to:

1. Survey churches through the presbyteries concerning the location of the GA office,
2. Determine the cost of a new lease at the current office site in Livonia, MI.
3. Determine the cost of a lease and other costs if the office is relocated to:
  - a. Charlotte
  - b. Denver
  - c. St. Louis
  - d. Memphis
  - e. Any other cities the task force may consider viable
4. Determine the cost of relocating the GA office and key GA personnel
5. Explore funding sources for relocating.
6. Make a recommendation to the Committee on Administration by April 2010 for presentation to the General Assembly.

The Moderator will make a recommendation to the COA for five people to form the Task Force.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE  
THE OFFICE OF THE STATED CLERK**

DATE: 6-10-09

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah has served as Stated Clerk from and since 2006 and now is in the last year of his call; and

WHEREAS, *the Rules for Assembly* require an evaluation of the Stated Clerk and recommendation based thereon for the purposes of consideration of a nomination for a three-year term to commence January 1, 2010 to be determined at the 29<sup>th</sup> (2009) General Assembly:

NOW THEREFORE, the Personnel Committee, augmented by two persons (Bill Meyer and Paul Heidebrecht), unanimously reports as follows:

1. **REVIEW PROCESS:** At a meeting held on June 10, 2009 it evaluated the Stated Clerk. The review included:
  - a. Understanding of the job description, position and goals associated with the task or calling (see Position Description);
  - b. Evaluation of office staff management and effectiveness of office operation;
  - c. Evaluation of the role of Stated Clerk of the General Assembly as it concerns intra-denominational relationships to the presbyteries, the particular churches and individuals;
  - d. Evaluation of the role of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly as it concerns inter-Christian relationships to other Christian denominations, other Christian organizations; and
  - e. Evaluation of the Stated Clerk by staff in “a 360 review process.”
2. **PROCEDURE AND FINDINGS:** The Personnel Committee met to review the areas described above and to draw upon their personal observations as concern the duties and responsibilities of the stated Clerk. This was preceded by a discussion with the Stated Clerk to allow him opportunity to give a personal report with respect to his work and experience. The Personnel Committee then met to discuss the review process and to reach conclusions and recommendations.
3. **RECOMMENDATION:** By unanimous and prayerful action, the Personnel Committee endorses the work of the Stated Clerk with tremendous appreciation of the difficulties of the position; the devotion of the Stated Clerk to his calling,

## **Attachment ADM-H**

duties and responsibilities; and the effectiveness of what he has done for the office of the General Assembly and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Personnel Committee recommends that the Committee on Administration endorse and nominate to the General Assembly in June 2009 that Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah be called to another term of three years to the position of Stated Clerk to commence January 1, 2010.

It is a pleasure and honor for the Personnel Committee to make this report and recommendation as it sees God's hand in the calling of Dr. Jeremiah to be the Stated Clerk. Jeff has applied patience, dignity and quiet strength to an arduous task. Few church men in this or any other era have conducted their affairs with such success, such energy, and such devotion. We give all gratitude and praise to God for the rich blessings He showers on the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Hadley S. DePuy  
Chair, Personnel Committee  
Committee on Administration

**POSITION DESCRIPTION – STATED CLERK  
29<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

---

1. Title: Stated Clerk

2. Summary

The Stated Clerk is responsible before God for the work of the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Stated Clerk is the chief executive officer of the General Assembly.

3. Responsibilities and Duties

a. EPC in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- 1) Contribute input and leadership to the goal of making the EPC a denomination of Missional, Evangelical, Presbyterian and Reformed churches.
- 2) Establish and encourage communications and networking relationships throughout the EPC, seeking input and working towards consensus in the denomination. This will be done through:
  - i. EPNews articles and columns
  - ii. Regular contacts with EPC leaders
  - iii. Visits to presbyteries and local churches.
- 3) Assist in the accomplishment of the mission of the EPC through:
  - i. The Committee on Administration,
  - ii. EPC General Assembly committees
  - iii. Meetings of the General Assembly
  - iv. EPC presbyteries through their officers and committee chairs

b. EPC and the greater church

- 1) Represent the EPC to the general public and the greater church, seeking to establish and improve those relationships that will glorify God and build/expand His kingdom.
- 2) Be responsible for denominational correspondence with all fraternal persons and bodies.

c. Office of the General Assembly

- 1) Work to develop a new organizational plan for the Office of the General Assembly that will best serve the local churches (and presbyteries) of the EPC in the vision, planning, growth and development of the church. Consensus-building will be vital to the development of this new model, which will be intentionally missional.
- 2) Function as the executive head of the Office of the General Assembly staff, casting vision, setting strategic direction, which the Assistant Stated Clerk and program staff will reinforce on behalf of the Stated Clerk.
- 3) Build consensus and professional, God-honoring relationships in the Office of the General Assembly.

## Attachment ADM-H

- 4) Direct appropriate fiscal controls through the Finance Manager.
  - 5) Oversee the recording of all General Assembly transactions and carefully preserve these records. Grant abstracts from these records when required.
  - 6) Oversee the preparation and distribution of all notices required by civil and ecclesiastical law.
  - 7) Oversee the upkeep of the General Assembly's corporate books and records.
- d. Other
- 1) Work in conjunction with the Moderator, the Chairman of the Committee on Administration and the Moderator-elect, and assist them as needed.
  - 2) Interpret all constitutional matters not specifically referred to a General Assembly committee.
  - 3) Fulfill the duties and responsibilities set forth for this description in the Book of Order and the Rules for the Assembly.
4. Relationships
- a. The Stated Clerk is responsible to the General Assembly through the Committee on Administration, with immediate accountability to the Executive Committee.
  - b. All General Assembly staff is directly accountable to the Stated Clerk.
5. Evaluation

Due to the new nature of this position, evaluation of both the position description and the Stated Clerk will be critical. Annual reviews of the position description and the Stated Clerk will be conducted by the Executive Committee.

### Addendum:

Whereas the Stated Clerk will report to the Executive Committee, he will keep the Committee of Administration informed of his work so that they may serve as a resource to him.

**EVANGELICAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

**Karl L. Drake  
Certified Public Accountant**



# EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Financial Statements

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Karl L. Drake, P.C.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the General Assembly of the  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (a non-profit organization) as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flow for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with United States generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the changes in net assets and cash flow for the years then ended in conformity with United States generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audits were made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental information on pages 12-19 is presented for the purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

*Karl L. Drake*

Karl L. Drake, P.C.  
Certified Public Accountant

February 19, 2009

# EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

ASSETS	2008	2007
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Equivalents:		
Unrestricted	\$ 40,977	\$ 488,843
Restricted	1,113,998	611,071
Investments:		
Unrestricted	---	221,453
Restricted	5,183,836	7,200,423
Accounts Receivable	306,384	259,914
Prepaid Expenses	---	---
Inventory	36,117	43,361
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>6,681,312</b>	<b>8,825,065</b>
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
Furniture and Equipment	146,297	143,442
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-120,256	-105,838
<b>NET PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>26,041</b>	<b>37,604</b>
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>		
Copyright	24,250	25,750
Notes Receivable	380,500	133,000
Deposits	118,881	105,446
<b>TOTAL OTHER ASSETS</b>	<b>523,631</b>	<b>264,196</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 7,230,984</b>	<b>\$ 9,126,865</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Current Portion	\$ ---	\$ ---
Accounts Payable	498,247	603,517
Accrued Expenses	---	---
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>498,247</b>	<b>603,517</b>
<b>LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>		
Copyright Payable	---	---
Less: Current Portion	---	---
<b>TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>498,247</b>	<b>603,517</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	412,669	834,586
Temporarily Restricted	6,320,068	7,688,762
Permanently Restricted	---	---
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>6,732,737</b>	<b>8,523,348</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 7,230,984</b>	<b>\$ 9,126,865</b>

See Accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements.

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	2008 Total	2007 Total
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Contributions	\$ 1,217,021	\$ 2,845,049	\$ ---	\$ 4,062,070	\$ 3,917,323
Investment Income <Loss>	-261,764	-290,204	---	-551,968	58,992
Program Income	65,673	6,864,737	---	6,930,410	5,864,173
Other Income	35,498	320,840	---	356,338	178,838
Assets Released From Restrictions	10,502,925	-10,502,925	---	---	---
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>11,559,353</b>	<b>-762,503</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>10,796,850</b>	<b>10,019,326</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Program Expenses	10,193,911	---	---	10,193,911	9,017,761
General and Administrative	1,332,435	---	---	1,332,435	1,287,108
Fund Raising	11,925	---	---	11,925	15,347
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>11,538,271</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>11,538,271</b>	<b>10,320,216</b>
<b>INCREASE &lt;DECREASE&gt; IN NET ASSETS BEFORE UNREALIZED GAIN &lt;LOSS&gt;</b>	<b>21,082</b>	<b>-762,503</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>-741,421</b>	<b>-300,890</b>
<b>UNREALIZED GAIN &lt;LOSS&gt; IN MARKET VALUE</b>	<b>-442,999</b>	<b>-606,191</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>-1,049,190</b>	<b>427,618</b>
<b>INCREASE &lt;DECREASE&gt; IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>-421,917</b>	<b>-1,368,694</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>-1,790,611</b>	<b>126,728</b>
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	834,586	7,688,762	---	8,523,348	8,396,620
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 412,669</b>	<b>\$ 6,320,068</b>	<b>\$ ---</b>	<b>\$ 6,732,737</b>	<b>\$ 8,523,348</b>

See Accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements

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Karl L. Drake, P.C.

# EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

	Program Services	General and Administrative	Fund Raising	2008 Total	2007 Total
Compensation	\$ ---	\$ 643,248	\$ ---	\$ 643,248	\$ 584,795
Employee Benefits	---	122,183	---	122,183	136,005
Payroll Taxes	---	52,073	---	52,073	47,519
Repairs and Maintenance	---	7,780	---	7,780	6,362
Travel	---	92,561	---	92,561	97,343
Committee Expenses	---	71,144	---	71,144	69,711
Contingencies	---	596	---	596	1,340
Printing and Promotion	---	15,451	11,925	27,376	35,231
Professional Fees	---	10,396	---	10,396	5,750
Rent and Property Taxes	---	163,574	---	163,574	159,125
Van Expense	---	3,947	---	3,947	3,201
Office Supplies	---	10,471	---	10,471	8,215
Telephone	---	9,079	---	9,079	14,328
Insurance	---	10,109	---	10,109	10,109
Postage	---	24,744	---	24,744	36,178
Development	---	4,209	---	4,209	5,869
Fraternal Relations	---	10,118	---	10,118	12,740
Support and Training	---	3,425	---	3,425	2,875
General Assembly Expenses	---	28,928	---	28,928	20,351
Miscellaneous	---	1,275	---	1,275	---
Premiums	774,503	---	---	774,503	556,508
Claims	5,928,714	---	---	5,928,714	5,152,376
Administrative Expenses	610,520	8,637	---	619,157	389,816
Program Expenses	2,880,174	---	---	2,880,174	2,928,185
Christian Ed. Resources	---	535	---	535	2,031
Technology Support	---	24,889	---	24,889	23,738
<b>TOTALS BEFORE ADJUSTMENTS</b>	<b>10,193,911</b>	<b>1,319,372</b>	<b>11,925</b>	<b>11,525,208</b>	<b>10,309,701</b>
Fixed Asset Capitalization	---	-2,855	---	-2,855	-6,841
Depreciation & Amortization	---	15,918	---	15,918	17,356
<b>ADJUSTED TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 10,193,911</b>	<b>\$ 1,332,435</b>	<b>\$ 11,925</b>	<b>\$ 11,538,271</b>	<b>\$ 10,320,216</b>

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

	2008	2007
<b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Increase <Decrease> in Net Assets before Unrealized Gain <Loss>	\$ -741,421	\$ -300,890
Adjustments to Reconcile Increase in Net Assets to Cash Flow From Operating Activities:		
Depreciation	14,418	17,356
Amortization	1,500	1,500
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:		
Decrease <Increase> in Accounts Receivable	-46,470	-92,990
Decrease <Increase> in Inventory	7,244	17,663
Decrease <Increase> in Prepaid Expenses	---	---
Increase <Decrease> in Accounts Payable	-105,270	296,440
Decrease <Increase> in Notes Receivable	-247,500	-70,292
Decrease <Increase> in Deposits	-13,435	-21,565
<b>NET CASH FLOW FROM &lt;USED BY&gt; OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>-1,130,934</b>	<b>-152,778</b>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Sale <Purchase> of Fixed Assets	-2,855	-6,841
Sale <Purchase> of Investments	2,238,040	-375,450
Unrealized Gain <Loss> on Investments	-1,049,190	427,618
<b>NET CASH FLOW FROM &lt;USED BY&gt; INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>1,185,995</b>	<b>45,327</b>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>
<b>INCREASE &lt;DECREASE&gt; IN CASH</b>	<b>55,061</b>	<b>-107,451</b>
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,099,914	1,207,365
<b>CASH - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 1,154,975</b>	<b>\$ 1,099,914</b>
<b>OTHER DISCLOSURES</b>		
Cash used for:		
Income taxes	\$ ---	\$ ---
Interest	\$ ---	\$ ---

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

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Karl L. Drake, P.C.

# EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE 1 - NATURE OF ACTIVITIES

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church is a church denomination with member churches who are evangelical in spirit.

### NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### GENERAL

The financial statements include only the accounts of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and do not include the accounts of affiliated local Presbyteries or member churches.

#### PROMISES TO GIVE

Contributions are recognized when the donor makes a promise to give to the Organization that is, in substance, unconditional. Contributions that are restricted by the donor are reported as increases in unrestricted net assets if the restrictions expire in the fiscal year in which the contributions are recognized. All other donor-restricted contributions are reported as increases in temporarily or permanently restricted net assets depending on the nature of the restrictions. When a restriction expires, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets.

#### ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with United States generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### INCOME TAXES

The Organization is a not-for-profit organization that is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Organization is not a private foundation under Code Section 509.

#### PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Donations of property and equipment are recorded as support at their estimated fair value. Such donations are reported as unrestricted support unless the donor has restricted the donated asset to a specific purpose. Assets donated with explicit restrictions regarding their use, and contributions of cash that must be used to acquire property and equipment are reported as restricted support. The Organization reports expirations of donor restrictions when the donated or acquired assets are placed in service as instructed by the donor. The Organization reclassifies temporarily restricted net assets to unrestricted net assets at that time. Property and equipment are depreciated using the straight-line method. Depreciation expense for the years 2008 and 2007 totaled \$14,418 and \$17,356 respectively.

**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**INVENTORY**

Inventory consists primarily of books and other publications. Inventory is stated at the lower of cost or market on the first-in, first-out basis.

**INVESTMENTS**

Investments consist of mutual funds, and are valued at market value, including accrued interest.

**CONTRIBUTED SERVICES**

During the year ended December 31, 2008, the value of contributed services meeting the requirements of recognition in the financial statements was not material and has not been recorded.

**NOTE 3 - NOTES RECEIVABLE**

Notes receivable consists of loan agreements made to member churches at interest rates below the current market rates. The churches make principal and interest payments on a monthly basis. All notes are included in the Church Loan Fund. Details of this account consist of the following:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Christ Fellowship	\$ ---	\$ 50,000
North Oaks Community	83,000	83,000
Christ Church	149,167	---
Peace Durham	148,333	---
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 380,500</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 133,000</u></b>

**NOTE 4 - NET ASSET RESTRICTIONS**

At December 31, 2008 and 2007, temporarily restricted net assets consisted of the following:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
World Outreach	\$ 1,497,038	\$ 1,435,065
Church Development	106,809	120,293
Church Loan	767,529	934,105
Programs	1,214,777	1,567,898
Medical Insurance Plan	2,733,915	3,631,401
	<b><u>\$ 6,320,068</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 7,688,762</u></b>



# EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE 5 - SELF INSURANCE

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church currently utilizes a self-funded medical program using an insurance company to administer the claims. The program covers employees of member churches and their families, and clergy and their families. The program loss is limited by the use of a re-insurance policy.

Following is a summary of transactions for the self-insurance program for 2008 and 2007.

	2008	2007
Premiums Billed	\$ 6,826,230	\$ 5,742,188
Interest Income	88,797	41,345
Gain <Loss> in Market Value	-819,616	232,261
Other	320,840	165,403
Premiums Expense	-774,503	-556,508
Claims Expense	-5,928,714	-5,152,376
Administrative Expense	-610,520	-380,692
Excess of Revenue Over <Under> Expenses	<u>\$ -897,486</u>	<u>\$ 91,621</u>

### NOTE 6 - PENSION PLAN

The General Assembly Office participates in a multi-employer pension plan administered by the Board of Pensions and Benefits as elected by the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The plan is a defined contribution type. Contributions by the General Assembly Office to the plan for participants for 2008 and 2007 were \$54,789 and \$51,091 respectively. Any employee may participate in the salary reduction aspect of the plan. Also, the Assembly may make contributions for the benefit of employees at its discretion.

Following is a summary of transactions for the pension plan for 2008 and 2007.

	2008	2007
Contributions	\$ 4,393,763	\$ 3,811,459
Dividends and Interest	1,097,643	3,116,854
Gain <Loss> in Market Value	-15,812,486	737,708
Transfers In <Out>	-1,882,728	-2,512,823
Pension Payments	-533,773	-516,252
Administrative Expense	-19,190	-229
Excess of Revenues Over <Under> Expenses	<u>\$ -12,756,771</u>	<u>\$ 4,636,717</u>

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**NOTE 7 - CHANGES TO PRIOR YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Certain 2007 amounts have been reclassified to conform to current year's financial statement presentation.

**NOTE 8 - LEASE AGREEMENT**

The Assembly entered into a lease agreement for office space effective August 1, 2004 and extending to January 15, 2012. For the period of August 1, 2004 through January 15, 2005, no lease payments were due. Beginning January 15, 2005, lease payments of \$12,381 per month were due. The monthly payment amount increases annually. Total lease expense for 2008 and 2007 was \$161,593 and \$157,782, respectively. A security deposit of \$12,381 has been paid to secure the lease.

Future lease obligations are as follows:

2009	\$ 166,987
2010	173,022
2011	176,836
2012	14,922

**NOTE 9 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

The Assembly considers all highly liquid debt instruments with maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

At December 31, 2008, cash and cash equivalents included:

	<u>Carrying Value</u>	<u>Book Value</u>
Amounts covered by FDIC Insurance	\$ 378,720	\$ 378,720
Amounts covered by SIPC Insurance	406,087	406,087
Amounts uninsured	355,188	370,168
Total Cash and Equivalents	<u>\$ 1,139,995</u>	<u>\$ 1,154,975</u>

Deposits in transit and outstanding checks cause differences between bank carrying value and book value.

# EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE 10 - COPYRIGHT

The Organization entered into an agreement with Summertown Tests for the purchase of copyrights for the EPC Edition of the Modern Language Version of the Westminster Confessions of Faith and Larger Catechism. The total purchase was \$50,000. The Organization paid \$5,000 in 2005, and then settled the agreement with a final payment of \$23,750 in 2006. This copyright is being amortized at the rate of \$1,500 per year.

Total amount paid	\$ 28,750
Accumulated Amortization	<u>4,500</u>
Balance	<u>\$ 24,250</u>

### NOTE 11 - PROGRAM SERVICES EXPENSES

The following is a breakdown of the Program expenses for the years ending December 31, 2008 and 2007:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Medical Insurance Plan	\$ 7,313,737	\$ 6,089,576
World Outreach	2,250,559	2,339,084
Church Assistance	496,846	474,231
Church Development	51,992	32,928
Special Projects	79,777	80,942
Church Loan Fund	1,000	1,000
	<u>\$ 10,193,911</u>	<u>\$ 9,017,761</u>

The details for the Medical Insurance Plan are detailed in a separate audited financial statement.

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**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

# EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Consolidated

## COMBINING BALANCE SHEET

DECEMBER 31, 2008

	Church Loan	Administration	Medical Insurance	Church Development	Designated	Total
<b>ASSETS</b>						
Cash						
Unrestricted	\$ ---	\$ 40,977	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 40,977
Restricted	1,351	---	463,741	---	648,906	1,113,998
Investments						
Unrestricted	---	---	---	---	---	---
Restricted	385,678	268,615	2,359,825	106,809	2,062,909	5,183,836
Accounts Receivable	---	6,477	299,907	---	---	306,384
Inventory	---	36,117	---	---	---	36,117
Furniture and Equipment	---	146,297	---	---	---	146,297
Accumulated Depreciation	---	-120,256	---	---	---	-120,256
Notes Receivable	380,500	---	---	---	---	380,500
Prepaid Expenses	---	---	---	---	---	---
Copyright	---	24,250	---	---	---	24,250
Deposits	---	12,381	106,500	---	---	118,881
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 767,529</b>	<b>\$ 414,858</b>	<b>\$ 3,229,973</b>	<b>\$ 106,809</b>	<b>\$ 2,711,815</b>	<b>\$ 7,230,984</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>						
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Accounts Payable	\$ ---	\$ 2,189	\$ 496,058	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 498,247
Accrued Expenses	---	---	---	---	---	---
Copyright Payable	---	---	---	---	---	---
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>2,189</b>	<b>496,058</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>498,247</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>						
Unrestricted	---	412,669	---	---	---	412,669
Temp. Restricted	767,529	---	2,733,915	106,809	2,711,815	6,320,068
Perm. Restricted	---	---	---	---	---	---
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>767,529</b>	<b>412,669</b>	<b>2,733,915</b>	<b>106,809</b>	<b>2,711,815</b>	<b>6,732,737</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 767,529</b>	<b>\$ 414,858</b>	<b>\$ 3,229,973</b>	<b>\$ 106,809</b>	<b>\$ 2,711,815</b>	<b>\$ 7,230,984</b>

## COMBINING INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

	Church Loan	Administration	Medical Insurance	Church Development	Church Designated	Total
<b>INCOME</b>						
Contributions	\$ ---	\$ 1,217,021	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 2,845,049	\$ 4,062,070
Investment Income <Loss>	-83,293	-261,765	-206,911	---	---	-551,969
Program Income	---	65,673	6,826,230	38,507	---	6,930,410
Other Income	---	35,498	320,840	---	---	356,338
Unrealized Gain <Loss>	-82,283	-442,999	-523,908	---	---	-1,049,190
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>-165,576</b>	<b>613,428</b>	<b>6,416,251</b>	<b>38,507</b>	<b>2,845,049</b>	<b>9,747,659</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,344,359</b>	<b>7,313,737</b>	<b>51,991</b>	<b>2,827,183</b>	<b>11,538,270</b>
<b>NET INCOME &lt;LOSS&gt;</b>	<b>-166,576</b>	<b>-730,931</b>	<b>-897,486</b>	<b>-13,484</b>	<b>17,866</b>	<b>-1,790,611</b>
<b>PRIOR YEAR NET ASSETS</b>						
	934,105	834,586	3,631,401	120,293	3,002,963	8,523,348
<b>TRANSFERS</b>	---	309,014	---	---	-309,014	---
<b>ENDING NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 767,529</b>	<b>\$ 412,669</b>	<b>\$ 2,733,915</b>	<b>\$ 106,809</b>	<b>\$ 2,711,815</b>	<b>\$ 6,732,737</b>

# EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Administration

## BALANCE SHEET

DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

ASSETS	2008	2007
CURRENT ASSETS		
Comerica Checking Account	\$ 437,179	\$ 328,056
Comerica Payroll Account	22,953	9,690
Comerica Money Market	72,814	72,003
Petty Cash	500	500
PayPal Electronic Account	350	---
Vanguard - General Fund MM	156,087	198,887
A.G. Edwards - General Fund	1,320,040	1,759,550
Manning and Napier Investment	337,174	417,163
Vanguard Corp Bond Fund	31,574	32,805
A.G. Edwards - Knox Fund	480,930	664,588
A.G. Edwards - Medical Benevolence	233,300	293,486
A.G. Edwards - Ministerial Endowment	35,315	56,824
Literature Inventory	36,117	43,361
Accounts Receivable	6,477	6,821
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>3,170,810</u>	<u>3,883,734</u>
LAND, BUILDING AND FIXTURES		
Furniture and Fixtures	146,297	143,442
Accumulated Depreciation	<i>-120,256</i>	<i>-105,838</i>
TOTAL LAND, BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT	<u>26,041</u>	<u>37,604</u>
OTHER ASSETS		
Copyright	24,250	25,750
Deposit	12,381	12,381
TOTAL OTHER ASSETS	<u>36,631</u>	<u>38,131</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$ 3,233,482</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 3,959,469</u></b>

<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Current Portion	\$ ---	\$ ---
Accounts Payable	---	---
Payroll Taxes Payable	2,189	1,627
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>2,189</u>	<u>1,627</u>
<b>LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>		
Copyright Payable	---	---
Less: Current Portion	---	---
<b>TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>
<b>DESIGNATED ACCOUNTS</b>	2,711,815	3,002,963
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>2,714,004</u>	<u>3,004,590</u>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	<u>519,478</u>	<u>954,879</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<u><u>\$ 3,233,482</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 3,959,469</u></u>



**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Administration**

**INCOME STATEMENT**

**YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Per Member Giving	\$ 1,418,200	\$ 1,217,021	\$ -201,179	\$ 1,129,304
Market Value Adjustments	48,000	-413,604	-461,604	138,665
Missionary Administration	58,000	65,673	7,673	61,546
Knox Fund Interest	30,000	15,000	-15,000	30,000
Other Income	12,500	35,498	22,998	13,435
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>1,566,700</b>	<b>919,588</b>	<b>-647,112</b>	<b>1,372,950</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>PERSONNEL</b>				
Stated Clerk Salary	133,900	133,900	---	130,000
Program Staff Salaries	402,000	306,010	95,990	311,091
Support Staff Salaries	177,000	203,338	-26,338	143,704
Staff Insurance/Pension	170,000	118,186	51,814	130,532
Professional Expense Allowance	7,300	3,997	3,303	5,473
Staff Travel/Expenses	56,000	49,251	6,749	49,303
Executive Travel	40,000	43,310	-3,310	48,040
Taxes/Workers Compensation	54,200	52,073	2,127	47,519
Officers and Directors Liability Insurance	10,500	10,109	391	10,109
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>	<b>1,050,900</b>	<b>920,174</b>	<b>130,726</b>	<b>875,771</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>				
Contingencies	5,000	596	4,404	1,340
Telephone	15,100	9,079	6,021	14,328
Office Supplies	16,200	10,471	5,729	8,215
Printing and Promotion	48,900	27,376	21,524	35,231
Postage	52,200	24,744	27,456	36,178

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL
ADMINISTRATION (CONTINUED)				
Technology Support	\$ 25,000	\$ 22,032	\$ 2,968	\$ 23,738
Financial Audit	5,000	5,500	-500	5,000
Professional Fees	13,000	4,896	8,104	750
Miscellaneous	2,000	1,275	725	655
Office Development	4,000	751	3,249	3,480
Committee Travel	87,400	71,144	16,256	69,711
General Assembly Administration	30,000	28,928	1,072	20,351
Staff Technical Training	4,000	3,425	575	2,875
Pension Fund Administration	10,000	8,637	1,363	9,124
Fraternal Relations	14,000	10,118	3,882	12,740
Presbytery Development	4,000	2,953	1,047	2,274
Leadership Development	2,000	505	1,495	114
Christian Education Resources	2,000	535	1,465	2,031
Office Rent/Taxes	164,000	163,574	426	159,125
Office Maintenance/Insurance	8,000	7,780	220	6,425
Van Expense	4,000	3,947	53	3,201
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	515,800	408,266	107,534	416,886
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,566,700</b>	<b>1,328,440</b>	<b>238,260</b>	<b>1,292,657</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS &lt;DEFICIT&gt;</b>	<b>\$ ---</b>	<b>\$ -408,852</b>	<b>\$ -408,852</b>	<b>\$ 80,293</b>

**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Church Development**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash Bank - Checking	\$ ---	\$ ---
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>		
Inter Fund Account	<u>-106,809</u>	<u>-120,293</u>
Net Surplus	<u>106,809</u>	<u>120,293</u>
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<u>\$ ---</u>	<u>\$ ---</u>

Church Development

INCOME STATEMENT

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Central South Presbytery	\$ 12,181	\$ 12,181	\$ ---	\$ 13,000
East Presbytery	5,219	2,000	-3,219	5,000
Mid-Atlantic Presbytery	10,413	---	-10,413	7,500
Midwest Presbytery	12,226	6,500	-5,726	7,000
Southeast Presbytery	6,480	5,280	-1,200	8,780
West Presbytery	12,289	4,800	-7,489	9,600
Florida Presbytery	1,835	2,400	565	---
Mid-America Presbytery	3,753	5,341	1,588	---
CPAC Income	6,000	---	-6,000	2,970
CDC Other Income	---	5	5	---
CDC Carryover	120,293	120,293	---	99,371
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>190,689</b>	<b>158,800</b>	<b>-31,889</b>	<b>153,221</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Church Consultation/Travel	---	---	---	---
CPAC Training	30,000	---	30,000	12,041
Presbytery Development/Travel	6,000	5,602	398	3,424
GCA Advanced Training	8,000	---	8,000	---
Research/Development	---	---	---	241
Region CDC Coordinators	15,000	18,750	-3,750	---
Church Development Miscellaneous	---	40	-40	240
Church Planter's Development	---	---	---	370
GCA Church Planting Basic Training	12,000	3,431	8,569	7,951
Urban Ministries	10,000	11,616	-1,616	8,661
Communication	500	---	500	---
Print Materials	2,500	4,457	-1,957	---
Resources	2,500	295	2,205	---
General Assembly	3,500	7,800	-4,300	---
Operational Reserve and Other	100,689	---	100,689	---
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>190,689</b>	<b>51,991</b>	<b>138,698</b>	<b>32,928</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$ ---</b>	<b>\$ 106,809</b>	<b>\$ 106,809</b>	<b>\$ 120,293</b>

**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Church Loan Fund**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Comerica Checking Account	\$ 1,351	\$ 98,645
A.G. Edwards - Fidelity AM	<u>385,678</u>	<u>702,460</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>387,029</u>	<u>801,105</u>
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>		
Note Receivable - Christ Church	149,167	---
Note Receivable - Christ Fellowship	---	50,000
Note Receivable - North Oaks	83,000	83,000
Note Receivable - Peace Durham	<u>148,333</u>	<u>---</u>
<b>TOTAL OTHER ASSETS</b>	<u>380,500</u>	<u>133,000</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>\$ 767,529</u>	<u>\$ 934,105</u>
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<u>\$ 767,529</u>	<u>\$ 934,105</u>

INCOME STATEMENT

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Contributions	\$ 1,000	\$ ---	\$ -1,000	\$ 17
Investment Income	28,000	-171,193	-199,193	44,339
Christ Fellowship Interest	2,300	1,916	-384	2,847
Christ Fellowship Challenge	---	---	---	---
Peace Durham Interest	---	557	557	---
Peace Durham Challenge	---	---	---	---
Christ Church Interest	---	288	288	---
Christ Church Challenge	---	---	---	---
North Oaks Interest	3,300	2,856	-444	3,546
North Oaks Challenge	---	---	---	---
Covenant Presbyterian Interest	---	---	---	196
Covenant Presbyterian Challenge	---	---	---	---
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>34,600</b>	<b>-165,576</b>	<b>-200,176</b>	<b>50,945</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Office Expense	---	---	---	---
Administration Fee	1,000	1,000	---	1,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS &lt;DEFICIT&gt;</b>	<b>\$ 33,600</b>	<b>\$ -166,576</b>	<b>\$ -200,176</b>	<b>\$ 49,945</b>

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**Board of Benefits Report**  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

It is once again my privilege to report to you on behalf of the Board of Benefits. God continues to lead us in a time of change and blessing and we are grateful to be able to serve our denomination in this capacity. We continue to marvel at God's blessing and provision and look to him to lead us in times of increasing uncertainty. "Uncertainty" seems to be the rule rather than the exception in areas overseen by this board but we continue to trust God to lead and guide us in a direction that brings glory to his name.



*Ron Horgan  
Chairman*

Please join me in thanking Ruling Elder **John Baird**, Ward Presbyterian Church, Northville, Michigan, Presbytery of the Midwest; and Teaching Elder **Ron Horgan**, Chairman, Montreat Presbyterian Church, Montreat, North Carolina, Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic, who are reaching the end of their term of service. Both are eligible for reelection to the board and have been nominated to serve another three year term. Also serving on the board are Teaching Elder **Greg Anthony**, Lakeside Presbyterian Church, Brandon, Mississippi, Central South Presbytery; Ruling Elder **Milton Knowlton**, Second Presbyterian Church, Memphis, Tennessee, Central South Presbytery; and Ruling Elder **Jerry Hulick**, Faith Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Virginia, Presbytery of the East. These men have contributed significantly to the work of the board ensuring the continued stability and growth of our health and retirement plans. There is currently an unfilled position on the board.

Over the past year, the Board met on August 22, 2008, November 7, 2008, January 14, 2009 and March 27, 2009. Most of these meetings were held using the "Go to Meeting" software purchased by the Committee on Administration. Use of this software enabled the board to save travel costs as well as time spent in transit to and from Livonia.

**Expressing thanks to Janet Bain**

After more than 20 years of faithful service Janet Bain has retired from the position of Benefits Administrator. Janet has been the voice of the Board of Benefits to many plan participants over the years. She has brought grace and compassion to many in difficult times. She will be missed. The Board hopes that the many participants she has served over the years will find time during the assembly to thank Janet personally for all she has done for so many of us.

**Meet our new Benefits Administrator**

Stepping into the role of Benefits Administrator is Linda DiVeto. We are happy to have Linda working with us and excited by the value she will add to our benefits ministry. Linda has a significant amount of experience in the area of benefits administration. In addition, she has highly specialized skills in 403(b) plan administration.

### **Retirement Plan**

This has been a difficult year for retirement funds. Across the board, the stock market has done very poorly and while participants in our plan have suffered significant losses, these losses are not unique to our plan. Fidelity recently reported to our board the following:

- For 2008, all market funds were down including Fidelity Freedom funds.
- Normal practices of diversification of investments offered investors no safety from losses associated with the downturn.
- Fixed Income Returns as of 12/31/08 showed that investments connected to government-based securities fared better than others.
- International markets performed worse than U.S. markets with the exception of the Japanese market.
- Nevertheless, member contributions have remained steady over the past year.

Plan Participation continues to increase:

2004	762 active with 40 inactive – total of \$29.5 million invested
2005	822 active with 44 inactive – total of \$32.5 million invested
2006	775 active with 35 inactive – total of \$35 million invested
2007	881 active with 43 inactive – total of 42.5 million invested
2008	1,136 active with 35 inactive – total of \$29.6 million invested

Fidelity believes that the market may rise by the end of the year and they believe they are positioned to take advantage of an up-tick in the market at the end of 2009 and early 2010.

We have completed the 403(b) update of our plan as required by the government. It has been reviewed by our attorneys and appropriate notification has been sent to participants as well as all EPC churches. Any church not participating in the EPC plan is advised to ensure that their plan is fully compliant with new regulations as the penalties for non-compliance are significant. Churches were advised of this by letter from the Board of Benefits.

Our Fidelity account manager will be present at General Assembly with a booth in the exhibition hall. She will also speak and provide opportunity for update and input at a breakfast meeting.

### **Health Plan Matters**

Health care appears to be on the front burner for discussion in Washington and this discussion is creating uncertainty in the health care industry. Our EPC health plan continues to perform well. The past year saw an increase in overall premiums of just 3% and the adjustment of “couples’ coverage” to a rate equal to two individual premiums. The reserve fund remains more than adequate although the poor performance of the stock market played a role in the reduction of the reserve. The reserve amount is reviewed annually by our actuarial consultants and is deemed



sufficient for our plan given the number of participants and the plan's performance over the past several years.

We anticipate a modest increase in premiums for 2010 and per our usual time table these will be set during August, and should be sent to the churches in September. It should be noted that our premiums as well as rate increases continue to be well below the market. We will be evaluating changes to premiums, co-pays and deductibles for the coming year. We will also be making a decision about whether to hold open enrollment or not at the August meeting. Finally, we will continue to monitor the reserve, the investments and health claims and will be ready to make whatever mid-course corrections are necessary should that become the case. The plan is strong and functioning well. We are experiencing an increase in the total number of participants.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Participants</u>
2004	1,505
2005	1,644
2006	1,628
2007	1,649
2008	2,154

This year our board began moving intentionally and strategically toward implementing a "wellness program" to encourage our participants to pursue healthier lifestyle choices. Where programs of this type are adopted and effectively implemented, they bring about significant savings in health care costs. Mike Leighton is leading this effort. There are financial incentives for those who choose more healthy lifestyles benefiting our plan as well as our participants. In December 2008, Mike worked with Highmark, our third party administrator, to send a letter to all eligible members in the plan inviting them to complete a health risk assessment. Eligible individuals who complete an online health risk assessment during either one of the two open windows of opportunity during 2009 will receive a \$50 gift card. Mike has also held web-based seminars promoting this aspect of our health plan. Thus far, response to this effort has been modest with 21 attending the web-based seminars and 28 completing the health risk assessment. As this is a new program, the board believes that it will take some time for it to yield the kind of results we are seeking and we will continue to pursue this.

Regarding the prescription drug aspect of our health plan one change in the method of delivery of services (although not in benefits) will take place beginning in 2010 in the area of the Home Delivery program of Express Scripts. The change in delivery applies only to maintenance prescriptions. Under this protocol, a participant receiving a maintenance prescription will be allowed two refills at his local pharmacy. Each time he refills, he is required to pay the co-pay. On the third attempt, the participant will be encouraged to enroll in the mail order plan which allows the participant to receive three month's worth of medication while paying only two month's co-pays. If the participant refuses, there will be no penalty and he will continue to receive his refills per his request paying the monthly co-pay. Again, this does not constitute a change in benefits but will give the participant, as well as the plan, the opportunity to save money on maintenance prescriptions.

It appears that the U.S. Congress will be moving actively into the world of health care. For example, the recently passed "Stimulus Bill" included a little-reported provision requiring that "mental health parity" be contained in all health/medical plans. In addition, at this writing, Congress is gearing up for hearings on "Universal Health Care" and legislation is expected. Such legislation could have a significant impact on the EPC Plan. The Board will continue to monitor the legislative-arena, make required changes to our Plan, and communicate required revisions as quickly as possible.

**Long term Care**

Last year we launched an effort to place before our participants the availability of long term care insurance. We entered into a relationship with Long Term Care Associates, LLC, a premier sales organization in our country offering this type of coverage and having a nationwide sales network. The response has been tepid. To date, 9 web-based seminars have been held with 42 participating. 124 churches have been contacted with 80 expressing no interest. Currently, there are 15 policies in effect with 9 written, issued and awaiting delivery. There are an additional 5 in underwriting. While we believe the response is probably driven by the economic downturn, Long Term Care's representatives believe that a good number of their representatives have not contacted churches per our agreement. So we are studying whether to continue this effort at this time.

**Recommendations to the General Assembly**

**Recommendation BEN-A:**

That ministers drawing retirement income from the EPC Defined Contribution Retirement Plan (403(b)) be allowed to designate up to 100% of their retirement income for housing allowance, as permitted by applicable regulations adopted pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code.

Grounds: Doing so allows retired ministers to take advantage of this significant tax benefit in retirement, thereby making more of their retirement income available for living expenses. Adopting this recommendation on an annual basis provides retired ministers with a readily available reference if asked by tax authorities.

**In conclusion**

It is our privilege to serve God and our denomination by providing ministry through health and retirement benefits to our ministers and churches. If there are ways we can be of greater service to our denomination, you have only to ask.

Respectfully submitted,

Reverend Ronald W. Horgan, Chairman

June 2009

**EVANGELICAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

**Defined Contribution  
Retirement Plan**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

**KARL L. DRAKE  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT**

**Karl L. Drake, P.C.**  
Certified Public Accountant

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the General Assembly of the  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets and changes in net assets arising from cash transactions of Evangelical Presbyterian Church Defined Contribution Retirement Plan as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with United States generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note A, these financial statements were prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements, which are a comprehensive basis of accounting other than United States generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets and changes in net assets arising from cash transactions of Evangelical Presbyterian Church Defined Contribution Retirement Plan as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, on the basis of accounting described in Note A.



Karl L. Drake, PC  
Certified Public Accountant

February 18, 2009

**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Defined Contribution Retirement Plan**

**STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
<b>ADDITIONS TO PLAN ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:</b>		
Contributions	\$ 4,393,763	\$ 3,811,459
Dividends and Interest	1,097,643	3,116,854
Transfers in	---	---
Realized Gain <Loss> in Market Value	<u>-1,052,609</u>	<u>717,403</u>
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b><u>4,438,797</u></b>	<b><u>7,645,716</u></b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS FROM PLAN ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:</b>		
Retirement Payments	533,773	516,252
Transfers Out	1,882,728	2,512,823
Account Fees	<u>19,190</u>	<u>229</u>
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b><u>2,435,691</u></b>	<b><u>3,029,304</u></b>
<b>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE UNREALIZED GAIN</b>	2,003,106	4,616,412
<b>UNREALIZED GAIN &lt;LOSS&gt; IN MARKET VALUE</b>	<u>-14,759,877</u>	<u>20,305</u>
<b>INCREASE &lt;DECREASE&gt; IN NET ASSETS</b>	-12,756,771	4,636,717
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Investments - Beginning of Year	<u>42,661,210</u>	<u>38,024,493</u>
Cash and Investments - End of Year	<b><u>\$ 29,904,439</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 42,661,210</u></b>

See Accompanying Notes To Financial Statements.

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Karl L. Drake, P.C.

# EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Defined Contribution Retirement Plan

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### NOTE A - PLAN DESCRIPTION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES.

A general description of Evangelical Presbyterian Church Defined Contribution Retirement Plan (the Plan) and a summary of significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of the accompanying financial statements follow.

##### Basis of Presentation

The accounting records of the Plan are maintained primarily on the cash receipts and disbursements method of accounting whereby revenue and the related assets are recognized when received rather than when earned, and expenses are recognized when paid rather than when the obligation is incurred.

##### Eligibility

The Plan is available to any employees of member churches, and clergy of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

##### Plan Funding

The plan is fully funded from contributions received from participants in salary reduction agreements or member churches on behalf of their employees or their pastors.

#### NOTE B - TAX STATUS

The Plan is a tax-exempt entity as provided by Internal Revenue Code Section 403(b).

#### NOTE C - SUBSEQUENT EVENT

Effective January 1, 2009, a new plan document was implemented, making the retirement plan a 403(b) plan pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code section 403(b)(9). The plan is also a "church plan" within the meaning of section 414(e) of the code and section 3(33) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

#### NOTE D - PLAN INVESTMENTS

At December 31, 2008 and 2007, the Plan's assets were invested in Independent Bank and Fidelity investment accounts as follows. All assets are valued at market value.

**EVANGELICAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

**Medical Insurance Plan**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

**Karl L. Drake  
Certified Public Accountant**

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Karl L. Drake, P.C.

**Karl L. Drake, P.C.**  
Certified Public Accountant

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the General Assembly of the  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church Medical Insurance Plan as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the related statements of activities and cash flow for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audits in accordance with United States generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church Medical Insurance Plan as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the changes in net assets and cash flow for the years then ended in conformity with United States generally accepted accounting principles.

*Karl L. Drake*

Karl L. Drake, PC  
Certified Public Accountant

February 19, 2009

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Karl L. Drake, P.C.



**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Medical Insurance Plan**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

**DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$ 463,741	\$ 392,133
Investments	2,359,825	3,495,000
Accounts Receivable	299,907	253,093
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>3,123,473</u>	<u>4,140,226</u>
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>		
Deposits	106,500	93,065
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>\$ 3,229,973</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 4,233,291</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 15,224	\$ ---
Claims Payable	480,834	601,890
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>496,058</u>	<u>601,890</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>2,733,915</u>	<u>3,631,401</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<u><u>\$ 3,229,973</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 4,233,291</u></u>

See Accompanying Notes To Financial Statements.

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Medical Insurance Plan

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007

	2008	2007
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Premiums	\$ 6,826,230	\$ 5,742,188
Dividends and Interest	88,797	55,947
Gain <Loss> in Market Value	-295,708	-14,602
Other	320,840	165,403
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>6,940,159</b>	<b>5,948,936</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Claims	5,928,714	5,152,376
Premiums	774,503	556,508
Administrative Expenses	610,520	380,692
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>7,313,737</b>	<b>6,089,576</b>
<b>INCREASE &lt;DECREASE&gt; IN NET ASSETS BEFORE UNREALIZED GAIN</b>	<b>-373,578</b>	<b>-140,640</b>
<b>UNREALIZED GAIN &lt;LOSS&gt; IN MARKET VALUE</b>	<b>-523,908</b>	<b>232,261</b>
<b>INCREASE &lt;DECREASE&gt; IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>-897,486</b>	<b>91,621</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Beginning of Year	3,631,401	3,539,780
End of Year	<u>\$ 2,733,915</u>	<u>\$ 3,631,401</u>

See Accompanying Notes To Financial Statements.

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Karl L. Drake, P.C.

**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Medical Insurance Plan**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

	2008	2007
<b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Increase <Decrease> in Net Assets	\$ -897,486	\$ 91,621
Adjustments to Reconcile Increase in Net Assets to Cash Flow From Operating Activities:		
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:		
Decrease <Increase> in accounts receivable	-46,814	-88,093
Increase <Decrease> in accounts payable	15,224	---
Increase <Decrease> in claims payable	-121,056	295,063
Decrease <Increase> in deposits	-13,435	-21,565
<b>NET CASH FLOW PROVIDED &lt;USED&gt; BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>-1,063,567</b>	<b>277,026</b>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Sale <Purchase> of Investments	1,135,175	-216,911
<b>CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	---	---
<b>INCREASE IN CASH</b>	71,608	60,115
<b>CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	392,133	332,018
<b>CASH - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 463,741</b>	<b>\$ 392,133</b>
<b>OTHER DISCLOSURES</b>		
Cash used for:		
Income taxes	\$ ---	\$ ---
Interest	\$ ---	\$ ---

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**NOTE A - PLAN DESCRIPTION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES.**

A general description of Evangelical Presbyterian Church Medical Insurance Plan (the Plan) and a summary of significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of the accompanying financial statements follows.

Basis of Presentation

The accounting records presented in this report are based on the accrual basis method of accounting whereby revenue and the related assets are recognized when earned rather than when received, and expenses are recognized when the obligation is incurred rather than when paid.

Eligibility

The Plan is available to any employees of member churches and their families, and clergy and their families of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Premium Revenue

The plan is fully funded from premiums charged to the participants at rates determined by the Board of Directors. A portion of the premiums collected from the participants is remitted to an insurance company for coverage in excess of the amounts self-insured by the Plan.

**NOTE B - TAX STATUS**

The Plan is a tax-exempt organization as provided by Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(9).

**NOTE C - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

The Organization considers all highly liquid debt instruments with maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

At December 31, 2008 and 2007, cash and cash equivalents included:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Merrill Lynch Money Market Account	\$ 335,021	\$ 254,485
Independent Bank Account	123,809	136,560
PNC Bank Account	4,911	1,088
	<u>\$ 463,741</u>	<u>\$ 392,133</u>

# EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Medical Insurance Plan

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### NOTE C - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS (CONTINUED)

The Merrill Lynch account is used to collect premiums, and pay insurance premiums and administrative costs. The Independent Bank account is used to pay claims.

	Carrying Value	Book Value
Amount covered by FDIC Insurance	\$ 128,720	\$ 128,720
Amount covered by SIPC Insurance	100,000	100,000
Amounts uninsured	295,021	235,021
	<u>\$ 523,741</u>	<u>\$ 463,741</u>

#### NOTE D - INVESTMENTS

Investments are valued at market value and are maintained in various investment accounts as follows:

	2008	2007
Manning and Napier Investments	\$ 1,992,837	\$ 2,495,930
Fidelity S & P Index Investments	366,988	999,070
	<u>\$ 2,359,825</u>	<u>\$ 3,495,000</u>

Investment accounts are maintained with Manning and Napier, and Fidelity. These accounts are managed by fund administrators from each company. At December 31, 2008, the make-up of each account was as follows:

	Cash	Bonds	Stocks	Mutual Funds	Total
Manning and Napier	\$ 61,042	\$ 805,270	\$ 891,534	\$ 234,991	\$ 1,992,837
Fidelity S&P Index	233	---	---	366,755	366,988
	<u>\$ 61,275</u>	<u>\$ 805,270</u>	<u>\$ 891,534</u>	<u>\$ 601,746</u>	<u>\$ 2,359,825</u>

**NOTE E - CLAIMS PAYABLE**

The Organization books a liability for claims relating to a year that are not paid until the next year. Total claims payable at December 31, 2008 and 2007 were \$480,834 and \$601,890.

**NOTE F - DEPOSITS**

The Organization uses a service company to pay its medical claim forms. This company requires a deposit based on the amount of average claims payable. Total deposits at December 31, 2008 and 2007 were \$106,500 and \$93,065 respectively.

**NOTE G - PRIOR YEAR INFORMATION**

Certain prior year amounts were re-stated to conform to the current year presentation.

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**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS**

29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

Members of the Christian Education & Publications Committee are TE Jim Blaha, TE Bob Mossman (West), Rob Mitchell (Central South) TE Tommy Overton (Southeast), RE Dan Tidwell (Central South), and Cindy Ziemba (Midwest). The Committee met at the Office of the General Assembly September 19-20, 2009 and via web meeting April 3, 2009.



*Tommy Overton  
Chairman*

**Work of the Committee**

1. **Publications**

The 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2008) authorized the printing of a new edition of the *Book of Order* and *Westminster Confession and Catechisms (In Modern English)* in an 8 ½ x 11” spiral-bound format. Those publications have been completed and are being well received. *The Book of Order*, including Rules for Assembly, Acts of Assembly, and Forms for Discipline will be reprinted each year following General Assembly meetings to incorporate updates. Two other items authorized by the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly are still to be printed: *Service Forms* and *Documents of the General Assembly*. The EPC Leadership Training Guide has been widely utilized and has received many positive comments. All of these publications will be available at the General Assembly book table in the exhibit area

2. **Endorsed/Commended Resources**

**Pioneer Clubs:** At its September meeting the Committee met with Judy Bryson, President of Pioneer Clubs. Pioneer Clubs has been an endorsed resource of the EPC for many years. In addition to the well known club program, Pioneer Clubs operates 21 summer camps (Camp Cherith) and has developed the Explorer Program, designed for larger settings, and the Discovery Program, which designed for children’s ministries in smaller setting. The Committee renewed Pioneer Club’s status as a committee commended resource (see Attachment CEP-A for the denomination’s endorsement policy).

**Publications:** The Committee reviewed and recommended the following publications as committee endorsed resources (see the Endorsement Policy in Attachment CEP-A):

- A. Booklets in the *Basics of the Reformed Faith* series (P & R Publishing) as good overviews of the topics, designed primarily for a church audience:
- What Are Predestination and Election? (Richard D. Phillips)
  - What is a Reformed Church? (Stephen E. Smallman)
  - What is a True Calvinist? (Philip Graham Ryken)

- How Our Children Come to Faith (Stephen Smallman)
- What is Providence? (Derek Thomas)
- What is True Conversion? (Stephen E. Smallman)
- What is Justification by Faith Alone? (J.V. Fesko)
- Why Do We Baptize Infants? (Bryan Chapell)
- What is the Lord's Supper? (Richard D. Phillips)

<note: Other titles in the series have not yet been reviewed for endorsement>

- B. *Colonial Presbyterianism* (S. Donald Fortson, III, ed.) as an excellent scholarly overview of early Presbyterian History in the U.S.
- C. *Training Hearts, Teaching Minds* (Starr Meade) as a devotional for families using the catechisms. <note: The Committee did not concur as a whole with the criticisms made of Sunday School curriculum in the Introduction.>

### 3. Communications Strategy

The Committee reviewed results of a survey of current and projected publications in every department of the Office of the General Assembly and discussed at length a possible communication strategy. The results of these discussions were forwarded to the Committee on administration for their consideration (See Attachment CEP-B).

### 4. EPC History Project

The 27<sup>th</sup> Assembly (2007) commissioned Stated Clerk Emeritus, Dr. Edward Davis, to write a history of the EPC founding and first years and asked that a rough draft be complete for prepublication review by the Christian Education & Publication Committee prior to the 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly. The Assembly also gave discretion to the Committee to extend the time if necessary, which it has done. Assistant Stated Clerk Ed McCallum and a project support team will be assisting Dr. Davis in the coming year. Plans are to complete a rough draft by Christmas 2009 and a final draft by Easter 2010 with initial distribution by the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (June 2010).

### 5. Networking

Tommy Overton and Bonny Linder (Children's Ministries Director, Cornerstone EPC, Brighton, Michigan) will host a networking lunch at the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2009).

### 6. Ongoing Projects

- a curriculum evaluation/comparison page for the denomination's web site.
- Revisions to the denomination's endorsement policy
- A survey of current practices of small group ministries in the EPC
- An evaluation of the "Desiring God" curriculum



**Recommendations to General Assembly:**

None.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tommy Overton, Chairman

June 2009

**Endorsement Policy**  
**Evangelical Presbyterian Church**

In addition to 1) approved documents (e.g., Position Papers, Advisory Letters, versions of the Confession and Catechisms) that express the mind of the Assembly, 2) Fraternal Relationships (Acts of the Assembly 84-06), 3) Cooperative Mission agencies, and 4) Approved Missions Agencies (Acts of the Assembly 87-02), the Assembly and its permanent committees may deem it wise to recommend other resources to its churches as valuable aids for their ministries. All permanent committee recommendations shall be reported to the Committee on Administration, which has the right to overrule. In making such recommendations the Assembly and its permanent committees shall use the following categories and criteria:

Approved Resource Organizations: Permanent Assembly committees may recommend resource organizations for approval by the General Assembly. Such organizations shall meet the following criteria:

1. An explicit statement of faith compatible with EPC confessional standards
2. Exhibits both evangelical and reformed theology.
3. Ministry objectives compatible with the vision, purpose and goals of the recommending committee and the General Assembly
4. Financial credibility as measured by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability or by comparable standards

Approved agencies will be listed in the EPC Directory and web site. The Office of the General Assembly and permanent Assembly committees may explore and implement areas of cooperative ministry with approved agencies, subject to the operational policies of the General Assembly.

Committee Endorsed Resources: Permanent Assembly committees may endorse resources, e.g., print, audio/visual or curriculum. An endorsed resource shall meet the following criteria:

1. An explicit statement of faith compatible with EPC confessional standards and/or demonstrates both evangelical and reformed theology
2. Compatible with the vision, purpose and goals of the endorsing committee and the General Assembly.
3. Provides excellent ministry resources for EPC congregations

Permanent committees may add annotations to their endorsements. Endorsed resources may be included, with their annotations, on the denominational web site, in other communications or kept in inventory for sale to member churches.

Committee Commended Resources: Permanent Assembly committees may commend resources, e.g., agencies, print, audio/visual, curriculum.

Commended resources shall meet the following criteria:

1. A statement of faith consistent with the EPC *Essentials of Our Faith* and/or demonstrates evangelical theology.
2. Not necessarily reformed in its theology

3. Compatible with the vision, purpose and goals of the recommending committee and the General Assembly
4. Provides effective ministry resources for EPC congregations

Permanent committees may add annotations to their commendations. Commended resources may be included, with their annotations, on the denominational web site, in other communications or kept in inventory for sale to member churches. Prior to implementing cooperative ministries with commended agencies the Committee must secure the approval of the Committee on Administration.

Permanent committees will establish procedures to periodically review agencies and resources they have recommended, endorsed or commended to ensure that they continue to meet the criteria above.

In cases in which permanent Assembly committees find that reviewed resources do not meet the criteria for approval, endorsement or commendation, they shall report their findings in their minutes using the following categories and criteria:

No Recommendation: The reviewed resource does not meet the criteria for approval, endorsement or commendation. It has no serious shortcomings and may contain useful material.

Not Recommended: The reviewed resource does not meet the criteria for approval, endorsement or commendation and has serious shortcomings in theology and/or methodology. Specific shortcomings may be noted in committee minutes.

*Adopted, 22nd General Assembly (2002)*

**General Assembly Communications Strategy – draft (submitted to Committee on Administration for review)**

Values (Why do we do what we do?):

- Communication is a vital means by which God accomplishes his mission.
- Quality communication both in-person and by media are essential to us as a connectional people.
- The EPC has a distinctive message that can bless the wider church and the world.
- Contextually appropriate media facilitates communication of the message.
- Publications that blend high quality and reasonable cost represent good stewardship of God's resources

Mission (What are we to do?)

- Facilitate relational connectionalism and publish materials with EPC distinctives.

Vision (What will it look like?)

- Interpersonal: Promoting missional ethos and practice through networking and partnerships among EPC leaders
- Publishing: produce contextualized media that are: 1) essential to denominational life, or 2) equip EPC ministry leaders to function more fruitfully in the EPC, or 3) inform those inside and outside the denomination about the EPC.

Strategy (How will we accomplish our mission?)

- Develop an accurate overview of the interpersonal and media communications that are currently being utilized, agencies and people being used for outsourcing, and financial resources currently being used.
- Assist each department in evaluating their current practices and in developing and implementing communication strategies unique to their purposes and consistent with the overall vision.
- Forge strategic partnerships in a coordinated way with agencies that will enable the EPC to produce high quality and cost effective publications.
- Facilitate networks and partnerships among EPC ministry leaders

Implementation (How should we begin?)

- Determine the skill set(s) and infrastructure needed to accomplish the vision and implement the strategy
- Secure approval of the Committee on Administration and, if necessary, General Assembly.
- Deploy current staff and/or employ new staff to implement the strategy.

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**College Ministries Committee**  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

The College Ministry Committee consists of TE Peter Bowell, Mid-Atlantic, TE Pedro Govantes, chair, East, TE Tony Marseglia, Central South, RE James Paternoster, Midwest, RE Dr. Jeffery Sich, Mid-America and RE Mark Tarpinian, Midwest. The Committee met at the GA office in Livonia October 16-17, 2008. Due to scheduling difficulties, the Committee was unable to meet in 2009.



*Pedro Govantes*  
*Chairman*

**Work of the Committee**

At our October meeting we crafted a plan of action for ourselves over the course of the next few years. The CMC would like to gain as comprehensive an understanding of where our denomination currently stands with respect to ministry on college campuses. Through a survey that will be administered in the coming year, we want to become aware of those churches that are engaging in college campus ministries across our denomination. Once we have this information, the CMC will be in a much better position to help churches assess the effectiveness of their ministries, connect campus ministers with one another in more meaningful exchanges, and help promote a vision for planting churches in cities with colleges and universities. The CMC was very quick to support the idea of assisting the EPC to develop a holistic campus ministry, meaning that we want to see how we can reach the entire campus community—students, faculty and staff—with the gospel.

The CMC remains firm in its conviction that as a denomination, the EPC must commit itself to strategically planting more churches around colleges and universities in our country. We have an opportunity to reach and develop the next generation of leaders for our Church and our nation. In addition, we increasingly have the opportunity to reach the world as more and more people from all over the world attend colleges and universities here in America.

**Recommendations**

None for the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Pedro Govantes

June, 2009



June 2009

Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah, Stated Clerk  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Suite 567  
Livonia, MI 48152-7912

Dear Jeff,

The *Rules for Assembly* state that the Moderator is to appoint a chairman for the Nominating Committee, and to nominate persons to fill vacancies on the Nominating Committee. The Moderator is also to nominate the chairman for the Board of Benefits for the forthcoming Assembly year.

I am pleased to offer the following names:

1. **Appointment:** 2009-2010 Nominating Committee Chairman

RE Mirv Metzger (East)

2. **Nominations:** Nominating Committee, Class of 2012

TE Alan Wright (Mid-Atlantic)  
RE Tom Reesor (Southeast)  
TE Edward G. Davis (West)

3. **Nomination:** 2009-2010 Board of Benefits Chairman

RE Milton Knowlton (Central South)

It is my blessing and privilege to place these names before the Assembly and in so doing, to commend these fine people for service to our denomination and to our Lord.

In Christ,

Allen Roes  
Moderator  
28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly



EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Ste. 567 • Livonia, MI 48152-7912  
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May 18, 2009

Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah  
Office of the General Assembly  
17197 North Laurel Park Drive  
Suite 567  
Livonia, MI 48152


Dear Jeff,

On Friday, May 15, 2009, TE Steve Wilkinson informed me that he was resigning as chairman of the Permanent Nominating Committee. He has accepted a call to serve as pastor of a church in the Reformed Church in America located in British Columbia. I am very grateful for Steve and his leadership of the Nominating Committee in this past year.

To fill the vacancy created by his resignation, I have appointed RE Jim Slyman to complete Steve's term as chair. Jim is a current member of the committee and his selection as chair is consistent with the *Rules of the Assembly* for this position.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely in Christ,

  
Allen Roes  
Moderator – 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly



São Paulo, April 15, 2009

Dr. Jeffrey J. Jeremiah, Stated Clerk  
*Evangelical Presbyterian Church*  
17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Suite 567  
Livonia, MI 48152-7912  
Estados Unidos da América

Dear Dr. Jeffrey J. Jeremiah,

Grace and Peace!

As Secretary of the *Commission on Inter-Ecclesiastical Relations of the Presbyterian Church of Brazil* (CRIE/IPB), under whose auspices are all international and inter-ecclesiastical relations of our denomination, it is my privilege to write to you on behalf of the committee president (Dr. Adonias Silveira) and of the Executive Secretary and the President of the *General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Brazil* (respectively, Rev. Ludgero Bonilha Morais and Rev. Roberto Brasileiro Silva) to extend our invitation to the official ceremony in celebration of our denomination's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, to be held in the city of Rio de Janeiro on August 12<sup>th</sup> of the current year (2009).

The event celebrates 150 years since the morning of August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1859, when a 26 year-old North American missionary, Rev. Ashbel Green Simonton, arrived in Rio de Janeiro and noted in his diary: "It is a beautiful place, the most singular and radiant I have ever laid eyes upon... I am ready to go ashore." Recently ordained, Rev. Simonton traveled almost two months, from Baltimore (USA) to what was at the time the imperial capital of Brazil. He indeed encountered a beautiful country, but one that also had its shadows. At the time of his arrival men, women and children of dark skin were still forced to work as slaves. The country faced a public health crisis, with such illnesses as tuberculosis and yellow fever still causing havoc, as well as a recently defeated cholera epidemic.

Since the early times of the Brazilian colony, there had been attempts of establishing a significant Protestant presence. The earliest attempts date back to John Calvin and a Huguenot colony. Yet, these attempts were unable to resist the challenge of the Portuguese Crown and, later, the Brazilian Imperial family, who made every effort to defend against a significant protestant presence in the largest of their colonies, officially Roman Catholic.

By God's gracious providence, however, some new factors contributed to the success of Simonton's endeavors. Upon his arrival the city of Rio de Janeiro was experiencing urbanization, there was also widespread longing for societal reforms and the current emperor, Pedro II, was sympathetic to the establishing of civil and religious freedoms. Thus, Simonton encountered a land that already enjoyed some freedom of religion, though still officially Roman Catholic. He labored ardently, evangelizing, planting churches, serving the new denomination. He was soon joined by courageous colleagues and partners. By his death in 1867, Simonton had witnessed the creation of the Rio de Janeiro Presbytery (with the ordination of Brazilian ministers), the establishing of the first Protestant Periodical of Brazil (The *Imprensa Evangélica*) and the creation of the first Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

We now look back over the last 150 years and we are at once humbled and filled with joy at what the Lord has done through the *Presbyterian Church of Brazil*. We have come to see the Gospel preached from





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thousands of pulpits every week. We have seen the establishment of numerous organizations that serve Brazil in Christ's name in areas such as benevolence, education, theological training, health, missions and development. We have seen hundreds of thousands of God's precious elect instructed in the same Reformed faith that caused our brother Simonton to leave his country and come to Rio de Janeiro.

Now, 150 years later, as we gather in that same city of Rio de Janeiro to worship God in Solemn Thanksgiving and to celebrate in great fellowship his blessings to and through the *Presbyterian Church of Brazil*, we seek to make our joy complete by calling to celebrate with us brethren from the Reformed family in many different nations and denominations who share that same passion for the Gospel and for Scriptural doctrine that has been God's instrument to bring us this far. Many of our guests are close friends, with whom we have been working together for a while. Some of the guests represent those who might be considered our denomination's forefathers. Some are denominations with whom we have begun to seek fellowship. Others are brothers whose churches have been birthed by God through the instrumentality of our missionary work. All of them are made up of brothers whose important presence and fellowship will enrich our celebration, fill us with joy and, certainly, aid us in giving God the glory for what He has done.

So here are the practical details of the invitation: We would be truly honored if the *Evangelical Presbyterian Church* would be represented by you and/or up to two corresponding delegates in our special service, together with the leadership of the *Presbyterian Church of Brazil*, in the city of Rio de Janeiro, on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The main event will be, of course, the *Solemn Worship Service* to our great Lord and King, on that very day. Other events, however, will take place around that time, such as a special reception of foreign delegates by the Commission on Inter-Ecclesiastical Relations. We will host the foreign delegations at our expense, offering room, board and local transportation from August 11<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup>. All you and/or your delegates have to do is accept the invitation and make your way to beautiful Rio de Janeiro.

Since we wish to plan for a wonderful experience, we need to know in advance whether you will accept this invitation and, if so, the names and titles of those who will be coming. From then on, and as the time draws near, we will be in touch with you to compile arrival information and help you with any documentation you might need for a Brazilian visa. All correspondence in this regard should be sent to the address on the bottom of this letterhead or, the electronic address [DCGomes@minister.com](mailto:DCGomes@minister.com). Please, also feel free to contact me directly if I may be of assistance in making arrangements: my mobile phone is country code 55, area code 11 and phone 8335-2541.

We look forward to seeing you in Rio de Janeiro, if the Lord allows, being certain that your presence and fellowship would be a blessing for us and for the *Evangelical Presbyterian Church*.

In the bonds of the victorious Lamb,

Your fellow servant,

Rev. Dr. Day Charles Gomes

Secretary, Commission on Inter-Ecclesiastical Relations

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COMISSÃO DE RELAÇÕES INTER-ECELESIÁSTICAS (CRIE)  
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The Reverend Dr. Jeff Jeremiah  
Stated Clerk  
The Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Dear Dr. Jeremiah:

Grace, mercy and peace be yours through Jesus Christ our Lord and greetings in His glorious name from your friends and allies in the Gospel of grace in the Presbyterian Church in America!

Personally representing our General Assembly's Clerk, Dr. Roy Taylor, and as a member of the Administrative Committee of the PCA and thereby a member of the Board of Directors, I look forward to the fellowship in Christ and the mutual encouragement in His Gospel that I have come to enjoy in my time with you all.

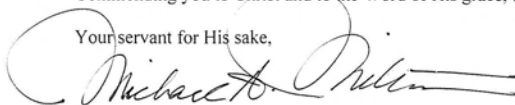
I trust that I reflect the large part of our denomination by stating that as we all walk deeper into the early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with all of its foreboding social complexities that surely threaten the soul of Man, its dizzying cultural challenges that potentially hinder the Gospel of Christ, and its alarming global uncertainties that sober even the most stoic of souls, we are discovering (or re-discovering) that we must look to each other now more than ever as the lines are being clearly drawn in our society between faith and unbelief. What unites our hearts is so much greater than that which separates us. While we are *organizationally distinct* (and in that reality, surely you are reaching those whom we are not), there can be no doubt that the EPC and the PCA are *organically united* in the Holy Spirit. In this we seek to become a visible answer to our Lord's high priestly prayer in John 17:23 that we may be one, "so that the world may know."

It is our prayer, then, that this spiritual unity will be demonstrated to the world through our common commitment to the supremacy of the Word of God as the infallible rule of faith and life, through our fraternal love for the fundamentals of the Reformed Faith as, indeed, the "faith that was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3), and in our mutual determination, our sacred duty of love, to see the Great Commission brought to every soul in our generation. Therefore, we recognize the unique place in history providentially cast upon us, realize the amazing opportunities and unprecedented challenges for the Church undoubtedly all around us, and look to our glorious Savior, Jesus Christ, graciously born within us, and appeal to all of these things as the compelling reasons that we should pray fervently for each other, labor strategically with each other, and encourage our respective congregations and ministries to find ways to do the same. This is not to minimize sincere differences that men of good will may have, but to maximize our effectiveness for the glory of God and the good of mankind. Thus we extend our hand to help you in any way that we can, and open our hearts to pray with you and for you in every way that we should.

In this spirit, then, I write, and with the Presbyterian Church in America, I pray for a glorious time of worship, a genuine season of renewal, and a productive time of labor, that through your General Assembly, Christ may be magnified, souls may be saved, and the Church of our Lord built up in our nation and across the earth.

Commending you to Christ and to the Word of His grace, I am

Your servant for His sake,



Michael A. Milton, Ph. D.  
President  
Professor of Practical Theology

ATLANTA  
CHARLOTTE  
JACKSON  
ORLANDO  
WASHINGTON DC  
VIRTUAL



Dr. Jeff Jeremiah, Stated Clerk  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
17197 N. Laurel Park Dr. Suite 567  
Livonia, MI 48152

Dear Jeff,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Session of Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church has authorized me to extend an invitation to host the General Assembly of 2010.

We were greatly blessed to host GA years ago, and it is our desire to do so again next year. We have recently added a Community Life Center building, and now have extra space to extend the ministry of hospitality to our commissioners.

In 2010 both the EPC and our church celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It would indeed be a special privilege to have you as our guests next year. Please extend this invitation to the EPC leadership.

Yours in His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald W. Sweeting". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Donald W. Sweeting  
Senior Pastor, CCPC

Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church    10150 E. Belleview Ave.    Englewood, CO 80111    303-779-9909  
[www.cherrycreekpres.org](http://www.cherrycreekpres.org)



R. Craig Strickland, D. Min.  
Senior Pastor

January 27, 2009

Jeff Jeremiah  
Stated Clerk  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
17197 N. Laurel Park Dr., Ste 567  
Livonia, MI 48152

Dear Jeff,

Please consider this letter as a formal invitation for the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to be our guests at Hope Presbyterian Church in Cordova, Tennessee, in June of 2011 as unanimously approved by our Session on January 27, 2009.

With our new sanctuary, we should have adequate space to host and serve the Assembly. We look forward to June 2011.

In Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig", written over a horizontal line.

R. Craig Strickland, D.Min.



# Evangelical Presbyterian Church

PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

Dr. Howard Shockley  
Administrative Director

**OVERTURE  
TO THE 29<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Adopted by the  
PRESBYTERY OF MID-ATLANTIC  
At its  
62<sup>nd</sup> Stated Meeting  
April 24-25, 2009**

The Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic respectfully overtures the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to approve, by Act of the Assembly, the following overture originally submitted by the Session of Kempsville Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, VA:

*Whereas,*

*President Barak Obama has formally lifted the Federal restrictions regarding human embryonic stem cell research; and whereas  
There are serious moral questions regarding the destruction of human embryos; and  
whereas*

*The Bible takes a clear position on the value of human life; and whereas  
The Evangelical Presbyterian Church has historically affirmed a pro life stance;*

*The Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic overtures the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to develop a position paper setting forth the denomination's beliefs and position regarding stem cells, the human embryo and related questions of bioethics and human life.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Howard Shockley, Stated Clerk  
Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

P.O. Box 10 • 261 Lauren Hope Lane • Moore, SC 29369 • 864-587-6440 • Fax 864-587-6439  
hshockley@msn.com



## Evangelical Presbyterian Church

PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

Dr. Howard Shockley  
Administrative Director

April 28, 2009

Dr. Jeff Jeremiah, Stated Clerk  
Office of the General Assembly, EPC  
17197 N Laurel Park Drive, Ste 567  
Livonia, MI 48152

Dear Jeff,

The following is an overture which originated from our Ministerial Committee and was approved by the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic at its 62<sup>nd</sup> Stated Meeting on April 25, 2009 for submission to the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

The Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic respectfully overtures the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to instruct its Moderator to appoint a committee to review **The Book of Order** with the input of the Stated Clerks of all presbyteries for the purpose of identifying terms, sentences, paragraphs, and/or sections that are not clear and/or which may cause confusion when applied; and further, to offer revisions as needed, to assure clarity of intent and meaning of implementation.

GROUND:

While we are not prepared at this time to present an exhaustive list, the following provide examples to indicate the need for a thorough overall review:

- Did the GA intend to create a new category/calling of Interim Pastor by approving "Guidelines for Intentional Interim Pastoral Ministry" (cf. **G.11-8**)?
- **G.15-3** seems to set age 70 as a mandatory retirement age for Ministers, but rulings by previous GA Stated Clerks indicate otherwise. Clarity of intent and language would be helpful.
- In **G.11-7** re Assistant Pastor, it is *implied or assumed* the Assistant Pastor is EPC ordained; however, unless this is known, confusion and misinterpretation could result (as experienced recently by one of our churches). Clear language would dispel all misunderstanding.
- A need to clarify the definition and use of the term "Minister", "Minister of the Church", "lawfully ordained Minister" as used in the **Book of Government** and in the **Book of Worship** to identify the "Minister" as an EPC ordained only, (and consistently throughout **The Book of Order**), or reflect use of "Minister" as anyone recognized as such by civil authorities.
- While "The Procedure Manual" includes a description of Candidate termination and reinstatement/reactivation, **G.12-2** should also contain provision for these possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Howard Shockley, Stated Clerk

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hshockley@msn.com



**PRESBYTERY OF THE MIDWEST, E.P.C.**

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May 20, 2009

Dr. Jeff Jeremiah, Stated Clerk  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Suite 567  
Livonia, MI 48152-7912

The Presbytery of the Midwest at its 129<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting held on May 8, 2009 at Middle Sandy EPC, Homeworth, Ohio, respectfully overtures the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to amend the *Book of Discipline* as follows:

***§3-5: Jurisdiction in judicial cases ends upon receipt of written notice of renunciation by the Clerk or Stated Clerk of the court of original jurisdiction. In the event an individual orally renounces jurisdiction, this fact shall be confirmed by letter from the court acknowledging that renunciation. The letter shall be delivered in person or by form of mail requiring a written receipt. If the court receives no written response within ten days, the acknowledgement of renunciation of jurisdiction shall be deemed final. In such instances, a case already begun may be concluded only with the permission of the accused.***

***A "Renunciation of Jurisdiction" shall have the effect of terminating membership in the church and removing an officer from membership and ordained office in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and terminating that person's exercise of office. The court should never engage in unnecessary actions under Chapter 10 et al, should the member be found guilty. Though a court may pronounce a judgment of admonition, suspension, removal from office, or excommunication against a person who has renounced jurisdiction, it need not do so and should not do so unless (1) the offender has given his or her permission, and (2) it is necessary for the purity of the church or the benefit of the offender.***

These changes require deletion of the final two sentences in section 10-7:

***§10-7: The administration of church sanctions shall be suited to the nature of the offense. For private offenses, sanctions should be administered in the presence of the court alone, or in private by one or more members of the court. In the case of public offenses, the degree of sanction and mode of administering it shall be within the discretion of the court, acting in accordance with paragraphs below which deal with particular sanctions.***

***If the charge is one of serious immorality or heresy, and the accused person persists in his rebellion, the court may proceed to inflict the highest sanction.***

*When a Minister is removed from office, his pastoral relationship shall be dissolved; but when he is suspended, it shall be left to the discretion of the Presbytery whether the sanction shall include the dissolution of the pastoral relationship.*

*When a Presbytery shall remove a Minister from his office without excommunication, it shall assign him to membership at some particular church subject to the approval of the Session of that particular church.*

*In accordance with §3-5, no sanction shall be administered in the case of a person who has renounced jurisdiction in writing to the Clerk or Stated Clerk of the court of original jurisdiction.*

*In such instances, a case already begun may be concluded only with the permission of the accused.*

The Presbytery of the Midwest proposes these amendments for the following reasons.

EPC *Book of Discipline* §3-5 and §10-7 currently prohibit courts of the church from concluding a disciplinary matter against individuals who renounce jurisdiction unless it has the offender's permission. We understand that this principle was originally adopted to protect the EPC from exposure to litigation that could be initiated by a former member who objects to public statements made by a church Session or Presbytery regarding a disciplinary judgment. This language was added to the *Book of Discipline* in 1997 in response to a 1989 court decision against the Church of Christ (Guinn vs. Church of Christ), which was upheld on appeal by the Supreme Court in the state of Oklahoma. This ruling stated that disciplinary judgments should not be announced publicly if the offender has resigned membership. The court awarded plaintiff damages of nearly \$500,000 in this case.

Under the proposed changes to the *Book of Discipline*, the right of a member to renounce jurisdiction is maintained. However, we must also recognize that departing offenders sometimes seriously disrupt the unity, purity and peace of the church community they leave behind. In such circumstances, in order to restore the peace and heal a church's wounds, a church court may deem it necessary to investigate further what happened while the former member was among them and then make determinations which help bring closure to the matter and let the remaining church move forward together. The proposed amendments to the *Book of Discipline* are intended to give church courts this flexibility as they try to shepherd their people through difficult situations. And we need this flexibility to shepherd the rest of God's people even when the offender has not granted us permission to do so.

It is important to note that the proposed amendments to the *Book of Discipline* do not require church courts to practice church discipline any differently from what they do today. All these amendments do is give the courts the freedom to take additional actions when they determine it is necessary for the sake of the church's ongoing unity, purity and peace.



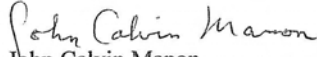
It is recognized that this overture touches on very sensitive pastoral matters. However, we believe that the proposed changes are more consistent with the weightiness of our membership and officer vows and the covenantal nature of the church's life together. It is certainly possible for a church court to err and to abuse its power. However, the *Book of Discipline* as currently worded places virtually all of the power in the hands of the one who renounces jurisdiction, at the expense of the congregation left behind.

For those who are concerned about legal exposure, each state's legal climate is different. All of our churches and Presbyteries must negotiate the legal climate in their own civil jurisdictions. That said, a legal expert with Peacemaker Ministries said the critical issue for most civil courts is whether a church court has secured the "informed consent" of its members to practice church discipline in this manner. For churches that make a good faith effort to inform prospective members about the practices of the church, including church discipline, we believe these provisions only strengthen our legal position, not weaken it.

We are not alone in this position. For example, the Presbyterian Church in America, one of our sister denominations, has a provision in their *Book of Church Order* which is similar to the amendments we're proposing. They allow a church court to continue a case and communicate the outcome to the congregation, even when a member attempts to withdraw their membership (§38-3). It should be noted that the PCA goes further than we in that they do not allow the member to renounce jurisdiction until a case is completed.

We must remember that Church courts are ultimately responsible to God, not the State, for cultivating and preserving the unity, purity and peace of Christ's Church. This responsibility is not negated by a litigious climate or the unilateral action of a single member renouncing his/her jurisdiction. We believe that our proposed amendments will give churches and Presbyteries more freedom (and legal cover) to conclude disciplinary cases involving public offenses in a biblical fashion, and to instruct their congregation regarding the outcome of a case when necessary to protect the spiritual health of the flock.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John Calvin Manon  
Stated Clerk



THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
**PRESBYTERY OF MID-AMERICA**

Dexter Kuhlman - Stated Clerk  
1926 Prospector Ridge Ballwin, Missouri 63011 PHONE 636-458-2906 FAX 636-458-6134

May 20, 2009

Rev. Dr. Jeffery Jeremiah  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
17197 N. Laurel Park Drive  
Suite 567  
Livonia, MI 48152

OVERTURE

The Presbytery of Mid-America at its 54<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting on April 25, 2009, respectfully overtures the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to allow the presbytery to form two experimental affinity presbyteries from October 2009 to June 2012. One affinity presbytery will permit the ordination of women as teaching elders and the other will not. This experiment will be implemented as follows:

1. The Presbytery of Mid-America will form two affinity presbyteries at its October, 2009 meeting. Prior to that presbytery meeting, all Sessions will be asked to make their choice of which affinity presbytery to join (congregational participation in this decision would be unnecessary since this proposal applies only to the functioning of a presbytery). All teaching elders not affiliated with a congregation would also be asked to make their choice. Any congregations or teaching elders who fail to respond by the October meeting will be assigned to one of the affinity presbyteries by the Coordinating Council. Members of one affinity presbytery are free to move to the other affinity presbytery simply by asking to be received into it and being approved by that affinity presbytery. The two affinity presbyteries will be labeled as Mid-America A and Mid-America B and will be considered as two parts of the Presbytery of Mid-America.
2. At the October meeting, the two affinity presbyteries will meet separately to organize themselves. Each will appoint their own Candidates and Ministerial committees and chairmen for each (the current Candidates and Ministerial committees will be dissolved). The two chairs will function as co-moderators of the affinity presbytery whenever it is in session. The size of these committees will be determined by the affinity presbytery.
3. The duties of each affinity presbytery will be to handle all matters related to the teaching elders in their presbytery: examinations, care, change of call, "out-of-bounds" calls, retirements, transfer of credentials, discipline, accountability, etc.
4. The two affinity presbyteries will meet jointly as an entire presbytery to handle all other business as well as fellowship, worship and education. There will be only one stated

clerk, moderator of presbytery, treasurer, nominating committee and all other current committees. These regular meetings will continue the current pattern of three meetings per year in different churches. A block of time will be set aside at each regular meeting for the affinity presbyteries to meet separately. It is understood that each affinity presbytery is free to meet in addition as needed and by phone conference if preferred.

5. All decisions made by an affinity presbytery as related to teaching elders will be considered final and will be reported to the full presbytery. The stated clerk will record these decisions in the minutes.

6. Churches seeking entry into Mid-America will be received by the full presbytery after being examined by the Church Development & Revitalization Committee. The CD&R committee will help entering churches to choose which affinity presbytery to join and where and when their teaching elders will be examined. Dismissals of churches will also be handled by the full presbytery.

7. At each Spring presbytery meeting, there will be a review of the experiment by the full presbytery with an opportunity to alter the responsibilities of the affinity presbyteries for the coming year. This could include shifting duties from the full presbytery to the affinity presbyteries or vice versa. It could also mean changing the meeting arrangements of the affinity presbyteries.

8. General Assembly will receive annual reports from the stated clerk of Mid-America on the actions of each of the affinity presbytery. At the 2012 Assembly, commissioners will be asked to judge the effectiveness of this affinity presbytery plan. That Assembly could allow the affinity presbyteries to dissolve leaving all churches and teaching elders once again in a single undivided Mid-America Presbytery, or they could approve the model with or without modifications and permit all presbyteries to use it if they so choose. In the case of the latter, the Book of Order may need to be amended to include this arrangement (specifically, in relation to having more than one Ministerial and Candidate committees).

9. If the General Assembly approves this proposal, the Implementation Committee will assist with planning the October, 2009, Presbytery meeting when the affinity presbytery structure would be launched.

#### Background

In 2008 the Presbytery of Mid-America conducted a study on the issue of ordaining women as teaching elders. An 8-member task force (called Ad Hoc Committee on Gender and Ordination) was appointed to summarize Biblical arguments for and against ordination (identified as egalitarian and complementarian \*) and make recommendations to the Presbytery on how to respond to women candidates and churches entering the presbytery with women on the pastoral staff. The Ad Hoc Committee prepared an 80-page report and made an oral presentation at the October, 2008, meeting of Presbytery. They recommended the adoption of similar procedures for the examination of women candidates as adopted by the Presbyteries of the Mid-Atlantic and the Midwest, which the Presbytery of Mid-America did. They also recommended that Mid-America overture General Assembly to permit the creation of two affinity presbyteries. This recommendation was approved at the January, 2009, meeting of Presbytery by a vote of 60-30 (with 3 abstentions). An Implementation Committee consisting of Paul Heidebrecht, Bill Vogler, Clay Smith and Carolyn Nystrom was appointed

to prepare a proposal for the General Assembly's approval that would outline the procedures for operating with two affinity presbyteries in Mid-America.

\* Egalitarians believe that our equality before God and in Christ necessitates equality in functional roles, especially within the ruling structures of the church. Complementarians believe that men and women were created by God equal in value and personhood, and equal in bearing His image, but that both creation and redemption indicate some distinct roles for men and women in the church, specifically that the role of elder/pastor is limited to qualified men. (Ad Hoc Task Force on Gender and Ordination Report, Mid-America Presbytery, October 2008)

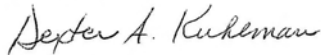
#### Grounds

1. The ordination of women as teaching elders is a decision to be made by each presbytery. It is by definition a "non-essential" since the Book of Order does not mandate a position on the issue (similar to the freedom of each local congregation to choose its own ruling elders). However, it is difficult for a presbytery to function as a body if some presbyters are convinced it is in violation of Scripture to ordain a woman as a teaching elder and are asked to participate in an ordination exam of a woman candidate. Further, our ordination vows require presbyters to be in submission to one another at the presbytery level. Many view this submission in the context of presbytery containing women teaching elders a violation of conscience. For some, even abstaining from an examination or a vote on a woman candidate is an abdication of responsibility and a violation of conscience. Teaching elders are accountable to their presbyteries for all matters related to their ordination credentials and should not have doubts about the status of other elders in their presbytery.
2. While complementarians appeal to their consciences on this issue, they nonetheless want to maintain the spirit of liberty in the EPC. They do not want to deny the liberty of churches that wish to call an ordained woman teaching elder. Nor do they want to embarrass or disrespect a woman candidate by voting against her ordination on principle regardless of her qualifications. Egalitarians, on the other hand, are eager to welcome qualified women teaching elders into the Presbytery but do not wish to force complementarians to comply or cause them to even consider leaving the EPC. Neither party wants to be tempted to engage in political maneuvering at meetings of the Presbytery to either block or to gain approval for a woman candidate. Functioning as two groups within the Presbytery around the issue of ordination of teaching elders seems to be the only means of protecting consciences and giving each other liberty on an issue that the EPC grants latitude of opinion and interpretation.
3. Mid-America is not aware of any other EPC presbytery that has considered such a restructuring approach. In all other presbyteries, the issue has been resolved by a majority vote whenever a woman candidate has been considered for ordination. In some cases, these decisions have been made in a painful and uncomfortable environment. Some women have left the EPC because of an actual or anticipated rejection. Some churches wanting to enter the EPC are holding back because they are unsure of how their ordained women pastoral staff will be treated by an EPC presbytery.
4. Other Presbyterian denominations have created separate presbyteries and synods for a specific group of people, usually a particular ethnic group speaking a different language. These presbyteries or synods often include churches and ministers from across the United

States and transcend the usual presbytery boundaries. While Mid-America's proposal is unique in creating affinity-based presbyteries around a specific practice and within the boundaries of a geographical presbytery, there is certainly precedent for adapting the structure of a Presbyterian denomination to meet particular needs.

5. Questions about the constitutionality of this affinity presbytery model will certainly be raised. The Book of Government (16-27A) mandates that a Presbytery shall have a Ministerial Committee but it does not address the possibility of two Ministerial Committees. Mid-America's request to experiment with two affinity groups within its Presbytery is consistent with the Long Range Planning's encouragement to consider adapting Presbytery structures for missional purposes. Upon completion of this three-year experiment, Mid-America is prepared to make recommendations for changes to the Book of Government in relation to Presbytery structures if the Assembly considers this necessary.
6. Mid-America Presbytery has been praised for its warm fellowship and encouraging atmosphere throughout the discussion of this difficult issue. None of its members wants to break fellowship over the issue of ordaining women as teaching elders. All want to continue to meet together for worship, the Lord's Supper, fellowship, instruction and to work together revitalizing churches and planting new churches. Mid-America believes it is possible for egalitarians and complementarians to live and serve together within the same Presbytery and to demonstrate the strengths of the EPC ethos and vision which is so attractive to many missionally Reformed evangelical believers.
7. We see some Biblical support for this proposal in the controversy between Jewish and Gentile believers which the Jerusalem Council tried to resolve (Acts 15:12-29). The leaders of the early church clarified what was essential for salvation that Jewish and Gentile Christians had to accept but they also affirmed areas in which Gentile believers had liberty. Both parties were urged to respect each other's views and put love for each other above these differences.

Respectfully submitted,



Dexter A. Kuhlman, Stated Clerk  
Presbytery of Mid-America

**DESCENDING OVERTURES**  
**From the 28th General Assembly, Evangelical Presbyterian Church**

**OVERTURE 08-A**

That the *Book of Government* §11-8.A be amended to allow Presbytery to renew the term of a minister appointed as Stated Supply.

<b>Existing Wording G.11-8.A</b>	<b>Proposed Wording (additions in <i>italics</i>)</b>
Stated Supply. Invited to serve for a definite period of time of no less than one month and no more than twelve. The Stated Supply may be appointed by the Presbytery to Moderate the Church Session during the time of service.	Stated Supply: Invited to serve for a definite period of <i>not</i> less than one month and <i>no</i> more than twelve <i>months</i> ( <i>the “invited period of service”</i> ). <i>Before the end of any invited period of service, the invitation may be extended for an additional period not to exceed twelve months by approval of the Church Session and the Presbytery on recommendation from the Ministerial Committee.</i> The Stated Supply may be appointed by the Presbytery to moderate the Church Session during the time of service.

Grounds: The proposed amendment is intended to clarify any ambiguity as to whether or not a minister’s term as stated supply may be renewed, making the possibility of renewal explicit and stipulating how such renewal is to be approved.

**OVERTURE 08-B**

That *The Book of Government* be amended at §2-3, §11-4, §11-10, §11-12, §15-10, and §16-14 to allow presbyteries to establish the status of “Associate Member.”

<b>Existing Wording G.2-3</b>	<b>Proposed Wording (additions in <i>italics</i>)</b>
The courts of the Church shall be: The Session, the Presbytery, and the General Assembly. The Session shall be composed of the Minister(s) called by the congregation, and active Ruling Elders of a particular church. The Presbytery shall be composed of all Ministers belonging to it, and two Ruling Elders from each particular	The courts of the Church shall be: The Session, the Presbytery, and the General Assembly. The Session shall be composed of the Minister(s) called by the congregation, and active Ruling Elders of a particular church. The Presbytery shall be composed of all Ministers belonging to it, and two Ruling Elders from each particular

Existing Wording G.2-3	Proposed Wording (additions in <i>italics</i> )
<p>Church or two Ruling Elders for each minister from each particular church within its bounds. The basis of representation to General Assembly shall be the same as representation to Presbytery. The Board of Deacons, while useful in service and ministry, is not a court of the church and is under the supervision and control of the Church Session.</p>	<p>Church or two Ruling Elders for each minister from each particular church within its bounds. The basis of representation to General Assembly shall be the same as representation to Presbytery. The Board of Deacons, while useful in service and ministry, is not a court of the church and is under the supervision and control of the Church Session.</p> <p><i>A minister who is retired or serving in a capacity which may impede or prevent regular and/or required attendance at Presbytery meetings may, upon request, be granted the status of Associate Member, according to the process stipulated in G.16-14. Associate members are entitled to serve with voice and vote on all committees of Presbytery and General Assembly. Associate Members are entitled to serve with voice but not vote on Commissions to ordain and install pastors and to receive churches. Associate Members shall have voice but not vote at all Presbytery and General Assembly meetings. Associate Members are not eligible to serve as officers of any court but do retain all rights and privileges of ordination and are to be afforded the same pastoral care as Active Members. Any Associate Member called to serve as Stated Supply or Interim Supply shall automatically be returned to active membership status during such service.</i></p>
<p>When a disproportionate ratio of Ruling Elders to Teaching Elders occurs in a Presbytery, the Presbytery will move to correct the ratio by suggesting to member churches on a yearly alphabetical rotational basis that they have the right to appoint an additional elder to the Presbytery. The Presbytery shall on this basis invite</p>	<p>When a disproportionate ratio of Ruling Elders to Teaching Elders occurs in a Presbytery, the Presbytery will move to correct the ratio by suggesting to member churches on a yearly alphabetical rotational basis that they have the right to appoint an additional elder to the Presbytery. The Presbytery shall on this basis invite</p>

<b>Existing Wording G.2-3</b>	<b>Proposed Wording (additions in italics)</b>
<p>churches to add one additional Ruling Elder until this disparity is corrected.</p> <p>These same churches shall be invited by the General Assembly to add one additional Ruling Elder until this disparity is corrected for meetings of the General Assembly.</p>	<p>churches to add one additional Ruling Elder until this disparity is corrected. <i>Associate Members are not counted as part of the ratio of ruling and teaching elders.</i></p> <p>These same churches shall be invited by the General Assembly to add one additional Ruling Elder until this disparity is corrected for meetings of the General Assembly.</p>

<b>Existing Wording G.11-4</b>	<b>Proposed wording (additions in italics)</b>
<p>Calling must always be to a specific task. A particular church must call a Ruling Elder or Deacon to office within that congregation. A Minister must be called by some specific agency to a particular task deemed appropriate to the ordaining, installing or approving Presbytery.</p>	<p>Calling must always be to a specific task. A particular church must call a Ruling Elder or Deacon to office within that congregation. A Minister must be called by some specific agency to a particular task deemed appropriate to the ordaining, installing or approving Presbytery <i>except in the case of retired ministers being received from another denomination as Associate Members (G.2.3; 11-10; 16-14).</i></p>

<b>Existing Wording G.11-10</b>	<b>Proposed Wording (additions in italics)</b>
<p>In the event the Minister being called is from some other Presbytery or other church body, the receiving Presbytery shall not enroll that person without a valid call. The dismissing church body shall be informed by the calling Presbytery for the purpose of taking appropriate action. The Presbyteries shall deal directly with each other through their stated clerks in certifying both the call of the church and the credentials of the Minister or Candidate.</p>	<p>In the event the Minister being called is from some other Presbytery or other church body, the receiving Presbytery shall not enroll that <del>person</del> <i>Minister</i> without a valid call <i>unless the Minister is retired and being enrolled as an Associate Member under the stipulations of G.2-3 and G.16-14.</i> The dismissing church body shall be informed by the calling receiving Presbytery for the purpose of taking appropriate action. The Presbyteries shall deal directly with each other through their stated clerks in certifying both the call of the church and the credentials of the Minister or Candidate.</p>



<b>Existing Wording G.11-12</b>	<b>Proposed Wording (additions in <i>italics</i>)</b>
<p>If a Minister desires to accept a call outside the structures of the Church, he or she shall present a request to the Presbytery, indicating the nature of the work and the terms of call. If the Presbytery approves the nature of the work as appropriate to the Gospel ministry, it may approve it for a definite period of time. After the expiration of that time, the Minister must receive further approval to continue.</p> <p>In the event that the outside of bounds ministry falls within the geographic boundaries of a Presbytery not currently his own, a Minister shall inform the appropriate committees of both Presbyteries, seeking the advice and approval of both Presbyteries regarding potential plans for ministry or work</p>	<p>If a Minister desires to accept a call outside the structures of the Church, he or she shall present a request to the Presbytery, indicating the nature of the work and the terms of call. If the Presbytery approves the nature of the work as appropriate to the Gospel ministry, it may approve it for a definite period of time. After the expiration of that time, the Minister must receive further approval to continue.</p> <p><i>If the nature of this call impedes or prevents regular and/or required attendance at Presbytery meeting, the Minister may be granted the status of Associate Member (G.2-3; 11.10; 16-14).</i></p> <p>In the event that the outside of bounds ministry falls within the geographic boundaries of a Presbytery not currently his own, a Minister shall inform the appropriate committees of both Presbyteries, seeking the advice and approval of both Presbyteries regarding potential plans for ministry or work</p>

<b>Existing Wording G.15-10</b>	<b>Proposed Wording (additions in <i>italics</i>)</b>
<p>Retired Ministers: A Minister who is retired according to the provision of G.15-9 remains a full member of Presbytery. Membership may be transferred to another Presbytery. A Retired Minister who does not participate in the life of the Presbytery by attending at least one Stated Meeting during a calendar year, may be placed on Inactive Status at the discretion of the Presbytery. After at least one year, the Retired Minister may request Presbytery to be restored to Active Status. The Presbytery shall make the determination based on the</p>	<p>Retired Ministers: A Minister who is retired according to the provision of G.15-9 remains a full member of Presbytery. Membership may be transferred to another Presbytery.</p> <p>A. A Retired Minister who does not participate in the life of the Presbytery by attending at least one Stated Meeting during a calendar year may be placed on Inactive Status at the discretion of the Presbytery. After at least one year, the Retired Minister may request Presbytery to be restored</p>

<p>Minister's participation in the meetings of the Presbytery and need not require a specific call to be restored to Active Status. A Retired Minister on Inactive Status shall not be removed from the Presbytery rolls for that cause and is to be afforded the same pastoral care as Retired Ministers on Active Status.</p>	<p>to Active Status. The Presbytery shall make the determination based on the Minister's participation in the meetings of the Presbytery and need not require a specific call to be restored to Active Status. A Retired Minister on Inactive Status shall not be removed from the Presbytery rolls for that cause and is to be afforded the same pastoral care as Retired Ministers on Active Status.</p> <p><i>B. A retired minister may be granted the status of Associate Member as defined in G.2-3, 11.10, and 16-14.</i></p>
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<p><b>Existing Wording G.16-14</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed Wording (additions in italics)</b></p>
<p>The Presbytery: The Presbytery has the oversight of the life of a number of churches within a designated area. It is composed of all the ministers of the Presbytery and at least two Ruling Elders elected by the Church Session. The Church Session shall elect two additional Ruling Elders for each additional Pastor, whether Associate or Assistant. In any case, a particular church shall have no fewer than two Ruling Elders for each 500 members or major portion thereof.</p>	<p>The Presbytery: The Presbytery has the oversight of the life of a number of churches within a designated area. It is composed of all the ministers of the Presbytery and at least two Ruling Elders elected by the Church Session. The Church Session shall elect two additional Ruling Elders for each additional Pastor, whether Associate or Assistant. In any case, a particular church shall have no fewer than two Ruling Elders for each 500 members or major portion thereof.</p> <p><i>The Presbytery may establish a roll of Associate Members as defined in G.2-3. Presbyteries may place an ordained Minister of Presbytery on the roll of Associate Members upon that Minister's request and upon recommendation of the Ministerial Committee and a 2/3 vote of Presbytery. Presbyteries may, by 2/3 vote, receive an ordained Minister from another Reformed body as an Associate Member, following the normal process of examination (G.13-5).</i></p>

<p>When a disproportionate ratio of Ruling Elders to Teaching Elders occurs in a Presbytery, the Presbytery will move to correct the ratio by suggesting to member churches on a yearly alphabetical rotational basis that they have the right to appoint an additional elder to the Presbytery. The Presbytery shall on this basis invite churches to add one additional Ruling Elder until this disparity is corrected.</p>	<p><i>An Associate Member may request to be placed on Active Status. The Presbytery may do so upon recommendation by the Ministerial Committee and provided the Minister has a call Presbytery approves, or provided the Minister is being transferred to another body in order to receive a call.</i></p> <p>When a disproportionate ratio of Ruling Elders to Teaching Elders occurs in a Presbytery, the Presbytery will move to correct the ratio by suggesting to member churches on a yearly alphabetical rotational basis that they have the right to appoint an additional elder to the Presbytery. The Presbytery shall on this basis invite churches to add one additional Ruling Elder until this disparity is corrected. <i>Associate Members are not counted as part of the ratio of ruling and teaching elders (G.2-3)</i></p>
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Grounds: These proposed amendments are intended to address an issue developing in presbyteries that have a significant number of ministers on the retired roll and/or in out of bounds callings that prevent regular attendance, making it impossible in some situations to fulfill the parity adjustment requirements currently stipulated in G.2-3. The amendment allows, but does not require, presbyteries to create a roll of Associate Members addressing parity adjustment by removing them from the 2:1 ratio while maintaining the possibility of the Associate Member contributing expertise in the work of Presbytery. As Associate Members, ministers would not lose the privilege offered by ordination to preach, conduct baptisms, administer the Lord's Supper, or conduct weddings.

Having the status of Associate Member available gives presbyteries an option other than inactive status for Retired Ministers who have faithfully served EPC for many years but now find themselves physically unable to attend. It also gives presbyteries the option of receiving a retired minister from another denomination as an Associate Member without a call in hand.

The proposed amendment does *not* give presbyteries authority to place a Minister on the Associate Member roll without that Minister's request.

**VOTE OF THE PRESBYTERIES**

**Overture 08-A**

<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Central South	58	0
East	36	0
Florida	30	0
Mid-America	43	0
Mid-Atlantic	79	0
Midwest	55	0
Southeast	64	0
West	82	0
		<i>Passed</i>

**Overture 08-B**

<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Central South	49	0
East	36	0
Florida	32	0
Mid-America	43	0
Mid-Atlantic	83	0
Midwest	53	0
Southeast	66	0
West	82	0
		<i>Passed</i>

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**EPC Foundation Board Report**  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

Members of the EPC Foundation Board are RE David Jonckheere, RE Dick Oestreich, RE Nathan Kilton, RE Wayne Grace, RE Michael Harris, and RE Bob O'Brien. The Committee met via telephone conference on the following dates: October 21, 2008, October 29, 2008, February 20, 2009.

The Stated Clerk was present for all teleconferences and has provided great support to the Foundation Board.

Special thanks are also given to Greg Schupra. Greg is an EPC member and Vice President and Group Manager of Comerica Charitable Services Group. Greg has played a substantial role in helping the foundation formulate a plan for the future and has done a tremendous amount of work to ensure that all legal documents for the foundation are in good order.



*Nate Kilton  
Chairman*

**The Work of the Foundation**

Beginning in the summer and fall of 2007 and continuing through the spring of 2008, Dr. Jeremiah worked with various committees and ministries to develop a “Giving Menu” or list of areas where potential donors might consider designating their planned gift. The Giving Menu is titled “Twenty-First Century Investing in the Kingdom of God.”

**“Twenty-First Century Investing in the Kingdom of God”**

Donors to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church Foundation may establish a donor advised fund, make undesignated gifts to be used at the discretion of EPC leadership, give to a local church designated fund or make designated gifts to one or more of the funds listed below. If the donor has a passion for an area of ministry that is not listed, designated gifts may still be made to ministry areas not listed below. Any gifts made to the EPC Foundation are subject to acceptance and approval from the foundation board of directors. Visit [www.epc.org](http://www.epc.org) for more details on donor advised funds and local church designated funds.

**Global Opportunities**

- Church Development

The Lord has given the EPC the opportunity to plant churches in countries where there is little if any Christian presence. We’ve identified nationals to lead these churches, which have a vision to plant churches in their countries.

Planned gifts for international church development may be designated to the Church Planting Investment Fund to assist churches in covering their expenses in the critical “start-up” mode of their ministry, and to help acquire property and build facilities.

Planned gifts may also be designated in this area to the Leadership Training & Development Fund. This fund will help international church pastors and leaders receive Bible school and seminary education. Funds will be used to bring nationals to the U.S. for training and to send EPC teachers to those countries.

- World Outreach (WO) Missionary Support

Many of our WO missionaries are serving in sensitive and dangerous areas locations. The Emergency Support Fund will provide “stand in the gap” support in an emergency or crisis situation where a missionary may face evacuation, deportation, or other unforeseen circumstances.

Like other leaders, our missionaries need continuing education and spiritual growth opportunities. The Leadership Growth and Development fund will enable our missionaries to pursue leadership and educational opportunities that will increase the effectiveness of their ministries.

### National Opportunities

- Church Loan Fund

The Church Loan Fund has existed since 1984 and a planned gift to this fund helps growing churches secure the necessary capital to acquire property and build or expand their buildings.

- Church Planter Training

There are excellent resources available to help leaders who are called to plant churches in the U.S. The Church Planter Training Fund will help planters gain access to assessment centers, seminars, classes and other equipping opportunities, and will also enable them to network with other church planters.

- Urban Ministries Internships

Internships have proven to be a very effective means for exposing potential urban ministers to the unique opportunities and challenges of ministering in urbanized areas. Unfortunately, most of our urban churches don't have the resources to fund this position. The Urban Ministries Internship Fund will make these internship opportunities available.

- Urban Ministries Leadership

Contributions to the Urban Ministries Leadership fund will enable leaders in urban church settings to receive the seminary education needed for ordination in the EPC.

- Chaplains Continuing Education

The EPC enjoys an excellent reputation for providing outstanding chaplains to our U.S. military. This fund will enable our chaplains to pursue advanced educational opportunities as they are made available to them.

- Seminarian Scholarship

The total cost of seminary education in the U.S. can exceed \$35,000. Your gift to this fund will help EPC candidates for ministry cover these costs while they pursue their Masters of Divinity Degree.

- Women in Ministry-Leadership Training

Planned gifts to the Women in Ministry-Leadership Training Fund will help to cover the costs of special events and seminars that are scheduled to raise up and equip the next generation of women's leaders in our local churches.

- Women in Ministry-Faith Focus Resources

The Faith Focus project challenges women in the EPC to participate in an extension of our denominational mission objectives, international and domestic. The Resources fund supports the development and production of resources to be used for these projects.

Establishing content on the EPC website and developing the "Giving Menu" were important first steps in the marketing/promotional plans of the foundation.

During the summer of 2008, the foundation worked with Jack Hughes and Bob Fanter in developing a concise, one page flyer that can be used flexibly, efficiently, and economically to communicate the purpose and the work of the foundation. The flyer is available for use by any EPC church or ministry. The flyer is in electronic form and can be e-mailed to EPC leadership. It can be included in EPNews, church bulletins and newsletters, local church e-mail lists, and posted on the local church websites.

On February 14, 2009, Nate Kilton made a presentation to the Florida Presbytery about the foundation. The content of the presentation included the dual purpose of the foundation which is a) traditional planned giving out of accumulated wealth and b) stewardship education. The purpose of the foundation is to not only facilitate or administer planned gifts, but is also to market and promote Biblical Stewardship, including the importance of tithing.

There is also a "missional" opportunity within the foundation. It is clear that we are currently in turbulent economic times. There is no better opportunity to reach out to our communities and to impact the lives of people by bringing them practical tools to deal with their personal finances. People who would never otherwise set foot in a church might do so to attend a class on personal finances. What a great way to build relationships and open up doors to tell people about Jesus Christ.

Finally, Greg Schupra has been working closely with outside attorneys on a comprehensive review and edits of the legal documents (e.g. Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, etc...) of the foundation. Greg is also working with the attorneys to ensure that all documentation has been properly filed with the State of Michigan and the Internal Revenue Service.

**Recommendations to the General Assembly**

None

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Kilton, Chairman

June 2009



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**Fraternal Relations Committee Report  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

Members of the Fraternal Relations Committee (FRC) are Darian Burns, Don Fortson, Jimmy McGuire, Rob Norris, Dale Schaefer and George Wood. Serving in an *ex officio* capacity are GA Moderator Allen Roes and Stated Clerk Jeff Jeremiah.



*Don Fortson  
Chairman*

**The Work of the Committee**

1. **St. Andrews Presbytery (Argentina).** Stated Clerk Jeff Jeremiah, Assistant Stated Clerk Ed McCallum and Director of World Outreach George Carey have been working on a new five year cooperative agreement with the leadership of St. Andrews Presbytery. The Committee will receive their report, act on it and send it to the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in early June.

**Background:**

- The current five year agreement concludes in 2009.
  - During their visit to Buenos Aires in April 2008 Stated Clerk Jeff Jeremiah and Assistant Stated Clerk Ed McCallum were asked by St. Andrews Presbytery leadership about the possibility of a new five year agreement. It was decided that such an agreement would be beneficial to the EPC and St. Andrews.
  - On February 24, 2009 Jeff Jeremiah, Ed McCallum and World Outreach Director George Carey met WO missionaries Paul and Elizabeth Branch and Guille Mac Kenzie in Charlotte, NC to begin conversations about a new agreement.
  - A March 2-4, 2009 meeting in Buenos Aires with St. Andrews leadership was cancelled as Jeff, Ed and George couldn't depart the US due to inclement weather. Due to budget constraints, this trip was not rescheduled.
  - St. Andrews leadership agreed that Jeff, Ed and George would draft new Articles of Agreement and submit them to St. Andrews Presbytery leadership by May 1, 2009.
  - St. Andrews leadership has committed to respond to the draft by June 1, 2009.
  - St. Andrews Presbytery was invited to send a delegate to our 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Rev Guille Mac Kenzie has been appointed as that delegate. Rev. Mac Kenzie and his family have moved to St. Louis, MO while Guille is pursuing academic work at Covenant Theological Seminary in preparation for entering a PhD program.
2. **Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPB).** On December 4, 2008 GA Moderator Allen Roes, former Stated Clerk Mike Glodo, and current Stated Clerk Jeff Jeremiah met with IPB leadership in Philadelphia, PA. This meeting was reported in the December 18, 2008 edition of EPNews. At this meeting

Moderator Allen Roes invited the IPB to send a delegate to our 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The IPB promised formal invitations to their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro August 9-13 (see Communication 09-03). Jeff Jeremiah will represent the EPC at that historic event.

3. **Presbyterian Church of the USA (PCUSA).** In 2008 the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly authorized that a letter be sent to the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) calling attention to the manner in which the EPC is being unjustly accused of wrongdoing by the PCUSA. This letter (Attachment FR-A) was sent by Chairman Don Fortson on August 14, 2008. There has been no response to this letter from WARC. In addition, in response to the 2008 PCUSA General Assembly's action to investigate the EPC, Jeff Jeremiah sent a letter dated July 31, 2008 (Attachment FR-B) to the PCUSA staff person in charge of Ecumenical Relations re-iterating the EPC's policy of interacting with non-EPC churches. The General Assembly office received a letter from the PCUSA Committee on Ecumenical Relations dated February 11, 2009 announcing the creation of task group to investigate these charges (Attachment FR-C). This letter did not acknowledge the July 31, 2008 letter from the Stated Clerk.
4. **World Alliance of Reformed Churches / Reformed Ecumenical Council (WARC/REC) Merger.** If WARC is the global gathering of national Presbyterian churches, the REC is the global gathering of national Reformed churches. These two bodies have scheduled a merger in June, 2010 at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI. WARC member churches in the US (which includes the EPC) are being strongly encouraged to help host and fund this event. The key US denomination in WARC is the PCUSA. In light of the treatment the EPC has been receiving at the hands of the leadership of the PCUSA, the COA decided at its October, 2008 meeting to not help host or fund this event.
5. **National Association of Evangelicals (NAE).** Jeff Jeremiah represented the EPC at the NAE Board meeting on October 8-9, 2008 in Eden Prairie, MN.

#### **LOOKING AHEAD**

Leadership of "Cape Town 2010," the Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization has been in contact with us about participating in this historic event, which will take place October 16-25, 2010.

#### **Recommendations to the General Assembly**

The proposed Articles of Agreement with St. Andrews Presbytery, Argentina (to be finalized in June and distributed at General Assembly).

Respectfully submitted,

Don Fortson  
Chairman

June 2009



EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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August 14, 2008

Rev. Dr. Setri Nyomi  
General Secretary  
World Alliance of Reformed Churches  
150 route de Ferney, PO Box 2100  
1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland

Dear Dr. Nyomi,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I trust you are enjoying a good year of effective and fruitful ministry for Jesus Christ in your role as General Secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.

As you know, it is and always has been the policy and practice of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to not solicit, initiate contact or recruit churches and leaders who are outside of our denomination. Since our earliest history we have responded to enquiries and accepted invitations from the elected spiritual leadership of local churches to answer questions about the EPC. Since 2007, an increasing number of PCUSA churches and leaders have been contacting us. We continue to maintain our commitment to practices that are consistent with our stated policy.

During this time period, leadership of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has repeatedly accused the EPC of recruiting churches to quit their current denominational affiliation and become members of the EPC. As we take any charges of misconduct in this area very seriously, we have asked for proof to back up these accusations. To date, the only evidence presented to us has been found to be baseless or unjustifiable.

In response to these unsubstantiated accusations, the 2008 General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church authorized this letter to the World Alliance of Reformed Churches asking for relief from public statements of accusation made by the PCUSA against us, given our continued commitment to and actions of scrupulous ethical conduct with regard to congregations stating an interest in the EPC. We request that WARC ask the PC (USA) to cease its unwarranted accusations against a fellow WARC member, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sincerely,

Dr. S. Donald Fortson III  
Chair, Fraternal Relations Committee



EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Ste. 567 • Livonia, MI 48152-7912  
(734) 742-2020 • Fax (734) 742-2033  
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July 31, 2008

Reverend Robina Winbush  
Director, Department of Ecumenical Relations  
Office of the General Assembly  
Presbyterian Church (USA)  
100 Witherspoon Street  
Louisville, KY 40202

Dear Reverend Winbush,

It has come to our attention that the Evangelical Presbyterian Church stands accused of recruiting churches to quit their current denominational affiliation and become members of the EPC. The General Assembly of the PC (USA) in June 2008, voted to refer these charges from the Peace River Presbytery to the Committee on Ecumenical Relations. As we have stated to PC(USA) leadership repeatedly, it is and always has been the policy and practice of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to not solicit, initiate contact or recruit churches and leaders who are outside of our denomination. We take any charges of misconduct in this area seriously, and would appreciate being notified of any instances where EPC leaders have violated our policy. To date, complaints received by the General Assembly office have been found to be baseless or unjustifiable.

Since our earliest history we have responded to enquiries and accepted invitations from the elected spiritual leadership of local churches to answer questions about the EPC. Recently, there are an increasing number of churches and leaders who are contacting us. We continue to maintain our commitment to practices that are consistent with our stated policy. We trust that your investigation will confirm that we have been faithful in our commitment to this policy.

In another action, the June 2008 PC(USA) General Assembly approved an overture from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution concerning dismissal of ministers and congregations to transitional presbyteries of the EPC. The overture implies that the EPC may not be a Reformed and Presbyterian denomination. We invite the Committee on Ecumenical Relations to visit our website ([www.epc.org](http://www.epc.org)) to become aware of the constitutional documents of the EPC.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah  
Stated Clerk  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

CC: General Secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical Relations

February 11, 2009

The Reverend Dr. Jeffrey J. Jeremiah  
Stated Clerk  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Suite 567  
Livonia MI 48152-7912

Dear Dr. Jeremiah:

Grace and peace to you! As you are probably aware, the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2008) of the Presbyterian Church (USA) considered an overture from Peace Rivers Presbytery related to the actions and conduct of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). This matter was referred to the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical Relations (GACER). The GACER has appointed a Task Group to gather the facts related to the above concerns and is expecting a report and recommendations by February 2010.

As part of the Task Group's work they will be conducting interviews with the leadership of some congregations that have left the PC(USA) and joined the EPC. It is also our hope that members of the Task Group will meet with leadership of the EPC, and in particular the New Wineskins Presbytery. It is our commitment to be in communication with you as the Task Group does its work and prepares its report and recommendation for the GACER.

We recognize that this is potentially a difficult moment in our relationship and are committed to prayerfully and respectfully carry out the mandate given to us. Please know that the Task Group is holding you and the EPC in prayer and also covet your prayers as they engage their work.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [robina.winbush@pcusa.org](mailto:robina.winbush@pcusa.org) or (502) 569-5431.

In Christian Unity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robina Marie Winbush".

The Reverend Robina Marie Winbush  
Associate Stated Clerk and Director  
Department of Ecumenical and Agency Relations

c: The Reverend Gradye Parsons  
The Reverend Krystin Granberg

100 Witherspoon St. Room 4412A  
Louisville, KY 40202-1396



[www.pcusa.org/ecumenicalrelations](http://www.pcusa.org/ecumenicalrelations)  
(888) 728-7228 ext 5423

**PROPOSED ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT  
EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND  
ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERY, ARGENTINA**

<p>These Articles celebrate what God has done in the mutually edifying relationship he established between our respective parts of the Kingdom of God and place that relationship on a footing which will allow us together to continue to expand that Kingdom through the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the reign of Christ over His people.</p>	<p>Estos Artículos celebran lo que Dios ha realizado en la relación de mutua edificación que él estableció entre nuestras respectivas partes del Reino de Dios, y colocan esta relación en un camino que nos permitirá continuar juntos la expansión de este Reino a través de la proclamación del Evangelio y la administración del reinado de Cristo sobre su pueblo.</p>
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<b>ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT Evangelical Presbyterian Church and St. Andrews Presbytery (Argentina)</b>	<b>ARTÍCULOS DE ACUERDO Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana y Presbiterio San Andrés (Argentina)</b>
<b>Preamble</b>	<b>Preámbulo</b>
<p>In 1987, a small Presbyterian church in Argentina, established by a Scottish colony one hundred and fifty six years previously, was accepted by the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of the United States as a presbytery with all the benefits and duties corresponding to such a relationship. The EPC incorporated the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church and named it the St. Andrews Presbytery. In 2004, the General Assembly of the EPC approved Articles of Dismissal and Agreement, as the goal of developing an authentic Presbyterian church, autonomous and national in scope had been realized. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church has benefited by its participation in the profound renewal of the Argentine character and lifestyle, through the work of the Holy Spirit, and by the proclamation of the Reformed message.</p> <p>Those Articles included a five year</p>	<p>En 1987, una pequeña iglesia presbiteriana en Argentina, constituida ciento cincuenta y seis años antes por colonos escoceses, era aceptada por la Asamblea General de la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana de Estados Unidos, como uno de sus presbiterios con todos los derechos y obligaciones inherentes a esa relación. La IEP incorporó a la Iglesia Presbiteriana San Andrés y la llamó el Presbiterio San Andrés. En el 2004 la Asamblea General de dicha Iglesia aprobó los Artículos de Desvinculación y Acuerdo, dado que la meta de desarrollar una auténtica iglesia Presbiteriana, autónoma y nacional había sido alcanzada. La Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana se benefició por su participación en la profunda renovación del carácter y estilo de vida argentino, a través del trabajo del Espíritu Santo, y por la proclamación del mensaje reformado.</p> <p>Esos Artículos incluían un Acuerdo de</p>

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<p>Agreement for continuing ministry, support and fellowship between the two churches. With the conclusion of this five year agreement, the EPC and St. Andrews Presbytery have agreed to pursue another five year agreement with the goal of improving our partnership in ministry for Jesus Christ by 2014.</p>	<p>cinco años para continuar el ministerio, apoyo y hermandad entre las dos iglesias. Con la finalización de este acuerdo de cinco años, la IEP y el Presbiterio San Andrés han acordado establecer otro acuerdo de cinco años con la meta de mejorar nuestra cooperación en el ministerio de Jesucristo para el 2014.</p>
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<p><b>ARTICLE ONE</b></p> <p><b>Effective Dates</b></p>	<p><b>ARTÍCULO UNO</b></p> <p><b>Fecha de Inicio</b></p>
<p>1.1 The effective date of this action will be upon the adjournment of the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and the August 8, 2009 meeting of the St. Andrews Presbytery.</p>	<p>1.1 La fecha de inicio de esta acción será luego del cierre de la 29<sup>o</sup> Asamblea General de la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana y la reunión del 8 de agosto de 2009 del Presbiterio San Andrés.</p>
<p><b>ARTICLE TWO</b></p> <p><b>Relationship</b></p>	<p><b>ARTÍCULO DOS</b></p> <p><b>Relación</b></p>
<p>2.1 The General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and St. Andrews Presbytery shall exist in full fraternal relationship and in partnership for mission, which shall be governed by these Articles of Agreement, except as amended by a majority vote of both bodies.</p>	<p>2.1 La Asamblea General de la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana y el Presbiterio San Andrés continuarán en plena relación fraternal y cooperación en la misión, la cual será gobernada por estos Artículos de Acuerdo excepto que sean modificados por un voto mayoritario de ambos cuerpos.</p>
<p>2.2 After initial adoption, these articles may be amended by the majority vote of both bodies.</p>	<p>2.2 Luego de la adopción inicial, estos artículos podrán ser modificados por un voto mayoritario de ambos cuerpos.</p>
<p><b>ARTICLE THREE</b></p> <p><b>Terms of Agreement</b></p>	<p><b>ARTÍCULO TRES</b></p> <p><b>Términos de Acuerdo</b></p>
<p>3.1 <u>Effective Period</u>: This agreement will last for a period of five years from the Effective Date, the terms of which as specified herein shall govern the relationship during that time.</p>	<p>3.1 <u>Período Efectivo</u>: Este acuerdo se establece por un período de cinco años desde la Fecha de Inicio, que será gobernado durante ese tiempo por los términos especificados aquí.</p>
<p>3.2 <u>Governance</u>:</p> <p>3.2.1 Until such time as the work of the Constitutional Review Committee is complete (see 3.4) the Constitution of St. Andrews Presbytery shall be the Book of Order of the Evangelical Presbyterian</p>	<p>3.2 <u>Gobierno</u>:</p> <p>3.2.1 Hasta el tiempo en que el trabajo del Comité de Revisión Constitucional sea concluido (ver 3.4), la <u>Constitución</u> del Presbiterio San Andrés será el <i>Libro de Orden</i> de la Iglesia Evangélica</p>

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Church, the Westminster Confession, Larger and Shorter Catechisms, and “Essentials of Our Faith.” This Constitution and all other governing documents shall be subordinate to the Holy Scriptures.	Presbiteriana, la Confesión de Fe de Westminster , los Catecismos Mayor y Menor y el documento Los Esenciales de la Fe. Esta Constitución y cualquier otro documento de gobierno serán subordinados a las Sagradas Escrituras.
3.2.2 <u>Book of Order</u> : St. Andrews Presbytery will continue to use the Spanish translation of the 2003 edition of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church Book of Order (Book of Government, Book of Discipline, Book of Worship) as already certified by the Office of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly in all its applicable parts. Subsequent amendments ratified by the General Assembly will be considered for ratification by St. Andrews on a case by case basis.	3.2.2 <u>Libro de Orden</u> : el Presbiterio San Andrés continuará usando la traducción al español de la edición 2003 del <i>Libro de Orden (Libro de Gobierno, Libro de Disciplina y Libro de Adoración)</i> de la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana tal como fue certificada por la Oficina del Secretario de la Asamblea General en todas sus partes de aplicación. Las subsiguientes modificaciones ratificadas por la Asamblea General serán consideradas para su ratificación por San Andrés caso por caso.
3.2.3 <u>Westminster Confession and Catechisms</u> : St. Andrews Presbytery will continue to use the Mexican Spanish translation of the Westminster Confession and Catechisms with the addition of chapters 24, 34 and 35 of the Summertown Text Modern Language Version (English) until such time that St. Andrews Presbytery may opt for or commission another translation.	3.2.3 <u>Confesión de Fe y Catecismos de Westminster</u> : el Presbiterio San Andrés continuará usando la traducción mexicana de la Confesión de Fe y los Catecismos de Westminster, con el agregado de los capítulos 24, 34 y 35 de la Versión en Lenguaje Moderno de Summertown (en inglés) hasta el momento en que el Presbiterio San Andrés opte por otra traducción.
3.3 <u>Ecclesiastical Structure</u> : When a second presbytery is formed, the provisions of the <i>Book of Order</i> regarding the General Assembly will become applicable.	3.3 <u>Estructura Eclesiástica</u> :. Cuando se forme un segundo presbiterio, las disposiciones del Libro de Orden concernientes a la Asamblea General serán de aplicación.
3.4 <u>Constitutional Review Committee</u> : St. Andrews Presbytery will continue to appoint a Constitutional Review Committee of not less than five members belonging to at least three churches to study the Book of Order and make recommendations to St. Andrews Presbytery during the course of these Articles of Agreement regarding any proposed revisions.	3.4 <u>Comité de Revisión Constitucional</u> : el Presbiterio San Andrés continuará teniendo un Comité de Revisión Constitucional de no menos de cinco miembros de al menos tres Iglesias para estudiar el <i>Libro de Orden</i> y, y hacer recomendaciones al Presbiterio San Andrés, durante la duración de estos Artículos de Acuerdo, concernientes a cualquier revisión propuesta.
3.5 <u>Court of Appeal</u> :	3.5 <u>Corte de Apelación</u> :
3.5.1 The Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) of the General	3.6.1 La Comisión Judicial Permanente (CJP) de la Asamblea General de la



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<p>Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall appoint annually a three-member judicial commission to act as the final court of appeal for cases involving the discipline of Teaching Elders who are members of St. Andrews Presbytery. The PJC will appoint members who, to the extent possible, are familiar with St. Andrews Presbytery. This commission may include, but is not limited to, PJC members.</p>	<p>Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana designará anualmente una comisión judicial de tres miembros para actuar como corte final de apelación en casos que incluyan la disciplina de presbíteros maestros que son miembros del Presbiterio San Andrés. La CJP designará miembros que, dentro de lo posible, estén familiarizados con el Presbiterio San Andrés. Esta comisión puede incluir, pero no se limita a, miembros de la CJP.</p>
<p>3.5.2 This St. Andrews Judicial Commission shall be dissolved at such time a General Assembly or synod is formed by St. Andrews Presbytery. Its members shall serve one year terms but may be reappointed.</p>	<p>3.5.2 Esta Comisión Judicial San Andrés será disuelta al momento en que una Asamblea General o Sínodo sea formada por el Presbiterio San Andrés. Sus miembros servirán por término de 1 año pero podrán ser reasignados.</p>
<p align="center"><b>ARTICLE FOUR</b></p> <p align="center">Operational Agreements</p>	<p align="center"><b>ARTÍCULO CUATRO</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Acuerdos de Operación</b></p>
<p>4.1 <u>Fraternal Relationship</u> – the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the St. Andrews Presbytery shall exchange fraternal delegates yearly.</p>	<p>4.1 <u>Relaciones Fraternales</u> – la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana y el Presbiterio San Andrés intercambiarán delegados fraternales anualmente.</p>
<p>4.2 <u>Relationship of World Outreach Missionaries with St. Andrews Presbytery</u></p>	<p><u>Relación de Misioneros de Alcance Mundial con el Presbiterio San Andrés</u></p>
<p>4.2.1 The placement of World Outreach Missionaries in Argentina shall be governed by applicable provisions in the World Outreach Manual, in consultation with St. Andrews Presbytery. The World Outreach Annual Review of missionaries serving in Argentina will be made available to St. Andrews Presbytery,</p>	<p>4.2.1 El envío de los Misioneros de Alcance Mundial a Argentina será gobernado por las disposiciones de aplicación en el Manual de Alcance Mundial en consulta con el Presbiterio San Andrés. La Revisión Anual de Alcance Mundial de los misioneros sirviendo en Argentina estará disponible al Presbiterio San Andrés.</p>
<p>4.2.2 World Outreach Missionaries will have voice and vote in church courts of St. Andrews Presbytery. They may be full members of committees but are not eligible to serve as chairman.</p>	<p>4.2.2 Los Misioneros de Alcance Mundial tendrán voz y voto en las cortes eclesiásticas de Presbiterio San Andrés. Podrán ser miembros plenos de comités pero no podrán servir como presidentes.</p>
<p>4.2.3 World Outreach Missionaries in Argentina are subject to the EPC presbytery in which they hold membership in matters of church discipline. In matters of employment</p>	<p>4.2.3 Los Misioneros de Alcance Mundial en Argentina están sujetos al presbiterio de la IEP donde mantienen membresía en materia de disciplina eclesiástica. En materia de empleo,</p>

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they are accountable to EPC World Outreach. In day to day ministry activities they are accountable to St. Andrews Presbytery in consultation with EPC World Outreach.	rendirán cuentas a Alcance Mundial de la IEP. En cuanto a las actividades del ministerio cotidiano rendirán cuentas al Presbiterio San Andrés en consulta con Alcance Mundial de la IEP.
4.3 <u>Missionaries sent from St. Andrews Presbytery</u> : When missionaries from St. Andrews Presbytery are being sent to the world, individual missionaries may, in consultation with World Outreach, seek support from EPC churches for their own support accounts.	4.3 <u>Misioneros enviados desde el Presbiterio San Andrés</u> : Cuando misioneros del Presbiterio San Andrés sean enviados al mundo, los misioneros podrán individualmente, en consulta con Alcance Mundial, buscar apoyo de las iglesias de IEP para su sostén.
4.4 World Outreach will promote and encourage mission projects and partnerships of EPC and St. Andrews Presbytery churches. Regular Evaluations of the projects will be conducted by the Mission Committee of St. Andrews Presbytery and shared with the World Outreach Director.	4.4 Alcance Mundial promoverá y animará los proyectos misioneros y de cooperación entre las Iglesias de la IEP y del Presbiterio San Andrés. Evaluaciones regulares de los proyectos serán conducidas por el Comité de Misiones del Presbiterio San Andrés y compartidas con el Director de Alcance Mundial. (NOTA: Esta es una posible forma de encarar situaciones como la de Entre Ríos)
4.5 <u>Theological Education</u> :	4.5 <u>Educación Teológica</u> :
4.5.1 <u>Ordination Requirements</u> : The educational requirements for the ordination of teaching elders in Argentina set by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall continue during the period of this agreement until such time as the Constitutional Review Committee has finished its work (see 3.4). Input on possible changes in standards will be directed to the Constitutional Review Committee.	4.5.1 <u>Requisitos de ordenación</u> : Los requisitos educacionales para la ordenación de presbíteros maestros en Argentina establecidos por la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana continuarán durante el período de este acuerdo hasta que el Comité de Revisión Constitucional termine su trabajo (ver 3.4). Las contribuciones para posibles cambios en los requisitos serán dirigidas al Comité de Revisión Constitucional.
4.5.2 <u>Written Examinations</u> : The Evangelical Presbyterian Church will supply ordination examinations to St. Andrews Presbytery for translation and use during the effective period. St. Andrews Presbytery will determine a system for grading the examinations.	4.5.2 <u>Exámenes escritos</u> : La Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana proporcionará exámenes de ordenación al Presbiterio San Andrés para su traducción y uso durante este período. El Presbiterio San Andrés determinará un sistema para evaluar los exámenes.
4.5.3 <u>St. Andrews Theological Institute (SATI)</u> : The St. Andrews Theological Institute will continue development as a joint project of General Assembly and St. Andrews Presbytery.	4.5.3 <u>Instituto Teológico San Andrés (ITSA)</u> : El Instituto Teológico San Andrés continuará en desarrollo como un proyecto conjunto de la Asamblea General y el Presbiterio San Andrés.

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<p>4.5.3.1 Although open to students outside the churches of the St. Andrews Presbytery, SATI’s programs and initiatives give special priority to the unique training needs of the present and future leaders of the congregations of the St. Andrews Presbytery, including Teaching and Ruling elders, candidates for ordination, theology students, and ministry leaders within the local churches</p>	<p>4.5.3.1 Aunque abierto a estudiantes que no forman parte de las iglesias del Presbiterio San Andrés, los programas e iniciativas del ITSA dan prioridad especial a las particulares necesidades de capacitación del actual y futuro liderazgo de las congregaciones del Presbiterio San Andrés, incluyendo presbíteros maestros y gobernantes, candidatos para ordenación, estudiantes de teología, y los líderes de ministerios dentro de las iglesias locales.</p>
<p>4.5.3.2 As a non-traditional, Presbytery-based program with limited resources and infrastructure, SATI seeks to offer unique content, resources and strategies that serve to complement and complete existing programs of instruction, with particular regard to the leadership and ministry needs of the Saint Andrews Presbytery churches.</p>	<p>4.5.3.2 Como un programa no-tradicional, basado en el Presbiterio, que cuenta con limitados recursos e infraestructura, el ITSA busca proveer contenidos, recursos y estrategias únicos que sirven para complementar y completar existentes programas de instrucción, con particular referencia a las necesidades en cuanto al liderazgo y ministerio de las iglesias del Presbiterio San Andrés.</p>
<p>4.5.3.3 The common focus that unifies diverse initiatives is the desire to help our churches grow in the incarnation of Biblical and Reformed theology and Presbyterian identity within the Argentine context. Another crucial concern is the integration of theology and mission. To this end, during the period of this new agreement SATI will pursue the following objectives, in partnership with the Missions Committee and in consultation with World Outreach and the Task force to be created per 4.6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The identification of church planting and church growth resources consistent with a Reformed understanding of the <i>Missio Dei</i> and Presbyterian ecclesiology.</li> <li>• The mobilization and equipping of teams within the local churches who will serve as core groups for</li> </ul>	<p>4.5.3.3. El enfoque común que unifica iniciativas diversas es el deseo de ayudar a nuestras iglesias a crecer en su capacidad de encarnar teología bíblica y reformada y la identidad presbiteriana dentro del contexto argentino. Otra preocupación crucial es la integración de teología y misión. Hacia este fin, durante el período de este nuevo acuerdo, el ITSA perseguirá los siguientes objetivos, en cooperación con el Comité de misiones y en consulta con Alcance Mundial y el Grupo de tareas que se creará de acuerdo a lo establecido en el inciso 4.6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• La identificación de recursos para plantación de iglesias e “igle-crecimiento” que son consecuentes con una comprensión reformada de la <i>Missio Dei</i> y la eclesiología presbiteriana.</li> <li>• La movilización y capacitación de equipos dentro de las iglesias locales que servirán como las bases para el</li> </ul>

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<p>mother/daughter church plants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide challenge, encouragement, and training for people who will take the Gospel message, with the intent of seeing a church planted, to non-churched cultures, which may exist either inside or outside of Argentina.</li> <li>• Ongoing instruction in Reformed doctrine and the principles of Presbyterian ecclesiology within the mission churches in ways that promote the healthy integration of mission churches into the broader communion of the Saint Andrews Presbytery.</li> <li>• The equipping of Ruling elders and ministry leaders for service within the missions churches.</li> </ul>	<p>establecimiento de iglesias “hijas”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• La provisión de desafío, aliento y entrenamiento de personas que llevarán el mensaje del Evangelio, con el objetivo de ser una iglesia plantada, a culturas no evangelizadas, que puedan existir tanto adentro como afuera de la Argentina.</li> <li>• La continuada instrucción de la doctrina reformada y los principios de eclesiología presbiteriana dentro de las iglesias misión, de maneras que promuevan la integración saludable de las mismas dentro de la comunión más amplia del Presbiterio San Andrés.</li> <li>• La capacitación de presbíteros gobernantes y líderes de ministerios para el servicio de las iglesias misión.</li> </ul>
<p>4.5.3.4 In keeping with St. Andrews Presbytery’s desire to bless and encourage the efforts of EPC leaders and congregations in their ministry to the Hispanic community in the US, SATI will work during this period to identify and develop opportunities and strategies that serve to meet some of the EPC’s equipping needs with regards to the leadership and development of Spanish language ministries and congregations in the US.</p>	<p>4.5.3.4 De acuerdo al deseo del Presbiterio San Andrés de bendecir y alentar a los esfuerzos de líderes y congregaciones de la EPC que ministran a la comunidad hispana en EEUU, durante este período el ITSA trabajará para identificar y desarrollar oportunidades y estrategias que respondan a algunas de las necesidades de la IEP respecto la capacitación de líderes y el desarrollo de ministerios y congregaciones de habla hispana dentro de los EEUU.</p>
<p>4.6 The EPC Committee on Administration will create a task force to oversee the provision of church planting and leadership development resources to the St. Andrews Presbytery. This task force will work with the Administration Committee of the St. Andrews Presbytery.</p>	<p>4.6. El Comité en Administración de la IEP creará un grupo de tareas que supervisará la provisión de recursos para plantación de iglesias y desarrollo de liderazgo al Presbiterio San Andrés. Este grupo de tareas trabajará en conjunto con el Comité en Administración del Presbiterio San Andrés.</p>
<p>4.7 <u>Goal</u>. At the conclusion of this agreement, the Evangelical Presbyterian</p>	<p>4.7 <u>Objetivo</u>. Al término de este acuerdo, la Iglesia Evangélica</p>

**Attachment FR-D**

<p>Church and the St. Andrews Presbytery will have a foundation for an ongoing mutual partnership which will call for a significant commitment of personnel and financial resources for mission and ministry for Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>Presbiteriana y el Presbiterio San Andrés tendrán una base para una continua cooperación mutua, la cual propiciará un compromiso significativo de personal y recursos financieros para la mision y el ministerio por Cristo Jesús.</p>
<p>Now therefore, the parties hereto, by their duly elected and authorized officers, in duplicate and in Spanish and English, hereto set their hands and affix their seals on this _____ day of _____, 2009. BY/POR  Moderator, St. Andrews Presbytery Moderador, Presbiterio San Andrés ATTEST/ CERTIFICACIÓN ----- Stated Clerk, St. Andrews Presbytery Secretario, Presbiterio San Andrés</p>	<p>Por tanto ahora, las partes establecidas, a través de sus funcionarios debidamente elegidos y autorizados, en duplicado y en Español y en Inglés, firman y aprueban el día _____ de _____ de 2009 BY/POR  Moderator, 29th General Assembly Moderador, 29 Asamblea General ATTEST/ CERTIFICACIÓN ----- Stated Clerk, General Assembly Secretario, Asamblea General</p>

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**Ministerial Vocation Committee Report**  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

Members of the Ministerial Vocation Committee are RE Bill Meeks (Chairman), TE Ken Jones, RE Anne Litzenberger, RE Glenn Parker, TE “Bud” Sparling and TE Walter Turner. TE “Bud” Sparling submitted a letter of resignation due to health reasons.

The Committee’s meetings for the year were September 16-19, 2008 as an e-meeting, on October 10-11, 2008 at the General Assembly Office, on October 30, 2008 by a telephone conference call and on February 27, 2009 by web meeting utilizing the computer software “GoToMeeting,” and March 11-13, 2009 as an e-meeting.

The use of a web meeting allowed the members to do the committee’s business from their home or office without having to travel to the GA office in Michigan. The Committee may convene to act on endorsement recommendations of the Chaplains Subcommittee between the writing of this report and the meeting of the General Assembly.



*Bill Meeks*  
*Chairman*

**The Work of the Committee**

**Candidates Educational Equivalency Program (CEEP)**

The Committee interviewed and approved courses of study for CEEP candidates Mike Bonser (Presbytery of the West), Jared Dilley (Presbytery of the Midwest) and Robinson Mitchell (Presbytery of the Central South). This brings the total number of candidates in the program to eleven.

**Chaplains Subcommittee**

The Committee, concurring with recommendations of the Chaplains Subcommittee, recommended the endorsement of Graham Baily for Chaplaincy in the United States Air Force Reserve, and approval for Adam Reasner and Michael Khoe (both candidates under care of the Midwest Presbytery) for the military’s chaplain candidate program. A roster of EPC military chaplains is included as MVC-Attachment A. Thanks go to retired chaplains Ron Meyer, Bud Sparling, Nancy Stewart, and George Yates for their service on the Subcommittee.

**Ordination Exams**

The Committee approved a study guide for the new Theology, Sacraments and Reformed Tradition exam. With a significant increase in the number of candidates taking the written ordination exams, the Committee approved increasing the pool of exam graders from 4 to 5. The Committee also approved the policy of replacing the examinee name on the written exams with a unique identification number prior to the exam being sent for grading. The Committee appointed a task group to create three new English Bible ordination exams, standardized in format and distribution of questions.

### **Z:4-10 Network for Small Church Leaders**

The Committee approved purchasing fifty copies of *Small Strong Congregations* by Kennon Callahan. Books were distributed to leaders of small churches who agreed to take part in a “book blog,” discussing a chapter each week online. About sixty leaders of small churches around the country took part. TE Ed McCallum led a successful Networking Conference for leaders of small churches titled “Small Church – Significant Impact” in March 2009 (see Attachment B). Lake Forest Church in Huntersville, North Carolina graciously offered their facilities as the site for the conference. Future conferences are being planned in other regions. The Committee approved financial support for small church leaders to attend the March 2009 conference but no scholarship help was requested. TE’s Rob Buchanan, Ken Jones, Tommy Jordan and Fred Lian were appointed to the Z-4:10 Leadership Team for 1 year.

### **Jumper Scholarship Awards**

The Andrew Jumper Scholarship is awarded to EPC candidates under care in the Master of Divinity program at Reformed Theological Seminary. TE Don Fortson (RTS Charlotte), TE Mike Glodo (RTS Orlando), TE Dave Long (RTS Jackson graduate), the Stated Clerk and Moderator serve on the Jumper Scholarship Committee. Awards for the 2009/10 school year were given to candidates Dale Robertson, Robert Brown, Thomas Robinson, Tyler Groff, Jeremiah Stauffer, James Serra, Wiley Lowry, and Mark Norman.

### **Upcoming Committee Projects**

The Committee has several new and continuing projects on their agenda for the coming year:

1. Revision of the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees*:
  - Incorporating *Book of Order* amendments and Acts of Assembly relevant to the work of the minister
  - Reorganizing/reformatting/rewording the material to make it more accessible
  - Clarifying the “Intentional Interim Ministries” section to be sure it is understood that this is not a separate category from “interim supply” in the *Book of Government*
  - Clarifying that granting a sabbatical is not a change in terms of call, and that there should be open communication about plans between the minister, session, and Ministerial Committee regarding sabbatical arrangements.
2. Survey the presbyteries to develop a publication on best practices in the candidate advising process.
3. Develop new Bible Exams (see “Ordination Exams” above)

### **Recommendations to the General Assembly**

**Recommendation MVC-1**, regarding a referral from the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2008) to consider putting a limit on the number of times the invited period of service for a Stated Supply pastor may be renewed: *The Ministerial Vocation*

*Committee recommends that no limit be specified in the Book of Government for renewals of invited terms of service for Stated Supply pastors.*

Grounds: Descending Overture 08-A (see text below), if approved by presbyteries and ratified by the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, clarifies that an invitation to a minister to serve as stated supply may be renewed. While realizing that the amendment leaves open the possibility of a “permanent” stated supply (“endless” renewals), the Committee agreed it was better to leave decisions on the number of term renewals in the hands of Sessions and Presbyteries who are closer to the particular situations rather than mandate limits constitutionally.

**Descending Overture 08-A:** That the *Book of Government* 11-8.A be amended to allow Presbytery to renew the term of a minister appointed as Stated Supply

Existing Wording G.11-8.A	Proposed Wording (additions in <i>italics</i> )
<p>Stated Supply. Invited to serve for a definite period of time of no less than one month and no more than twelve. The Stated Supply may be appointed by the Presbytery to Moderate the Church Session during the time of service.</p>	<p>Stated Supply: Invited to serve for a definite period of <i>not</i> less than one month and <i>no</i> more than twelve <i>months</i> (<i>the “invited period of service”</i>). <i>Before the end of any invited period of service, the invitation may be extended for an additional period not to exceed twelve months by approval of the Church Session and the Presbytery on recommendation from the Ministerial Committee.</i> The Stated Supply may be appointed by the Presbytery to moderate the Church Session during the time of service.</p>

**Recommendation MVC-2,** regarding endorsing Deacons as institutional chaplains, (Recommendation #46 referred from the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly – see MVC-Attachment C) referred jointly to the Ministerial Vocation Committee and Theology Committee by the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly for further study and recommendation to the 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly: *The Ministerial Vocation Committee, in concurrence with the Theology Committee, recommends that the Assembly not approve Recommendation #46 to the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.*

Grounds: As the nature of the office of Ruling Elder and Deacon differ, so does the power of order inherent in those offices.

1. A Deacon who serves in a capacity outside the local church is beyond the authority of the particular church to commission, certify, or endorse. This, however, should not prohibit an individual from serving as a paid or volunteer chaplain.



2. A Deacon is not authorized to administer any sacraments, which could be a hindrance in exercising chaplaincy ministry.
3. Commissioned Pastors, who must be Ruling Elders (G.10-6E), are examined and given their commissions by presbyteries. Presbyteries cannot exercise appropriate accountability and oversight of Deacons who are not eligible to be members of that court. Further, it is not appropriate for the Stated Clerk, as the denomination's registered endorsing agent for chaplains, to bypass the middle judicatory in granting endorsements.

**Recommendation MVC-3** regarding Ascending Overture 08-B to the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2008 – see Attachment D) to amend the *Book of Government* to create the calling of “co-pastor” referred jointly to the Ministerial Vocation Committee and Theology Committee for findings and recommendations: *The Ministerial Vocation Committee recommends that Ascending Overture 08-B not be approved.*

Grounds: Overture 08-A came to the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly with no grounds for approval attached. The combined weight of the following reasons led the Ministerial Vocation Committee to recommend against adopting Overture 08-B:

1. *The biblical principle of plurality of leadership*, which some may advance as an argument in favor of co-pastor relationships, is already adequately addressed in the EPC's polity through the parity of Teaching and Ruling Elders in courts of the church. Further, the current structure of pastor/associate/assistant pastors allows adequate flexibility in structuring staff leadership.
2. *The argument of reduction to the absurd*. Opening the door to “co pastors” means not simply two pastors, but multiple pastors with equal authority, leading to confusion rather than clarity and order (1 Cor. 14:33, 40).
3. *The need for clearly identified leadership*. The current system, which identifies the pastor as Moderator as one of the two officers of the church (the other being the Clerk of Session), is clear, definitive, and effective. There are no co-presidents, no co-commanders-in-chiefs, no co-sheriffs, because no one is really in charge in situations that require immediate action situations and that demand command presence leadership.
4. *The issue of pastoral succession*. “Co-pastors” could be used to circumvent the benefits of the intentional interim ministry process in pastoral leadership transitions (*Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees*, Section 15), potentially incurring various problems: a) allowing pastors the opportunity to act manipulatively to select their successor thereby repeating the mistakes of their pastoral tenure at that church, b) does not give the new pastor the opportunity to make a fresh, healthy start, and, 3) does not allow the congregation to adequately exercise their responsibility to call their own Pastor and wisely reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them through the Bible regarding what God is calling their church to look like in the future.
5. *Unneeded difficulties*. A significant amount of time is needed to become aware of and navigate around the “landmines” of co-pastor relationships (see Question for Discernment on the web site of the Presbytery of Seattle,

PC(USA):  
<http://www.presbytery.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=m3RJsbFw0fc%3d&tabid=1186&mid=3566>

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Meeks, Chairman

June 2009

## EPC MILITARY CHAPLAINS MAY 2009

**Army - Active Duty**

**(MAJ) Lane J. Creamer (Cheryl)**  
George Mason University-ACS  
Fairfax, VA  
East Presbytery

**(CPT) Scott F. Kennaugh (Krista)**  
173rd Brigade Combat Team  
Schweinfut, Germany  
Midwest Presbytery

**(LTC) Timothy S. Mallard (Sharon)**  
Doctrine and Studies Division  
Directorate of Combat Developments  
US Army Chaplain Center and  
School  
Ft. Jackson, SC  
East Presbytery

**(CPT) Jeffrey T. McKinney (Sarah)**  
HHC, 1-1 ARB  
Marshall Army Air Field  
Fort Riley, KS  
Central South Presbytery

**(CPT) Anthony R. Reid (Amy)**  
HHC, USAG  
Fort Carson, CO 80913  
Southeast Presbytery

**Army – Active Guard Reserve**

**(MAJ) Dan White (Marilee)**  
US Army Reserve Command  
Ft. McPherson, GA  
Midwest Presbytery

**Army – Reserve**

**(1LT) John Richards (Kathy)**  
USACHCS-TED  
Ft. Jackson, SC  
Southeast Presbytery

**Army National Guard**

**(CPT) Thomas P. Holmes (Lawrence)**  
HHC 7SB, Camp Echo  
Central South Presbytery

**Navy - Active Duty**

**(LT) Brian J. Hill (Shannon)**  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 12<sup>th</sup> Marines  
MCBH Kaneohe Bay, HI  
West Presbytery

**Air Force – Active Duty**

**(MAJ) Mark S. Ingles**  
Senior Protestant Chaplain  
Peterson AFB  
Colorado Springs, CO  
West Presbytery

**(CPT) Jason P. Kim (Maria)**  
Ellsworth AFB, SD  
West Presbytery

**(CPT) Ronald R. (“Russ”) Ragon (Sandy)**  
86<sup>th</sup> AW  
Ramstein AB, Germany  
West Presbytery

**Air Force Reserve**

**(2LT) Graham Baily (Jessica)**  
Omaha, NE  
West Presbytery

**Air National Guard**

**(CPT) John L. Torres (Shannon)**  
Protestant Chaplain  
Stewart Air National Guard Base  
Newburgh, NY  
East Presbytery

**EPC MILITARY CHAPLAINS MAY 2009**

**Veterans Administration**

**(MAJ-retired) Samuel Adamson  
(Soon)**  
Veterans Administration Medical Center  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
Mid-America Presbytery

**Chaplain Candidates**

**Donovan Campbell**  
Mid-Atlantic Presbytery

**Jason Christafaris**  
Mid-Atlantic Presbytery

**Matt Dussia**  
Mid-Atlantic Presbytery

**Brad Edwards**  
Mid-America Presbytery

**Adam Reasner**  
Midwest Presbytery

**Stephen Roberts**  
East Presbytery

**Gabe Smith**  
Mid-Atlantic Presbytery

**PJ Werner**  
West Presbytery

**Retired Chaplains**

**Jerry Autry (Jackie)**  
West Presbytery

**Steve Barrett (Carolyn)**  
Central South Presbytery

**Walter Case, Sr. (Barbara)**  
Mid-Atlantic Presbytery

**Mark Jumper (Ginger)**  
Mid-America Presbytery

**Doug McCready (Dianne)**  
East Presbytery

**Ron Meyer (Michele)**  
East Presbytery

**Bob Ralston (Eva)**  
West Presbytery

**Bud Sparling (Carol)**  
West Presbytery

**George Yates (Jane)**  
East Presbytery

**Brad Yorton (Sue)**  
West Presbytery

**Civil Air Patrol**

**Robert Balnicky (Annette)**  
Florida Presbytery

**John Rhodes (Irene)**  
Central South Presbytery

**“Small Church – Significant Impact”**  
**EPC Networking Conference**  
**March 16-18, 2009**  
**Lake Forest Church**  
**Huntersville, NC**



**Monday, March 16**

- 6:00 pm - Dinner together at Lake Forest
- 7:00 pm - Main Session 1 - "Post Church Growth"
- 8:00 pm - Net Groups
- 9:00 pm - Fellowship/Refreshments

**Tuesday 3/17**

- Breakfast at hotel
- 9:00 am Devotions & Prayer (Lake Forest Church) – Allen Roes, Moderator, 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly
- 9:30 am Main Session 2: "Issues in Small Church Ministries - Part 1"
  - ◊ Sense of worth
  - ◊ Friendship turned inward
- 10:30 am Net Groups
- 12:00 pm Lunch (Topic tables)
- 1:00 pm Main Session 3: "Issues in Small Church Ministries - Part 2"
  - ◊ Leadership
  - ◊ Resources
- 2:00 pm Net Groups
- Free time / Dinner on your own
- 7:00 pm Main Session 4: "God's Mission and the Small Church"
- 8:00 pm Net Groups
- 9:00 pm Fellowship/Refreshments

**Wednesday 3/18**

- Breakfast at hotel
- 9:00 am Devotions & Prayer (Lake Forest Church)
- 9:15 am Individual Prayer and Reflection / Develop "Next Steps"
- 10:15 am Net Groups - "Next Steps" feedback and commitments
- 11:30 am Worship and Communion
- 12:30 pm Lunch & Depart

MVC-7

Recommendation #46 to the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2008), to amend the *Book of Government* by adding a new section G.10-9:

- 10-9 The Deacons and the Power of Order. The power of order belongs to the Deacon by right of ordination (G.3-2A).
- A. In keeping with the first duty of the office (G10-7), a Deacon should be diligent to become equipped to serve and minister in the name of Christ, especially to those in need of the church's ministry of compassion, sympathy and service.
  - B. Individual deacons who meet requirements of recognized certification agencies may be temporarily commissioned by the Session to serve as chaplains in hospitals or other institutions as deemed appropriate, but without sacramental authority (G.10-7; W.3-1).
    1. Such commissioning shall be for a maximum of three years, may be renewed subject to the same limitation, or terminated by Session at any time prior to the expiration of the term.
    2. Deacons who are potential chaplains shall be examined by Session and found to have sufficient knowledge of these areas to responsibly discharge their duties.
    3. Upon beginning their work as chaplains, Session shall administer the vows of commissioning in G.14-1G,\* ordinarily in a service of public worship, substituting words appropriate for the particular calling, and conclude with a prayer for the Deacon.
    4. Deacons commissioned as chaplains shall report at least annually to the Session.

*\*This reference is subject to ratification of Descending Overture 07-A.*

Rationale: Some Deacons meet the educational qualifications for serving as board certified chaplains in hospital settings and have expressed a sense of call to that ministry. The *Book of Government* does not authorize any court to commission a Deacon as a chaplain and the denomination has no authority or process by which to endorse Deacons, who are otherwise qualified, to certifying agencies such as the Association for Professional Chaplains as chaplains or to begin studies in Clinical Pastoral Education. The proposed amendment, in attempting to open avenues of ministry for Deacons beyond the local church, raises significant questions of biblical theology and polity that would best be addressed by the permanent committees on Theology and Ministerial Vocation working together in the coming year. Such questions include but are not limited to, 1) Is the EPC's view of the office of Deacon as expressed in the *Book of Order* consistent with the teaching of Scripture? 2) What is the "power of order" as it relates to the office of Deacon, and is the calling of Chaplain an appropriate exercise of that power? 3) If so, what are the appropriate channels of oversight and accountability for a Deacon/Chaplain and what is the role of the Presbytery in calling and oversight? 4) Should sacramental authority be extended to Deacons in some circumstances as it is to Ruling Elders? Answering these and other questions that may arise could result in helpful modifications to the proposal. If the committees recommend a constitutional amendment to the 29th General Assembly, it would

be reviewed by the Permanent Judicial Commission for clarity of language, consistency of language, and compatibility with other provisions of the Constitution.

MVC – ATTACHMENT D  
Overture 08-B referred to Ministerial Vocation and Theology  
Committees



THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
**PRESBYTERY OF MID-AMERICA**

Dexter Kuhlman - Stated Clerk  
1926 Prospecter Ridge Ballwin, Missouri 63011 PHONE 636-458-2906 FAX 636-458-6134

April 30, 2008

Rev. Dr. Jeffery Jeremiah  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
17197 N. Laurel Park Drive  
Suite 567  
Livonia, MI 48152

Dear Dr. Jeremiah,

The Presbytery of Mid-America at its 51<sup>st</sup> Stated Meeting, April 25-26, 2008, in Columbia, Missouri voted unanimously to overture the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church as follows:

**OVERTURE**

**WHEREAS**, we see the model of shared leadership in Scripture, such as when our Lord sent out His disciples two by two (Mark 6:7 and Luke 10:1) and when the Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey (Acts 13:2); and

**WHEREAS**, we are seeing the Holy Spirit plant and lead churches in our midst through functionally shared pastorates; and

**WHEREAS**, as a family of churches the EPC is working hard to be a missional denomination; and

**WHEREAS**, we are increasingly aware of our need to develop flexibility in the wineskins of our polity;

**THEREFORE**, the Presbytery of Mid-America respectfully makes this overture to the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to amend the Book of Government, Chapter 11, "Calling to Office" as follows:

Create new Section 11-5, (re-numbering the subsequent sections),

*A congregation may call two Ministers to exercise jointly the responsibility of serving the congregation as Co-Pastors. The congregation shall proceed in the same fashion as indicated in the calling of a Pastor. The division of the Co-Pastors' duties will be agreed upon by the Session and approved by the Presbytery. Unless arranged otherwise, they will alternate*



MVC – ATTACHMENT D  
Overture 08-B referred to Ministerial Vocation and Theology  
Committees

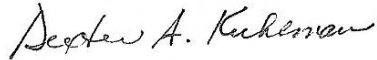
*annually as Moderator of the Session. If there are two co-pastors and one leaves, the one remaining will serve as the pastor.*

Add to Section 16-9 (in *bold italics*),

Officers of the Church Session: The Pastor shall be the Moderator. *If the church has Co-Pastors, they shall alternate annually as Moderator unless arranged otherwise.* An Associate Pastor, at the request of the Pastor and with the consent of the Church Session, may serve as Moderator for the Pastor.

[NOTE: This overture originated from the Session of Covenant Chapel, Leawood, KS and was approved by the Presbytery]

Respectfully submitted,



Dexter A. Kuhlman, Stated Clerk  
Presbytery of Mid-America

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**Moderator's Report**  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

It is with a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude to God that I present this report to the Assembly. This year has been filled with the privilege of meeting and getting to know so many of you. My wife and I visited many of the new churches that came into the EPC over the previous year, met many new friends and renewed old friendships too.

Our trips took us to twenty-five churches and two presbytery meetings of the EPC. At our church visits, I enjoyed conversing with elders and Sessions about topics such as "Where is God now leading you?"

"What is your vision?" and "How are you accomplishing the task of being a "fruitful" church?" We also discussed the meaning of "missional." There were always times of great Christian fellowship, and some great meals were served, too!

I have been very impressed by the Ruling Elders in the EPC who are participating in this denomination at all levels. These women and men have really stepped to the plate when it comes to being servant leaders. Their desire to continue to lift up the name of Jesus Christ as head of the EPC is very evident.

Many of our new churches that have come to us recently have really gone through a radical change in how they relate to their new EPC presbytery and the GA. Many are now getting active in these courts and are enjoying their new roles in a growing denomination. In the geographical presbyteries I have found and appreciate the new members and their involvement. Many of the fears of new members coming into our denomination (and those welcoming them) have gone away as we have welcomed and gotten to know one another. We appreciate these brothers and sisters in Christ and the difficulties they have endured as they made the transition into the EPC.

What a privilege it was to meet with the leaders of the Brazilian Presbyterian Church along with our Stated Clerk Jeff Jeremiah and our Past Stated Clerk Mike Glodo in December! The Brazilians are celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> year and shared with us some of the accomplishments the Lord has showered on them. I was pleased to invite them to our General Assembly in their special year.

Before being involved at the national level of the EPC, one thing I took for granted was our Office of the General Assembly. Under the leadership of our Stated Clerk this team of dedicated workers accomplishes so much with so few. What really surprised me was all that they do and all that they are involved in to make the EPC run so effectively. They do the routine things that make a denomination run but also do so much more to support the leaders, churches and ministries of the EPC. We should not take them for granted! They need our support and are worthy of our gratitude for all that they accomplish. We are truly blessed by our GA staff.



*Allen Roes, Moderator  
28th General Assembly*

One of the highlights of my term as Moderator has been to see what a wonderful spirit this denomination has toward growing to be “*A Denomination of Missional, Reformed, Evangelical & Presbyterian Churches.*”

- A. Churches that are concerned about reaching out and finding the “lost” for Jesus.
- B. Churches that want to invite and introduce individuals to Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, and then invite them into the fellowship of the Church.
- C. Churches that want to share God’s Love with the world.

We may be a small denomination in size but God is using us and others to reach the world for Himself. What a privilege He has given us!

As we begin the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, my prayer is that we will do all things decently and in order, but most importantly to the glory of God.

Respectfully submitted,



Allen Roes

Moderator, 28th General Assembly of the EPC

June 2009

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## Outgoing Moderator's Address

What an honor and privilege it has been to be the Moderator of EPC. My goal when first installed was to visit as many of the new churches that had joined the EPC in the previous year as I could.

I need to thank my wife for her tireless support and willingness to travel with me on most visits. It made the travel fun and something we will both remember for a number of years to come.

We met so many pastors and their wives and had dinners in their homes and feel we got to know them. We met with Sessions and had some great discussions about what their new vision was now, since coming into the EPC. We talked about what "missional" meant to them and if they saw themselves as a "missional" church.

On Sundays we got to talk with congregations and welcome them into the EPC and challenge them to encourage their elders and pastors to be involved in their new presbyteries.

After churches many times we ate a lot of "good old-fashioned potluck meals." Jane and I both think that for every church visited we gained a pound. We can assure you that nobody cooks like the ladies of the EPC.

I had the privilege of attending Joe Gibbs racing team's Wednesday lunch prayer meeting with a number of other local church leaders in the Charlotte area. I'm not sure you are aware of who Joe Gibbs is, but you may know him as the coach of the Washington Redskins. Or if you are a NASCAR fan you know him as Joe Gibbs Racing. If neither of these "rings a bell", I cannot help you any further.

At this meeting Joe told a story about when he was the keynote speaker at a dinner and he was sitting at a head table. As he sat there before the meal people were coming up to get his autograph. While he was signing he had the opportunity to talk to the pastor sitting next to him who was there to give the prayer over the meal. In the discussion he found out that this pastor had been in ministry for 30 years and had dedicated his life, giving up much of his time and his family time to serve in different ministries, to plant a couple of churches, being a foreign missionary, serving the poor around the town, many times using his own money to meet their needs and was now the local pastor of a small church.

When Joe got up to speak he made the comment about how so many had come up to get his autograph because he had been a coach and now a race car team owner, when they should have been asking this pastor for his autograph. This pastor had done so much more than he had done. This pastor had planted and harvested God's fruit - fruit that is eternal.

As I look out over this Assembly I see so many of you that have also sacrificed, served and suffered in the Name of Jesus Christ to plant and harvest the fruit where God placed you. Many of you have been in God's service more than the 30 years mentioned here.

As the Moderator I have been honored when I visited your churches and presbyteries and also by this Assembly. But the real honor goes to all of you who have labored in the ministries where God has placed you.

I want to thank you for the privilege of representing you and all those in the EPC who have answered the call to minister in the Name of Jesus.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allen Ross". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Moderator  
28th General Assembly  
June 2008

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**National Outreach Committee Report**  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

Members of the National Outreach Committee (NOC) are TE Ben Borsay (Midwest), RE Frank Clepper (Southeast), RE Wes Mabin (Florida), TE Eli Morris (Central South), RE Carolyn Nystrom (Mid-America), TE Shawn Robinson – chair (West), RE Roby Wallin (Mid-Atlantic) and TE Rodger Woodworth (East).

The Committee met at the GA Office March 12-13, 2009. An ad hoc group appointed by the Committee met October 20-21, 2008.



*Shawn Robinson*  
*Chairman*

**The Work of the Committee**

**Experimenting Concluded**

We reported to you last year that since the departure of the Director of National Outreach in late 2006 the committee has engaged in a thorough review of its mission and ministry to the EPC, while meeting jointly with presbytery Church Development Committee (CDC) chairs. In an experimental effort to bring church planting to the local level and to encourage presbyteries to take the lead in this important kingdom-building activity, presbytery CDC's have taken on a number of NOC responsibilities, including church planting, church health and revitalization, and supporting the Regional Church Development Coordinators (RCDC). NOC has focused on Church Planter Assessing and Equipping (formerly CPAC), Urban Ministry Network, Home Missionaries and potential ethnic domestic ministry opportunities. At our joint April, 2009 meeting we reviewed where we were and unanimously agreed to the recommendation (below) that would restructure NOC.

**Church Planting**

The Committee is very grateful for the church planting that presbyteries and local churches have pursued in the past year. EPC-Orlando, led by Bob Hopper and City Church-St. Louis, led by Mike Werkheiser and Phil Woods were launched in April, 2009.

Also, All Saints-Memphis, launched in 2001 and re-launched in 2005, gained particular church status this spring. In the coming year we plan to feature regularly these and the mission groups and churches listed below in EPNews.

The following are our 25 current mission groups and churches. Please be in prayer for these churches and their leaders as they reach out into their communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ!

East – Church at Ridgebury-Slate Hill, NY (vacant), Gateway Community EPC-Slippery Rock, PA (Bob Stauffer), Grace-Pennington, NJ (Pedro Govantes), Living Hope-Haymarket, VA (Tim MacGowan) and Redeemer-Woodbridge, VA (David Fischler)

Florida – City Church-Homestead, FL (Chris Coppolo), and EPC-Orlando-Oviedo, FL (Bob Hopper).

Mid-America – City Church-St. Louis, MO (Mike Werkheiser and Phil Woods), Cornerstone Fellowship-Bemidji, MN (Jack High), Gateway to Grace-St. Louis, MO (Brad Werner), Harmony Hills-Janesville, WI (Gary Shields) and Mercy Road Fellowship-St. Peters, MO (Darden Caylor). Also, Brett Eubank has been approved to pursue a plant in Springfield, MO this summer.

Mid-Atlantic – Christ Covenant Ministry-Spotsylvania, VA (Bill Lindner), iSight-Montreat, NC (Josh Schatzle), Hope-Raleigh, NC (William Enns), Peace-Durham, NC (James Banks), North Grove-Wilmington, NC (Bryan Slater).

Midwest – Discovery-Evansville, IN (Trey McClain), The Well-Brighton, MI (Jeff Waterman).

NW/EPC TP – Grace Community Fellowship-Ottawa, KS (Kent Matthews), New Creation-Joplin, MO (Cliff Mansley).

Southeast – Trinity-Loganville, GA (Scott Emmons), Riverside-Knoxville, TN (Jimmy Davis).

West – Emmaus Road-Danville, CA (Robin Kelley), Neighborhood Mission Church-Littleton, CO (Eugene Scott and Mike Klassen).

The **Urban Ministry Network (UMN)** has grown to fifteen churches, three para-church groups that enjoy a relationship with the EPC, and twenty-three leaders. UMN met at Community Evangelistic EPC (Mark Swain, pastor) in Knoxville, TN September 28-30, 2008. We are confident the UMN-sponsored “Mission Possible: Serving the ‘Weak, Wounded and Without’ in Your City” will be a great Assembly Workshop.

Evaluation of **Church Planter Assessing and Equipping** (formerly CPAC) was undertaken by an NOC-appointed ad hoc group of John Adamson, Eli Morris, Wes Mabin, Shawn Robinson, Rodger Woodworth and Jeff Jeremiah. This group met in Memphis, TN to interview knowledgeable people in church planting and church planter assessment. In recognition that the culture of EPC church planting needs an overhaul, it was decided to gather a small group of church planters to do vision-casting for EPC church planting. Jim Holland, Bob Hopper, Tom Melton, Mike Moses and Tom Ricks, who all have experience with multiple church plants, met with Church Multiplication Ministry consultants January 14-15, 2009 in Atlanta to do this. “A Vision for Church Planting” was reviewed, revised and approved by NOC in April. Members of NOC, CDC’s and RCDC’s have committed to sharing and receiving input to this document from presbytery leaders. The Basic Training and Advanced Training seminars of Global Church Advancement have been identified as excellent equipping opportunities for prospective church planters. These seminars take place in January and July in Orlando, FL.

#### **Regional Church Development Coordinator (RCDC)**

Wes Mabin is in his third year as the RCDC in the Presbytery of Florida. Other presbyteries that have added this position include Robert Hodge (Southeast), Ken Priddy (Mid-Atlantic) and Bill Rasch (Midwest). We are encouraged to know that all of our presbyteries are discussing the possibility of this position, which is partially funded out of NOC funds for the first two years.

A special moment at our 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly last year was the commissioning of **Home Missionaries** John and Diane Davis and Thomas Covington. You read about

the challenges the Davis's face in Laredo, TX in the May 14 edition of EP News. While we received many inquiries, no applications for Home Missionary status were sent to us in the past year. The committee approved All Saints-Memphis, TN (Waring Porter, pastor) as the 2009 recipient of the **Bart L. Hess Award**.

**Recommendations to the General Assembly**

**Recommendation NOC-1**

That the Assembly approve the following revision to the **Rules for Assembly, 10-1.C**:

<b>Existing Wording 10-1.C</b>	<b>Proposed Wording (additions in <i>italics</i>)</b>
<p>C. Committee on National Outreach</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Membership to be nine members, including three "at large" members in order to add greater breadth and depth of experience. Chairman is to be elected by committee.</li> <li>2. Duties: to give oversight and planning to the domestic ministries in church planting, evangelism, and church development.</li> </ol>	<p>C. Committee on National Outreach</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Membership to be <i>three nine members including three members including three "at large" members in order to add greater breadth and depth of experience.</i> Chairman is to be elected by committee.</li> <li>2. Duties: <i>to give oversight and planning to the domestic ministries in church planting, evangelism, and church development.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>To coordinate, encourage and provide resources for church planting, evangelism, and church development efforts of presbyteries and churches.</i></li> <li>b. <i>To provide oversight of Church Planter Assessing and Equipping, the Home Missionary application process, the Urban Ministries Network (UMN) and to encourage the pursuit of ethnic domestic ministry opportunities.</i></li> </ol> </li> </ol>

Grounds: For the past three years the National Outreach Committee has engaged in a thorough review of its mission and ministry to the EPC. It has identified those activities that are best done at the national committee level and sought to "push down" to the presbyteries those activities that are best pursued at that level. During this time, the NOC met jointly with presbytery Church Development Committee chairs. Recognizing that the CDC's are closer to the local level, NOC asked the



CDC's to experiment with meeting and taking care of those items focusing on church planting and church revitalization. Given the success of this experiment we are unanimous in proposing this change.

NOC has concluded that the best way to pursue church planting, church revitalization and evangelism is to support the presbyteries and churches as they take responsibility for these activities. Through the Church Development Committees (in some cases, Church Planting and Church Revitalization Committees), the presbyteries are organizing themselves to accomplish these tasks. NOC's role in this reconfiguration would be to serve the presbyteries by gathering CDC chairs twice a year for networking, coordinating, encouraging and providing resources to the work of the presbyteries.

At the national level, NOC believes its future role is to oversee Church Planter Assessing and Equipping, the Home Missionary application process and the Urban Ministries Network (UMN), and to encourage the pursuit of ethnic domestic ministry opportunities as they arise. Given this change of responsibilities, the NOC believes that a committee consisting of three persons, working with the Stated Clerk's office, can handle these responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Robinson, Chairman

June 2009

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**National Transitional Presbytery Report**  
29th General Assembly

Members of the National Transitional Presbytery Commission are John Adamson (chair), Jerry Brundle, John Graham (secretary), Woody Johnson, John Mabray, Cecil Matthews, Carolyn Nystrom and Alan Smith. Jeff Jeremiah served the committee in an *ex officio* capacity.

**The Work of the Commission**

The Commission met via telephone conference call on December 2, 2008 and March 10, 2009.

**Churches and Ministers Received:**

- Pioneer Presbyterian Church – Winters, CA (Robert L. Badgley, Pastor) on December, 2, 2008.
- Resurrection Church – Downers Grove, IL (Robert C. Price, Pastor) on March 10, 2009.

**Churches and Ministers Dismissed:**

- Resurrection Church - Downers Grove, IL (Robert C. Price, Pastor) to Mid-America Presbytery on April, 25, 2009.

**Recommendations to the General Assembly**

None

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamson, Chairman



*John Adamson*  
*Chairman*

June 2009



*Dean Weaver  
Co-Chairman*

**New Wineskins EPC  
Transitional Presbytery  
Joint Commission Report  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**



*Bill Meyer  
Co-Chairman*

Members of the NWEPC Joint Commission are RE Chris Danusiar (Mid-America), RE Ed Wedin (Central South), TE Marty Martin (West), RE Zelda Artz (East), and TE Bill Meyer (Florida).

Transitional Presbytery members are: TE Dean Weaver, (Memorial Park PC, Pittsburgh, PA), TE Gerrit Dawson (First PC, Baton Rouge, LA), TE Randy Jenkins (Central PC, Huntsville, AL), RE Patricia Dietz, (Bay PC, Bay Village, OH), RE Dennis Gorman (Faith PC, Quincy, IL). Ex Officio: Jeff Jeremiah, Stated Clerk, Bill Vogler, CoA Chairman, Allen Roes, Moderator, Nate Atwood, Moderator-Elect, Mac McCarty, TP Stated Clerk. Patricia Dietz and Dennis Gorman were elected to the Joint Commission to fill vacancies created by the resignation of TE Carmen Fowler and RE Renee Guth. The Joint Commission met a total of 30 times since the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly; 28 meetings via conference call, and face to face meetings in Orlando, FL (Oct. 10 – 11, 2008) and in Livonia, MI (March 30 – 31, 2009).

**The Work of the Commission:**

**A. Powers**

According to the Act of the 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the Powers of the Joint Commission are:

- Constitute and oversee the organization and operation of the NWEPC Transitional Presbytery according to the “Structure for Receiving Churches and Pastors Transitionally” and serve as its liaison and reporting body to the General Assembly.
- Receive churches and pastors into the NWEPC Transitional Presbytery according to the provisions of the “Structure for Receiving Churches and Pastors Transitionally.”

**B. Work of the Commission**

- **Receiving churches and pastors.** Since the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, 13 congregations and 17 pastors have been received ( 2 congregations and 3 pastors of these have been received pending their dismissal from their

current Presbyteries.) The total membership is 43 congregations with approximately 20,000 members and 68 pastors. (See Appendix A “Membership”)

- **The work of the Transitional Presbytery.** The Transitional Presbytery/Support Network met three times. June 17, 2008 Bethesda, MD, November 10 – 11, 2008 Bay Village, OH.

Transitional Presbytery Coordinating Council

Moderator, TE Randy Jenkins, Huntsville, AL

Stated Clerk, RE Mac McCarty, Downingtown, PA

Deputy SC, RE Patricia Dietz, Bay Village, OH

Ministry Committee, TE Rick Wolling, Pittsburgh, PA

Equipping Committee, TE Bill Kelly, Parkesburg, PA

Church Development Committee. TE Garnett Slatton, Bay

Village, OH

Judicial Committee, TE Rus Howard, Hudson, OH

Ministry Mobilizer, TE Andy Curtis. Pottstown, PA

This Coordinating Council is responsible for the week to week operation of the Transitional Presbytery according to the Constitution of the New Wineskins Association. This includes the normal services that Presbyteries provide for their member congregations and pastors.

One of the key components of the missional vision of the NWEPC is to gather congregations and pastors together in ministry networks in order to better facilitate the missional development of those congregations and pastors. A significant step forward in this direction began on Feb. 1, 2009 when Rev. Andy Curtis began serving the TP as its Ministry Mobilizer. Andy’s primary function is to visit congregations and ministry networks to encourage, train, facilitate, and mentor congregations and pastors in missional practices. It is significant that the first paid position in this Presbytery is not clerical in nature, but missional.

### **C. Looking Forward**

When this process began at the 27<sup>th</sup> GA, the EPC was several years into its desire to think and act “missionally” even though we were not too sure exactly what that meant. We had discovered that the member churches of the New Wineskins Association were also committed to the same future. Together we committed ourselves to “seek to be a missional, Evangelical, Reformed and Presbyterian body that brings glory to God as He extends his kingdom in the U. S. and the world through us.” (Structure for Receiving Churches and Pastors Transitionally. 27<sup>th</sup>. GA)

On March 30-31, 2009, the Joint Commission met with the Coordinating Council of the Transitional Presbytery at the GA office for the purpose of “looking forward.” It was very gratifying, that as we focused our attention on the vision of becoming actively missional together which we all believe is the main reason we are together, the issues that we all recognize as needing to be resolved, became less important. We affirmed our belief that as we work toward becoming more missional together, the Lord will provide the wisdom needed to work out the details satisfactorily.

Out of that shared commitment, the “Becoming One” process was developed. (See Attachment B “Becoming One”). We believe that as the member churches and pastors of the NWEPC Transitional Presbytery become full participating members of the EPC geographical Presbyteries, the missional focus that we all desire will be advanced. We are committed to working the process so that all of our issues can be resolved in a manner that respects the principles of biblical interpretation, the consciences and the theological integrity of all.

The process “Becoming One” is being presented to the members of the NWEPC TP at their meeting on June 23 for study and will be acted upon at their meeting on October 6, 2009 at Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church. It is the goal of the Joint Commission and the Coordinating Council to work with the churches and pastors of the TP and the EPC Presbyteries so that the needs and schedules of both are respected as we work out this process of becoming one missional, Evangelical, Reformed and Presbyterian body over the next three years.

### **Recommendations to the General Assembly**

#### **Recommendation NWEPC-1**

That the General Assembly instruct the Committee on Administration to have the responsibility for directing the process of our becoming a missional denomination.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Meyer, Co-Chairman  
Dean Weaver, Co-Chairman

June 2009

# ATTACHMENT NWEPC-A

## Membership

### NWEPC Transitional Presbytery/Support Network

May 4, 2009

\*Churches & Pastors pending dismissal

#### Alabama

- Central Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, Dr. Randall Jenkins

#### California

- First Presbyterian, Roseville, Dr. Jim Barstow, Rev. Nancy Duff, Rev. Elizabeth Shaw
- Fair Oaks Presbyterian, Fair Oaks, Rev. Kirk Bottomly
- Sierra Presbyterian, Nevada City, Rev. Scott Dickson, Rev. Dr. Linda Line, Rev. Tom Naylor
- Fallbrook Presbyterian, Fallbrook, Rev. Jerome Marroquin

#### Connecticut

- Covenant Presbyterian, Simsbury, Rev. Sean Martin, Rev Brad Moser

#### Florida

- New Hope Presbyterian, Ft. Myers, Rev. Dr. Bill Stephens, Rev. Stu Austin

#### Illinois

- Faith Presbyterian Church, Quincy, Rev. Rodney Baker, Rev. Kevin McGinnis

#### Indiana

- Attica-Williamsport Presbyterian, Rev. Daniel Bloesch
- Wallace Street Presbyterian, Indianapolis, Rev. Douglas Barnes

#### Kansas

- Lighthouse Presbyterian, Paola, Rev. Kirk Johnston, Rev. Brad Buescher
- Hillsdale Presbyterian, Hillsdale, Rev. Laurie Johnston
- Grace Community Fellowship (mission group), Ottawa, Rev. Kent Mathews

#### Louisiana

- First Presbyterian, Baton Rouge, Rev. Dr. Gerrit Dawson, Rev. Whitney Alexander, Rev. Alec Flynt, Rev. Dr. Dick Gates
- Woodland Presbyterian, New Orleans, Rev. Dr. Scott Luckey
- River Community, Prairieville, (vacant)
- River Church South, Gonzales, Rev. Russell Stevenson
- First Presbyterian, Thibodaux, Rev. Bill Crawford

#### Mississippi

- Covenant Presbyterian, Jackson, Rev. Steve Burton

#### Missouri

- New Creation Presbyterian, Joplin (Mission Group), Rev. Cliff Mansley
- Gashland Presbyterian, Kansas City, Rev. Ed Longabaugh

#### New Hampshire

- Orchard Christian Fellowship, Londonderry, Rev. Ken Glasier

## ATTACHMENT NWEPC-A

### New York

- Trinity EPC, Liverpool, Rev. Ray Gausman

### Ohio

- Hudson Presbyterian, Hudson, Rev. Dr. Rus Howard (interim)
- Bay Presbyterian, Bay Village, Rev. Garnett Slattton, Rev. Carol Rettew, Rev. Thomas Madden III, Rev. Dan Edgerly (RCA serving out of bounds)
- First Presbyterian, College Corner, Rev. Jason Bantz

### Oklahoma

- Kirk of the Hills, Tulsa, Dr. Tom Gray, Dr. Wayne Hardy, Dr. Jeffrey Reed

### Oregon

- Hope Presbyterian, Rogue River, Rev. Brian Boisen
- \*Sunset Presbyterian, Portland, Rev. Ron Kincaid, Rev. Ken Mulder

### Pennsylvania

- Upper Octorara Presbyterian Church, Parkesburg, Rev. William Kelly
- Forks of the Brandywine Presbyterian Church, Glenmore, Rev Paul Copeland (interim) (RCA serving outside bounds)
- Great Valley Presbyterian Church, Malvern, Rev. Dan Stewart
- Memorial Park Presbyterian, Allison Park, Rev. Dr. Dean Weaver, Rev. Dr. Kevin Gourley, Rev. Rob Sparr, Rev. Betsy Rumer
- Beverly Heights Presbyterian, Pittsburgh, Rev. Dr. Richard Wooling, Rev. Nate Devlin
- Peters Creek Presbyterian, Venetia, Doris Sawhill (CLP)
- Chippewa United Presbyterian, Beaver Falls, Rev. Scott Graham
- Fort Palmer Presbyterian, Bolivar, James Tomb (CLP)
- Fourth Presbyterian, Pittsburgh, (vacant)
- St. Paul's Presbyterian, Somerset, Rev. Keith Fink

### Tennessee

- Signal Mountain Presbyterian, Signal Mountain, Dr. Bill Dudley, Rev. Timothy Filston, Rev. Chris Robinson, Rev. David Burke

### Texas

- Faith Presbyterian, Brownsville, Rev. Jess Talley
- \*Trinity Presbyterian, Texarkana, Rev. Russell Wilkins
- Lifepath Church (formerly Copperfield), Houston, Rev. Elliot Scott, Rev. Greg Brady

### Other pastor members

- Rev. Ken Chivers, Orlando, FL serving with Samaritan's Purse Ministry
- Rev. Steven Strickler, Lenoir, NC serving as associate pastor, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
- Rev. Andy Curtis, Pottstown, PA serving as TP/SN Mission Mobilizer
- Rev. Hu Auburn, Bay Village, OH retired
- Rev. Wayne Bogue, South Carolina w/o call
- Rev. Eric Amundson, Fair Oaks, CA w/o call
- Rev. Chris Alford, Fair Oaks, CA w/o call

## Becoming One

### The process for the NWEPC Transitional Presbytery/ Support Network for the next 3 years – 29<sup>th</sup> GA – 32<sup>nd</sup> GA

Becoming one missional, evangelical, Reformed, Presbyterian Body that is being used by our Lord to further His Kingdom in the world, has been the vision that gave birth to concept of the NWEPC TP/SN within the EPC. This process is designed to provide for those churches and pastors who are now members of the NWEPC TP and those who will become members to enter into full membership in the EPC.

1. Existing and entering NWEPC TP/SN churches and pastors will begin to be received into the geographic EPC Presbyteries according to the provisions of the EPC *Book of Government* beginning after the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (June 2009) with the goal of having the process completed by the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (June 2012).
  - Congregations and Pastors so received will have the option of becoming joint members of both the TP/SN and their geographic Presbytery. For joint membership churches and pastors, the geographic Presbytery will be responsible for their ecclesiastical/ governance matters, and both the TP/SN and the geographic Presbytery will provide equipping ministry toward the missional goal.
  - The timetable for movement will be such so as to respect the needs and processes of both the Presbyteries and the congregations/pastors of the TP/SN.
  - The Ministry & Church Development Committees of the geographic Presbyteries will provide assistance to the churches and pastors as needed for the process.
  
2. Operational focus of TP/SN during the “Becoming One” process
  - The primary focus will be the development of missional practices and not ecclesiastical/governance responsibilities.
  - The Mission Mobilizer of the TP/SN will continue to function as a facilitator to congregations and pastors for the development of missional practices and Ministry Networks among both TP/SN and EPC congregations. Funding will come from per member askings of the TP/SN.
  - Ecclesiastical/governance needs such as pastoral transitions, candidates, church planting will be provided for as follows:

**Joint Membership churches and pastors** will be served by their geographic Presbytery.

**Transitional Presbytery member churches** will be encouraged to proceed with the process of being received into their geographic Presbytery



## ATTACHMENT NWEPC-B

prior to meeting these needs so there will be continuity during the process. This will eliminate the need for new pastors, etc. having to go through the same process in both the NWEPC TP and in their eventual geographic Presbytery. If it seems more appropriate in a given situation, the TP/SN will handle the process.

- National meetings of the TP/SN will focus mainly on missional development.
3. Women Teaching Elders
- It is recognized that this issue is potentially troublesome in some EPC geographic Presbyteries. We continue to observe and support the work of the geographic Presbyteries as they discern their positions in the area of Teaching Elder examination and ordination. We affirm the Presbytery's responsibility in determining the level of each candidate's qualifications for this office. We pray that this issue will be resolved in a manner that respects the principles of biblical interpretation of all, the consciences of all, and the theological integrity of all.
4. Financial Realities - Per Member Askings
- The financial strain that many TP/SN congregations have experienced as a result of leaving their former denomination is real and recognized.
  - The financial strain placed upon the EPC's General Assembly related to receiving and continuing to service the needs of the congregations and pastors of the TP/SN is real and recognized.
  - As TP/SN congregations and pastors begin to move into the geographic Presbyteries, it is recognized that the receiving Presbyteries will incur financial costs arising directly from the receiving process.
  - As a part of their budgeting process, TP/SN congregations are encouraged to acknowledge and consider all these realities; to fully pay or fairly divide the financial support (Per Member Askings) requested of them by the TP/SN, General Assembly, and, when they become joint members, their new geographic Presbyteries. And they are encouraged to forward their 2009 Per Member Askings to both the TP/SN and the General Assembly in a timely manner. They are reminded that the 2009 PMA is \$20 for the TP/SN and \$25 for the GA.
5. Work of the Joint Commission
- It will continue to serve those New Wineskin Association of Churches (NWAC) congregations and pastors seeking to join the EPC through the TP/SN. Non-NWAC congregations will be served by the National Transitional Presbytery or the geographic Presbyteries.
  - It will continue to oversee the TP/SN and assist in the receiving process with geographic Presbyteries as necessary.

## ATTACHMENT NWEPC-B

- The act of the 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly establishing the Joint Commission and allowing for the creation of the New Wineskins EPC Transitional Presbytery called for a five year transitional period ending with the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly in 2012. Therefore, the NWEPC Joint Commission and the NWEPC Transitional Presbytery will cease to exist after the 2012 General Assembly unless modified by a future General Assembly

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**Report of the Nominating Committee**  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

**Moderator Nominee – Reverend Nate Atwood**

The Nominating Committee is pleased to place into nomination for Moderator of the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Reverend Nate Atwood, senior pastor at Kempsville Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia, has served as Moderator-elect this past year.

Reverend Atwood has been in the ministry since 1982 and was ordained in the Presbyterian Church in 1987. Nate earned a B. A. in Religion and Speech/Communication and graduated as the Bernard W. Boyd Fellow in Religious Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He earned his Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary in 1986.



*Nate Atwood  
Nominee for Moderator  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly*

Nate has served in a variety of ministry positions ranging from Youth Pastor to Senior Pastor to Moderator of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery. Former ministries include Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church in Beverly Hills, California; St. Giles Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina; and Perrow Presbyterian Church in Cross Lanes, West Virginia. Rev. Atwood has been Senior Pastor of Kempsville Presbyterian Church since 1999.

Nate's interests and leadership involvement is varied, including participation in the Oxford Round Table, co-founding a youth missions organization in Latin America, a daily radio program and acting as guest commentator on the Christian Broadcasting Network. Recognized as a community leader in the Tidewater area, he recently served as vice-chair of the Franklin Graham Festival and regularly networks with area pastors in order to strengthen the impact of the church in his community.

During his tenure at KPC, the church has grown from two to four weekend services, with an increase in worship attendance of 40% and giving increase of over 60%. Having maxed out their current facilities, KPC has entered into contract to purchase up to 100 acres of land for expanded ministry in the coming decades. "Our story is that of a church moving from maintenance to mission," Nate says. "While we have much work yet to do, we are consistently making progress as we shift our focus away from merely ministering ourselves to reaching and serving those who don't yet know Christ."

Nate and his wife Helen, have been married 26 years and have seven children, Lauren, Wesley, Daniel, Sarah, Hannah, Noah and Ethan.

### Moderator-Elect Nominee – Mr. Rob Liddon



*Rob Liddon  
Nominee for Moderator-Elect  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly*

Mr. Rob Liddon, ruling elder at Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee has been nominated as the Moderator-Elect of the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

Rob was born 1950 in Corinth, Mississippi and received an undergraduate degree in economics from Vanderbilt University and a law degree from Columbia University. Upon graduation from law school, he moved to Memphis and began three decades of work for the firm which has become Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell and Berkowitz. In his practice he's handled primarily commercial real estate and lending transactions.

Rob and his wife Susan were married on New Years Eve 1977 and joined Second Presbyterian Church when they moved to a nearby neighborhood in 1979. They still live in this home where they raised their three children. Over the years at Second, Rob has

served as a deacon, ruling elder (since the early '90s), Steering Committee of the Session, chancel choir for 30 years, children's Sunday school teacher, Boy Scout leader, various search, stewardship and study committees, legal counsel to Second and its foundations, judicial commissions, and short-term mission trips. At present, he is the Assistant Clerk of the Session (slated to become clerk next year) and curriculum coordinator for his Sunday school class. Serving in the Central South Presbytery, he has recently been Moderator and currently serves as Chairman of the Coordinating Council.

Rob has expressed how humbled he is to be considered as the Moderator-Elect as there are many who have worked so much harder and done so much more than he. If elected, he stated he will do his best to acquit himself so as not to disappoint those who have asked him to serve and, with providence and protection from the Holy Spirit, to bring honor to the EPC and to the kingdom of God.

**Slate of Nominations – Permanent Committees & Boards**

*(Some names were not available at the time of printing  
and will be announced at the General Assembly  
meeting.)*

**Committee on Administration**

Class of 2012	TE Jeff Chadwick RE Hadley DePuy RE Gary Fields	(Central South) (East) (West)
Class of 2010	TE Doug Klein	West

**Board of Benefits**

Class of 2012	RE John Baird TE Ron Horgan	(Midwest) (Mid-Atlantic)
Class of 2011	_____	

**Committee on Christian Education & Publications**

Class of 2012	TE David Brogren Ms. Bonnie Linder	(West) (Midwest)
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**Committee on College Ministries**

Class of 2012	RE Jeff Sich Mr. Dan Rose	(Mid-America) (Midwest)
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**EPC Foundation**

Class of 2012	Mr. Ron Chiricosta RE Ted Hailes	(Mid-Atlantic) (Central South)
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**Committee on Fraternal Relations**

Class of 2012	TE Jimmy McGuire TE Rob Norris	(Midwest) (East)
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**Committee on Ministerial Vocation**

Class of 2012	RE Walter Brown TE Fred Lian	(East) (West)
Class of 2010	TE George Yates	(East)

**Committee on National Outreach**

Pending approval of Recommendation #11 to form the National Outreach Committee with three members, the following three names are placed in nomination:

Class of 2012	RE Carolyn Nystrom	(Mid-America)
Class of 2011	RE Francis Clepper	(Southeast)
Class of 2010	TE Ben Borsay	(Midwest)

**Permanent Judicial Commission**

Class of 2012	TE Steve Riser RE Jim Rimmell RE Ron Schwedland	(Southeast) (East) (Midwest)
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**Presbytery Review**

Class of 2012 TE Dennis Flach (Central South)

**Committee on Student Ministries**

Class of 2012 Ms. Jessica Gable (East)  
Mr. Shawn Stewart (Mid-Atlantic)  
Mr. Jay Westra (Mid-America)

**Committee on Theology**

Class of 2012 TE Mike Glodo (Florida)  
RE Dick Miller (Central South)

**Committee on Women In Ministry**

Class of 2012 Ms. Dianne Buehler (Central South)  
Ms. Lilian Werner (Mid-America)

**World Outreach**

Class of 2012 Ms. Cathy Hartman (West)  
TE James Murphy (West)  
RE Bob Sluka (Midwest)  
Class of 2010 Ms. Helena Wolf (East)

**Additional Recommendation:**

That the Rules for Assembly 11-4 be amended to allow for the Nominating Committee to begin its work earlier in the year.

Current Wording of Rules for Assembly 11-4	Proposed Wording for Rules for Assembly 11-4
<p>11-4 Duties:</p> <p>1. Nominees for Moderator-elect: The committee shall advise each Presbytery following the meeting of the Assembly of the privilege of that Presbytery to recommend to the committee a person for Moderator-elect of the General Assembly. Such recommendation shall be forwarded to the committee no later than March 31 of that year. After March 31, the committee shall evaluate the recommendations of the Presbyteries, as well as other recommendations it may receive, and at the next meeting of the Assembly shall recommend no more than two persons as its</p>	<p>11-4 Duties:</p> <p>1. Nominees for Moderator-elect: The committee shall advise each Presbytery following the meeting of the Assembly of the privilege of that Presbytery to recommend to the committee a person for Moderator-elect of the General Assembly. Such recommendation shall be forwarded to the committee no later than <del>March 31</del> <b>February 28</b> of that year. After <del>March 31</del> <b>February 28</b>, the committee shall evaluate the recommendations of the Presbyteries, as well as other recommendations it may receive, and at the next meeting</p>

<p>nominees for Moderator-elect. At that time, nominations may also be made from the floor. Election shall be by a majority vote of the Assembly. Nominees of the committee shall be advised of their pending nomination, ordinarily no less than thirty days prior to the meeting of the General Assembly.</p>	<p>of the Assembly shall recommend no more than two persons as its nominees for Moderator-elect. At that time, nominations may also be made from the floor. Election shall be by a majority vote of the Assembly. Nominees of the committee shall be advised of their pending nomination, ordinarily no less than thirty days prior to the meeting of the General Assembly.</p>
<p>2. Nominees for Moderator: Ordinarily, the Committee shall nominate the Moderator-elect for Moderator of the succeeding Assembly. However, if the Moderator-elect is unable or declines such nomination or the Committee deems it unwise to do so, it shall nominate at least one but not more than two candidates for Moderator utilizing the same procedures as for Moderator-elect.</p>	<p>(No change proposed)</p>
<p>3. To nominate to the Assembly persons for vacancies of all Assembly permanent committees. Recommendations from Sessions or Presbyteries shall be forwarded to the Committee no later than April 30 of that year. The Endorsement for Nomination form shall be used and shall reflect official action of the Session or the Presbytery.</p>	<p>3. To nominate to the Assembly persons for vacancies of all Assembly permanent committees. Recommendations from Sessions or Presbyteries shall be forwarded to the Committee no later than <del>April 30</del> <b>February 28</b> of that year. The Endorsement for Nomination form shall be used and shall reflect official action of the Session or Presbytery</p>
<p>4. To name from the Commissioners to the Assembly those who will serve on the various standing committees of the Assembly.</p>	<p>(No change proposed)</p>
<p>5. The Committee shall meet in May each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator-elect or Moderator of the General Assembly as the case may be and for permanent committees.</p>	<p>5. The Committee shall meet in <del>May</del> <b>March</b> each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator-elect or Moderator of the General Assembly as the case may be and for permanent committees.</p>

Grounds: The proposed changes move the endorsing and nominating process earlier in the year. By doing so, the Nominating Committee will be less rushed and have better opportunity to make considered decisions regarding nominees for Moderator-elect and for permanent committees.



## STANDING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Standing Committee Assignments are made by the Nominating Committee following the deadline for registration.

### Standing Committee Assignments – 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

<b>Administration</b>		
TE	John	Crimmins (Chairman)
RE	David	Satterthwaite (Clerk)
RE	Jerry	Alpert
RE	Ronald	Bengelink
RE	Terese	Block
TE	Jeff	Chadwick
TE	Keith	Cobb
TE	William	Dudley
TE	Dave	Fenska
RE	Steven	Frost
RE	Ted	Galyon
RE	Reggie	Garland
RE	Bruce	Glanzer
TE	Douglas	Graham
RE	Sue	Hartley
TE	Marc	Huebl
RE	John	Ivy
RE	Cecil	Matthews
TE	Tim	Mindling
RE	John	Nowacki
RE	George	Paulson
TE	Rhett	Payne
TE	Hal	Polk Jr.
RE	Lee	Reibel
RE	Ken	Roberts
RE	Dale	Schaefer
RE	Mark	Sharpnack
TE	Nancy	Stewart
TE	Wayne	Uppendahl
TE	Jerry	Voss
TE	Richard	White
TE	Rodger	Woodworth
RE	Allen	Roes (Resource)
RE	John	Adamson (Resource)

<b>Christian Ed. &amp; Publications</b>		
RE	Rodger	Nienhuis, Chairman
RE	Lesia	Hart, Clerk
TE	Steve	Brown

TE	Ritchey	Cable
RE	Ralph	Cleaver
RE	Bob	Donan
RE	Gordon	Doughman
TE	Donald	Elliott
TE	Chris	English
TE	Bruce	Finfrock
TE	David	Fischler
RE	Sharon	Huenink
RE	Kay	Kayser
RE	Milton	Knowlton
TE	John	Mabray
RE	Mary	Madsen
RE	Mike	Miga
TE	Kelly	Negus
TE	Buck	Oliphant
RE	Virginia	Patterson
RE	Bob	Roach
RE	Ray	Sawmiller
TE	Jonathan	Sharpe
RE	Rush	Sherrill, Jr.
TE	Don	Shipley, Jr.
RE	Geoff	Skelton
TE	Don	Sweeting
RE	Andrew	Warner
TE	Alan	Wright
RE	Dick	Young
TE	Tommy	Overton, Resource
RE	Dan	Tidwell, Resource
TE	James	Blaha, Resource

<b>College Ministries</b>		
TE	Rick	Stauffer, Chairman
RE	Dexter	Kuhlman, Clerk
TE	Roger	Alford
TE	Tim	Brown
RE	David	Burke
RE	Craig	Cramer
RE	Jamie	Cupschalk
RE	Larry	Doak
RE	Greg	Fisher

RE	David	Gordon
RE	Victor	Hildebrand
TE	Dan	Hooker
RE	Mark	Ingles
TE	Chuck	Jacob
RE	Bill	Kerschbaum
TE	Bill	Langston
TE	Daniel	Mahlmeister
TE	Doug	Mann
RE	Caz	Minter
TE	Ross	O'Dell
TE	Pat	Palmer
TE	Tom	Reesor
RE	Richard	Rieves
RE	Rob	Schermerhorn
TE	Wally	Schram
TE	Bill	Simmons
RE	Sandy	Stuart
RE	Craig	Vanbiber
RE	Brad	Werner

<b>Fraternal Relations</b>		
RE	Candace	McCune, Chairman
TE	Ron	DiNunzio, Clerk
TE	Duane	Armistead
RE	Richard (Terry)	Beckloff
TE	Sharon	Beekmann
RE	Gwynn	Blair
RE	Ted	Brandsma
RE	Phil	Buehler
RE	Jerry	Dosh
TE	Timothy	Filston
TE	George	Garrison
TE	Eric	Geil
TE	Jim	Glasgow
RE	Dick	Hockema
RE	Charles	Humphriss
TE	Bill	Lindner
RE	Scott	Long
RE	Rick	Martin
TE	Don	Mason
RE	Michael	Reynolds

RE	Norman	Roberts
TE	Bob	Stauffer
RE	Don	Stickney
TE	Jim	Thyne
TE	Brian	Tweedie
TE	Doug	Walker
TE	Andrew	Wells
RE	Richard	Wells
TE	George	Wood, Resource
TE	Don	Fortson III, Resource

### Memorials & Appreciation

RE	John	Baird, Chairman
TE	Ken	Van Kampen, Clerk
RE	Dave	Bousquette
RE	Gary	Dunn
RE	Scott	Kayser
RE	John	Manon
TE	Rufus	Smith
TE	Roger	Spence
RE	Hillard	Strong

### Ministerial Vocation

TE	Bob	Wilbur, Chairman
TE	Austin	Olive, Clerk
RE	Lee	Ault
TE	Dan	Borgelt
TE	David	Brown
RE	Priscilla	Caine
TE	Ron	Cox
RE	Bob	Everest
TE	Tim	Foster
RE	Larry	Godley
TE	Glen	Francis
TE	Dennis	Henn
TE	Jeff	Juday
RE	Edward	June
RE	Rob	Liddon
RE	Thomas	Mackie
RE	Barbara	Mansfield
TE	Tom	Masterson
TE	Scott	McKee

TE	David	McLean
TE	Cooper	McWhirter
TE	Bill	Moore
RE	Olin	Morris
TE	Phil	Muir
RE	Ralph	Phillips
RE	David	Rilling
RE	Carl	Sacherich
TE	Tom	Sawyer
RE	Karen	Sutton
RE	Tom	Swieboda
RE	Rich	Turnblom
RE	Ed	Wedin
TE	Alan	Wildsmith
RE	Ted	Winters

### National Outreach

RE	Bill	Brooks, Chairman
TE	David	Galbraith, Clerk
RE	Scott	Boggs
TE	Brian	Checchio
RE	Frank	Clepper
RE	Carroll	Coakley
RE	Steve	Foster
TE	Kurt	Gebhard
RE	Ted	Hailes
RE	Jim	Harris
TE	Robert	Hodge
TE	Bill	Hyer
RE	Alan	Johnson
TE	Woody	Johnson
TE	Brian	LaMew
RE	Vance	Luke
TE	Gary	McGhee
TE	Bill	Meyer
RE	Jim	Mindling
TE	Eli	Morris
TE	Mike	Moses
RE	Kevin	Pavlik
TE	Waring	Porter
TE	Bob	Shull
RE	Leon	Smith
TE	Phil	Thrash
RE	Wendy	Walker
RE	Russ	Wing

RE	Church	Zeiser
TE	Ben	Borsay, Resource
TE	Shawn	Robinson, Resource

### Overtures & Resolutions

TE	George	Yates, Chairman
TE	Michael	Thomas, Clerk
TE	Richard	Alberta
RE	Bruce	Alexander
TE	Jeremy	Bedenbaugh
RE	Bill	Bumford
TE	Marty	Fields
TE	Mike	Frison
RE	Donald	Harms
RE	Paul	Heidebrecht
TE	Dan	Hendley
RE	Thomas	Henson
TE	Jeff	Kim
RE	Scott	Knight
TE	Ian	Leslie
TE	Adam	Long
RE	Carl	Martin
TE	Ryan	McVicar
RE	Mel	Medema
RE	Carolyn	Nystrom
RE	Thomas	Pate
TE	James	Quillin
RE	Bruce	Shown
RE	Dale	Smith
TE	Ramona	Spilman
RE	Fred	Tahan
TE	Jonathan	Weyer
RE	Earle	Woodberry
RE	Jerry	Clothier
RE	Ford	Cotton

### Student Ministries

TE	Chris	Lawson, Chairman
RE	Jonas (Joe)	McCoy, Clerk
RE	Terry	Boblitt
TE	Nathan	Carico

TE	Aaron	Carr
RE	Joe	Clements
TE	William	Enns
TE	Matthew	Everhard
RE	Kathy	Flake
RE	Eddie	Foster
RE	Vickie	Haney
RE	Janet	Herwaldt
RE	Rick	Hicks
RE	Martha	Intveld
TE	David	Kniffin
TE	Greg	Livingstone
RE	Chris	Martin
TE	Kevin	McDonald
RE	Stan	McKellar
RE	Jack	Nelson
TE	Dana	Opp
RE	Linda	Paulson
RE	Brad	Salter
RE	Steve	Sayers
TE	Brad	Simms
TE	Chris	Sneller
TE	Jason	Steele
TE	Mark	Steimer
RE	Fred	Teagle
TE	Brandon	Bates, Resource
TE	Chris	Robinson, Resource

#### Theology

RE	Alan	Shaffer, Chairman
RE	Peter	Scribner, Clerk
TE	Freddie	Albaugh
RE	Rick	Blair
RE	Bob	Bonness
TE	Scott	Bowen
RE	Edward	Carlsen
RE	Martin	Davis
RE	Mike	Fike
TE	Don	Hardman
TE	Zachery	Hicks
RE	Dick	Hile
TE	Ron	Horgan
RE	Michael	Horvath

RE	Allen	Jonas
TE	Mark	Jumper
TE	Dave	Long
TE	Marty	Martin, Jr.
RE	James	Ohlemacher
RE	Mark	Olson
RE	Donna	Peterson
RE	Annie	Rose
TE	Daniel	Rose
TE	Dave	Ruff
RE	Carolyn	Slingerland
TE	Clay	Smith
RE	Larry	Thompson
TE	Don	Van Dyke
TE	Mark	Vanderput
TE	David	Weber
TE	Sandy	Willson
TE	Jason	Wood
RE	Gordon	Miller, Resource
TE	Paul	Husband, Resource

#### Women In Ministry

RE	Jean	Smith, Chairman
RE	Barbara	Matthews, Clerk
TE	Jonathan	Becker
TE	Ed	Davis
RE	Pam	De Meester
RE	Anne	Galyon
RE	Timothy	Hall
RE	David	Haney
TE	Robert	Hock
RE	Ramona	Hockema
TE	Bob	Hopper
RE	Karen (Mary)	Irwin
RE	Jan	Juday
TE	David	Newsham
TE	Doug	Overall
TE	Bill	Rasch
RE	Samantha	Rinehart
TE	David	Robinson
TE	Daniel	Situka
RE	Alan	Smith
RE	Jim	Smith

TE	Neil	Smith
TE	Dan	Sonnenberg
RE	Doug	Storlie
TE	Steven	Strickler
RE	Scott	Van Dyke

#### World Outreach

TE	Don	Neighbors, Chairman
TE	Rich	Lanning, Clerk
RE	Zelda	Artz
TE	Robert	Barnett
TE	David	Block
RE	Jack	Boggs
RE	Jan	Bole
TE	Randy	Brown
RE	Calvin	Carnahan
RE	Miriam	Carnahan
RE	Rob	Cooper
TE	Thomas	Dages
TE	Chris	Deneen
RE	Ron	Eytchison
RE	Wayne	Grace
TE	Thomas	Holmes
RE	David	Jonckheere
TE	Steve	Keller
TE	Philip	Linton
TE	Dick	Little
RE	Diane	Manon
TE	Jack	Maxwell
RE	Bruce	Novkov
RE	Tod	Paulson
TE	Ron	Sadlow
RE	Ryan	Smith
TE	Doug	Thompson
RE	William	Webb
TE	Bruce	Anderson, Resource
RE	Mike	Aoun, Resource
TE	Thom	Burbridge, Resource

*Commissioners registered by June 16, 2008 were elected to Standing Committees by the Nominating Committee (Rules for Assembly 9-2).*

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**Report of the Permanent Judicial Commission**  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

Members of the Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) are: RE John Graham (Moderator), TE Don Galardi, TE Steve Riser, RE Harold (Jay) Curtis, TE Percy Burns, RE Sam Searcy, RE George Russell, TE Larry Carlson, and RE Reese Baker.

The PJC met on May 28-30, 2009 and completed the following actions since the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Minutes of such meetings have been filed in the Office of the General Assembly.



*John Graham*  
*Moderator*

**MATTERS REGARDING INTERPRETATION OF THE BOOK OF ORDER:**

**Overture 09-D** (*Handbook* pages 27-30): a proposal from the Mid-America Presbytery for a trial partial separation into two affinity presbyteries (*Handbook* pages 27-30). The Mid-America Presbytery has requested the General Assembly to permit the Presbytery to experiment with an affinity presbytery for a period of three years beginning in July 2009 and concluding with the General Assembly in 2012. The Stated Clerk of the General Assembly referred the proposal to PJC pursuant to BOG 16-27B.1

The Overture was received from the Mid-America Presbytery by the Office of the Stated Clerk in an appropriate and timely manner. The specific tasks of the PJC were to (1) determine if the Overture 09-D could be offered for acceptance as a request for action from the Mid-America Presbytery to the General Assembly to be held in 2009 with such request to be considered a legislative act of the Assembly and not as an amendment to the Constitution of the Church, and (2) to determine if Overture 09-D is compatible with the Constitution of the Church. The PJC considered these questions at its meeting on May 28, 2009 and continued that meeting on May 29, 2009. A quorum of the PJC was in attendance. Representatives of the Office of the General Assembly (namely the Stated Clerk, Dr. Jeremiah and Assistant Stated Clerk, Dr. McCallum) were in attendance and given the privilege of the floor without vote. Members of the "Implementation Committee" of the Mid-America Presbytery (TE Clay Smith and RE Carolyn Nystrom) were in attendance on the evening of May 28 and again on May 29 for a portion of the PJC meeting. Implementation Committee member RE Paul Heidebrecht was also in attendance via telephone conference call on May 29.

The PJC was also furnished prior to the meeting significant written materials including an eighty page report and notes of three oral reports prepared by the Ad Hoc Committee on Gender and Ordination used by Mid-America Presbytery during its deliberations on the matter. The Implementation Committee responded to written questions from the PJC prior to the meeting. The PJC acknowledges and appreciates the countless hours of labor that the Presbytery, Ad Hoc and Implementation Committees invested in this matter. The members of the Implementation Committee

expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate in person to present their overture to the PJC. At the conclusion of this thorough examination the representatives of the Implementation Committee were dismissed with the gratitude of the PJC for their assistance and participation.

The PJC wants the record to reflect that it recognizes and deeply appreciates the serious nature of the issues prompting the Mid-America Overture, the historical background and self-described struggle in the Mid-America Presbytery, the extraordinary effort and prayerful attention exhibited in working in harmony and love with one another, and the heartfelt and deep concern for the peace, purity, and unity of their presbytery reflected by the Implementation Committee in their presentation. Here it must be added that the PJC is saddened by the possibility that there may come a time when wonderful children of God might decide to divide themselves over an issue now established in the Church as a non-essential.

Following due deliberation and by unanimous vote, the following motion was approved:

**“Resolved that the PJC finds that the Mid-America Overture is not compatible with the Constitution of the Church and may not be acted upon by a General Assembly as an Act of the General Assembly, and requires an amendment to the Constitution to be enacted.”**

Therefore it is the interpretation of the PJC that under the *Book of Order* any such proposal, as described in the Mid-America Overture, must be presented to the General Assembly as an amendment to the Constitution and follow the process set forth therein.

BOG 16-27.B.1. requires the PJC to set forth its reasons for this interpretation. Therefore following the decision, the PJC spent significant time in formulating its reasons which are presented below.

First, the PJC wants to make clear that its reasons do not include:

1. Any consideration of the merits of such an overture if presented as an amendment to the Constitution of the Church, and
2. Any desire to suppress ongoing dialogue and discussion of the matters delineated in the Mid-America Overture.

Second, the following are the PJC’s reasons for this interpretation:

1. BOG 2-1 establishes a Presbyterian form of government with government by Elders, both Ruling and Teaching, meeting in courts in regular gradation. One of those Courts is a presbytery. In BOG 16-14 that court must be established within a geographical boundary. Among its duties a presbytery is to maintain the spiritual supervision of the churches within its bounds (BOG 16-16).

One possible interpretation of the Mid-America Overture is that it seeks to establish two presbyteries within the same geographical bounds. A second interpretation could be that it seeks to maintain only one presbytery in the geographical bounds which will have two Ministerial Committees. A third possible interpretation is that it seeks to establish three presbyteries within one geographical bound: two separate presbyteries for the singular purpose of dealing with the matters set forth in the overture and a third for all other presbytery matters.

Each of these possible interpretations is incompatible with the Constitution and is clearly not permitted without taking the deliberate steps to amend the Constitution to provide for such. Examples of incompatibility include:

- A) The BOG addresses the particular importance of the work of a presbytery ministerial committee, always refers to that committee in the singular, and does not allow for multiple ministerial committees in a presbytery (BOG 16-16.J and 16-27.A.),
  - B) Membership in a presbytery is based solely on geographical boundaries, not on an affirmation of a subset of beliefs or the vote of a session (BOG 16.14) and,
  - C) The Mid-America Overture denies the right of a congregation to petition a presbytery for membership by asserting the right of the Session to do so (BOG 5-4).
2. The Mid-America Overture is incompatible with BOG 3-2.B. which affirms the power of jurisdiction “shall always reflect the essential unity of the church.” Multiple ministerial committees in a presbytery do not reflect the essential unity of the Church because they represent dual authorities in one body.
  3. The Mid-America representatives acknowledge that the issue involved is a non-essential, yet assert that it violates liberty by creating a law that binds the conscience of both egalitarians and complementarians (defined as follows in the Mid-America Overture: “Egalitarians believe that our equality before God and in Christ necessitates equality in functional roles, especially within the ruling structures of the church. Complementarians believe that men and women were created by God equal in value and personhood, and equal in bearing His image, but that both creation and redemption indicate some distinct roles for men and women in the church, specifically that the role of elder/pastor is limited to qualified men”). The EPC Position Paper on the Ordination of Women (June, 1984) is the current expression of the position of the Church on this issue. If in fact the application of that Position Paper binds the conscience of anyone, the understanding of the PJC is that a non-essential is being made into an essential, thus requiring amendment to the Position Paper and amendment to the Constitution. The PJC interprets the Mid-America Overture as a proposal to raise a non-essential to an essential, and to separate a presbytery over its disagreement concerning the membership of women teaching elders. Separation over a non-essential is contrary to the declared

position of the Assembly. In non-essentials the EPC is committed to demonstrating liberty towards one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

4. The PJC is aware that what is being requested is framed as an experiment and temporary in nature. Nevertheless, it is precedent-setting and a very significant departure from the past practice of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The PJC is also aware that in February 2007, at the request of the Committee on Administration (COA), it reviewed a “Proposal to General Assembly, Structure for Receiving Churches Transitionally.” The PJC was faced with a similar question in its response to the COA’s request for interpretation, namely, could it be enacted by an Act of the Assembly or required amendment to the Constitution? At that time and for reasons clearly set forth in its interpretation the PJC resolved that the 2007 proposal was one which could be submitted to the General Assembly as an Act of the Assembly and did not require amendment to the Constitution. As a part of its discussion about the Mid-America Overture, the PJC reviewed its 2007 interpretation, noting that it was sustained by the General Assembly. The PJC determined that it is not precedent in this issue, which has significantly different facts and circumstances. Among these,
  - 1) The 2007 proposal provided a temporary administrative procedure allowing orderly reception of congregations and ministers into the EPC. If enacted, the result of the Mid-America Overture would be separation within an existing presbytery.
  - 2) The 2007 proposal did not affect the duties and responsibilities our Constitution grants to its presbyteries. If enacted, the result of the Mid-America Overture would be a significant change to the exercise of the duties and responsibilities our Constitution grants to its presbyteries.
  - 3) The 2007 proposal created a temporary external structure with results that are revocable. For example, receiving a church or minister into transitional membership in the EPC is easily revocable by the church, minister or EPC Transitional Presbytery. If enacted, the Mid-America Overture would produce a temporary internal structure, but with results that are irrevocable. For example, a presbytery’s act of receiving a church or minister into full membership is irrevocable.

The representatives from Mid-America asked, “If the PJC cannot accept our proposal, we plead with the commission to help us find some better solution to our problem.” The PJC hears and understands the representatives’ plea. It recognizes that members of the Mid-America Presbytery want to affirm the integrity of their vows and stay together without compromising their beliefs. What the PJC offers in this report in regard to the proposal as submitted to it is that Mid-America may pursue amendment to the Constitution in accordance with the BOG. The PJC sincerely prays that Mid-America will persevere together as a Presbytery in seeking a solution that will strengthen their life, unity, and witness

**MATTERS REGARDING AMENDMENT TO THE BOOK OF ORDER:**

1. **Recommendation ADM-3** (pages ADM-4 - ADM-6) a proposal from the Committee on Administration to amend *Book of Government* 16-22

The PJC reviewed the recommendation in accordance with the review standards set forth in the Constitution (G.16-27.B.2) and found the recommendation met the standards of clarity, consistency of language, and compatibility with other provisions of the Constitution with the exception of a redundancy in B1 and B.6. The PJC recommends the following changes in wording:

<b>Current wording of proposed amendment to G.22B</b>	<b>Recommended wording for proposed amendment to G.22-B</b>
<p>B. Ensures the denomination’s connectional life is consistent with Presbyterian polity as it is expressed in God’s Word. In doing so, it has the responsibility:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To assume review and control of the Presbyteries through an annual review of minutes, to remand what may be contrary to the Constitution, and to see that all lawful injunctions are followed.</li> <li>2. To establish, unite, divide, or dissolve Presbyteries.</li> <li>3. To approve and recommend to the Presbyteries such changes in the constitutional documents as it deems wise, fit and helpful. Such changes reported to the General Assembly by its Permanent Judicial Commission shall, upon approval:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Be referred to the Presbyteries, and</li> <li>b. Upon approval by a ¾’s majority of the Presbyteries and in a succeeding Assembly (unless constitutional provisions hereafter stated require a different vote) shall be enacted.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. To make final decisions on judicial cases brought before it</li> </ol>	<p>B. Ensures the denomination’s connectional life is consistent with Presbyterian polity as it is expressed in God’s Word. In doing so, it has the responsibility:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <del>To assume review and control of the Presbyteries through an annual review of minutes, to remand what may be contrary to the Constitution, and to see that all lawful injunctions are followed.</del></li> <li>1. To establish, unite, divide, or dissolve Presbyteries.</li> <li>2. To approve and recommend to the Presbyteries such changes in the constitutional documents as it deems wise, fit and helpful. Such changes reported to the General Assembly by its Permanent Judicial Commission shall, upon approval:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Be referred to the Presbyteries, and</li> <li>b. Upon approval by a ¾’s majority of the Presbyteries and in a succeeding Assembly (unless constitutional provisions hereafter stated require a different vote) shall be enacted.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. To make final decisions on judicial cases brought before it</li> </ol>



<p>in accordance with the <b>Book of Discipline</b>.</p> <p>5. To provide guidance for the theological preparation of candidates in mission fields outside North America where Presbyteries do not yet exist, and to arrange for the ordination, where appropriate, of those persons who are duly called and prepared for the office of Minister, Elder or Deacon.</p> <p>6. To hold presbyteries accountable, by exercising the principle of review and control through an annual review of minutes, for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Encouraging and equipping their local churches to fulfill the Great Commission, and</li> <li>b. Following the Constitution and all lawful injunctions.</li> </ol>	<p>in accordance with the <b>Book of Discipline</b>.</p> <p>4. To provide guidance for the theological preparation of candidates in mission fields outside North America where Presbyteries do not yet exist, and to arrange for the ordination, where appropriate, of those persons who are duly called and prepared for the office of Minister, Elder or Deacon.</p> <p>5. To hold presbyteries accountable, by exercising the principle of review and control through an annual review of minutes, for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Encouraging and equipping their local churches to fulfill the Great Commission, and</li> <li>b. <del>Following the Constitution</del> <i>and all Remanding what may be contrary to the Constitution and to see that all lawful injunctions are followed.</i></li> </ol>
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Acting in accordance with G.16-27B.1, the PJC advises the Assembly to accept this proposal with the amended wording. Furthermore, since evangelism and discipleship are such high priorities in the EPC, the PJC will correspond with the Stated Clerk requesting that the Committee on Administration review G.4-3 (evangelism) and G.4-4 (discipleship) in light of the proposed amendment to G.16-22A.1 to see if a clear and concise definition of evangelism and discipleship can be formulated to assist the presbyteries and churches in these priorities.

2. **Overture 09-C** (*Handbook* pages 24-26): a proposal from Midwest Presbytery to amend BD 3-5 and 10-7. The PJC reviewed the recommendation in accordance with the review standards set forth in the Constitution (G.16-27.B.2) and found the recommendation met the standards of clarity, consistency of language, and compatibility with other provisions of the Constitution one exception. The PJC recommends the following changes in wording:

<b>Current wording of proposed amendment to D.3-5, second paragraph</b>	<b>Recommended wording for proposed amendment to D.3-5, second paragraph</b>
A “Renunciation of Jurisdiction” shall	A “Renunciation of Jurisdiction” shall

<p>have the effect of terminating membership in the church and removing an officer from membership and ordained office in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and terminating that person's exercise of office. <del>The court should never engage in unnecessary actions under Chapter 10 et al, should the member be found guilty.</del> Though a court may pronounce a judgment of admonition, suspension, removal from office, or excommunication against a person who has renounced jurisdiction, it need not do so <del>and should not do so unless (1) the offender has given his or her permission, and (2) it is necessary for the purity of the church or the benefit of the offender.</del></p>	<p>have the effect of terminating membership in the church and removing an officer from membership and ordained office in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and terminating that person's exercise of office. <del>The court should never engage in unnecessary actions under Chapter 10 et al, should the member be found guilty.</del> Though a court may pronounce a judgment of admonition, suspension, removal from office, or excommunication against a person who has renounced jurisdiction, it need not do so <del>and should not do so unless (1) the offender has given his or her permission, and (2) it is necessary for the purity</del> <b><i>and welfare</i></b> of the church or the benefit of the offender <b><i>without first giving written notice to the person making such renunciation and providing that person an opportunity to respond within fifteen days of the written notice.</i></b></p>
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**CASE REFERRED TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:**

Matter of Samuel L. Jones (Appellant) and the Presbytery of the East (Appellee): The PJC has taken final action on the matter and submits the following Preliminary Judgment to the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly pursuant to BOG 16-27.B.3:

PRELIMINARY JUDGMENT  
OF THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION  
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IN RE: MATTER OF SAMUEL L. JONES, APPELLANT AND PRESBYTERY  
OF THE EAST, APPELLEE

Comes now the Permanent Judicial Commission of the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (“PJC”) and hereby makes its Preliminary Judgment in the above referenced matter as follows:

BACKGROUND

On April 18, 2008 the Session of Fourth Presbyterian Church, Bethesda MD entered its Judgment and Sanctions regarding Samuel Jones dated April 23, 2008 removing Samuel Jones from Office and from membership in the Church (excommunication). On May 14, 2008 Samuel Jones filed a “Notice of Appeal” regarding the decision of the Session of Fourth Presbyterian Church. This Notice of Appeal was filed with the Office of the General Assembly. On May 16, 2008, Dr. Ed McCallum, Assistant Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, sent the Notice of Appeal to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the East stating “an appeal may only be made to the next higher court unless this court has given consent to transfer the case...the attached documents are being transferred to the Presbytery as the proper court of appeal.” On May 28, 2008 the Presbytery of the East acknowledged receipt of the Notice of Appeal and informed Samuel Jones that the appeal did not fall within the specified time frame and “Therefore your appeal did not properly come before the Presbytery.” On June 19, 2008 Samuel Jones filed his “Notice of Appeal” with the General Assembly and the PJC regarding the decision of the Presbytery of the East.

The parties to this matter, Samuel Jones and Presbytery of the East, have fully cooperated in providing information and written responses to inquiries of the PJC. No party disputes the dates of the events set forth above. The PJC has followed the procedures set forth in the *Book of Order* in this matter.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The matters discussed in the section entitled “Background”, above are found to be correct and not in dispute by any party.

THE ISSUE BEFORE THE PJC

Was the Presbytery of the East correct in ruling that the Notice of Appeal filed by Samuel Jones on May 14, 2008 from the judgment and sanctions of Fourth Presbyterian Church dated April 23, 2008 and filed April 28, 2008 was filed late and did not properly come before the Presbytery?

THE DECISION OF THE PJC

It is the decision of the PJC that the Presbytery of the East was correct in ruling that the Notice of Appeal filed by Samuel Jones on May 14, 2008 from the judgment and sanctions of Fourth Presbyterian Church dated April 23, 2008 and filed April 28, 2008 was filed late and did not properly come before the Presbytery.

## RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION

BOD 12-5 states: "Written notice of appeal with supporting grounds shall be filed within fifteen (15) days after the entry of judgment with the Moderator or the Clerk from which the appeal is being taken as well as the Moderator or the Clerk of the appellate court." The judgment was entered at Fourth Presbyterian Church on April 28, 2008. The Notice of Appeal was filed on May 14, 2008. This span of time exceeded fifteen days. Because this deadline found in the Constitution was not met by Samuel Jones, the Presbytery could not act thereon. The timelines set forth are for a purpose and to be strictly kept in all events. The filing of a Notice of Appeal is not intended to be a difficult process. Mr. Jones offered no explanation of why he was late in the filing in any event either to the Presbytery or the Appeal to the General Assembly.

### OTHER MATTERS:

None

### RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

#### Recommendation PJC-1

That the Assembly sustain the opinion of the Permanent Judicial Commission that Overture 09-D as framed is not compatible with the Constitution of the Church, and that any such proposal must be presented to the General Assembly as an amendment to the Constitution and follow the process set forth therein.

#### Recommendation PJC-2:

That the Preliminary Judgment regarding the matter of Samuel L. Jones and the Presbytery of the East be sustained.

*The PJC notes that "In voting on the Preliminary Judgment, questions for clarification will be entertained; but the merits of the case are non-debatable. Without amendment the General Assembly shall vote to sustain or not to sustain the judgment of the Commission, in which case the vote is final and becomes the decision of the General Assembly. If the judgment of the Permanent Judicial Commission is not sustained, the Assembly shall determine whether the case shall be remanded to the Commission or committed to a Judicial Commission." BOG 16-27.B.3*

Respectfully submitted,

John Graham, Moderator

June 2009

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**Report of the  
Presbytery Review Committee  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**



*Carl Martin  
Chairman*

**Work of the Committee**

The Presbytery Review Committee is established to implement our important governmental principle of review and control. Committee members RE Carl Martin (Chairman), TE Ed Davis (Stated Clerk Emeritus), and RE Helen Franssell met at the General Assembly office in Livonia, Michigan May 18-19, 2009. Stated Clerk Jeff Jeremiah and Assistant Stated Clerk Ed McCallum supplied background and support for their work. In the course of its work, the Committee reviewed presbytery responses to exceptions issued by the 28th General Assembly (2008), reviewed presbytery responses to answerable notations (*Rules for Assembly* 9-11.C-2), and reviewed certified copies of presbytery minutes from meetings of presbyteries subject to review as per *Rules for Assembly* 9-11 and *Act of the Assembly* 98-05.

The Committee **commends the Stated Clerks** of the Presbyteries for their outstanding work of service to the larger church. The Committee **also commends presbyteries** who are showing their increasing desire to see not only that things are done well and in order, but also to see that the order of the church serves and advances the mission of the church. Many of the Minutes reviewed reflected that our presbyteries have exhibited a God-honoring compassion, propriety, and administrative flexibility on all levels to provide refuge for the many churches that have been and are in the process of being received into the EPC.

**Recommendations to the Assembly**

*Note: An asterisk (\*) indicates that notations requiring responses will be forwarded to the presbytery (Rules for Assembly 9-11C.2)*

**Regarding Responses of Presbyteries to Exceptions and Answerable Notations from the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

**Recommendation PRC-1**

That the Assembly receive the responses of the presbyteries (Attachments PRC-A through PRC-G) to exceptions from the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and to notations requiring responses as adequate with the exception of:

Response B.1 from the Southeast Presbytery. Minutes should be corrected (2-06.1) to read “that Michael Thomas be ordained...” rather than “re-ordained” in order to reflect the constitutional language of G.13-7.

### **Regarding the Presbytery of the Central South**

#### **Recommendation PRC-2**

That the Assembly approve the minutes of the Central South Presbytery with the following exceptions:\*

- a. 74.22.3 (page 88): Terms of call for Assistant Pastors Wells and Rieves do not include the length of term or primary duties as required by G.11-7.
- b. 74:22 (page 89): Ruling Elder/Teaching Elder parity on Administrative Commission is the opposite of what is required (G.16-26B.2.e).
- c. 75.14b (page 99); 76:11 (page 123): Presbytery does not “approve” minutes of Administrative Commissions. Administrative Commissions report their actions which are included in the minutes (G.16-26B). Minutes should be corrected to read the “The report of the Administrative Commission to install...was received and the Commission, having completed its work, was dissolved..”
- d. 75.17 (pages 105-107): Omission: Minutes show that nominations were presented to the presbytery but the process and results of any election are missing. Minutes should be corrected to indicate which (or all) of the nominees were elected.

And that the Assembly send the following advice to the Central South Presbytery:

It was noted that some administrative commissions formed by the presbytery had equal numbers of Ruling and Teaching Elders. *Book of Government* 16-26.B.2.e requires that “administrative commissions of Presbytery and General Assembly shall be composed of Ministers and Elders in proportion as near to two Ruling Elders to one Minister as possible.” The presbytery should be more diligent to form administrative commissions according to this requirement. Three ruling elders and two teaching elders on a Commission with the minimum number of five would meet this requirement.

### **Regarding the Presbytery of the East**

#### **Recommendation PRC-3**

That the minutes of the Presbytery of the East be approved.

### **Regarding the Presbytery of Florida**

#### **Recommendation PRC-4**

That the minutes of the Presbytery of Florida be approved.\*

### **Regarding the Presbytery of Mid-America**

#### **Recommendation PRC-5**

That the minutes of the Presbytery of Mid-America be approved with the following exceptions:

- a. 51.05 (page 55): Presbytery did not appoint a temporary governing body for Mercy Road Fellowship as required by G.5-3.
- b. 52.01 (page 582): The presbytery improperly elected a Moderator Pro-tem, citing *Roberts Rules of Order*, when constitutional provisions (G.16-15) take precedence (i.e., most recently elected Moderator, or, if no former Moderator is present, the Minister present with the earliest date of ordination).
- c. 52.03 (pages 587-590): Actions of Administrative Commissions are reported in presbytery minutes, not the Commission minutes themselves. Minutes should be rewritten to delete commission minutes and replaced with a summary of their actions (G.16-26B).

### **Regarding the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic**

#### **Recommendation PRC-6**

That the minutes of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery be approved with the following exceptions:\*

- a. Addendum 59.22B (Page 359): In order to fulfill requirements of Act of Assembly 98-04, the substance of the addendum should be in the body of the minutes.
- b. 60.21 (Page 13): Presbytery did not assign advisors for candidates Campbell and Tepper.

And that the Assembly send the following advice to the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery:

While the Teaching/Ruling elder ratio at presbytery meetings was generally good, Minutes show a conspicuous number of absences of churches, and teaching and ruling elders. Presbytery is encouraged to seek methods to increase their percentage of potential attendance at stated meetings.

### **Regarding the Presbytery of the Midwest**

#### **Recommendation PRC-7**

That the minutes of the Midwest Presbytery be approved with the following exceptions:\*

- a. 124<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting (second paragraph), 125-8 and 125-1. Misstatements: Neither Charles Sheldon nor Trey McClain are potential or actual candidates under care. Minutes should be corrected to indicate that Rev. Sheldon and Rev. McClain are ministers seeking transfer from a non-Reformed body. The term “candidate” should not be used in these situations, as that status sets up requirements (G.12) that are not appropriate for ordained ministers.
- b. 125-9 (*sic.*) (page 392). Omission: Minutes do not indicate what was dropped from *Guidelines for Ordination of Women* and the document was not attached to the Minutes. Minutes are remanded to the Presbytery for correction and re-submission with attachments to the General Assembly immediately following the Presbytery’s September 2009 stated meeting.

- c. 129-9 (page 400). Omission: Terms of call for Assistant Pastor Minter does not include the length of term as required by G.11-7.
- d. 124-16 (page 377). Omission: The presbytery did not make a determination on the recommendation of the Judicial Investigative Committee regarding a strong presumption of guilt as required by D.5-3B and did not act on the recommendation of the Judicial Investigative Committee to refer the matter the Ministerial Committee. The Judicial Investigative Committee has authority to recommend, not to act (G.6-1C).
- e. 128-7 (page 6). Omission: Minutes do not indicate that the required 2/3 vote to grant extraordinary status was received (G.12-2H).

**Regarding the Presbytery of the Southeast**

**Recommendation PRC-8**

That the minutes of the Presbytery of the Southeast be approved with the following exceptions:\*

- a. 75-23 (Page 17). Omission: There is no record of TE Allison or TE Richards signing the required Ministerial Obligation (G.16-16L).
- b. 75-23 (Page 17). Minutes should record that exceptions to the Confession were allowed or disallowed, but not state the specific exceptions (Act of Assembly 03-09)
- c. 76-24 (Pages 10-11. Omission: Minutes do not indicate that candidates Emmons and Smeester have been members of EPC congregations for the required six months (G.12-2).

**Regarding the Presbytery of the West**

**Recommendation PRC-9**

That the minutes of the Presbytery of the West be approved with the following exceptions:

- a. 84-22B, C, 84-14B (Page 10-161): Minutes should record that exceptions to the Confession were allowed or disallowed, but not state the specific exceptions (Act of Assembly 03-09).
- c. 85-21D, E: There is no record of TE Voss or TE McKinney signing the required Ministerial Obligation (G.16-16L).
- d. 85-27A, D: Terms of call for Assistant Pastor Hicks does not include the length of term or primary duties as required by G.11-7. There is no record of TE Hicks signing the required Ministerial Obligation (G.16-16L). Terms of call for Assistant Pastor Craig does not include required length of term.

And that the Assembly send the following advice to the Presbytery of the West:

The presbytery is encouraged to find a different title for the Denver Seminary Commission. The word "Commission" is confusing in light of its use in G.16-26. It is clearly not intended to function in that fashion.



**Regarding the New Wineskins/EPC Transitional Presbytery**

**Recommendation PRC-10**

That the Assembly send the following advice to the New Wineskins/EPC Transitional Presbytery:

- a. Work toward a Ruling to Teaching Elder ratio of 2:1.
- b. Minutes should be signed by hand, not with a typed signature.

**Other Recommendations**

**Recommendation PRC-11**

That the Assembly send the following advice to all presbyteries:

1. When receiving churches and ministers, presbytery minutes should indicate the dismissing body.
2. Presbytery minutes should reflect the requirements of G.16-26B, namely, that minutes of commissions are not approved by presbytery. Commissions report their actions, and their actions are recorded in the presbytery minutes. Minutes of Commissions should be kept separately.

**Other Matters**

- A. The Committee is referring the following matters to the Executive Pastor/Stated Clerk:
  1. The Committee requests an opinion from the Stated Clerk on the constitutionality of granting anonymity in presbytery minutes to a person who has been formally charged in a disciplinary procedure and in which an investigation or trial is in process or has been completed. There is a trend toward anonymity in recent minutes, but this is not the historic precedent and the practice is not consistent.
  2. The Committee requests an opinion from the Stated Clerk on whether or not it lawful to establish quorum in a representative body by both real and virtual presence of commissioners.
  3. The Committee requests that the Stated Clerk correspond with the Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) informing him that the Denver Presbytery PC(USA) was not acting in accord with the EPC's existing corresponding relationship with the PC(USA) in not allowing ministers to be received from other denominations by dismissal. There was no need in this case for Rev. Spear to be removed from the rolls of the West Presbytery so he could be dismissed to the Denver Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Martin, Chairman

June, 2009

**Attachment A**  
Responses from the Presbytery of the Central South



*Presbytery Of The Central South*

*Office of the Stated Clerk*  
337 Claire Drive • Atoka, TN 38004  
(901) 837-3500  
atokapres@xipline.com

April 27, 2009

Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah, Stated Clerk  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
Office of the General Assembly  
17197 N. Laurel Park Drive  
Livonia, MI 48152

Dear Jeff:

In response to your letter dated December 12, 2008 on behalf of the Presbytery Review Committee and 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, please find attached the responses of the Central South Presbytery regarding the exceptions and notations requiring response. These were approved by the Central South Presbytery at its 77<sup>th</sup> stated meeting held April 24-25, 2009 in Katy, Texas.

We greatly appreciate your work and the work of the Presbytery Review Committee. If I may be of any further service please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Ken Van Kampen'.

Ken Van Kampen  
Stated Clerk

**Attachment A**  
Responses from the Presbytery of the Central South

December 12, 2008

Reverend Ken Van Kampen, Stated Clerk  
Central South Presbytery  
337 Claire Drive  
Atoka, TN 38004

Dear Ken,

The 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, meeting in Bethesda, Maryland, took the following actions related to the Minutes of the Presbytery of the Central South:

Regarding Presbytery responses to exceptions issued by the 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2007):

That the Assembly receive the responses of the Central South Presbytery as adequate. However, response #2 did not indicate that minutes were going to be corrected. Presbytery should move to correct its minutes accordingly in order to include the additional information.

**CSP Response: The minutes are corrected.**

Approved the Minutes of the Presbytery of Central South with the following exception:

Page 42: Minutes should include action of presbytery to allow or disallow the exceptions to the Westminster Confession given by ministers being received, but should not state the exception (Act of Assembly 03-09)

**CSP Response: So noted and the minutes are corrected.**

Sent the following advice to the Presbytery of the Central South:

1. In the 72<sup>nd</sup> Stated Meeting (p. 57) the presbytery indicated that a member of another presbytery was elected as a member of a commission to install Rev. Simmons. Presbytery is reminded that members of other presbyteries may be invited to be part of commissions to ordain and install, but should be enrolled as corresponding members. Corresponding members are not part of the minimum requirements for a commission noted in G.16-26.b2(e).

**CSP Response: So noted and future administrative commissions will be**

**Attachment A**  
Responses from the Presbytery of the Central South

reminded of such.

2. The presbytery is advised to avoid including election of committee members in an omnibus/consent motion (p. 64). The nature of an election process normally requires an opportunity for nominations from the floor. An omnibus/consent motion cuts off that possibility

**CSP Response:** So noted. All nominations for Presbytery Committees will be carried out on the floor of Presbytery.

The Presbytery Review Committee reported the following notations requiring responses. *Rules for Assembly* define such notations as having “insufficient information in the Minutes to determine if an action is constitutional. Such notations are not read to the General Assembly but require a response to the Presbytery Review Committee” (*Rules 9-11C.2*). The response may need to include action of the presbytery to correct their minutes to show that constitutional requirements were followed.

1. Page 38 (71.17): Insufficient information. If Robinson Mitchell is being received as a candidate at this meeting, minutes do not record his home church, the length of time he has been a member, whether or not he was examined, and what advisor was assigned (G.12-2).

**CSP Response:** Mr. Mitchell was a member of 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian for 17 months when 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian’s Session endorsed him for candidacy. He was examined as required in G12. Rev. Ken Van Kampen, Atoka Presbyterian, was assigned to be Mr. Mitchell’s ministerial advisor.

2. Page 41: Insufficient information. Minutes do not indicate the date on which notice of the called meeting was given, so it is uncertain whether the 10-day notice requirement was met (G.16-17).

**CSP Response:** The required notice of the meeting was given by June 19, 2007 and the minutes shall reflect such notification.

3. Page 51: Insufficient information. Minutes do not indicate what happened to the remaining property of Christ Redeemer Church and do not indicate that presbytery assigned members to other churches (G.5-5).

**CSP Response:** The remaining assets of Christ Redeemer Church were sold to the Church of the Apostles for \$6,000 between January and June, 2008

**Attachment A**  
Responses from the Presbytery of the Central South

and the minutes shall reflect such. All future minutes will also reflect the churches to which Presbytery assigns members.

4. Pages 53 and 54 (72:15): Insufficient information. Minutes do not indicate that Mr. Carico has been a member of First EPC, Anna, Illinois, for the required six months (G.12-2A).

**CSP Response:** Mr. Carico was a member of First Presbyterian, Anna for seven months and the minutes shall reflect such.

5. Pages 57, 69: Insufficient information. Minutes do not indicate who is serving as Moderators of the Sessions of First EPC, Laredo, Texas and Faith Church, Covington, Louisiana following the dissolution of the pastoral relationship (G.16-9)

**CSP Response:** G 16-9 states 'if there is no Pastor, the Church Session may elect one of its members to serve in that capacity [Moderator]. Also, Presbytery, at its discretion, may appoint a Minister of the Presbytery to serve as Moderator when a church has no pastor.' CSP has left the election choice of Session Moderator up to the Church Session in each case.

**Attachment B**  
Responses from the Presbytery of the East

Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
PRESBYTERY OF THE EAST  
OFFICE OF THE STATED CLERK

May 4, 2009

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah, Stated Clerk  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
17197 N. Laurel Park Drive  
Suite 567  
Livonia, Michigan 48152

SUBJECT: Response to Presbytery Review Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
Minutes of the Presbytery of the East

Dear Jeff,

At its 85<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting, the Presbytery of the East acted upon your letter of December 12, 2008, and provides the following response to the Presbytery Review Committee's review of the minutes of the meetings of the Presbytery the East (POTE). For your convenience, each item has been restated and the POTE's approved response is indicated:

(1) Regarding responses to the exceptions issued by the 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2007): The Assembly received the responses of the Presbytery of the East as adequate except for their response regarding Minutes 76-14A. The Presbytery's response does not answer whether or not they have received the communication in question from the Presbytery of the Southeast.

POTE Response: The dismissal letter for TE Ronald Crews was sent to the Presbytery of the Southeast in April 2006. The Presbytery of the Southeast dismissed him to Grace Churches International on October 4, 2008, and he is no longer in the EPC.

(2) The Presbytery Review Committee reported the following notation requiring response: Page 310 (79-30A): Insufficient Information. Minutes do not record what changes were being considered and what action was taken (G.16-27.A(8)).

POTE Response: It is noted that The Book of Order, the Book of Government Chapter G.16-27.A(8) requires the Ministerial Committee to review remuneration of Ministers. This review, including Terms of Call, was completed for all but one minister who did not provide the requested information to the Ministerial Committee. There were no changes noted by the Ministerial Committee for the terms of call that were reviewed, therefore, no action was necessary. There is no further information available for the one minister who did not provide the requested information to the Ministerial Committee.

(3) The Presbytery Review Committee reported the following notations with regard to typographical and stylistic matters (Rules 9-11C.1).

**Attachment B**  
Responses from the Presbytery of the East

1. Page 304 (79-09C): Possibly incorrect information. Did Torres and Smith receive Doctor of Divinity or Doctor of Ministry degrees?

POTE Response. Doctor of Ministry degree is applicable to both Torres and Smith.

2. Pages 323-324 (80.22F): Omission. Area of ministry responsibility not stipulated for Jay Lee as associate pastor (G.11-6)

POTE Response. Paragraph 80-22F of the minutes indicated Jay Lee will be an Associate Pastor of Groups and Leadership Development and described the duties and responsibilities he will have as an Associate Pastor at Goodwill EPC.

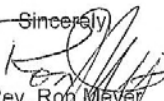
3. Page 323 (81-09A): Misstatement: "The EPC Records Review Committee does not permit advisors to Candidates under Care to be from the same church...." The statement should read, "The Book of Government requires that the advisor to the Candidate should ordinarily not be the Candidate's Pastor (G.12-2D).

POTE Response. Concur. The errata to the minutes of the 85<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting will indicate that G.12-2D states that a candidate should ordinarily not be the Candidate's Pastor.

Also, as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the East, I acknowledge the advice provided specifically to this Presbytery with regard to ordained members of Presbytery committees, Presbytery approval of the terms of call for Out of Bounds ministers and interim pastors not required, and EPC medical insurance for POTE teaching elders. I also acknowledge the general advice provided to all EPC Presbyteries with regard to advisors to candidates under care, appointment of Moderator and/or Stated Clerk to commissions other than those with ceremonial functions is discouraged, clarification of the moderator of church sessions following dissolution of the relationship of a pastor or other situations when the pastor is unable to moderate, and the need to include a section for official correspondence in the minutes.

The exceptions and notations cited herein and the responses approved by the Presbytery of the East at its 85<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting on April 24-25, 2009, will be included in an errata to the minutes of that meeting.

Thank you for your kind comments to Lanah and me in carrying out this responsibility.

Sincerely,  
  
Rev. Ron Meyer  
Stated Clerk  
Presbytery of the East

**Attachment C**  
Responses from the Presbytery of Florida

May 18, 2009

From Robert Garment, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Florida

RE: Notations from the 28th General Assembly requiring responses

1. Page 428: Insufficient information. Minutes do not record that Ruling Elders being ordained at Hope EPC were examined (G.5-3E).

*The Evangelist had been granted power to train Ruling Elders and Deacons and the Commission examined them.*

2. Page 440: Insufficient information. Minutes do not name the agency calling Rev. Glass and do not specify that the approval is for an out of bounds call.

*Rev. Glass was received as a chaplain to the Tampa Bay Hospice as an out of bounds call*

3. Page 440: Insufficient information: Minutes do not indicate that Freddie Albaugh had been a candidate in the Florida Presbytery for the required one year prior to transfer (G.12-2F).

*Page 386 Section 47.10 indicates that Freddy Albaugh was a Candidate as of 2/11/2006*

4. Page 441: Insufficient information: Minutes do not indicate who is serving as Moderator of the Session of Faith EPC, Brooksville following the dissolution of the pastoral relationship (G.16-9).

*Faith's Associate Pastor was serving as Moderator prior to the dissolution of the call as Dr. DinNunzio was on Sabbatical.*

5. Certified Minutes of the 52<sup>nd</sup> and 53<sup>rd</sup> stated meetings were not signed by the Moderator.

*Pending*



**Attachment D**  
Responses from the Presbytery of Mid-America



THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
**PRESBYTERY OF MID-AMERICA**

Dexter Kuhlman - Stated Clerk  
1926 Prospector Ridge Ballwin, Missouri 63011 PHONE 636-458-2906 FAX 636-458-6

February 12, 2009

Dr. Jeff Jeremiah  
Office of the General Assembly  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Suite 567  
Livonia, MI 48152

Dear Jeff,

The following responses were approved by the Mid-America Presbytery at its the 53<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meeting January 30, 2009.

The Presbytery Review Committee reported the following notations requiring responses. *Rules for Assembly* define such notations as having "insufficient information in the Minutes to determine if an action is constitutional.

1. Page 539 (50.4.2) Clarification. Minutes do not specify if people appointed to "publicly welcome Kishwaukee Community Church" form a commission or a committee or a delegation. If this group is to install elders, as minutes seem to indicate, they should have been constituted as a commission.

Response: That the minutes of the 50<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting be corrected on page 539 to read "To appoint TE Mark Jumper, Chairman; TE Dennis Henn, RE Paul Heidebrecht, RE Carolyn Nystrom, RE Don Carter and RE Dexter Kuhlman as a commission to publicly welcome Kishwaukee Community Church in March 2008."

Background: Subsequent to this action, the examination of the pastor was postponed until the April 2008 meeting and the welcoming of the church until the pastor had been approved. At the April 2008 Presbytery Meeting, the pastor was approved, a date set for installation along with the welcoming and installing of the Deacons and Elders of the church and a commission was appointed. This is recorded in the Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> Stated Meeting.

2. Page 542 (Communications received, #5; Communications sent #2). Insufficient information. No dates are assigned to these communications. If the communication received from Rev. Heyward renouncing jurisdiction preceded the communication sent reaffirming his inactive status, the communication sent is out of order. Minutes should clarify the status of Rev. Heyward as a result of these communications.

**Attachment D**  
Responses from the Presbytery of Mid-America

Response: That the minutes of the 50<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting be corrected on page 542 so that:

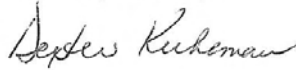
1) #5 of "Communications –Received" reads, "A letter dated December 20, 2007 from Rev. Barney Heyward renouncing jurisdiction of the Mid-America Presbytery, EPC over him. Upon receipt of this letter, the relationship of Rev. Heyward with the Presbytery is terminated (D 3-5).  
#2 of "Communications—Sent" reads, "A letter dated October 31, 2007 to Rev. Barney Heyward indicating that presbytery reaffirms its previous decision placing him on inactive status.

3. Page 550 (50.12): Insufficient information: Churches represented by commission members are not listed.

Response: That the minutes of the 50<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting be corrected on page 550 to indicate the churches represented by the Long Range Planning Commission members as follows:

TE Ryan Wampler	The Crossing
TE Chad Donohoe	Grace EPC
RE Jay Goble	Covenant Chapel
RE Todd Paulson	Riverside Evangelical

Respectfully submitted,



Dexter Kuhlman, Stated Clerk

**Attachment E**  
Responses from the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic



# Evangelical Presbyterian Church

PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

Dr. Howard Shockley  
Administrative Director

**RESPONSES**  
To  
**Exceptions & Notations to Presbytery Minutes**  
**As Reported by the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

**PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC**  
**Approved at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Stated Meeting**  
**April 24-25, 2009**

[The Presbytery Review Committee reported the exception indicated below. Presbytery's responses follow.]

**EXCEPTION:** P. 219 (56.15) and 262 (11C.08) – Montreat Presbyterian Church, Rourk Presbyterian Church and McLean Presbyterian Church were declared to be received prior to examining officers.

**Response:** In both cases there was an error in recording by omission. Minutes are corrected as follows:

a. p. 219 (56.15), to add the following clarifying statement to the statement recorded: "[NOTE: The Montreat Church is not "received" until Presbytery (or its administrative commission) has conducted training and successful examination of the church's Ruling Elders and Deacons in accord with G.5-4. See action taken in Minutes, 56.27G.]"

b. p. 262 (11C.08), add the phrase to the end of the motion recorded, "*and pending examination of their officers.*" [Italicized for emphasis]

The matters offered by way of general advice have been and are under consideration [SEE ATTACHED EXPLANATION].

The Presbytery Review Committee reported the following notations requiring responses indicated below. A proposed response follows.

**NOTATIONS:**

1. **Pages 225, 252, 253: (Minutes 56.27.B)** indicate that changes in terms of call were to be appended to the Minutes. There is reference to Addendum 56.27B, but the addendum is incomplete.

**Response:** The addendum was inadvertently omitted. Presbytery's **Minutes** are corrected by the addition of this addendum to the Minutes of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Stated Meeting [**SEE ADDENDUM 62.09**].

2. **Page 226: Minutes (56.27.G)** do not state that David Morgan received the required endorsement of the Session of his new church (Reynolda EPC).

**Response:** To date, Mr. Morgan has not pursued ordination. His file of required documents is incomplete, including said endorsement of the Reynolda Session.

*P.O. Box 10 • 261 Lauren Hope Lane • Moore, SC 29369 • 864-587-6440 • Fax 864-587-6439  
hshockley@msn.com*

**Attachment E**  
Responses from the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

PMA Responses to 28<sup>th</sup> GA  
Page 2

**3. Page 264 (11.C.11(c)):** Minutes do not include a reference to whom is serving as Moderator of Session after the pastoral relationship has been dissolved (G.16-9).

***Response:*** Presbytery understands the wording of G.16-9 to permit a Church Session to elect one of its members to serve in the capacity as Moderator when there is no Pastor. Further, it is our understanding this provision is intended to address a situation for a single meeting of Session or for a short period of time. Presbytery also understands G.16-9 to grant Presbytery discretion in its appointment of a Moderator when there is no Pastor.

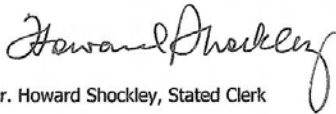
In this particular case, Presbytery exercised discretion by allowing the Session of Faith Liberation Community Church, with its very wise and mature Ruling Elders, to briefly fulfill the moderatorial function until a Teaching Elder of Presbytery of Presbytery could be appointed. At a subsequent meeting of Presbytery (cf. **Minutes, 58.25F**), Teaching Elder Dr. Jimmy Carr of Charlotte, NC was appointed Moderator, and following that, Dr. Carr was approved to serve Faith Liberation Community Church as its Interim Supply (cf. **Minutes 61.24A.8**).

**4. Inconsistencies within new Bylaws:** Presbytery's action of hiring a Church Development Director who is ordained in another body seems to put the presbytery in conflict at points with its newly approved bylaws. Bylaws appear to assume that the CD Director is a member of presbytery by: (1) stating that if someone is not ordained that person shall be eligible to be ordained, and (2) including the CD Director as a Trustee of the presbytery. It is not appropriate for someone who is not a member of presbytery to be a Trustee of the presbytery. Presbytery should consider amending or suspending its bylaws at these points.

***Response:*** Presbytery will consider amendments to its Bylaws to correct the identified inconsistencies [**SEE ATTACHMENT CONTAINING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**].

The Presbytery Review Committee also reported notations of typographical and stylistic matters. The one reported is noted and corrections made to the Minutes as indicated.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Howard Shockley, Stated Clerk

**Attachment E**  
Responses from the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

PMA Responses to 28<sup>th</sup> GA  
Page 4

practical sense both implies and identifies an age of being placed on the retired roll—thus, a specific age identified as an implied mandatory retirement age. This view might be reinforced by the fact that the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday is identified as the required age a Minister must begin drawing a minimum amount from the EPC Pension Plan (if not done previously) and because of communications from the Social Security Administration (e.g. estimated benefits projections mark age 70 as date of withdrawing benefits).

It appears that **G.15-3** and the *Procedure Manual* needs clarification of what is intended by the mandatory termination if this is not in fact retirement or a change in a Minister's status.

We would respectfully request the GA Stated Clerk ask the MVC to study the matter and give consideration to (a) adding to the *Procedure Manual* a fuller explanation of the practical implications of the mandatory termination provision, and (b) propose amending **G.15-3** to change the word "shall" to "may" in the sentence that reads in part, "... that relationship shall be terminated.", and to amend the next sentence which begins, "The Minister is then eligible to be reelected . . ." by adding at the beginning of that same sentence, the phrase (underlined), "When the relationship is terminated due to age, the Minister is then eligible to be reelected . . ." etc."

The above suggestions notwithstanding, a pastoral letter from the GA Stated Clerk to presbyteries and Ministers could help clear up a lot of misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the existing provision.

**3. Reconsider the practice of appointing the Moderator and/or Stated Clerk to commissions other than those with ceremonial functions.**

Responding to an earlier communication from the GA Stated Clerk, the PMA took action to change the status of Stated Clerk Dr. Howard Shockley from a voting member of the North Grove Administrative Commission to that of advisor (cf. **Minutes 61.28**).

**4. Consider amending PMA Bylaws on two points:**

- a) Section 3A of Article V, clarify whether the CD Director has a vote on the CD Team; and
- b) remove any potential conflict with the Constitution of the new position title "Administrative Director" by rewording the note of Article V, Section 4 to read: "This term is synonymous with and fulfills all the functions of the Stated Clerk in the Book of Government 16-15 et. al."

Regarding (a) above, an amendment to Article V, Section 3A is proposed change the phrase "ex officio" to "non-voting" in the particular sentence identified.

Regarding Article V, Section 4 in rewording the clarifying note, the suggested rewording is done as an editing change to bring greater clarity and reported as such to the 62<sup>nd</sup> Stated Meeting of the PMA.

**Attachment F**  
Responses from the Presbytery of the Midwest

**RESPONSES TO THE 28<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S  
EXCEPTIONS AND NOTATIONS  
TO THE MINUTES OF THE PRESBYTERY OF THE MIDWEST**

*The Assembly received the responses of the Midwest Presbytery as adequate with the exception of response b (page 1 which leaves the question open as to whether the ministers referenced signed the required ministerial obligation.*

Response: At the 125<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting held on July 10, 2008, the following motion was approved: "to correct minutes of Presbytery of the Midwest to read 'the ministers referenced regarding their ministerial obligation forms did sign the form.'"

*Page 331: Minutes should not record the content of a minister's exceptions to the Westminster Confession.*

The following motion replaces the original motion: "The Presbytery reviewed and allowed six exceptions to the Westminster Confession submitted by Rev. Sawyer and recommended that Rev. Sawyer do further study on one of his exceptions."

*The Presbytery Review Committee reported the following notation requiring response Page 363 (123-12): Minutes need clarity. A defeated motion is not something that can be postponed indefinitely. Perhaps the motion to postpone is in the minutes inadvertently.*

The motion to postpone was in the minutes inadvertently and has been removed.

Also noted, was the advice to all presbyteries and notations not requiring response regarding typographical and stylistic matters.

These responses are respectfully submitted.

In His Service,  
*John Calvin Manon*  
John Calvin Manon  
Stated Clerk

**Attachment G**  
Responses from the Presbytery of the Southeast



PRESBYTERY OF THE SOUTHEAST  
EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WALTER A. CLOTHIER, SR., STATED CLERK  
1605 VERDI LANE • KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 37922 • 865 690-6358

March 17, 2009

Rev. Jeff Jeremiah, Stated Clerk  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Suite 567  
Livonia, MI 48152

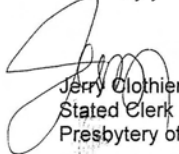
Hello Jeff,

I have made the necessary corrections as per your letter of 12 December 2008 concerning exceptions, notations requiring responses and notations not requiring responses, and have enclosed them in this letter.

I presented these corrections as errata to the 76<sup>th</sup> Presbytery and they approved them for presentation to the Presbytery Review Committee. They have been included in the minutes of the 76<sup>th</sup> Presbytery as Errata.

I trust these will satisfactorily answer the notations of the committee.

Sincerely yours,

  
Jerry Clothier  
Stated Clerk  
Presbytery of the Southeast

**Attachment G**  
Responses from the Presbytery of the Southeast

PRESBYTERY OF THE SOUTHEAST  
ERRATA

Seventy-Second and Seventy-Third Presbyteries and the First and Second Called Meetings

- A. Make the following corrections to the Minutes of the Presbytery of the Southeast in response to exceptions reported by the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly:

A.1 Exception 1

72-21 (p 17) The motion receiving ruling elders of Murphy Presbyterian Church is incorrect, stating that they were received into the presbytery but declared to be duly installed in the church. Motion should be corrected to read, "That the Ruling Elders of Murphy Presbyterian Church be declared to be duly installed (G. 5-4)."

Response: The motion will be corrected to read, "That the Ruling Elders of Murphy Presbyterian Church be declared to be duly installed. (G. 5-4)."

A.2 Exception 1

72-22 (pp 18 and 19), 73-21 (p-18). Motions receiving Wildsmith, Willis Kuhn and Chadwick are incorrect, stating that ministers are installed in the presbytery. Ministers are installed in the church in which they serve. Motions should be corrected to read, in the case of Rev. Wildsmith, "declare him to be the duly installed pastor (G.5-4)." And in the cases of Rev. Willis, Rev. Kuhn, and Rev. Chadwick to strike phrase "and to declare him to be duly installed in the Presbytery of the Southeast."

Responses:

In the case of Rev. Wildsmith the motion will be changed to read, "That TE Alan Wildsmith's examination be sustained and that he be enrolled as a member of Presbytery with call to Murphy Presbyterian Church as Pastor, and to declare him to be the duly installed pastor (G.5-4)."

In the cases of Rev. Willis, and Rev. Chadwick the motion will be changed by striking the phrase, "and to declare him to be duly installed in the Presbytery of the Southeast."

In the case of Rev. Kuhn the motion will be changed to read, "That TE Michael Kuhn's examination be sustained and that he be enrolled as a member of Presbytery with call to Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church as an Assistant Pastor, Pastor to Adults upon dismissal from Central Carolina Presbytery (PCA)." This strikes the phrase, "and to declare him to be duly installed in the Presbytery of the Southeast."

- B. Make the following correction to notations requiring responses reported by the Presbytery Review Committee:

B.1 Notation requiring response 1

2-06.1 (p.2): Omissions and Clarifications. Minutes do not indicate that terms of call for Michael Thomas were approved by presbytery. Minutes do not indicate why Rev. Thomas must be ordained. Rev. Thomas is listed on p. 1 as a candidate, but has the title "Reverend" on p. 2, making this matter unclear.

The motion in 2-06.1 will be changed to read, "That the examination of Michael Thomas be approved; and that Michael Thomas be re-ordained as a Teaching Elder (G. 13-7) and installed as Pastor of Hope Fellowship, upon his election as such by Hope Fellowship on March 30, 2008; and, that Michael Thomas be enrolled as a member of POSE upon his signing of the Ministerial Obligation, pending his election as Pastor of Hope Fellowship." This is why he is listed as a candidate on pg 1 and as "Reverend" on page 2.

The wording of 2-06 (p.1) Report of the Ministerial/Candidate Committee (MCC) should be changed to read: Chairman Ron Ragon opened the MCC report with prayer. He reported that Michael Thomas and Reverend David Burke had been examined by the committee and were recommended to the Presbytery.



**Attachment G**  
Responses from the Presbytery of the Southeast

Background: TE Michael Thomas had renounced jurisdiction from the Cherokee Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (USA). He therefore would have to be re-ordained. His Terms of Call were approved at a congregational meeting held on 30 March 2008 with the commission previously approved by the Presbytery leading. TE Ron Ragon outlined the terms of call for Michael Thomas and declared the Session had approved the terms as stated.

- B. Make the following correction in response to notations reported by the Presbytery Review Committee: (continued)

B. 2 Notation requiring response 2

1-07 (p. 2): The presbytery examined three ministers but the motion to receive indicates that only one was received, not specifying which one or what action presbytery took with the others.

Response: All three candidates were duly received as members of presbytery following the sustaining of their examinations. The motion was meant to cover all three and should be changed as follows:

"To sustain the examinations of the candidates Dudley, Robinson and Filston and that they be enrolled as a member of Presbytery upon their dismissal from the Presbytery of East Tennessee, Presbyterian Church PC (USA)."

Note: Reverends Dudley, Robinson and Filston were all dismissed to the Presbytery of the Southeast, EPC and their names deleted from the rolls of the Presbytery of East Tennessee, PC (USA) on 28 June 2007.

B. 3 Notation requiring response 3

72-22 (p.21 – Old Business#1) Omission. An appropriate statement following the pattern of either D.11-2 or D.11-4 (whichever is applicable), should be entered in the record.

Reference 69-25 I "Recommended Process to Restore TE Richard Kidd." In 72-22 (p.21 – Old Business#1) the motion of the Ministerial/Candidates Committee was based on the conviction that TE Richard Kidd had fulfilled all of the requirements outlined in 69-25 I.

Response: 72-22 (p. 21) – Old Business #1: Omission is resolved by adding a paragraph after the Motion that reads:

"This action was recommended by the Ministerial/Candidate Committee because of their conviction that TE Richard Kidd had fulfilled all of the requirements outlined in 69-25 I."

Note: In the future the Presbytery will include declarations of restoration as prescribed in Book of Discipline 11-2 and 11-4.

B. 4 Notation requiring response 4

72-28 (p.23) Misstatement or omission. A motion to accept nominations is not the same as electing nominees to office. The motion to accept should be replaced or an additional motion should be made to elect the slate of nominees.

Response: As presbytery had voted to "approve" the motion recommending the slate of candidates, the motion will be changed to read: "That the candidates recommended by the Recruitment and Nominating Committee be elected to serve." Adopted

- C. Make the following changes to the notations received for 2-06.II (p.2) and 2-06.III (p.3)

2-06.II (p.2) Clarification. The minutes and Attachment 4 make it unclear as to Rev. Burke's status with the New Wineskins/EPC Transitional Presbytery and the Southeast Presbytery.

Reference: Letter from Teresa McAnally, Moderator, Committee on Ministry, Presbytery of East Tennessee, PC (USA) to Rev. William Meyer New Wineskins Transitional Presbytery

**Attachment G**  
Responses from the Presbytery of the Southeast

of the EPC dismissing Rev. David Burke from PC (USA) to NWTP effective 25 March 2008.

Reference: Letter from Walter Clothier, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of the Southeast (POSE) dated 17 July 2008 to Teresa McNally, Moderator, Committee on Ministry, Presbytery of East Tennessee, PC (USA) informing her that POSE had received Rev. David Burke from the Transitional Presbytery, EPC into the POSE effective 3 May 2008.

2-06.II (p.2) Clarification.

Response: The wording of the second motion (2-06.II p.2)) should be changed to read: To approve the Terms of Call for Rev. David Burke and, to communicate his reception into the POSE from the New Wineskins Transitional Presbytery, EPC (NWEPC) and to elect TE Bill Dudley (SMPC); TE Ronald Ragon (retired); RE John Perry (BPC); RE Steve Frost (SMPC); and RE Bruce Zeiser (SMPC) as a commission to install Rev. David Burke as Assistant Pastor of Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church.

2-06.III (p.3): Omission Minutes do not indicate the responsibilities stipulated for Rev. Jackson as associate pastor (G.11-6) and do not specify the terms of call.

Response: The motion should be changed to read: "To approve the call of the congregation of Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church to Rev. Scott Jackson as Associate Pastor, Pastor of Adults, Aged 40-55 effective June 1, 2008 pending the dissolution of his relationship with the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Rome, GA., and to approve his Terms of Call."

The Terms of Call were not specified because the General Assembly has the question of the method of communicating and approving the Terms of Call of Pastors under study.

**Attachment H**  
Responses from the Presbytery of the West

Presbytery of the West

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Aurora, Colorado 80017

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Phone 303.873.2819  
Fax 303.369.8250

February 2, 2009

Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah  
Stated Clerk  
Office of the General Assembly  
1719 N. Laurel Park Drive Suite 567  
Livonia, MI 48152

Dear Jeff:

Thank you for all of your service to our denomination and the Presbytery of the West.

This letter is a response to the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly's Presbytery Review Committee's three items *of notations that require responses*.

1. In regards to *Page 10-077 (82-17): Omission. Minutes do not indicate a charge was given to candidates (G.12-2C)*

Perhaps the Review Committee did not read to the bottom of the section, as Minutes do state that "a charge and prayer were offered by the Moderator as the candidates kneeled."

2. In regards to *Page 10-093. Insufficient information. The minutes indicate how phone-in commissioners could vote, but not how they could participate in the discussion portion of the meeting, which is an essential aspect of a deliberative assembly."*

The phone-in commissioners were all on a live conference feed through the sound system in the meeting room where the commissioners were in attendance. Those phone-in commissioners did need to identify themselves audibly at the beginning of the meeting for the attendance record, and time was given for phone-in commissioners to participate by the Moderator. The phone-in commissioners also were able to hear the proceedings as the proceedings were uplinked to them via the sound system and the conference call. This fact was not in the Minutes as the Stated Clerk did not think it was necessary to be included.

3. In regards to *Page 10-116 (83-14B) Omission. Minutes do not state indicate (sic) who is moderating the session of San Ramon Presbyterian Church.*

Oversight. Rev. Downing was also to moderate the Session of San Ramon Presbyterian Church and it did not get included in the record.

Sincerely submitted on behalf of the Presbytery of the West,

Rev. Marc Huebl  
Acting Stated Clerk

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**Report of the Stated Clerk**  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

It's hard to imagine that almost three years have rushed by in this new ministry as Stated Clerk. Some of the differences between this calling and my previous ones: after 25 years of taking Fridays off, I now have a Monday though Friday workweek. A "long meeting" is now all day instead of three hours. When I'm home now I have no evening meetings. As Stated Clerk I've been able to take a week's vacation in the Advent season and traveled a thousand miles to make a pastoral call during Holy Week. I've eaten grits and flown in planes where the window seat is also the aisle seat. Being the Stated Clerk is not the same as serving as a local church pastor! Without 21<sup>st</sup> century technology there is no way I could do this ministry. Cell phones (one business and one personal), a laptop computer and email enable me to be connected to you and my family anywhere I have a phone signal. I enjoy the occasional preaching opportunities I'm given, and work at ensuring I maintain a pastor's mindset and heart in my role. While I am ultimately most grateful to my Lord Jesus Christ for His call on my life in serving you in this position, I want you to know how much I appreciate my precious wife, Cindy. I love her dearly!



*Jeff Jeremiah*

**Ministry Report**

Overview

In any time of transition there are going to be unanticipated challenges and opportunities. In April the COA had to halt a strategic planning process for our denomination in order to address a significant Per Member Asking support shortfall. Resulting cuts in the General Assembly budget have been painful and have temporarily compromised the effectiveness of the national office in serving you. I am confident that as we move forward we will evaluate and subsequently maximize our ministry and gain broader financial support for the General Assembly level of the church.

In any time of transition there will be those who readily embrace change, those who are hesitant, and many who are somewhere in between. I'm finding this is the case across the EPC as we continue to pursue the vision to become a denomination of evangelical, Presbyterian, reformed and missional churches. I'm grateful for the work of the Theology Committee as they reviewed and revised the working definition of a missional church and denomination that was referred to them by the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Their recommendation has been seen by the Committee on Administration and former Long Range Planning Committee and has the unanimous support of both groups. My sense is that we're all headed in the same direction, but need to be gracious and patient with one another as the Lord's timing for each of us is not always the same timing.

## My Responsibilities

Providing the COA monthly written reports of my activities and how they line up with my position description have kept me focused and aware of my stated responsibilities and how they may need to be altered as I gain more experience in this new approach to the Stated Clerk's position.

At our April meeting the COA approved a revision of my position description that updates where we are in 2009 and further defines some of what I do. These changes are incorporated in my primary responsibility as detailed below.

### Old position description:

#### *1. EPC in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

- a) Contribute input and leadership to the current vision-casting process underway in the EPC and, in particular to its future growth and development. The Stated Clerk will be a member of all committees working in or on the current Long Range Planning Initiative (LRPI), and play an integral role in the development of goals, and how they are to be achieved.
- b) Establish and encourage networking relationships and communications throughout the EPC, seeking input and working towards consensus in the denomination. One means of accomplishing this will be visits to presbyteries and local churches.
- c) Assist in the accomplishment of the mission of the EPC as anticipated by what will be developed out of the work of the LRPI.

### Revised position description:

#### *1. EPC in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

- a) Contribute input and leadership to the goal of making the EPC a denomination of Missional, Evangelical, Presbyterian and Reformed churches.
- b) Establish and encourage communications and networking relationships throughout the EPC, seeking input and working towards consensus in the denomination. This will be done through:
  - i. *EPNews* articles and columns
  - ii. Regular contacts with EPC leaders
  - iii. Visits to presbyteries and local churches.
- c) Assist in the accomplishment of the mission of the EPC through:
  - i. The Committee on Administration,
  - ii. EPC General Assembly committees,
  - iii. Meetings of the General Assembly,
  - iv. EPC presbyteries through their officers and committee chairs.

With the dismissal of the Long Range Planning Committee, the COA has stepped up to the responsibility of providing leadership as pursue our goal of becoming a denomination of Missional, Evangelical, Presbyterian and Reformed churches. As I continue to work to promote this goal, I'm aware that we need passion as well as

perspective as we pursue our mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – renewed passion for Jesus, for his Gospel and for those who have yet to claim Him Savior and Lord.

I'm constantly on the lookout for ways to get pertinent, helpful and challenging ideas that are a part of the missional conversation in front of you through my column in EP News. I appreciate those of you who send me articles, book reviews and other pertinent information.

I enjoy and am energized by my visits to presbyteries and churches of the EPC. In the past year I was able to visit at least one of the meetings of each of our presbyteries. Due to budget constraints, my visits to churches had to decrease.

*EPNews* has been a great vehicle for getting the word out about great ministry and outreach going on that we would otherwise not be aware of. I reported to you last year about the global readership of *EPNews*, saying that churches located in Nigeria, the Philippines and the Bahamas are interested in the EPC. Two Church of Scotland pastors serving in the Bahamas made a reconnaissance trip to a recent Florida Presbytery meeting.

In 2008 I stated that the wisdom of our Transitional Presbyteries lasting for up to five years was becoming more and more evident. In this past year, as more time was invested in working and seeking the Lord together, there was significant progress made in bringing the NW/EPC Transitional Presbytery together with the EPC. I greatly appreciate all the work that the Transitional Presbytery Commission has invested, and especially the leadership of co-chairs Bill Meyer and Dean Weaver. "Becoming One" (Attachment-B in the NWEPC Commission Report) represents the Commission's work to date, and indicates the progress made over the past twelve months. Across the EPC I am grateful for presbytery officers and Ministerial Committee chairs that have continually gone the extra mile in helping churches seeking entry into the EPC. We are at our best when we take the time to get to know, encourage and (in many cases) to comfort churches and leaders coming into our denomination.

Speaking at new churches to the EPC at their "Celebration Sunday" has been a special blessing to me. I did this on four occasions in the past year.

Responsibilities 2 and 3 remain unchanged:

2. *EPC and the greater church - represent the EPC to the general public and the greater church, seeking to establish and improve those relationships that will glorify God and build/expand His kingdom.*

Incoming churches – we continue to commit to our long-standing policy of not initiating contact, soliciting or recruiting churches outside of the EPC. Thankfully, accusations against us have not occurred since our last General Assembly, when you authorized the sending of a letter to the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) calling to their attention the false accusations being leveled against the EPC. The number of churches in contact with my office in the last year declined

over previous years, in part because those churches are in touch with our presbytery leadership as they make enquiries about the EPC.

Brazilian Presbyterian Church (IPB) – Moderator Allen Roes, former Stated Clerk Mike Glodo and I met with leadership of the IPB in December, 2008 in Philadelphia. I will represent the EPC at the IPB's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in August.

St. Andrews Presbytery (Argentina) – Ed McCallum, George Carey and I have worked with St. Andrews Presbytery leadership on a new five year cooperative agreement, which you will find in the Fraternal Relations report. Pending your approval of this document, I will visit the August meeting of St. Andrews, when they will approve the agreement.

National Association of Evangelicals (NAE). I represented the EPC at the NAE Board meeting of October, 2008 in Eden Prairie, MN.

In June 2010 WARC and the Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC) have scheduled a merger meeting at Calvin College. Given the dominant position enjoyed by the PCUSA in WARC, the COA has decided that we will not participate in this merger event.

Global church - As most church bodies outside the EPC want direct contact with me, beyond keeping them informed of what's going on, I'm having trouble understanding how I interact with the Permanent Fraternal Relations Committee about these contacts.

### 3. *Office of the General Assembly*

- a) Work to develop a new organizational plan for the Office of the General Assembly that will best serve the local churches (and presbyteries) of the EPC in the vision, planning, growth and development of the church. Consensus-building will be vital to the development of this new model, which will be intentionally missional.
- b) Function as the executive head of the Office of the General Assembly staff, casting vision, setting strategic direction, which the Assistant Stated Clerk and program staff will reinforce on behalf of the Stated Clerk.
- c) Direct appropriate fiscal controls through the Director of Finances.
- d) Oversee the recording of all General Assembly transactions and carefully preserve these records. Grant abstracts from these records when required.
- e) Oversee the preparation and distribution of all notices required by civil and ecclesiastical law.
- f) Oversee the upkeep of the General Assembly's corporate books and records.

In the midst of budget cuts and staff transitions, I believe the GA office staff has modeled a Christian maturity and professionalism that is to be commended and appreciated. They are taking on added responsibilities because of staff reductions,

yet continue to work very hard for you. They are conscious of the important ministry God has given them in this important time in the life of the EPC.

Staff transitions - After 26 years of faithful service, Benefits Assistant Janet Bain retired earlier this year. We look forward to recognizing and honoring Janet at our Assembly. Since we last met the World Outreach Search/Selection Team (Bruce Anderson, Art Hunt, Tim Mitchell, Ron Sadlow and me) completed our work and recommended George Carey to become the new Director of World Outreach. George started in this new call in January, 2009 and is quickly familiarizing himself with the great people who make up the World Outreach Committee, staff and missions family. Jacky Gatliff and Rob Craig will move from full to half time status on July 1. Finally, we will say goodbye to Susan Holland, Kristen Uppendahl and Missy Levy at the end of June. We are grateful for their impact and ministry for Christ as they've served with us.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Jeremiah  
Stated Clerk

June 2009



## Statistical Overview

### 1. Serving in the EPC

- A. Teaching Elders: We currently have
- 379 Teaching Elders serving in EPC churches, (2007 = 319)
  - 87 Teaching Elders serving in out-of-bounds ministries such as World Vision, Navigators, NAE, InterVarsity, correctional institutions and Christian schools, universities and seminaries (2007 = 82)
  - 28 Teaching Elders serving in Chaplaincy ministries (2008 = 21) (for a list of military chaplains, see MVC Attachment A in the Ministerial Vocation Committee Report)
  - 83 Teaching Elders who are retired from full time ministry (although many are still actively engaged in activities such as leading Bible studies, volunteering as chaplains, and writing) (2007 = 82)
  - 20 Teaching Elders who are serving as EPC World Outreach missionaries (2007 = 18)
- B. Ruling Elders: A total of 2,060 Ruling Elders are serving in our 247 EPC churches reported as of Dec. 31, 2008 (June 2008 = 1,673 in 226 churches).

### 2. Gathering the EPC – as of January 1, 2009:

- A. Churches – there are 247 member churches that are a part of the EPC as of Dec. 31, 2008, an increase of 40 churches, or 19.3% from 2007.
- B. Membership – total church membership grew from 77,482 (2007) to 92,864 in 2008. This is an increase of 15,382, or 19.8%.
- C. Worship – Worship attendance in 2008 was 83,473, an increase of 12,809 over the 2007 figure of 70,664. This was growth of 17.1%.

*For a complete summary of church statistics, see “2008 Churches of Record”(SC Attachment A) and “2008 Annual Statistical and Financial Report” (Appendix 1)*

### 3. Supporting the EPC

#### Giving Overview

- A total of \$3,966,564 was donated to the EPC and its ministries during 2008. This is an increase of 2.8% over 2007 giving.
- In 2008, per member asking (PMA) support increased by 7.7%, from \$1,129,304 to \$1,217,021.
- Also enjoying increased support in 2008 was Benevolence giving to World Outreach. Other causes experienced no growth or slight declines (See SC Attachment C).

*Please see “Financial Statistics” (SC Attachments B) for a comparison of yearly financial support for the EPC from 2003 to 2008.*

**Churches of Record**

<u>Total Dec. 31, 2007</u>	207
Churches constituted 2008*	8
Churches received 2008**	14
Churches received as transitional members 2008**	20
Churches dismissed 2008	0
Churches dissolved 2008	-2
<u>Total Dec. 31, 2008</u>	247
Churches constituted Jan-May 2009	1
Churches received Jan-May 2009	6
Churches received as transitional members Jan-May 2009	13
Churches dismissed Jan-May 2009	-2
Churches dissolved Jan-May 2009	0
May 31, 2009	265

\* Includes churches constituted January – June 2007, introduced at the 28<sup>th</sup>

General Assembly:

\*\* Includes churches received January – June 2008, introduced at the 28<sup>th</sup>

General Assembly:

**Churches constituted or received since the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (June 2008)**

**Central South Presbytery**

- 1) First Presbyterian Church, Corinth, MS (received from PCUSA, October 2008)
- 2) First Presbyterian Church, Opelika, AL (received from PCUSA, November 2008)
- 3) Woodland Presbyterian Church, New Orleans, LA (received from transitional membership in NWEPC, April 2009)
- 4) Highland Heights Presbyterian Church, Cordova, TN (received from PCUSA, April 2009)
- 5) Fruitland Presbyterian Church, Fruitland, TN (received as transitional member, May 2009)
- 6) Greenfield Presbyterian, Greenfield, TN (received as transitional member, May 2009)

**East Presbytery**

- 7) Lancaster Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, NY (received from independence, September 2008)
- 8) Redeemer EPC (mission church), Kingstowne, VA (constituted September 2008)

## SC Attachment A

- 9) Oreland EPC, Orland, PA (received from PCUSA, February, 2009)
- 10) The Presbyterian Church of Portersville, Portersville, PA (received from PCUSA, April 2009)

### **Mid-America Presbytery**

- 11) Resurrection Presbyterian Church, Downers Grove, IL (received from independence, March 2009)

### **Mid-Atlantic Presbytery**

- 12) Christ Covenant (mission church), Fredericksburg, VA (constituted October 2008)
- 13) Rock Presbyterian Church, Greenwood, SC (received from independence, October 2008)
- 14) Hope Church (mission Church), Raleigh, NC (constituted February 2009)
- 15) Stuart Presbyterian Church, Stuart, VA (received from PCUSA, February 2009)

### **Midwest Presbytery**

- 16) Discovery Church (mission church), Evansville, IN (constituted June 2008)
- 17) The Well (mission church), Brighton, MI (constituted June 2008)
- 18) First Presbyterian Church, Kokomo, IN (received as transitional member from independence, April 2009)
- 19) Covenant Church, West Lafayette, IN (received as transitional member, From PCUSA, April 2009)
- 20) Grace Point EPC, Nappanee, IN (received as transitional member, from PCUSA, April 2009)
- 21) First Presbyterian Church, Frankfort, IN (received as transitional member, from PCUSA, April 2009)

### **Southeast Presbytery**

- 22) Timberridge Presbyterian Church, McDonough, GA (received from independence, October 2008)

### **West Presbytery**

- 23) Millbrook Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA (received from PCUSA, October 2008)
- 24) Sunset Presbyterian Church, Portland, OR (received as transitional member from PCUSA, January 2009)

### **New Wineskins/EPC Transitional Presbytery**

- 25) Grace Community Fellowship (mission church), Ottawa, KS (received from PCUSA June, 2008)
- 26) Trinity Presbyterian Church, Liverpool, NY (received from independence, August 2008)
- 27) Attica-Williamsport Presbyterian, Attica, IN (received from independence, August 2008)

SC Attachment A

- 28) Fourth Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA (received from PCUSA, September 2008)
- 29) Fallbrook Presbyterian Church, Fallbrook, CA (received from PCUSA, October 2008)
- 30) Covenant Presbyterian Church (The Barn), Simsbury, CT (received from PCUSA, October 2008)
- 31) River Church South, Gonzales, LA (received from PCUSA November, 2008)
- 32) First Presbyterian Church of College Corner, College Corner, OH (received from independence, December, 2008)
- 33) Fort Palmer Presbyterian Church, Bolivar, PA (received from PCUSA, January, 2009)
- 34) Sierra Presbyterian Church, Nevada City, CA (received from PCUSA, February 2009)
- 35) Wallace St. Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, IN (received from PCUSA, April 2009)
- 36) New Creation EPC (mission church), Joplin, MO (constituted April 2009)
- 37) Chippewa United Presbyterian Church, Beaver Falls, PA (received from PCUSA, April 2009)
- 38) Sunset Presbyterian Church, Portland, OR (received from Presbytery of the West May 2009)

**Churches Dismissed or Dissolved since the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (June 2008)**

- 1) Woodland Presbyterian Church, New Orleans, LA, dismissed from NWEPC to Central South (EPC), April 2009
- 2) Sunset Presbyterian Church, Portland, OR, dismissed from West (EPC) to NWEPC, May 2009.

**Financial Statistics**

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
<b>Giving to Presbyteries</b>	912,193	835,917	656,539	700,714	724,313	709,694
<i>Giving to General Assembly</i>						
<i>Per member asking</i>	1,217,021	1,129,304	1,111,456	1,121,310	1,154,902	1,068,063
<i>Missionary Support</i>	2,225,719	2,233,728	2,123,614	2,041,626	1,909,722	1,796,918
<i>Benevolence Giving</i>						
World Outreach	112,524	102,464	192,780	127,885	84,536	76,439
Women's Ministries	39,405	57,230	37,810	37,970	37,662	44,925
Special Offerings	164,236	178,540	244,152	1,028,132	289,516	277,105
National Outreach	44,231	57,261	70,744	61,316	97,546	122,022
Church Loan Fund	--	17	1,000	1,000	3,500	11,438
Church Development	38,502	50,880	45,774	42,045	47,080	38,980
Student/College Ministries	6,044	5,843	11,330	5,306	1,650	3,550
Other Designated Giving	118,882	41,083	62,843	64,542	58,604	90,630
<i>Total Benevolence Giving</i>	523,824	493,318	666,434	1,368,196	620,094	658,416
<b>Total Giving to GA</b>	<b>3,966,564</b>	<b>3,856,350</b>	<b>3,901,503</b>	<b>4,531,132</b>	<b>3,684,718</b>	<b>3,530,070</b>
<i>Other designated giving:</i>						
Vision 21 Implementation	275	1,892	17,983	39,719	34,214	42,447
Vision 21 Pastoral Care	4,962	212	1,866	5,765	1,242	275
Medical Benevolence	2,260	2,200	3,200	1,200	1,400	1,200
Moderators Scholarship Fund	783	3,251	2,659	2,676	3,835	2,870
Jumper Scholarship	950	1,055	1,820	2,031	4,094	4,615
Staff Support & Development	--	--	--	20	--	152
Other/Designated Miscellaneous	--	18,498	1,750	7,792	13,818	21,898
Jopin Group Local Offering	80,395	--	--	--	--	--
Ministerial Endowment	--	--	--	--	--	--
Chaplains' Scholarship/Care	4,146	8,800	--	--	--	--
Christian Education/Library	--	1,000	--	--	--	10,500
Other income	25,111	4,175	33,565	5,339	--	6,673
<i>Total Other Designated Giving</i>	<i>118,882</i>	<i>41,083</i>	<i>62,843</i>	<i>64,542</i>	<i>58,604</i>	<i>90,630</i>
<i>Special offerings</i>						
Emergency relief	120,700	122,000	201,474	979,859	220,255	207,058
Lenten offering	--	106	918	250	12,482	3,490
Gratitude Gift (Christmas)	23,413	21,247	11,797	29,274	26,006	26,493
Thanksgiving	15,755	35,187	26,585	18,749	25,085	34,924
GA Offering	4,368	*	3,378	*	5,689	5,140
<i>Total Special Offerings</i>	<i>164,236</i>	<i>178,540</i>	<i>244,152</i>	<i>1,028,132</i>	<i>289,516</i>	<i>277,105</i>

\*Given to host church to defray expenses.

**Financial Statistics**

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\*Given to host church to defray expenses.

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**Student Ministries Report**  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly



*Brandon Bates*  
*Chairman*



*Rob Craig*  
*Interim Director*

Members of the Student Ministries Committee are: TE Brandon Bates, chairman; Mike Bonser; RE Sonny Flowers; RE Tom Ghena; TE Corey Gray; Christy LeRoy, TE Chris Robinson; TE Dan Weidman; and TE Jay Westra. The Committee met on October 9-10, 2008 and March 5-6, 2009 in Livonia, MI.

**The Work of the Committee**

The Student Ministries Committee has spent a great deal of time in the last twelve months attempting to evaluate and redefine our mission, vision, and values for Student Ministry in the EPC. This has been challenging work, and we are grateful to Jeff Jeremiah, Allen Roes, and Nate Atwood for their wisdom and help. We are hopeful that this last year's heavily administrative work will yield fruit in the hands-on ministry of our EPC churches for years to come. We have dreamed and created a new Mission/Vision/Values/Strategy document for missional ministry in which to serve the future strategically with creativity and flexibility.

Our new *Mission* statement is **“Seeking to spread the Gospel through local youth ministries by *equipping, providing, and connecting* youth workers and students.”**

Our new *Vision* Statement is **“To build a vibrant movement of missional networks throughout the EPC by *equipping* youth workers for ministry, *providing* encouragement & resources and *connecting* them in community.”**

Our strategy is:

- ***Equipping for leadership and ministry***

To ***Equip*** by creating a culture of leadership by partnering with Presbyteries, Elders, and churches in building and sustaining effective student ministries programs and leadership training. To raise up

qualified leaders and to make available quality resources for effective student ministry.

- ***Providing for encouragement and opportunity***

To ***Provide*** by creating a culture of encouragement and opportunity for all EPC youth workers in the local church. To pursue partnerships with strategic ministries and organizations. To provide mission experiences and recommend reformed, Biblical resources relevant to middle and high school students.

- ***Connecting for community and partnership***

To ***Connect*** by creating a culture of networking amongst our youth workers, Churches, Pastors, Elders, and Presbyteries. To implement connectional accountability, leadership development, and best practices. To promote partnerships amongst churches large, small and in-between for ministry opportunities.

### **Implementing the Vision**

To that end, one of our initial strategic goals for 2009 is implementing and sustaining regional youth worker networks throughout the EPC. Already in 2009, three network training meetings have taken place within 3 Presbyteries (Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, and the East) with two more meetings on the calendar in 2009. These meetings have been enthusiastically received and endorsed by those youth workers who have participated. Our goal is to have functional networks within all Presbyteries and regions by the end of 2010.

#### **1. Summer Trips Preview**

Per the directive we were given last year, the Student Ministries Committee has shifted from *sponsoring* EPC student mission trips, to *recommending* a menu of student mission opportunities through endorsed EPC ministries. However, we will continue to sponsor the Appalachian Impact trips due to the success of this 17 year relationship within this community. Our 2009 summer missions program features three weeks of Appalachian Impact. This is one additional week over last year. It was anticipated that due to the current economic realities, fewer youth groups would be traveling overseas for mission trips. As a result, enrollment has increased this year for Appalachian Impact. Another critical concern addressed to the SM Committee last year was the lack of small churches participating in our summer trips. This year, 60% of the participating churches enrolled in Appalachian Impact are from churches with 200 or fewer members, which is consistent with percentage of “small” churches within the entire denomination.

#### **2. Youth Worker Oasis**

The Youth Worker Oasis is a retreat and time of refreshment for those who work with students in EPC churches. It is also an event where the three essential functions *Equipping*, *Providing*, and *Connecting* really come together. The men and women who serve our churches are nurtured in community with other youth workers and sharpened in their focus of God’s mission for the church through youth ministry.



Last year's event is took place on October 27-29 in Loveland, CO. A very special thanks goes to Bill Ackerman and Faith Presbyterian for their gracious hospitality. Rev. Dan Weidman from Christ the King EPC in Castle Rock, CO. was the keynote speaker. Dan was the very first EPC Student Ministries Director in the General Assembly office.

This year's Oasis is scheduled for September 30–October 2 at Signal Mountain EPC, in Signal Mountain, TN.

### **3. Areas of Opportunity**

1. The EPC has the potential for our numbers to grow rapidly over the next few years. Student Ministries will consequently have the opportunity and responsibility to serve more churches in more places. This should also mean that we have a deeper pool of resources to draw from as we seek to meet the needs of all our youth workers.
2. Social networking and technology are advancing at a rapid rate. We feel that EPC Student Ministries can be a valuable resource to youth workers throughout the EPC by exploring online resourcing and training capabilities that could be a way to provide quality training for our EPC youth workers.
3. Our desire is to help connect the churches and ministries of the EPC from around the country. We have some extraordinarily gifted and experienced professional youth workers in the EPC, so we should continue to find ways to extend connectionalism through networking to encourage our youth workers, churches and Presbyteries to be connectional.
4. We need to listen to the youth workers in the field to hear what their needs are in terms of programs, discipleship, and mission so that we can come alongside them and provide resources that they need, not things we think they need.

### **Chairman's Note**

Finally, I am firmly convinced that the Director of Student Ministries will play a vital role in implementing our strategy. I am optimistic that the strategic goals and key result areas will focus our work to such a degree that our committee and the COA can agree on a decision about continuing with a full-time director.

The Student Ministries Committee will continue to use the significant gifts of its members to work toward our vision, but we will rely on the work of God through His Spirit to accomplish His purposes in His church.

### **Recommendations to the General Assembly**

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Bates  
Chairman

Rob Craig  
Interim Student Ministries Director  
June 2009

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**Theology Committee Report**  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

Members of the Theology Committee are RE Tom Werner, TE Cooper McWhirter, TE Scott Waters, RE Gordon Miller, RE Bill Painter, and TE Paul Husband. The Committee met October 31 and November 1, 2008.



*Paul Husband*  
*Chairman*

**The Work of the Committee**

2008 General Assembly referrals:

1. Working definitions of a missional church and denomination
2. Preliminary Position Paper on the Doctrine of Scripture
3. Deacons and the power of Order- Amendment of G.10-9 (see MVC Attachment C in the Ministerial Vocation Committee Report)
4. Overture 08-B (see MVC Attachment D in the Ministerial Vocation Committee Report)

The Committee submits as information its progress on reworking the Preliminary Position Paper on the Doctrine of Scripture (see THEOL Attachment A and B) based on the 2008 GA directives for “clarification and strengthening in the areas of clarity of Scripture, sufficiency of Scripture, rules of interpretation of Scripture (hermeneutics) and use of easily understandable language.” However, the section on the sufficiency of Scripture has not been completed and will be presented at the 2010 General Assembly. The Committee welcomes input from Church Sessions on this document.

**Recommendations to the General Assembly**

**Recommendation THEOL-1**

That the Assembly adopt the following definition of a missional church and denomination:

Our denomination wants to clarify for its member churches who we are and what we do as the United States becomes a mission field that is larger, more spiritually diverse and more antagonistic to the Gospel than ever before.

The term “missional” has become common and therefore highly nuanced. We desire to define missional in a simple and specific way so that each EPC church can commit to a unified, obedient pursuit of the expansion of the Kingdom of God.

1. A missional church grasps that God is a missionary God and that “it is not so much that God has a mission for His church in the world, but that God has a Church for His mission in the world.”\*

2. A missional church believes that the mission of God is rooted unalterably in the Bible, God's infallible Word. Therefore, a missional church believes that the essence of God's mission is to extend the reign of God and is summed up in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. A missional church is a visible community of authentic disciples of Jesus Christ who *gather* for celebration, prayer and teaching and then *disperse* locally and globally as His missionaries to love and serve people. In so doing, a missional church both *pursues* and *welcomes* those who are searching as they are drawn into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. The greater purpose in all of this is that the earth will be filled with the worship of God.
4. A missional church believes that it is more than just a collection of individuals, but that it is a community called together by God both to love Him and serve Him.
5. A missional church is concerned with more than maintaining programs for existing members; it is called to mobilize itself both individually and as a community to daily self-sacrifice for the hurting world around them. A missional church is both inwardly strong and outwardly focused.
6. A missional church perceives that the essence of these things is the essence of its existence. Therefore, a missional church will constantly seek to reevaluate itself as to whether or not its emphasis, organization, and activity effectively positions the church to partner with God in His mission.
7. A missional denomination
  - a. Believes that the location of ministry is the local church
  - b. Is made up of local congregations committed to being missional
  - c. Believes that the Presbyteries and General Assembly, being expressions of the larger church, have an important role to play in identifying, equipping and supporting leaders and churches. They are a key link in the principle of mutual accountability toward missional ministry and Biblical standards.
  - d. Constantly examines whether its polity, structures and programs are supporting or inhibiting that missional commitment

\* J. Andrew Kirk, What is Mission? Theological Explorations (London: Darton, Longman and Todd; Minneapolis: fortress Press, 1999), pp 23-37.

### **Recommendation THEOL-2**

The Permanent Committee on Theology recommends that the Assembly approve Overture 08B (see MVC Attachment D in the Ministerial Vocation Committee Report).

1. There are no biblical or theological grounds for disapproving this overture.
2. Disallowing this overture prevents the presbytery and church from considering this arrangement.

3. Approving this overture allows the presbytery and church to consider if co-pastor is an appropriate arrangement.
4. The committee recognizes that there are valid pastoral/pragmatic concerns with regard to this category, and we trust that the presbytery and church considering co-pastors will ensure that all potential issues arising from this arrangement are addressed and resolved.

**Recommendation THEOL-3**

That the Assembly not adopt the amendment of G. 10-9 to allow for commissioning/endorsing of EPC deacons as Chaplains (see MVC Attachment C in the Ministerial Vocation Committee Report).

**Grounds:**

1. Any officer of the church (ruling elders and/or deacons), regardless of their spiritual gifts, serving in a capacity outside the local church, is beyond the authority of the church to: commission, certify, recommend and endorse. This, however, should not prohibit an individual from serving as a paid or volunteer chaplain.
2. A deacon/deaconess is not authorized to administer any sacrament.
3. It is clear to this committee that appropriate accountability and oversight cannot be exercised by either the local church or the presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Husband, Chairman

June 2009

### **Biblical Hermeneutics**

Biblical Hermeneutics is the art and science of interpreting the Bible. The word “hermeneutic” is derived from the Greek word *hermaeneuo* meaning “to explain or to interpret.” The task, therefore, of Biblical hermeneutics is to rightly interpret and explain the Scriptures in spite of the sinfulness and conflicting presuppositions (assumptions) of the interpreter. Early in the 16<sup>th</sup> century the Reformers disagreed with the Roman Church not only over what a particular passage meant, but also over the nature of interpretation, the locus (place) of authority in interpretation, the role of the Church and of the Holy Spirit in interpretation, and much more.

All Protestants stand on the shoulders of the Reformers who had a passion to make the Bible accessible to the common man in his own language and to “accurately handle the word of truth” (2 Tim 2:15). In 1515 a breakthrough occurred when Martin Luther rejected the elaborate, Medieval four-fold allegorical hermeneutic<sup>1</sup> and recovered the apostle’s hermeneutic of a Christ-centered<sup>2</sup> and grammatical-historical exegesis of Scripture. This single interpretive decision was the seed idea

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<sup>1</sup> Graeme Goldsworthy, “Hermeneutics and Christ,” [www.monergism.com](http://www.monergism.com). This method of interpretation did not “ignore the natural meaning, but said that the text could be read in a four-fold way: the literal sense, the moral sense, the allegorical sense and the anagogical sense (which derived heavenly meanings from the earthly text).” Allegorical meaning was at the heart of this hermeneutic. “Allegory comes out of fusing the historical and the eternal, and the divine and the human. They are not kept distinct, and so the basic historical meaning of the text is lost.” The other great hermeneutical problem in the medieval period separated the natural and supernatural (Aquinas) on the one hand and fused the historical and divine on the other. “Catholicism... came to fuse the ‘Christ who is without’ (the Jesus of history) with the ‘Christ who is within’ (that is, by the presence of His Spirit). The gospel event was redefined more and more in terms of what God does in us rather than as what God has done for us in the historic Jesus. Justification and sanctification were reversed so that a changed life became the basis of acceptance with God. Grace was redefined. It ceased to be God’s attitude which makes for the justification of the ungodly, and became the spiritual influenced which flows (mainly through sacraments) into the soul making it good and, eventually, acceptable to God.”

<sup>2</sup> The Old Testament finds its fullest significance in the historical person and work of Jesus of Nazareth and the great diversity of texts in the Bible finds unity in the common role of testifying to Jesus Christ. Thus, the relationship of the Old Testament to the New Testament is unity, continuity and consummation in Christ. We believe that all critical procedures must be tested by the authority of Christ in His gospel. Therefore, like the Reformers of old, we cannot think about hermeneutics without seeking to be Christ-centered. We seek to see how Christ has revealed Himself in all of Scripture- i.e. by types and shadows, by inspiration of writers to cast historical events in such a way that they not only are historically accurate but also reflect or resemble an aspect of Christ’s character or work (Moses as a prophet, Aaron as a priest or David as a king).

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which led to the greatest recovery of doctrinal purity in the history of the Church. For Luther, the grammatical-historical hermeneutic was simply the interpretation of the Bible that “drives home Christ.” John Calvin agreed in his Commentary on John 5:39: “We ought to read the Scriptures with the express design of finding Christ in them. Whoever shall turn aside from this object, though he may weary himself throughout his whole life in learning will never attain the knowledge of the truth; for what wisdom can we have without wisdom of God?” The Reformers use of the grammatical-historical hermeneutic was grounded in their conviction that each Biblical passage has one basic meaning,<sup>3</sup> which is firmly rooted in historical truth, and related accurately according to the common principles of human language. This grammatical-historical method of interpretation is called literal interpretation. A literal interpretation seeks the meaning of the human writer by interpreting according to the most apparent meaning. By literal, we do not mean that the interpreter disregards literary forms, figures of speech, or literary style. Scripture uses similes, metaphors, hyperbole, synecdoche, irony, and other forms of rich imagery to romanticize, illustrate, and emphasize truth. By literal, we mean that a verse must be interpreted according its most apparent meaning. “A text means what its author meant, not what its readers think it means,” wrote A. B. Hirsch in Validity in Interpretation. Literal interpretation, asks the question, “What was the thought in the writer's mind when he penned these words?” The interpreter must search for the original meaning of the text. Since the Bible is clear, it should be interpreted according to its most normal and natural sense. Interpretation, then, is a matter of exegesis, taking meaning out of the text, rather than eisegesis, reading meaning into the text that the author never intended. As interpreters we must let the author say what he is saying and not make him say what we want him to say.

The Westminster Divines explained the key to interpreting the Bible:

WCF I.9 “The infallible standard for the interpretation of the Bible is the Bible itself. And so any question about the true and complete sense of a passage in the Bible (which is unified as a whole) can be answered by referring to other passages which speak more plainly. (The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms in Modern English; Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 2004, Part 1.9)

The Scripture’s own doctrine of Scripture binds us to three key principles in Biblical Hermeneutics:

First, since the Scripture teaches its own revelatory and inspired character, it binds us to the grammatical-historical method of exegesis. J.I. Packer explains:

The doctrine of inspiration... tells us that God has put His words into the mouths, and caused them to be written in the writings, of men whose individuality, as men of

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<sup>3</sup> A particular passage may have **many applications**, but it only has **one meaning** - the one the author (through inspiration of the Holy Spirit) intended.

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their time, was in no way lessened by the fact of their inspiration, and who spoke and wrote to be understood by their contemporaries. Since God has effected an identity between their words and His, the way for us to get into His mind, if we may thus phrase it, is via theirs. Their thoughts and speech about God constitute God's own self-testimony.<sup>4</sup>

This means that when we exegete a Biblical text we must discover the writer's intended meaning in order to apprehend God's self-testimony. We do this by seeking to use the grammar (the structure and idioms of the original language), the history (the life setting of time and place), the context (to whom and in what circumstance is this written i.e. what problem or question does the writer address and what do the verses preceding and following teach)<sup>5</sup>, and the literary genre (prose or poetry, history or allegory, parable or apocalypse).

Second, the Scripture's own doctrine of Scripture binds us to the harmonization of Scripture. This is based on the conviction "that the doctrine of inspiration means that the entirety of Scripture, though written over a period of fifteen centuries, is ultimately the product of a single divine mind, who is truth itself and who accordingly cannot lie or contradict Himself. The teaching of all sixty-six books in the Bible is complementary and self-consistent. If we as exegetes do not yet see this, the fault is in us, not in Scripture. This means in turn that there is an ultimate organic unity between the Old and New Testaments, and that Scripture can and should be interpreted by Scripture."<sup>6</sup> In other words, Scripture must be used to interpret Scripture, because the Word of God will **never** contradict itself. This means that Scripture must never be set against itself, and, as Packer explains:

what appears to be secondary and obscure in the Scripture should be studied in the light of what appears primary and plain. This principle obliges us to echo the main emphases of the New Testament and to develop a Christocentric, covenantal and kerygmatic [gospel proclamation] exegesis of both Testaments; also, it obliges us to preserve a studied sense of proportion regarding what are confessedly

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<sup>4</sup> James I. Packer, "Biblical Authority, Hermeneutics, and Inerrancy," in *Jerusalem and Athens*, ed. E.R. Gehan (Nutley, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1971), 147.

<sup>5</sup> The word "text" is derived from the Latin "textus", which means "to weave." The context is that which accompanies the text and all Scripture is woven together as a perfect unity. We must examine the verses immediately before, after, and around the passage. We must study the book of the Bible and the section of the Bible in which the passage occurs. The Bible must be interpreted within the framework of the Bible

<sup>6</sup> Robert L. Reymond, *A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith* 2nd Ed. Revised and Updated (Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1998), 49, 50.

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minutiae, and not to let them overshadow what God has indicated to the weightier matters.<sup>7</sup>

This principle of harmony is what the Reformers meant by “the analogy of faith, or analogy of the whole of Scripture.” This Reformation principle was based upon Paul’s expression in Romans 12:6 “the analogy of the faith.” The methodology of this hermeneutic is the studied comparison of all relevant Biblical passages on any one topic to harmonize the passages and avoid contradictions. It assumes Biblical coherence, canonical closure, and the organic character of Biblical discourse.<sup>8</sup>

Third, the Scripture’s doctrine of Scripture binds us to view its teachings not merely as occasional or circumstantial and cultural, but as perennial and transcultural. These timeless truths of Scripture are intended “for our instruction, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness.” 2 Tim 3:16-17. The Apostle Paul states this principle clearly:

Romans 4:23-24; “The words ‘it was credited to him’ were written not for him [Abraham] alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness- for us who believe in Him who raised Jesus from the dead.”

Romans 15:4 “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

1 Corinthians 9:9-10 “For it is written in the Law of Moses: ‘Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.’ Is it about oxen that God is concerned? Surely He says this for us, doesn’t He? Yes, this was written for us.”

1 Corinthians 10:6-11: “Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.... These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.”

What is so striking about Paul’s assertions that the Old Testament Scriptures were written for **our** instruction is that in his own use of these same Scriptures he

writes almost as if there were no gap at all between the Scriptures written years before and the “us” for whom they are written as instruction, or as if the analogy and similarities are so great that the gap is thereby not only easily bridged but also intended by God to be bridged for He had us also in mind when they were written. This is particularly relevant in that most of the passages are used

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<sup>7</sup> Packer, “Biblical Authority, Hermeneutics, and Inerrancy,” 149.

<sup>8</sup> Blocher, “The ‘Analogy of Faith’ in the Study of Scripture,” 29-34.



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to urge the appropriate conduct which the Scriptures have indicated.<sup>9</sup> But in no case does he write about conduct in the realm of morality and say or imply that the Scriptures were not in that case written for our instruction....

Since this principle is true of the OT Scriptures written before the end of the ages has come, how much more is it true of the NT Scriptures written in the period of the end of the ages in which we today and they who originally received it both live. Since the ethical instruction has bridged that most significant gap between OT and NT and applies to us, certainly where there is no real gap of religious moment between us and the NT church we should expect an even more direct correlation between the NT teachings and ourselves. We will not need to argue, as Paul did in 1 Corinthians 10, the analogies between the OT ceremonies and situations and ours, for they will not be ones of analogy but of identity in the religious realm.<sup>10</sup>

Since all the Scriptures were written for our instruction we are committed to viewing the Bible's explicit teaching as perennial and transcultural. This means that all of Scripture is applicable to all Christians in every age and every culture.<sup>11</sup> While we must distinguish admonitions that are culturally conditioned, such as "Greet one another with a holy kiss," from those that are not so conditioned in their application, we must resist permitting the "occasional" cultural differences that exist between the New Testament world and our own to rob us of all direct application of the Scripture's instruction to us.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Paul recognizes that the types and shadows of the ceremonial law and the Jewish theocratic entity have respectively been fulfilled and removed with the first advent of Christ.

<sup>10</sup> George W. Knight III, "The Scriptures Were Written for Our Instruction," *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 39, no. 1 (1996):12.

<sup>11</sup> Although Scripture is nowhere culture-bound in the sense that its teaching lacks universal validity, it is sometimes culturally conditioned by the customs and conventional views of a particular period, so that the application of its principles today calls for a different sort of action. Rom 16:16 tells us to "Greet one another with a holy kiss." The French do it, Arab believers do it but most Christian cultures settle for a hand shake or a hug.

<sup>12</sup> Reymond, 53.

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Interpretation of Scripture has never been and will never be an exact science. Our theological presuppositions (the assumptions and beliefs we bring to the text) will inevitably influence our interpretation to some degree.<sup>13</sup> “Pretended neutrality” (the attribution of bias to one’s opponent while implying that one is theologically neutral) is an exegetical fallacy as potent as any other. “Handling accurately the word of truth” is a daunting task, but if we seek to apply the principles briefly delineated in this paper (and expanded in the resources, below), we can minimize the errors and bias in our interpretation. Christians who have been redeemed by grace alone and united to Christ through faith alone are given the Holy Spirit who helps us understand the Word of God. WCF 1:6 explains that “the inward illumination of the Spirit of God is necessary for a saving understanding of the things which are revealed in the Word.”

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<sup>13</sup> Some of our presuppositions as Reformed Evangelicals: **the Bible** is inspired, infallible, inerrant, authoritative, sufficiently clear about the essentials of the faith, a unity, completely sufficient for the believer in Jesus Christ, and has a practical purpose. We hold that the Old Testament cannot be understood fully unless it is seen in the light of the New Testament and vice versa, and, with covenant theology as our framework, we are able to see how God is working out His covenantal purposes throughout the history of redemption.

## **THE CLARITY (PERSPICUITY<sup>14</sup>) OF SCRIPTURE**

“The meanings of all the passages in the Bible are not equally obvious, nor is any individual passage clear to everyone. However, everything which we have to know, believe, and observe in order to be saved is so clearly presented and revealed somewhere in the Bible that the uneducated as well as the educated can sufficiently understand it by the proper use of the ordinary means of grace.”

(The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms in Modern English; Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 2004, Part 1.7)

### **INTRODUCTION**

The above quotation from the Westminster Confession makes two very important points:

1. Some parts of the Bible are harder to understand than other parts!
2. What we need to know for purposes of salvation is clear! (Perspicuity)

Even the beginning student of the Bible quickly discovers some parts are easily understood, while other parts seem shrouded in mystery. Not as easily understood, but clear to those who have read and viewed the Bible as a whole, is that God’s plan of redemption and our salvation is readily apparent, even to “the uneducated”. This section is intended to examine these two points with the emphasis on the clarity or perspicuity of Scripture.

### **PERSPICUITY**

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Roman Catholic Church had long held to the view that its offices held the sole right to interpret Scripture when the sixteenth century reformers asserted an individual could not be denied access to, or interpretation of, God’s Word. While recognizing the danger of misinterpretation by the common man, Luther believed the benefit of ready access to the gospels outweighed the potential harm from faulty interpretation by the average parishioner.<sup>15</sup> Theologian Robert L. Reymond sums up centuries of Protestant thought concerning the clarity of Scripture when he

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<sup>14</sup> Clarity of thought, lucidity: one of the traditional attributes of Scripture. Modern day theologians often use “clarity” in its place.

<sup>15</sup> R.C. Sproul, *Truths We Confess* (Phillipsburg, N.J.: P&R Publishing, 2006), 24.

writes: “And the prophets, apostles, and indeed Jesus himself, addressed their messages to all the people, and never treated them as intellectual pygmies who were incapable of understanding anything of what they said.”<sup>16</sup>

### **WHAT CLARITY IS AND IS NOT**

The idea of clarity affirms that much of the Bible can be understood by ordinary believers. It is logical to assume that revelation inspired by God would be capable of being understood. A right understanding of God’s nature does not allow for a God of confusion or misinformation.

This does not mean all things will be easily understood. Peter tells us in 2 Peter 3:15 – 16 that some things of which Paul writes in his letters “are hard to understand”. Mystery, difficult concepts, things of great complexity are scattered throughout Scripture. Many of us are familiar with important doctrinal issues with which theologians have struggled for centuries. Even the disciples failed at times in their understanding of the message from God. (See Matt. 15:16; Mark 4:10 – 13) What we can know is that the problem will be with our understanding and not with Scripture. The truth is that God has spoken to us about many things difficult for us to fully grasp with human reason. Therefore, even the most clearly spoken of topics does not guarantee they will be easily comprehended. The clearest explanation of quantum physics may leave most of us confused. We can take comfort, as we shall read later, that many steps can be taken to strengthen our confidence in our ability to hear clearly from God as we spend time in His word. First, a brief look at Scriptural support for clarity.

### **SCRIPTURAL SUPPORT**

The Psalms are a great source of support for the idea of clarity and our ability to understand Scripture.

- Ps. 1:2 “... but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.”
- Ps. 19:7 “The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.”
- Ps. 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”
- Ps. 119:130 “The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.”

The New Testament doesn’t find Jesus advising His listeners to ignore Scripture. Time and again Christ points his listeners to God’s word, the underlying

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<sup>16</sup> Robert L. Reymond, A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith 2d Ed. Revised and Updated (Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1998), 87.

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assumption being they would be able to read them and understand. "Have you not read ...?" Matt. 12:3, 5; 19:14; 22:31

### **KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING**

We affirm, as our Confession states, that Scripture can be understood "by the proper use of the ordinary means of grace". What does this involve, how do we do this?

Robert Raymond once again gives a rather direct response when he says:

"All one needs to do in order to discover these things,  
to put it plainly, is to sit down in a fairly comfortable  
chair, open the Gospels, and with a good reading lamp,  
read the Gospels like he would read any other book."  
Raymond p. 88.

Reading, hearing, studying are basic essentials to understanding Scripture. This is no place for sloth! But is that all? The unregenerate reader will get only so far even exercising the best of study habits. Intellectual abilities alone may gain us knowledge, but not reception of Scripture's truth.

The Holy Spirit is necessary to overcome the effects of sin which might otherwise lead us to see Scripture as foolish.

"The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit  
of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to  
understand them because they are spiritually discerned."  
1 Cor. 2:14

Full understanding and meaning comes with the inward working and illumination of the Holy Spirit.

### **CONCLUSION**

We can take great satisfaction in knowing we do not worship a God of confusion. God's message is clear, and can be understood in the fullest sense with the help of the Holy Spirit and through the skills of interpretation and earnest study diligent believers can learn and practice what the Bible says.

**The EPC Preliminary Position Paper on the Doctrine of Scripture  
(As presented to the 2008 GA)**

The faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word is essential for growth in grace and knowledge in the Christian life. The EPC is committed to the Bible, God's **infallible** and **inerrant** Word, as the final authority in faith and life. The negative terms *infallible* and *inerrant* have a special value, for they explicitly safeguard crucial positive truths. Infallible means incapable of error. It is the quality of neither misleading nor being misled and so safeguards the truth that Holy Scripture is a sure, safe, and reliable rule and guide in all matters. Inerrant means free from all falsehood or mistake and so safeguards the truth that Holy Scripture is entirely true and trustworthy in all its assertions. We believe the proper starting point in forming a doctrine of Scripture is the self-witness of Scripture (i.e., the Bible's own teaching about itself). The self-attesting Scripture demands we conclude that the Bible is the Word of God written which carries the authority of its divine Author.

Two classic passages set forth the Bible's own witness or doctrine of Scripture:

2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness." (NAS) (The phrase "inspired by God" is one word in the Greek, *theopneustos*, meaning literally God-breathed.)

2 Peter 1:20-21 "No prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (ESV)

All Scripture is God-breathed, the product of the divine breath, as Isaiah put it: "The mouth of the Lord has spoken it." Scripture itself claims that it came forth from the Spirit of God and maintains this claim over against all criticism. The Bible in its entirety is divine in its origin, authority, and reliability. We affirm that the Bible in its **original autographs** is the infallible and inerrant Word of God and that the authority of Scripture is ultimate and absolute. The doctrine of inerrancy in the **original autographs** (autographa) is of the utmost importance. Without inerrancy, we cannot consistently confess the truthfulness of God, be fully assured of the biblical promise of salvation, or maintain *sola Scriptura* (since errors in the original, unlike those in transmission, would not be correctable in principle). We can be assured that we possess the Word of God in our present Bibles because of God's unfailing providence. Our sovereign King does not allow His aims in revealing Himself to be frustrated. The results of textual criticism confirm that we possess a biblical text that is substantially consistent with the original autographs. *The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy with Exposition (1979)* is a brief, but excellent summary of why the evangelical restriction of infallibility and inerrancy to the original autographs is warranted, essential and defensible. It is included in the appendix with a brief bibliography.

In the EPC there are three key documents which deal directly with the doctrine of Scripture. These are the *Westminster Confession of Faith* chapter 1, *The Essentials*

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*of the Faith*, paragraph 1, and the questions for ordination of pastors (Book of Government, 14-1A.2) and ruling elders and deacons (Book of Government, 14-1E.2).

### **The Ordination Questions**

(Book of Government, 14-1A.2, 14-1E.2)

The second ordination question for pastors, elders and deacons is: “Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, totally trustworthy, fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, the supreme, final and only infallible rule of faith and practice?” The phrase “totally trustworthy” means that the Bible in all its parts can be completely trusted to teach the truth. The reason for such a belief is that it is fully, not partially, inspired by God through the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Since the author of the Bible is in fact God, and we know Him to be true, we therefore can know His word to be true.

The ordination question also points out that nothing else is to be held in the high place of Scripture when it comes to directing what we believe and what we do. It is the supreme, final, and only infallible rule of faith (what we believe) and practice (what we do).

The ordination question does not limit the trustworthiness of Scripture solely to matters of theology proper. To do so would be inconsistent with an historic Reformed world view which sees all of life coming under the absolute sovereignty of God.

### **The Essentials**

The Essentials of the EPC are in harmony with the above ordination question. Two phrases which stand out as needful of examination are: Scripture “requires our unreserved submission in all areas of life, and “is the supreme and final authority on all matters on which it speaks.”

These two statements in the Essentials indicate that we cannot limit the trustworthiness of Scripture solely to those areas directly related to God’s redemptive acts. The truth of Scripture is to inform all of life, and when the wisdom and leadership of the world comes in conflict with that of Scripture, then Scripture is to be trusted above the current wisdom of man.

### **The Westminster Confession of Faith**

Chapter One of *The Westminster Confession of Faith* reveals a high view of the doctrine of Scripture. For example, paragraph 4 states that “the Bible speaks authoritatively and so deserves to be believed and obeyed.” Paragraph 5 speaks of the “infallible truth and divine authority of the Bible” and states that “Scripture itself shows in so many ways that it is God’s Word... in ... the majesty of its style, the agreement of all its parts... and its complete perfection.” Paragraph 8 states that “The Old Testament in Hebrew... and the New Testament in Greek... were directly inspired by God and have been kept uncontaminated throughout time by his special care and providence.”



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The writers of The Westminster Confession of Faith by using the terms “infallible truth, divine authority, complete perfection, and directly inspired by God” assumed the inerrancy of Scripture in the original autographs. According to this grand confession of the Church, no error can be attributed to the Bible at any place.

The EPC upholds and affirms the doctrine of original infallibility and inerrancy. We stand with the Reformers who proclaimed the doctrine of Scripture alone and entire (sola and tota Scriptura).

Our Standard - The Bible (The Word of God written)  
Our Goal - Advance the Kingdom of God  
Our Motive - The Glory of God

**Appendix to the EPC Preliminary Position Paper on the Doctrine of Scripture:**

**The Chicago Statement On Biblical Inerrancy (can be obtained on-line)**

**EPC Preliminary Position Paper on the Doctrine of Scripture**

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Wenham's book makes the excellent point that our trust in Scripture is to be a part of our following Christ, because that is the way that He treated Scripture—as true, and therefore authoritative.

Young, E. J., *Thy Word is Truth*. Eerdmans, 1957. Fifty years later many Reformed theologians believe this is still the best work on the importance of biblical infallibility and inerrancy.

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**Women In Ministry Committee Report**  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly



*Libby Cooper*  
*Chairman*



*Jacky Gatliff*  
*Director*

Members of the Women in Ministry Committee are Chairman, Debbie Smith, Libby Cooper, Jackie Frye, Katie Marks, JoAnn Mason, Sammie McWhirter, Annette Phillips, Kimberly Batcheller. Jacky Gatliff serves as Director, EPC Women In Ministry. The Committee met August 24–25, 2007, in Livonia, MI, and, March 28–29, 2008, in Memphis, TN.

**The Work of the Committee**

The EPC Women In Ministry Committee continues to work in collaboration with the Director to provide opportunities for women to be encouraged, equipped and challenged for ministry.

**Leadership Training:**

- A. REAL Training Manual:** In September, 2008, the *REAL Training Guide* for equipping women in ministry leadership was made available. To date, more than 350 guides have been purchased by EPC Women In Ministry leaders, as well as leaders from other denominations. The purchase price of \$17.50 per guide is the cost of printing. The guide will be available for purchase at General Assembly. The following topics and contributors are included in the guide:

A Theology of Ministry or Why We Do What We Do  
Cathy Deddo, Immanuel EPC, Warrensville, IL

HeartWork (Personal Spiritual Formation)  
Marcia Schultz (Cherry Hills Community Church, Highlands Ranch, CO)

The Heart of a Leader  
MaryAnn Ruff and Donna Lamar (Hope EPC, Cordova, TN)

Called to Lead  
Hillary Coffee (Central Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, MO)

Missional Ministry  
Melissa Carder (Fourth Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, MD)

God's Big Story  
Susan Nash (First Presbyterian Church, Baton Rouge, LA)

Who are We? Being Evangelical Presbyterians  
Donna Alberta (Cornerstone EPC, Brighton, MI)

Bible Study Methods and Tools  
Jean Smith (Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church, Signal Mountain, TN)

Gifted for Ministry  
Alison Fall (Cherry Hills Community Church, Highlands Ranch, CO)

The Care Needs of Women  
Sharon Beekmann (Cherry Hills Community Church, Highlands Ranch, CO)

Designing a Ministry to Women  
Wendy Oakes (Greenwood Community Church, Greenwood Village, CO)

Making It Happen  
Jacky Gatliff (Director, EPC Women In Ministry)

- B. REAL Training Events:** Two training events took place during October, 2008: Knox EPC, Ann Arbor, MI on October 17-18, 2008 and Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church, Englewood, CO on October 24-25, 2008. More than 80 women participated at each event. A third training event took place at Signal Mountain Presbyterian, Signal Mountain, TN on April 17-18, 2009 with more than 120 women participating. While the trainings have been geared towards a particular region or presbytery, women have traveled to each event from distances beyond the presbytery geographic region. The response to each event has indicated that both the training material and the event itself have been very well received. Leaders express appreciation for the quality of the material and report on the varied and creative ways they use the material within their ministry setting.

Having seen what can be described as a "success" launch for the REAL Training guide and events, the committee will evaluate and explore avenues for continuing equipping women for leadership ministry in effective ways. It is recognized that it will be a multiple year process for a leadership culture for women ministry leaders to grow in the EPC.

**Website and Online Newsletter:** The Women In Ministry online newsletter is being produced five times annually. The target audience for the newsletter continues to be women leaders. Information and resources that are included in the

newsletter are considered for their practicality of use for leaders. While it continues to be a challenge to maintain accurate contact information for leaders, it is evident that the use of online technology is the most efficient and cost-effective approach for communication.

As events and travel slow for the Director during the summer months, a priority will be given to the development of resources designed for the website. A blog for use by women in ministry leaders will be launched before General Assembly, 2009.

**Faith Focus 2009–2010:** The current Faith Focus project, *Eagles' Wings* was launched in May, 2008. This multiple year project will support the work of World Outreach missionaries Austin and Beverly McCaskill in Albania. The McCaskills are working with local ministries to build and equip homes to care for 10–20 adolescent girls (ages 13-18) who previously lived in government-sponsored orphanages. The project homes will be staffed by Christian couples who have been trained to create and maintain homes that will minister to the needs of these adolescent girls.

The larger context of this Faith Focus project is the desire to be proactive in addressing the concern of human trafficking. By providing safe homes that educate and equip these young women for adulthood, the possibility that they will fall victim to sexual trafficking is minimized.

During this year, the *Eagles' Wings* project continued to develop in support and momentum. The benevolence giving for 2008 exceeded \$21,000.00. We anticipate greater funding this year as interest and support for the project continue to grow.

The first team trip to Priske, Albania took place from April 27 – May 4, 2009. The team was led by Jacky Gatliff and included Pam Dodge, Ward Church, Northville, MI, Trish Wallin, St. Gile's EPC, Charlotte, NC, Linda Brown, Parker EPC, Parker, CO, Abigail Bowen, Brainerd EPC, Chattanooga, TN, and Therese Fuglaar, First Presbyterian, Houma, LA. The purpose of the trip was to meet with ministry partners and staff of the Eagles' Wings home and formulate a strategic plan to make the project one that can be sustained for an additional 3–5 years. The first home opened ahead of schedule allowing the team to meet the first small group of residents in the home and engage with the staff.

To educate our women in the EPC about the current situation of sexual trafficking and God's concern for those who are oppressed by it, a six week Bible study has been written for use as women leaders may choose in their churches. The study was developed and written by Jennifer Brooks (Tabernacle EPC, Youngstown, OH). This Scripture-based study, entitled "*Embracing an Aching Heart*" will be introduced at General Assembly and made available for purchase throughout the duration of the project. The study has been endorsed by the Christian Education and Publications Committee to be included in the General Assembly inventory of resources. To date more than 500 copies of the study have been purchased and are being used in various women's ministries settings. A second printing has been ordered and the study will be available for purchase at General Assembly.

**Networking:** EPC Women In Ministry is networking with other groups and ministries that equip and encourage the development of women in leadership. “Synergy” is one such gathering that was initiated through a collaborative effort with Reformed Theological Seminary and Campus Crusade. This annual gathering brings together women leaders from evangelical churches and ministries from around the world. The most recent meeting took place in Orlando, FL on March 6–8, 2009. Eight EPC women leaders joined the Director and Libby Cooper, Committee Chairman, in Orlando to participate in Synergy 2009. The Per Woman Asking budget designates funds (\$2500) to make possible such opportunities. As the Director for EPC Women In Ministry, Jacky Gatliff has been asked to serve on the Synergy advisory board to help provide practical guidance, opportunities and direction for women leaders.

**Ministry Wives:** The need to provide support, equipping and encouragement to women whose husbands serve on EPC church staffs has become more evident. While this statement is a repeat from last year’s report to the Assembly – the concern weighs even more heavily. Tangible and do-able plans are in the works to provide resources to support ministry wives. The possibility of a conference designed for these wives that addresses the unique challenges and opportunities for such women is being explored.

**General Assembly 2009:** The priorities for the General Assembly 2009 program for Women In Ministry continue to be focused on two priorities:

1. Providing women the opportunity to be connected with the greater work and purpose of the General Assembly.
2. Making available tangible resources for women leaders to use and adapt in their unique church settings.

In order to meet these priorities, the following plans have been made:

**Women in Ministry Luncheon - “Women Serving Christ in the City”**

Lunch will be served at the historic Dearborn Inn in Dearborn, MI. Following the theme of “Urban Ministry” from the pre-assembly workshops, we will recognize and hear from EPC women who serve Christ in urban settings. Afterwards, women will spend the afternoon visiting Greenfield Village.

**Women in Ministry Leaders Dinner:** Women ministry leaders will meet to connect, share what’s working and discuss current directions of ministry on the local and denominational level.

**Take Away Workshop** – provides women with new resources to “take away” for use in their ministry with women in their local settings. The following resources will be provided by:

**A. Using REAL Training in a REAL Way**

**Lesley Graham (Knox EPC, Harrison Township, MI)** will provide an introduction and practical application for the training guide as a resource for equipping women in ministry leadership. Lesley will share insights

from using the material with leaders at Knox EPC. Additional leaders will offer their perspectives and experiences with the REAL Training Guide.

- B. Red Card: Standing Against Oppression, Providing Hope**  
**Tami Snowden (Cherry Creek Community Church, Highlands Ranch, CO)** World Outreach and Pioneers missionary will introduce the *Red Card* curriculum on children at risk. This resource will help families understand God's heart, the Biblical mandate to respond and how they can work together to provide hope and help.
- C. Surrender: A Ministry for Working Mothers**  
**Robyn Marcotte (Ward EPC, Northville, MI)** will highlight the need for this ministry and provide the insight, thoughts for strategic planning and lessons learned from the initial experience of launching a ministry to working moms.

**Recommendations to the General Assembly:**

There are no recommendations put forward at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Cooper  
Chairman

Jacky Gatliff  
Director of Women In Ministry  
2009



**World Outreach Committee Report**  
29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly



*Jim Thomason*  
*Chairman*



*George R. Carey*  
*Director*

Members of the **World Outreach** Committee are RE Jim Thomason, Chairman; TE Bruce Anderson, RE Mike Auon, TE Thom Burbridge, RE Elsie Demarest, RE Ted Galyon, TE Synesio Lyra, TE Paul Manuel, and RE Bob Sluka. By virtue of their office, Stated Clerk Jeff Jeremiah, GA Moderator Allen Roes, and GA Moderator-Elect Nate Atwood are also members of the committee.

The Committee met in three stated meetings since the last General Assembly: September 11-13, 2008, January 8-10, 2009, and March 19-21, 2009.

**World Outreach Staff Changes**

**World Outreach** staff changes experienced during the past year saw turnover, addition, and then, due to the economy, cutback. With the resignation of former director, Dr Jeff Chadwick and other office staff people at the beginning of 2008, **World Outreach** was responsibly directed by Muslim Ministry Coordinator, John McCurry, who assumed the position as interim director during the year of 2008 and the first month of 2009. John led staff changes during that time that saw Nancy Schipper who had worked previously with both the **EPC National Outreach** and **World Outreach** offices begin spending all of her part time hours with **World Outreach** as the Finance Assistant. Hired during the year as **World Outreach** Administrative Assistant was Patti Moore who came to **World Outreach** with an administrative background from the business world and Missy Levy as Interim Assistant Director who came with both mission field and administrative experience. This team bonded together well with John McCurry to keep the department ministry functioning at a high level of care for our field missionaries. The staff excelled in making the transition of directors as John McCurry returned in February 2009 to his former ministry as an **EPC** missionary serving as **EPC Muslim Ministry Coordinator**. Due to current economic realities that have affected **World Outreach**, Missy Levy's position was eliminated effective June 30.

In addition to these changes, Rev George Carey began serving on January 1, 2009 as the new Director of **World Outreach**, coming to the position from his most recent pastorate of five years and three months at **Cornerstone Community Church (EPC)** in Aurora, Colorado. The eleven years previous to the Colorado

pastorate, George served **Presbytery of The West** as a missionary, church planter, and pastor in the Phoenix area. He and his wife, Nita served six years on the staff of **The U.S. Center For World Mission** in Pasadena, CA and at **Frontiers** in Mesa, AZ.

**Director’s Vision**

The new director’s vision for **World Outreach** will serve to maintain, nurture, and develop the formerly established goals of **World Outreach** to focus primarily on connecting with the unconnected “Unreached/Unengaged People Groups” of the world, planting Gospel seeds in their midst to see churches established. His training and emphasis upon “reaching the unreached” and “engaging the unengaged” will hopefully be an enablement to the expansion of the world wide missional witness of the **EPC** family of missionaries and the **EPC** Church at large.

One of the first things he is requesting from the **EPC** presbytery mission committees is to survey the local congregations in the presbytery to determine the short term mission trips to be taken during the year and to find out when, where, and why these trips are taken. This short term trip information will then be sent to the **World Outreach** offices by the presbytery committees to be compiled and used for promotion and sent back out to the churches as an information piece for the purpose of promoting short term mission trips across the denomination.

A second survey in conjunction with the first is to identify the missionaries (**EPC** and others) supported by our denomination at large. This information would contain the missionaries, where they serve, the ministry they do, and with whom they serve. This bit of information would also be used to promote missions vision across the **EPC** church at large and be kept within the church family to protect those missionaries serving in secure areas.

A third piece of survey information the presbytery committees are being asked to determine and pass along is to find out the chairpeople of the local mission committees in the presbytery and pass along the contact information to the **World Outreach** office, so that, when needed, contact can be made directly with the local church mission chairs.

**Economics**

In this time of economic recession and uncertain days, **EPC** missionaries on the field and **World Outreach** special projects in 2008 failed to continue the annual trend upward, receiving less financial support than the previous year.

2008-\$2,187,000	2005-\$2,200,099	2003-\$1,797,016
2007-\$2,419,684	2004-\$2,000,026	2002-\$1,536,452
2006-\$2,333,340		

Again, during the new year of 2009, **World Outreach** and **EPC** missionaries continue to experience financial shortfalls from a threatening and uncertain economic base. Hopefully the last half of 2009 and beyond will prove better financially for all concerned and our **EPC** missionaries will be better able to concentrate on their ministries to those people to whom God has called them.

Churches and individuals are urged to open your hearts to hear the missionary stories and to support our **World Outreach** family of missionaries in any way possible.

During 2008, there were 60 **EPC** congregations that gave a total of \$2,338,243 to the ministry of **EPC World Outreach** for our missionaries and missionary projects. There remains a challenge to all **EPC** churches to seek God regarding a commitment to the **World Outreach** ministry in order to gain back the shortfalls experienced and for **World Outreach** to flourish financially. All gifts will be used to support a variety of outreach projects as well as 44 **EPC** family units serving as field missionaries, including 167 people (83 Adults and 84 Children-college age and under) who minister in 24 nations of the world.

### **EPC Missionary Families and Place of Ministry**

<u><b>Missionary</b></u>	<u><b>Field of Service</b></u>
<b>Dave and Wendy</b> Ruthie, Amber	Kazakhstan
<b>Anthis, Joel and Cindy</b> Austin, Allison, Abby, Anna	Nigeria ( <i>on leave of absence</i> )
<b>Rob and Iris</b> Stephanie, Peter, Marissa	Central Asia
<b>Bain, Jeff</b>	Russia
<b>Barany, Dick and Linda</b> Ben	<i>Currently on leave of absence</i>
<b>Bailey, Benjamin and Monica</b> Mary <i>(This is a pseudonym used for security purposes.)</i>	US/Muslim people group
<b>*John and Barbara</b> Daniel, Stephen, Tim, Sarah, Matthew	SE Asia
<b>Brake, Jeff and Amy</b>	Russia
<b>*Branch, Paul and Elizabeth</b> Linda, Joseph	Argentina
<b>*Dan and Catherine</b> Jackie, Daniel, Allison, Abby	Kazakhstan
<b>Christie, Laurie</b>	England – Muslim immigrant group
<b>Clark, Dan and Jan</b>	US based/International
<b>Cole, Allison</b> <i>(This is a pseudonym used for security purposes.)</i>	Arab Gulf
<b>Kelly</b>	SE Asia
<b>Fain, John and Dawn</b> Marie, David, Luke, Christy	SE Asia
<b>Fox, Mark &amp; Jennifer</b> Sarah, Caleb, Josiah, Elijah	Himalayas
<b>Furr, Chris and Kirsten</b> Maren, Reece	France
<b>Gibson, Chris and Debbie</b> Elizabeth, Mary, Christian, Rebekah	Hungary

<b>Randy and Martha</b> Joel, Rachel	SE Asia
<b>*Robert and Joyce</b> Ben, Joe, Lydia	Middle East
<b>*Bill and Janie</b> William, Robby, Thomas, Joseph	Central Asia
<b>*Jeff and Lynne</b> Evan, Jayden, Calvin	SE Asia
<b>Kim, Jeff and Veronique</b> Victor	France
<b>Stephen and Belinda</b> Becky, Nathan	US/Muslim World
<b>Matt and Michelle</b> Nicole, Josiah	South Asia
<b>Lance and Lisa</b> Makayla, Natalie	Middle East
<b>Livingstone, Greg and Sally</b>	England/Muslim World
<b>McCaskill, Austin and Beverly</b>	Eastern Europe
<b>*McCurry, John and Carlene</b> Caleb, Mackenzie, Rachel	US based/Muslim World
<b>McIntyre, Thomas and Jennifer</b>	Taiwan
<b>McKelvey, Sean and Angie</b> Morgan, Samuel, William	US based/Muslim World
<b>*Meeks, Gina</b> Christian, Elizabeth	<i>Currently on leave of absence</i>
<b>Mindling, Tim and Karen</b> Abigail, Tim, Peter	US Based/International
<b>Tim and Kim</b> Andrew, Abby, Peter	Central Asia
<b>David and Lisa</b> Eva, Joshua and Hannah	East Asia
<b>Tim</b>	Middle East
<b>Nykamp, Jon and Kristi</b> Stephanie, Timmy, Matthew	Ethiopia
<b>*Partin, Dave and Rivers</b> Joy, Lydia	Hungary
<b>Pat</b>	East Asia
<b>Roe, Courtney and Krista</b> Alex	Germany
<b>Ryan and Kelly</b> Ella, Sophia, Juliana	Arab Gulf
<b>Snowden, Tami</b> Tabitha	US based/Muslim World
<b>April</b>	East Asia
<b>*Thrash, Phil and Diane</b> Kelsey	Germany
<b>Walker, Dave and Deb</b>	Singapore
<b>Brandon and Liz</b> Sam	Middle East

**Jonathan and Fozia**

South Asia

\*Indicates a missionary serving directly under World Outreach

Included in the above list are the following new missionaries appointed since the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly:

- Jeff and Veronique Kim-**Bell Road Presbyterian Church in Central South Presbytery**-finalizing support to serve in France
- Pat-**North Park Church in Presbytery of The East** serving on the field in East Asia
- David and Beth Forshee- **Grace Point Community Church in Presbytery of The West** (Appointed as short term but meanwhile decided not to proceed)
- Dave and Rivers Partin-Mid America Presbytery-short term serving in Hungary
- April-**Westminster Presbyterian Church in Mid Atlantic Presbytery** from short term to long term in East Asia

Since the 28th General Assembly we have had five **World Outreach** members leave active service:

- Beti Gonzalez on a short term appointment, was unable to return to her ministry location for lack of visa acceptance
- Travis and Stephanie Hill, long term missionaries in China who saw their ministry goals fulfilled and have returned to Katy, TX and purchased a family home
- Matt Kardel, a short term missionary to Kyrgyzstan came off the field to study for a graduate degree
- Laura Scott, short term missionary in Hungary decided not to continue missionary service after three years
- James and Margaret Sinsel, US/Mobilization served as short term missionaries with World Outreach for less than one year

**Family Gathering**

One of the most spectacularly rewarding ministries that the **World Outreach** staff provides for the **EPC** missionary community is the opportunity for the missionaries to gather with one another for a relaxing week away from their individual fields of service at a central location. These Family Gatherings have been hailed by the missionaries as great opportunity to relax, be pampered a bit, fellowship with others with whom they never would otherwise encounter, meet new missionary families, fellowship with the **World Outreach** staff, and gain new perspective and challenge for their tasks ahead.

The “Family Gathering” scheduled for 2009 was postponed until April of 2010 in Thailand, near the site of the previous gathering in 2006. However, due to the failing world economy a decision was reached to postpone the event yet again until a future time, not until at least 2011. This event employs the ministry assistance of

volunteers from across the **EPC** churches that can spend a week ministering in a variety of ways to the missionary families who gather there.

In order to provide this ministry, the missionaries themselves save up funds that partially cover the costs for the Family Gathering with the **World Outreach** finance office escrowing monthly to the Family Gathering account for each missionary family. Remaining funds needed are provided from the **World Outreach** General Account and Support Pool, funds that are also available in case there are emergency financial needs. In the event these funds were needed elsewhere during the current worldwide economic recession, the Family Gathering for 2010 was postponed with hopes of conducting it in April 2011.

**World Outreach Church Planting Teams in the Muslim World:**

In addition to our missionaries working in cooperative agreements with other mission agencies, we currently have four **World Outreach** church planting teams serving in the Muslim world; two in Central Asia, one in Southeast Asia and another in the Middle East. **World Outreach** workers have also begun an outreach among a large concentration of Muslim immigrants in the United States. These teams are still looking for more church planters to join them. We would particularly encourage those churches with ties to these teams, to be actively looking for some of their most committed young people to join these church planting efforts, both through short term and long term service. Short term options are being developed for the coming year.

A key initiative for **World Outreach** this year and in the coming years is to initiate the formation of network based church planting teams to unreached Muslim peoples. These teams will be formed by networks of two or more **EPC** churches banding together and pooling resources. **World Outreach** will assist in strategic planning, training and oversight of the teams, but a key component of this endeavor is churches taking a much more hands on role in the life and ministry of the team. Currently, several churches in the **Presbytery of the West** are in the initial stages of the process. It is our hope to see at least one team launched by each presbytery in the coming five years. Toward this end we are beginning to develop short term research teams to ‘explore the land’ in regions where there are high concentrations of unreached/unengaged Muslim people groups. To learn more about this, contact the **World Outreach** office or John McCurry the **EPC** Muslim Ministry Coordinator.

**Missionaries Serving Jointly with WO and Other Mission Agencies:**

From our earliest days **World Outreach** has sought to carry out our work with other like-minded partners (sometimes called “cooperative mission agencies”) to impact many more areas of the world than the **EPC** could impact on our own. Currently approximately two-thirds of our missionaries serve in these partnerships and one-third serve directly under **World Outreach**. At this time, we have missionaries on the field serving under cooperative agreements with the following agencies:

Arab World Ministries  
Footprints, Intl.

OMF Intl  
Pioneers

Frontiers	SEND, Intl
Greater Europe Mission	SIM, Intl.
Mission to Unreached Peoples	United World Mission
Ministry Essentials, International	WEC, Intl.
OC, Intl	Youth for Christ World Outreach

*(Other cooperative agreements are also in place under which we do not have missionaries serving at this time.)*

### **Emerging Inter-Agency Strategic Partnership among Muslim Peoples**

Last year **World Outreach** began exploring a partnership with an international coalition of mission agencies seeking to establish church planting works among the 247 remaining unreached Muslim people groups (with populations over 100,000) by the 2025. We continue to pursue that process and many of our new efforts both in sending out new teams and in developing new partnerships with workers from other nations (see below) are tied into this global work. It is a joy and privilege to be part of what God is doing in such a multi-national and multi-agency effort.

### **Partnerships for Theological Education of National Church Leaders**

In two of our focus areas, Kazakhstan and Argentina, **World Outreach** is actively involved in education initiatives and some of our churches are supplying help to work in Africa:

- Kazakhstan: One of the real “success” stories for the mission work of the **EPC** is our work in Kazakhstan. In this former Soviet nation there now exists an Association of Reformed Churches made up of five particular churches and several mission churches. National pastors have been ordained and ruling elders and deacons are in place. Yet for the church to mature and expand there is a critical need for a more defined and advanced program of study for current and future leaders. To that end, one of our missionaries, Dan B., has worked with the association of churches to establish the **Reformed Extension Seminary** to supplement the existing education opportunities.
- Argentina: Our longest-standing national church partner is the **St. Andrews Presbyterian Church** in Argentina. This church began a new chapter in its history in 2004 as a national Presbyterian church, not organically connected either to the Church of Scotland which founded it, or the **EPC** of which it was a part for 17 years. Since that time it has continued to develop as a thriving, growing church with the real potential to truly impact its nation. They have asked **World Outreach** to partner with them through our missionary, Paul Branch, to develop a program of theological education that will provide the trained pastors and elders that they currently need and will need in the future to fulfill their vision. Through the **St. Andrews Theological Institute** many ruling elders and a growing number of pastoral candidates are being prepared for ministry in existing particular and mission churches, and new church plants. Through a combination of classroom study in existing institutions, a mentored internship, and presbytery-sponsored seminars with a specific emphasis on Reformed theology and its application in ministry a new wave of promising pastors and church leaders is being raised up.
- Africa: Former **EPC** General Assembly Moderator, Dr. Paul Heidebrecht is involved in theological education ministries in East and Central Africa focused

upon Islamic Studies projects at **NEGST** and **FATEB** in Central Africa to support the training and preparation of future African missionaries entering Muslim cultures. Both seminaries are owned and operated by the **Association of Evangelicals in Africa**, one that serves English-speaking Africa and the other French-speaking. **EPC** churches and missions committees are involved with both institutions. Both seminaries have strong Missions departments with an emphasis on Islamic Studies that offer graduate degrees for missionaries serving in Muslim contexts. **NEGST** is moving toward a Ph.D. in this area. Students are coming to these programs from outside Africa simply because of the academic quality of the programs but also because sub-Saharan Africa is a great place for future Christian missionaries to engage Muslim cultures.

We are also involved in two new initiatives at this time. We are in the process of both helping establish and becoming partners with a Kazakh mission sending agency based out of the **Association of Reformed Churches** in Kazakhstan. **World Outreach** will provide counsel and encouragement to this effort which is being headed up by Kazakh leadership. We will also begin to provide partial financial support for Kazakh missionaries going into other parts of the Muslim world. Many of these workers were once Muslims themselves. It is truly an example of full cycle church planting in action.

#### **Goals and Challenges for the EPC Family of Churches**

To reach our goals, to which God has called us, we would ask **EPC** congregations to become mission partners with our **World Outreach** missionary ministry:

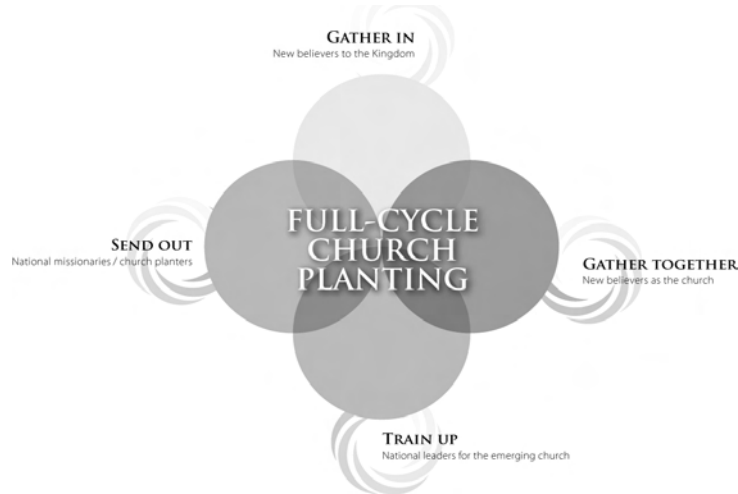
- By giving time and finances to **World Outreach** to serve our current missionaries who represent us around the world
- By actively encouraging prayer for **World Outreach** missionaries using tools such as the annual **World Outreach** Missionary Directory.  
(*Pick one up during GA at the World Outreach display booth*)
- By visiting our missionaries as part of short term mission trips
- By becoming “recruiters” to provide an increase in the number of our **World Outreach** missionary families and support for them, from among those you know whose hearts may be tender toward a people group and culture different from their own
- By joining in the support for **World Outreach** Benevolence Asking projects

#### **The World Outreach Vision: Full-Cycle Church Planting**

From its inception, the focus of **World Outreach** has been church planting with a particular (but not exclusive) focus on the unreached Muslim people groups. Our church planting philosophy, as outlined in the Assembly approved *Vision, Values and Priorities (Master Plan)*, identifies four broad, interconnecting stages in ‘full cycle’ church planting (illustrated in the diagram below). In the first stage, the Gospel is sown and new believers are gathered into the Kingdom. As these believers grow in maturity and number they are gathered together in the church(es). As the church grows, leadership is trained and begins training others. As the new church(es) sends out workers to carry on church planting both nationally and internationally, the cycle begins again.



As a result of this focus, the majority of **World Outreach** missionaries are engaged in tasks related to one or more of these broad stages of church planting. We have workers whose primary role is evangelism, others doing discipleship and providing guidance and direction to emerging churches. Some are engaged in the training of national leaders, while others are dedicating themselves to assisting nationals in sending out missionaries to the unreached peoples of the world. In the multitude of diverse tasks our missionaries are engaged in, this one passion stands out, seeing Christ glorified by the establishing and growing of His church among those who have not yet heard.



**Recommendations to the General Assembly**

**Recommendation WOC-1:** That the Assembly approve **PAACS (Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons)** as an Approved Resource. The details are presented in the attached document (WO-A)

Grounds: **PAACS** is a highly respected ministry as witnessed by **EPC** doctors

Respectfully submitted,

*James L. Thomason*  
James L. (Jim) Thomason  
World Outreach Chairman

*George R. Carey*  
George R. Carey  
World Outreach Director

June 2009

PAACS for EPC March 14, 2009

**PAACS: DEFINITION & FINANCIAL CREDIBILITY**

The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) is an international, non-profit organization of Christian surgeons dedicated to providing education and Christian discipleship in Africa and the developing world. It is a commission of the Christian Medical and Dental Associations (CMDA) of the United States (a non-profit ministry organized under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code). Its official address is:

CMDA/PAACS  
P.O. Box 7500  
Bristol, TN 37621  
USA

The PAACS is a strategic rural-based training program, offering a Christ-centered, five-year residency program. Candidates must be African graduates of recognized medical schools and be unashamed followers of Jesus Christ. Those who are admitted undergo training at one of several well-established Christian hospitals in Africa, under the direction of experienced, board-certified surgeons. The training program includes clinical and academic study, spiritual and ethical training, a systematic study program of major current surgical textbooks, monthly written case reports or research projects, operative log-books, weekly teaching conferences, direct supervision of preoperative and post-operative care, hands-on training in the operating room under supervision of board-certified surgeons, opportunities to attend medical and surgical conferences and yearly in-service examinations. Residents also undergo a study of systematic theology and the Bible to become leaders in their church and their medical communities.

### **PAACS Doctrinal Statement**

1. We believe that the Bible, in its entirety, is the only inspired, inerrant Word of God.
2. We believe that there is one God eternally existent in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
3. We believe that Jesus Christ is God the Son, born of a virgin, who willingly died on the cross for the sins of Man and rose from the dead to sit at the right hand of the Father.
4. We believe that all men are by their very nature sinful and that the forgiveness of sin and the gift of eternal life come only through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.
5. We believe in the ministry of the Holy Spirit who indwells those who are born again by the Spirit of God, and enables believers to live a godly life.
6. We believe in the personal return of Jesus Christ to reign in power and glory on the earth. He will judge the saved and the lost – the saved will receive eternal life and the lost will receive everlasting punishment.
7. We believe in the unity of all believers who love, worship and obey Jesus Christ as the Son of God.
8. We believe that it is the duty of all who love and obey Jesus Christ to proclaim his gospel to their neighbors and to the world and to respond with compassion to the suffering around them in the ways that Jesus did, regardless of race, religion, nationality, or social status.

### **MISSION**

The PAACS exists to provide surgical and discipleship training for Christian African doctors in Africa, and Christian doctors in other developing countries, which will enable them to serve in Christian hospitals or wherever they will have the greatest influence for Christ.

## **VISION**

PAACS's vision is:

- to establish quality Christian surgical training programs at existing evangelical Christian hospitals in Africa
- to connect Christian surgeons in Africa for the purpose of sharing resources, training residents, and increasing knowledge;
- to establish international recognition of PAACS and its program; and
- to improve the quality of surgical practice throughout Africa.

## **MINISTRY OBJECTIVES: The Strategic Position of PAACS**

Africa's population, now just under 900 million, is predicted to reach 2 billion by 2050. The PAACS program brings together Christians from around the world to train and disciple African physicians. Applications for admission to the residency come from all over Africa and the graduates will go back to mission and church-run hospitals to supply part of the great need.

PAACS has a stated goal of training 100 surgeons by 2020. This goal is optimistic, but obtainable with the help of churches, surgeons, and physicians from around the world.



Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability

440 West Jubal Early Drive, Suite 130 • Winchester, VA 22601

*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*

February 18, 2009

Dr. David L. Stevens  
Christian Medical & Dental Associations  
PO Box 7500  
Bristol TN 37621-7500

Dear Dr. Stevens,

Your ministry's 2009 Annual Membership Review (AMR) for accredited membership has been approved. Christian Medical & Dental Associations has faithfully demonstrated its continued compliance with the ECFA Standards of Responsible Stewardship.

We appreciate your ongoing commitment with denominations, churches, educational institutions and other Christian ministries to exhibit excellence and accountability. With members joining at a near-record pace, ECFA members represent more than \$18 billion in annual revenue. We humbly believe God is honored by the unity of so many organizations within the Body of Christ.

Each year over one million visit our website. It is replete with information about board governance, financial accounting and stewardship topics. Our online ServantMatch™ ([www.ECFA.org/ServantMatch.aspx](http://www.ECFA.org/ServantMatch.aspx)) tool allows donors to find giving opportunities in various categories. Be sure your organization is reflected for this member-only benefit. Email [Kim@ECFA.org](mailto:Kim@ECFA.org) if you have questions about ServantMatch™.


We are proud to count Christian Medical & Dental Associations among those organizations that set the example of integrity within the evangelical community. May God continue to bless your ministry as you do His work.

Sincerely,

  
Corey Odden  
Vice President


CO/mj  
Enclosures

540-535-0103 • 800-323-9473 • fax: 540-535-0533 • web [www.ECFA.org](http://www.ECFA.org) • email: [info@ECFA.org](mailto:info@ECFA.org)



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*Changing Hearts in Healthcare*

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**About CMDA**

The Christian Medical & Dental Associations (CMDA) are made up of the Christian Medical Association (CMA) and the Christian Dental Association (CDA). CMDA provides resources, networking opportunities, education, and a public voice for Christian healthcare professionals and students.


**About Our Organization**  
 Founded in 1931, CMDA provides programs and services supporting its mission to "change hearts in healthcare" with a current membership of more than 15,000. CMDA promotes positions and addresses policies on healthcare issues; conducts overseas medical evangelism projects through its mission arm, Global Health Outreach; coordinates a network of Christian doctors for fellowship and professional growth; sponsors student ministries in medical and dental schools; distributes educational and inspirational resources; hosts marriage and family conferences; provides Third World missionary doctors with continuing education resources; and conducts academic exchange programs overseas. By being the "hands of Jesus" to needy people, CMDA seeks to fulfill His Great Commandment (Matthew 22:39; 25:36) and His Great Commission (Matthew 28:19).


The Christian Medical & Dental Associations is governed by a Board of Trustees and House of Delegates. Policies of CMDA are interpreted and applied by the Board of Trustees, which also establishes the guidelines for the executive director and his staff. An elected House of Delegates assists the board with recommendations on courses of action. The House of Delegates is composed of graduate, student, resident and missionary members who are elected for three-year terms by district and meets annually at the CMDA national convention.

Approximately 75 employees currently make up the staff of CMDA in the national office and U.S. field offices.

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Home About Mission & Beliefs

### CMDA Mission & Beliefs

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#### Our Mission

The Christian Medical & Dental Associations exist to motivate, educate, and equip Christian physicians and dentists to glorify God by:

- living out the character of Christ in their homes, practices, communities and around the world;
- pursuing professional competence and Christ-like compassion in their daily work;
- influencing their families, colleagues, and patients toward a right relationship with Jesus Christ;
- advancing Biblical principles in bioethics and health to the Church and society.

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#### Our Vision

*Transformed Doctors, Transforming the World*

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#### Our Core Values

We strive to fulfill our mission by our commitment to be:

- Christ-like
- Controlled by the Holy Spirit
- Committed to Scripture
- Communing in Prayer
- Compassionate
- Competent
- Courageous
- Culturally Relevant

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#### Our Statement of Faith

*(While each of us holds fast to additional beliefs important to our relationship with God, the following statement outlines the tenets that provide a foundation for our fellowship and participation in the Christian Medical & Dental Associations.)*

I believe:

1. In the divine inspiration and final authority of the Bible as the Word of God;
2. In the eternal God revealed in Holy Scripture as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
3. In the unique Deity of Jesus Christ, God's only Son, whose death and resurrection provide by grace through faith the only means of my salvation;
4. In the transforming presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

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## NOTES



**PART III**  
**DOCUMENTS**

## NOTES

#### D. PRESBYTERIES

- 09-05** The Assembly advises all presbyteries:
1. When receiving churches and ministers, presbytery minutes should indicate the dismissing body.
  2. Presbytery minutes should reflect the requirements of G.16-26B, namely, that minutes of commissions are not approved by presbytery. Commissions report their actions, and their actions are recorded in the presbytery minutes. Minutes of Commissions should be kept separately. (**Minutes, 29-60**)

#### G. WORLD OUTREACH

- 09-03** The Assembly approves “Articles of Agreement” for 2009-2014 with the St. Andrews Presbytery of Argentina (see Documents section of Minutes of the 29th General Assembly). (**Minutes, 29-54**)
- 09-04** The Assembly approves Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) as an Approved Resource Organization. (**Minutes, 29-54**)

#### H. FRATERNAL MATTERS

- 09-03** The Assembly approves “Articles of Agreement” for 2009-2014 with the St. Andrews Presbytery of Argentina (see Documents section of *Minutes of the 29th General Assembly*). (**Minutes, 29-54**)

#### I. FISCAL MATTERS

- 09-06** The Assembly reduces the per member asking to \$23 (**Minutes, 29-33**)

#### J. PROGRAM MATTERS

- 09-01** The Assembly adopts a definition of “Missional Church” and “Missional Denomination:”
- Our denomination wants to clarify for its member churches who we are and what we do as the United States and many other nations become mission fields that are larger, more spiritually diverse and more antagonistic to the Gospel than ever before. The term “missional” has become common and therefore highly nuanced. We desire to define missional in a simple and specific way so that each EPC church can commit to a unified, obedient pursuit of the expansion of the Kingdom of God.
1. A missional church grasps that God is a missionary God and that “it is not so much that God has a mission for his church in the world, but that God has a church for his mission in the world.”\*
  2. A missional church believes that the mission of God is rooted unalterably in the Bible, God’s infallible Word. Therefore, a missional church believes that the essence of God’s mission is to

extend the reign of God and is summed up in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

3. A missional church is a visible community of authentic disciples of Jesus Christ who gather for celebration, prayer and teaching and then disperse locally and globally as His missionaries to love and serve people. In so doing, a missional church both pursues and welcomes sinners as they are drawn into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. The greater purpose in all of this is that the earth will be filled with the worship of God.
4. A missional church believes that it is more than just a collection of individuals, but that it is a community called together by God both to love Him and serve Him.
5. A missional church is concerned with more than maintaining programs for existing members; it is called to mobilize its people both individually and as a community to daily self-sacrifice for the hurting world around them. A missional church is both inwardly strong and outwardly focused.
6. A missional church perceives that the essence of these things is the essence of its existence. Therefore, a missional church will constantly seek to reevaluate itself as to whether or not its emphasis, organization, and activity effectively position the church to partner with God in His mission.
7. A missional denomination:
  - a. Believes ministry begins with the local church.
  - b. Is made up of local congregations committed to being missional.
  - c. Believes that the Presbyteries and General Assembly, being expressions of the larger church, have an important role to play in identifying, equipping and supporting leaders and churches. They are a key link in the principle of mutual accountability toward missional ministry and Biblical standards.
  - d. Constantly examines whether its polity, structures and programs are supporting or inhibiting that missional commitment. (Minutes, 29-32)

\* J. Andrew Kirk, *What is Mission? Theological Explorations* (London: Darton, Longman and Todd; Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1999), pp 23-37.

**09-02** The Assembly instructs the Committee on Administration to direct the process of becoming a missional denomination. (**Minutes, 29-54**)

**ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT**  
**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND**  
**ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERY, ARGENTINA**

<p>These Articles celebrate what God has done in the mutually edifying relationship he established between our respective parts of the Kingdom of God and place that relationship on a footing which will allow us together to continue to expand that Kingdom through the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the reign of Christ over His people.</p>	<p>Estos Artículos celebran lo que Dios ha realizado en la relación de mutua edificación que él estableció entre nuestras respectivas partes del Reino de Dios, y colocan esta relación en un camino que nos permitirá continuar juntos la expansión de este Reino a través de la proclamación del Evangelio y la administración del reinado de Cristo sobre su pueblo.</p>
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<b>ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT</b> <b>Evangelical Presbyterian Church</b> <b>and St. Andrews Presbytery</b> <b>(Argentina)</b>	<b>ARTÍCULOS DE ACUERDO</b> <b>Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana y</b> <b>Presbiterio San Andrés (Argentina)</b>
<b>Preamble</b>	<b>Preámbulo</b>
<p>In 1987, a small Presbyterian church in Argentina, established by a Scottish colony one hundred and fifty six years previously, was accepted by the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of the United States as a presbytery with all the benefits and duties corresponding to such a relationship. The EPC incorporated the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church and named it the St. Andrews Presbytery. In 2004, the General Assembly of the EPC approved Articles of Dismissal and Agreement, as the goal of developing an authentic Presbyterian church, autonomous and national in scope had been realized. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church has benefited by its participation in the profound renewal of the Argentine character and lifestyle, through the work of the Holy Spirit, and by the proclamation of the Reformed message.</p> <p>Those Articles included a five year Agreement for continuing ministry, support and fellowship between the two churches. With the conclusion of this</p>	<p>En 1987, una pequeña iglesia presbiteriana en Argentina, constituida ciento cincuenta y seis años antes por colonos escoceses, era aceptada por la Asamblea General de la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana de Estados Unidos, como uno de sus presbiterios con todos los derechos y obligaciones inherentes a esa relación. La IEP incorporó a la Iglesia Presbiteriana San Andrés y la llamó el Presbiterio San Andrés. En el 2004 la Asamblea General de dicha Iglesia aprobó los Artículos de Desvinculación y Acuerdo, dado que la meta de desarrollar una auténtica iglesia Presbiteriana, autónoma y nacional había sido alcanzada. La Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana se benefició por su participación en la profunda renovación del carácter y estilo de vida argentino, a través del trabajo del Espíritu Santo, y por la proclamación del mensaje reformado.</p> <p>Esos Artículos incluían un Acuerdo de cinco años para continuar el ministerio, apoyo y hermandad entre las dos iglesias. Con la finalización de este acuerdo de cinco años, la IEP y el Presbiterio San</p>

five year agreement, the EPC and St. Andrews Presbytery have agreed to pursue another five year agreement with the goal of improving our partnership in ministry for Jesus Christ by 2014.	Andrés han acordado establecer otro acuerdo de cinco años con la meta de mejorar nuestra cooperación en el ministerio de Jesucristo para el 2014.
<b>ARTICLE ONE</b> <b>Effective Dates</b>	<b>ARTÍCULO UNO</b> <b>Fecha de Inicio</b>
1.1 The effective date of this action will be upon the adjournment of the 29 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and the August 8, 2009 meeting of the St. Andrews Presbytery.	1.1 La fecha de inicio de esta acción será luego del cierre de la 29 <sup>o</sup> Asamblea General de la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana y la reunión del 8 de agosto de 2009 del Presbiterio San Andrés.
<b>ARTICLE TWO</b> <b>Relationship</b>	<b>ARTÍCULO DOS</b> <b>Relación</b>
2.1 The General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and St. Andrews Presbytery shall exist in full fraternal relationship and in partnership for mission, which shall be governed by these Articles of Agreement, except as amended by a majority vote of both bodies.	2.1 La Asamblea General de la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana y el Presbiterio San Andrés continuarán en plena relación fraternal y cooperación en la misión, la cual será gobernada por estos Artículos de Acuerdo excepto que sean modificados por un voto mayoritario de ambos cuerpos.
2.2 After initial adoption, these articles may be amended by the majority vote of both bodies.	2.2 Luego de la adopción inicial, estos artículos podrán ser modificados por un voto mayoritario de ambos cuerpos.
<b>ARTICLE THREE</b> <b>Terms of Agreement</b>	<b>ARTÍCULO TRES</b> <b>Términos de Acuerdo</b>
3.1 <u>Effective Period</u> : This agreement will last for a period of five years from the Effective Date, the terms of which as specified herein shall govern the relationship during that time.	3.1 <u>Período Efectivo</u> : Este acuerdo se establece por un período de cinco años desde la Fecha de Inicio, que será gobernado durante ese tiempo por los términos especificados aquí.
3.2 <u>Governance</u> :	3.2 <u>Gobierno</u> :
3.2.1 Until such time as the work of the Constitutional Review Committee is complete (see 3.4) the Constitution of St. Andrews Presbytery shall be the Book of Order of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the Westminster Confession, Larger and Shorter Catechisms, and “Essentials of Our Faith.” This Constitution and all other	3.2.1 Hasta el tiempo en que el trabajo del Comité de Revisión Constitucional sea concluido (ver 3.4), la <u>Constitución</u> del Presbiterio San Andrés será el <i>Libro de Orden</i> de la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana, la Confesión de Fe de Westminster, los Catecismos Mayor y Menor y el documento Los Esenciales de la Fe. Esta Constitución y cualquier otro

governing documents shall be subordinate to the Holy Scriptures.	documento de gobierno serán subordinados a las Sagradas Escrituras.
3.2.2 <u>Book of Order</u> : St. Andrews Presbytery will continue to use the Spanish translation of the 2003 edition of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church Book of Order (Book of Government, Book of Discipline, Book of Worship) as already certified by the Office of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly in all its applicable parts. Subsequent amendments ratified by the General Assembly will be considered for ratification by St. Andrews on a case by case basis.	3.2.2 <u>Libro de Orden</u> : el Presbiterio San Andrés continuará usando la traducción al español de la edición 2003 del <i>Libro de Orden (Libro de Gobierno, Libro de Disciplina y Libro de Adoración)</i> de la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana tal como fue certificada por la Oficina del Secretario de la Asamblea General en todas sus partes de aplicación. Las subsiguientes modificaciones ratificadas por la Asamblea General serán consideradas para su ratificación por San Andrés caso por caso.
3.2.3 <u>Westminster Confession and Catechisms</u> : St. Andrews Presbytery will continue to use the Mexican Spanish translation of the Westminster Confession and Catechisms with the addition of chapters 24, 34 and 35 of the Summertown Text Modern Language Version (English) until such time that St. Andrews Presbytery may opt for or commission another translation.	3.2.3 <u>Confesión de Fe y Catecismos de Westminster</u> : el Presbiterio San Andrés continuará usando la traducción mexicana de la Confesión de Fe y los Catecismos de Westminster, con el agregado de los capítulos 24, 34 y 35 de la Versión en Lenguaje Moderno de Summertown (en inglés) hasta el momento en que el Presbiterio San Andrés opte por otra traducción.
3.3 <u>Ecclesiastical Structure</u> : When a second presbytery is formed, the provisions of the <i>Book of Order</i> regarding the General Assembly will become applicable.	3.3 <u>Estructura Eclesiástica</u> : Cuando se forme un segundo presbiterio, las disposiciones del Libro de Orden concernientes a la Asamblea General serán de aplicación.
3.4 <u>Constitutional Review Committee</u> : St. Andrews Presbytery will continue to appoint a Constitutional Review Committee of not less than five members belonging to at least three churches to study the Book of Order and make recommendations to St. Andrews Presbytery during the course of these Articles of Agreement regarding any proposed revisions.	3.4 <u>Comité de Revisión Constitucional</u> : el Presbiterio San Andrés continuará teniendo un Comité de Revisión Constitucional de no menos de cinco miembros de al menos tres Iglesias para estudiar el <i>Libro de Orden</i> y, y hacer recomendaciones al Presbiterio San Andrés, durante la duración de estos Artículos de Acuerdo, concernientes a cualquier revisión propuesta.
3.5 <u>Court of Appeal</u> :	3.5 <u>Corte de Apelación</u> :
3.5.1 The Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) of the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall appoint annually a three-member judicial commission to act as the final court of appeal for cases involving the	3.6.1 La Comisión Judicial Permanente (CJP) de la Asamblea General de la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana designará anualmente una comisión judicial de tres miembros para actuar como corte final de apelación en casos que incluyan la disciplina de presbíteros maestros que son

discipline of Teaching Elders who are members of St. Andrews Presbytery. The PJC will appoint members who, to the extent possible, are familiar with St. Andrews Presbytery. This commission may include, but is not limited to, PJC members.	miembros del Presbiterio San Andrés. La CJP designará miembros que, dentro de lo posible, estén familiarizados con el Presbiterio San Andrés. Esta comisión puede incluir, pero no se limita a, miembros de la CJP.
3.5.2 This St. Andrews Judicial Commission shall be dissolved at such time a General Assembly or synod is formed by St. Andrews Presbytery. Its members shall serve one year terms but may be reappointed.	3.5.2 Esta Comisión Judicial San Andrés será disuelta al momento en que una Asamblea General o Sínodo sea formada por el Presbiterio San Andrés. Sus miembros servirán por término de 1 año pero podrán ser reasignados.
<b>ARTICLE FOUR</b> <b>Operational Agreements</b>	<b>ARTÍCULO CUATRO</b> <b>Acuerdos de Operación</b>
4.1 <u>Fraternal Relationship</u> – the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the St. Andrews Presbytery shall exchange fraternal delegates yearly.	4.1 <u>Relaciones Fraternelas</u> – la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana y el Presbiterio San Andrés intercambiarán delegados fraternales anualmente.
4.2 <u>Relationship of World Outreach Missionaries with St. Andrews Presbytery</u>	<u>Relación de Misioneros de Alcance Mundial con el Presbiterio San Andrés</u>
4.2.1 The placement of World Outreach Missionaries in Argentina shall be governed by applicable provisions in the World Outreach Manual, in consultation with St. Andrews Presbytery. The World Outreach Annual Review of missionaries serving in Argentina will be made available to St. Andrews Presbytery.	4.2.1 El envío de los Misioneros de Alcance Mundial a Argentina será gobernado por las disposiciones de aplicación en el Manual de Alcance Mundial en consulta con el Presbiterio San Andrés. La Revisión Anual de Alcance Mundial de los misioneros sirviendo en Argentina estará disponible al Presbiterio San Andrés.
4.2.2 World Outreach Missionaries will have voice and vote in church courts of St. Andrews Presbytery. They may be full members of committees but are not eligible to serve as chairman.	4.2.2 Los Misioneros de Alcance Mundial tendrán voz y voto en las cortes eclesiásticas de Presbiterio San Andrés. Podrán ser miembros plenos de comités pero no podrán servir como presidentes.
4.2.3 World Outreach Missionaries in Argentina are subject to the EPC presbytery in which they hold membership in matters of church discipline. In matters of employment they are accountable to EPC World Outreach. In day to day ministry activities they are accountable to St. Andrews Presbytery in consultation with EPC World Outreach.	4.2.3 Los Misioneros de Alcance Mundial en Argentina están sujetos al presbiterio de la IEP donde mantienen membresía en materia de disciplina eclesiástica. En materia de empleo, rendirán cuentas a Alcance Mundial de la IEP. En cuanto a las actividades del ministerio cotidiano rendirán cuentas al Presbiterio San Andrés en consulta con Alcance Mundial de la IEP.
4.3 <u>Missionaries sent from St. Andrews Presbytery</u> : When missionaries from St.	4.3 <u>Misioneros enviados desde el Presbiterio San Andrés</u> : Cuando



Andrews Presbytery are being sent to the world, individual missionaries may, in consultation with World Outreach, seek support from EPC churches for their own support accounts.	misioneros del Presbiterio San Andrés sean enviados al mundo, los misioneros podrán individualmente, en consulta con Alcance Mundial, buscar apoyo de las iglesias de IEP para su sostén.
4.4 World Outreach will promote and encourage mission projects and partnerships of EPC and St. Andrews Presbytery churches. Regular Evaluations of the projects will be conducted by the Mission Committee of St. Andrews Presbytery and shared with the World Outreach Director.	4.4 Alcance Mundial promoverá y animará los proyectos misioneros y de cooperación entre las Iglesias de la IEP y del Presbiterio San Andrés. Evaluaciones regulares de los proyectos serán conducidas por el Comité de Misiones del Presbiterio San Andrés y compartidas con el Director de Alcance Mundial. (NOTA: Esta es una posible forma de encarar situaciones como la de Entre Ríos)
<u>4.5 Theological Education:</u>	<u>4.5 Educación Teológica:</u>
4.5.1 <u>Ordination Requirements:</u> The educational requirements for the ordination of teaching elders in Argentina set by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall continue during the period of this agreement until such time as the Constitutional Review Committee has finished its work (see 3.4). Input on possible changes in standards will be directed to the Constitutional Review Committee.	4.5.1 <u>Requisitos de ordenación:</u> Los requisitos educacionales para la ordenación de presbíteros maestros en Argentina establecidos por la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana continuarán durante el período de este acuerdo hasta que el Comité de Revisión Constitucional termine su trabajo (ver 3.4). Las contribuciones para posibles cambios en los requisitos serán dirigidas al Comité de Revisión Constitucional.
4.5.2 <u>Written Examinations:</u> The Evangelical Presbyterian Church will supply ordination examinations to St. Andrews Presbytery for translation and use during the effective period. St. Andrews Presbytery will determine a system for grading the examinations.	4.5.2 <u>Exámenes escritos:</u> La Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana proporcionará exámenes de ordenación al Presbiterio San Andrés para su traducción y uso durante este período. El Presbiterio San Andrés determinará un sistema para evaluar los exámenes.
4.5.3 <u>St. Andrews Theological Institute (SATI):</u> The St. Andrews Theological Institute will continue development as a joint project of General Assembly and St. Andrews Presbytery.	4.5.3 <u>Instituto Teológico San Andrés (ITSA):</u> El Instituto Teológico San Andrés continuará en desarrollo como un proyecto conjunto de la Asamblea General y el Presbiterio San Andrés.
4.5.3.1 Although open to students outside the churches of the St. Andrews Presbytery, SATI's programs and initiatives give special priority to the unique training needs of the present and future leaders of the congregations of the St. Andrews Presbytery, including Teaching and Ruling elders, candidates for ordination, theology students, and	4.5.3.1 Aunque abierto a estudiantes que no forman parte de las iglesias del Presbiterio San Andrés, los programas e iniciativas del ITSA dan prioridad especial a las particulares necesidades de capacitación del actual y futuro liderazgo de las congregaciones del Presbiterio San Andrés, incluyendo presbíteros maestros y gobernantes, candidatos para

<p>ministry leaders within the local churches</p>	<p>ordenación, estudiantes de teología, y los líderes de ministerios dentro de las iglesias locales.</p>
<p>4.5.3.2 As a non-traditional, Presbytery-based program with limited resources and infrastructure, SATI seeks to offer unique content, resources and strategies that serve to complement and complete existing programs of instruction, with particular regard to the leadership and ministry needs of the Saint Andrews Presbytery churches.</p>	<p>4.5.3.2 Como un programa no-tradicional, basado en el Presbiterio, que cuenta con limitados recursos e infraestructura, el ITSA busca proveer contenidos, recursos y estrategias únicos que sirven para complementar y completar existentes programas de instrucción, con particular referencia a las necesidades en cuanto al liderazgo y ministerio de las iglesias del Presbiterio San Andrés.</p>
<p>4.5.3.3 The common focus that unifies diverse initiatives is the desire to help our churches grow in the incarnation of Biblical and Reformed theology and Presbyterian identity within the Argentine context. Another crucial concern is the integration of theology and mission. To this end, during the period of this new agreement SATI will pursue the following objectives, in partnership with the Missions Committee and in consultation with World Outreach and the Task force to be created per 4.6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The identification of church planting and church growth resources consistent with a Reformed understanding of the <i>Missio Dei</i> and Presbyterian ecclesiology.</li> <li>• The mobilization and equipping of teams within the local churches who will serve as core groups for mother/daughter church plants.</li> <li>• Provide challenge, encouragement, and training for people who will take the Gospel message, with the intent of seeing a church planted, to non-churched cultures, which may exist either inside or outside of Argentina.</li> <li>• Ongoing instruction in Reformed</li> </ul>	<p>4.5.3.3. El enfoque común que unifica iniciativas diversas es el deseo de ayudar a nuestras iglesias a crecer en su capacidad de encarnar teología bíblica y reformada y la identidad presbiteriana dentro del contexto argentino. Otra preocupación crucial es la integración de teología y misión. Hacia este fin, durante el período de este nuevo acuerdo, el ITSA perseguirá los siguientes objetivos, en cooperación con el Comité de misiones y en consulta con Alcance Mundial y el Grupo de tareas que se creará de acuerdo a lo establecido en el inciso 4.6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• La identificación de recursos para plantación de iglesias e “igle-crecimiento” que son consecuentes con una comprensión reformada de la <i>Missio Dei</i> y la eclesiología presbiteriana.</li> <li>• La movilización y capacitación de equipos dentro de las iglesias locales que servirán como las bases para el establecimiento de iglesias “hijas”.</li> <li>• La provisión de desafío, aliento y entrenamiento de personas que llevarán el mensaje del Evangelio, con el objetivo de ser una iglesia plantada, a culturas no evangelizadas, que puedan existir tanto adentro como afuera de la Argentina.</li> <li>• La continuada instrucción de la</li> </ul>

<p>doctrine and the principles of Presbyterian ecclesiology within the mission churches in ways that promote the healthy integration of mission churches into the broader communion of the Saint Andrews Presbytery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The equipping of Ruling elders and ministry leaders for service within the missions churches.</li> </ul>	<p>doctrina reformada y los principios de eclesiología presbiteriana dentro de las iglesias misión, de maneras que promuevan la integración saludable de las mismas dentro de la comunión más amplia del Presbiterio San Andrés.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• La capacitación de presbíteros gobernantes y líderes de ministerios para el servicio de las iglesias misión.</li> </ul>
<p>4.5.3.4 In keeping with St. Andrews Presbytery’s desire to bless and encourage the efforts of EPC leaders and congregations in their ministry to the Hispanic community in the US, SATI will work during this period to identify and develop opportunities and strategies that serve to meet some of the EPC’s equipping needs with regards to the leadership and development of Spanish language ministries and congregations in the US.</p>	<p>4.5.3.4 De acuerdo al deseo del Presbiterio San Andrés de bendecir y alentar a los esfuerzos de líderes y congregaciones de la EPC que ministran a la comunidad hispana en EEUU, durante este período el ITSA trabajará para identificar y desarrollar oportunidades y estrategias que respondan a algunas de las necesidades de la IEP respecto la capacitación de líderes y el desarrollo de ministerios y congregaciones de habla hispana dentro de los EEUU.</p>
<p>4.6 The EPC Committee on Administration will create a task force to oversee the provision of church planting and leadership development resources to the St. Andrews Presbytery. This task force will work with the Administration Committee of the St. Andrews Presbytery.</p>	<p>4.6. El Comité en Administración de la IEP creará un grupo de tareas que supervisará la provisión de recursos para plantación de iglesias y desarrollo de liderazgo al Presbiterio San Andrés. Este grupo de tareas trabajará en conjunto con el Comité en Administración del Presbiterio San Andrés.</p>
<p>4.7 <u>Goal</u>. At the conclusion of this agreement, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the St. Andrews Presbytery will have a foundation for an ongoing mutual partnership which will call for a significant commitment of personnel and financial resources for mission and ministry for Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>4.7 <u>Objetivo</u>. Al término de este acuerdo, la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana y el Presbiterio San Andrés tendrán una base para una continua cooperación mutua, la cual propiciará un compromiso significativo de personal y recursos financieros para la misión y el ministerio por Cristo Jesús.</p>

<p>Now therefore, the parties hereto, by their duly elected and authorized officers, in duplicate and in Spanish and English, hereto set their hands and affix their seals on this _____ day of _____, 2009. BY/POR</p> <p>Moderator, 29th General Assembly Moderador, 29 Asamblea General ATTEST/ CERTIFICACIÓN</p>	<p>Por tanto ahora, las partes establecidas, a través de sus funcionarios debidamente elegidos y autorizados, en duplicado y en Español y en Inglés, firman y aprueban el día _____ de _____ de 2009 BY/POR</p> <p>Moderator, St. Andrews Presbytery Moderador, Presbiterio San Andrés ATTEST/ CERTIFICACIÓN</p>
<p>----- Stated Clerk, General Assembly Secretario, Asamblea General</p>	<p>----- Stated Clerk, St. Andrews Presbytery Secretario, Presbiterio San Andrés</p>

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## CHURCH LOAN FUND CRITERIA

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1. Church must submit a Church Loan Fund Application (Section 2 of 3) along with the church's financial information, including balance, expense, and income statements, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
2. Fee rate: The original rate shall be established at the time the loan is made for a period of one (1) year and renewed on each succeeding anniversary date, and shall be based upon prevailing money market rates.\*
3. Maximum term of loan:
  - Land – five years
  - Capital Improvements – five years
  - Equipment – five years
  - Building – fifteen yearsRepayment minimum:
  - Land – 20% of original principal each year
  - Capital Improvements – 20% of original principal each year
  - Equipment – 20% of original principal each year
  - Building – 6.67% of original principal each year.Payable in twelve monthly installments each year, including above-noted principal plus 1/12 of applicable fees each month.
4. Loans shall be restricted for church site acquisition and/or building construction or purchase, capital improvements, or equipment purchase..
5. Maximum loan to any one church:
  - a. 10% of total Church Loan Fund or \$150,000, whichever is larger;
  - b. 75% of the value of mortgaged property;
  - c. Debt service: an amount not to exceed 40% of a church's previous year's income (operating budget).
6. Security of loans
  - a. A presbytery shall contractually guarantee timely monthly repayment of mortgage upon the recommendation of its Church Development Committee following its determination that the loan is a sound financial venture.\*\*
  - b. The Church Loan Fund shall carry a first or second mortgage on property for which the loan is being made.
7. Church must have adequate insurance, guaranteed title and performance bonds from contractors involved.
8. Church must have proposed land for existing building appraised by a qualified appraiser. New construction should be granted by competitive bidding on plans.
9. If church disaffiliates with the EPC, for any reason, the loan principal balance becomes due immediately.
10. Community zoning laws must be allowable by such laws. These requirements should be satisfied prior to loan approval.

*Adopted 1983*

*\*Amended 1994*

*\*\*Amended 1990*

*\*\*\*Amended 2003*

*The document substantially revised 2008*

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**CHURCH LOAN FUND**  
**THE SEVEN STEP PROCESS (SSP) OF THE CHURCH LOAN FUND (CLF)**

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**Step 1**

Each EPC church pastor and session seeking an EPC loan shall study and follow the Church Loan Fund Criteria Sheet and comply with each item in order to properly complete the CLF Application. At this time, alert the respective Presbytery Church Development Committee of the church's Application.

**Step 2**

Each church will submit the Loan Fund Application to the General Assembly Office for review.

**Step 3**

Submit the reviewed CLF Application, with all required supporting documents, to the local church's respective Presbytery Church Development Committee (CDC). A representative of the National Outreach Department of the Office of the General Assembly will assist in coordination with the Presbytery CDC.

**Step 4**

Verification and reasonable documentation of expenditures covered by the loan will be provided to the Church Loan Fund Committee.

**Step 5**

Approval by the Church Loan Fund Committee will be given after all preceding steps have been completed and are satisfactory.

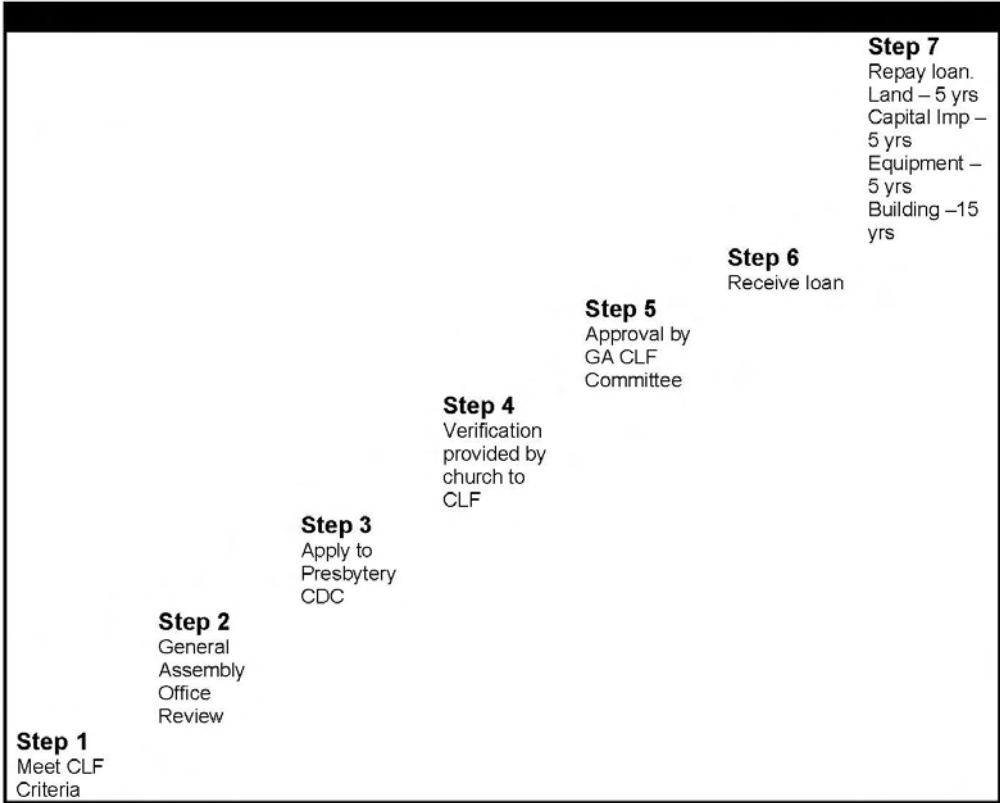
**Step 6**

The EPC church that has been approved for a loan from the CLF will receive a certified check from the CLF through the General Assembly Office.

**Step 7**

Repayment of the loan shall be made according to an agreed-upon schedule of payments. Note: Loans on land, capital improvements, and equipment are to be paid within five years. Loans on church facilities are to be paid within fifteen years.

**CHURCH LOAN FUND – THE SEVEN STEP PROCESS**



*Rev. 10/07*

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**ENDORSEMENT POLICY**  
**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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In addition to 1) approved documents (e.g., Position Papers, Advisory Letters, versions of the Confession and Catechisms) that express the mind of the Assembly, 2) Fraternal Relationships (Acts of the Assembly 84-06), 3) Cooperative Mission Agencies, and 4) Approved Missions Agencies (Acts of the Assembly 87-02), the Assembly and its permanent committees may deem it wise to recommend other resources to its churches as valuable aids for their ministries. All permanent committee recommendations shall be reported to the Committee on Administration, which has the right to overrule. In making such recommendations the Assembly and its permanent committees shall use the following categories and criteria:

Approved Resource Organizations: Permanent Assembly committees may recommend resource organizations for approval by the General Assembly. Such organizations shall meet the following criteria:

1. An explicit statement of faith compatible with EPC confessional standards
2. Exhibits both evangelical and reformed theology.
3. Ministry objectives compatible with the vision, purpose and goals of the recommending committee and the General Assembly
4. Financial credibility as measured by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability or by comparable standards.

Approved agencies will be listed in the EPC Directory and web site. The Office of the General Assembly and permanent Assembly committees may explore and implement areas of cooperative ministry with approved agencies, subject to the operational policies of the General Assembly.

Committee Endorsed Resources: Permanent Assembly committees may endorse resources, e.g., print, audio/visual or curriculum. An endorsed resource shall meet the following criteria:

1. An explicit statement of faith compatible with EPC confessional standards and/or demonstrates both evangelical and reformed theology
2. Compatible with the vision, purpose and goals of the endorsing committee and the General Assembly.
3. Provides excellent ministry resources for EPC congregations

Permanent committees may add annotations to their endorsements. Endorsed resources may be included, with their annotations, on the denominational web site, in other communications or kept in inventory for sale to member churches.

Committee Commended Resources: Permanent Assembly committees may commend resources, e.g., agencies, print, audio/visual, curriculum. Commended resources shall meet the following criteria:

1. A statement of faith consistent with the EPC Essentials of Our Faith and/or demonstrates evangelical theology.
2. Not necessarily reformed in its theology



3. Compatible with the vision, purpose and goals of the recommending committee and the General Assembly
4. Provides effective ministry resources for EPC congregations

Permanent committees may add annotations to their commendations. Commended resources may be included, with their annotations, on the denominational web site, in other communications or kept in inventory for sale to member churches. Prior to implementing cooperative ministries with commended agencies the Committee must secure the approval of the Committee on Administration.

Permanent committees will establish procedures to periodically review agencies and resources they have recommended, endorsed or commended to ensure that they continue to meet the criteria above.

In cases in which permanent Assembly committees find that reviewed resources do not meet the criteria for approval, endorsement or commendation, they shall report their findings in their minutes using the following categories and criteria:

No Recommendation: The reviewed resource does not meet the criteria for approval, endorsement or commendation. It has no serious shortcomings and may contain useful material.

Not Recommended: The reviewed resource does not meet the criteria for approval, endorsement or commendation and has serious shortcomings in theology and/or methodology. Specific shortcomings may be noted in committee minutes.

*Adopted, 22<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (2002)*

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## THE GENEVA STATEMENT

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*The General Assembly, together with the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, authorized the interchurch relations committees to continue meeting for the purposes of finding areas of mutual commitments, discovering areas of differences and exploring ways of resolving those differences, exploring new and creative ways of working together. They shall report back to the respective parent bodies each year, until such time as either committee may ask to be discharged from this duty, or until the appointing body may discharge the committee from such duty.*

(6/91)

Being persuaded from Scripture that all Christians are united together as one body in Christ, we acknowledge our responsibility to God and one another to labor together in the work of Christ so as to promote the peace, purity, and unity of the church, and the advancement of Christ's Kingdom in the world.

We share a common understanding of the Scriptures as expressed in the *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms*, for laboring together in ministry. Recognizing that some differences exist between us in our understanding of certain issues concerning God's will for his church, we also recognize that that which we hold in common far outweighs that which differentiates us. It is understood that our common labors shall not compromise the consciences of either church. The integrity of each church concerning its standards and policies must be maintained and respected.

We therefore pledge ourselves to labor together in love to advance the work of Christ in both our common and separate ministries, seeking to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

We promise that if ever we should offend one another in our common labors, we shall do everything possible to resolve the matter and to maintain cooperation. We commit ourselves to labor in support of our church courts, faithfully reporting our activities to the appropriate board or agency, and our respective committees concerning inter-church relations.

We further believe that such practical fraternity, apart from any quest for organizational union will be pleasing to God and promote the advancement of the Gospel in the world. For these reasons we commit ourselves to this Agreement of Cooperation, which is to be attached to the joint statement previously adopted by our churches.

(6/92)

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## MEDICAL BENEVOLENCE FUND

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**RESOLVED**, that there is hereby declared this 26<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1992 by the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, a Medical Benevolence Fund designated and distinct from all other funds of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to be administered by the Committee on Administration under the following terms and conditions:

1. Fund Income. The Committee shall, after paying the necessary expenses of the management and preservation of the Fund, pay an amount up to but not exceeding the net income of the Fund as directed by the Benevolence Committee. In the year that the total distributions over the course of a calendar year, as directed by the Benevolence Committee, shall total an amount less than the entire net income, then the Committee shall accumulate any excess income and add it to the principal.
2. Benevolence Committee. The Benevolence Committee shall be composed of two Ruling Elders and one Teaching Elder of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church who shall be nominated by the Committee on Administration and elected by the General Assembly. Each member of the Benevolence Committee shall serve for a term of three years and shall not be eligible for succession. The first group of Committee members shall be elected with staggered terms; that is, one shall be elected for a one-year term, one shall be elected for a two-year term, and one shall be elected for a three-year term.
3. Distribution Requirements. The Benevolence Committee shall order the Committee on Administration to make distributions from the income of the Fund only under the following conditions:
  - A. All distributions shall be used solely for the purpose of paying for the cost of medical benefits insurance.
  - B. Eligible beneficiaries of distributions:\*\*
    1. Ministers of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church who are:
      - a. Active members of presbytery who are without a present call
      - b. Mission church pastors, but only if the mission church is not a daughter church of another Evangelical Presbyterian Church
      - c. Retired ministers
    2. Household income limited to
      - a. \$35,000-\$50,000 for a single or couple
      - b. \$40,000-\$50,000 for singles and couples with dependents
    3. Assistance will be provided at a proportional rate (15% increments) within the ranges above
    4. The Board of Benefits may adjust the income limits of eligibility based on cost of living increases and funds utilization. Any such adjustments will be reported to the General Assembly.
  - C. Applications for distributions shall be made to the Benevolence Committee by the Presbytery having jurisdiction over the prospective beneficiary. The Benevolence Committee shall develop an application form which, among other things, shall be executed by the Presbytery and shall contractually commit an amount equal to the distribution from this Fund, it being the intention that this Fund shall never pay

more than one-half of the actual amount of the medical benefit insurance premium paid on behalf of each individual beneficiary. Applications shall be received by the Committee quarterly in January, April, July and October.

- D. In the event that the income from this Fund is not sufficient to pay the entire one-half of the need of the individual applicants in any year, then the Benevolence Committee shall order its distributions to be made *pro rata* based upon the amount of income available from this Fund.
4. Amendment. The General Assembly shall have the power at any time, by a vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the General Assembly, duly constituted, to modify, alter or amend this designation of endowment fund and to change the requirements for the beneficiaries thereof.
  5. Accountings. The Committee on Administration shall render annually a statement of properties in the Fund and of receipts and disbursements by category during the period covered to the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church at its annual meeting. Each accounting shall be done on a calendar year basis and shall be rendered to the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church during the next calendar year.

\* *From all sources*

\*\* *Section B substantially revised 2006*

*Adopted 6/92  
Amended 6/97, 6/01, 6/06*

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## MISSIONAL CHURCH AND DENOMINATION DEFINITION

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Our denomination wants to clarify for its member churches who we are and what we do as the United States and many other nations become mission fields that are larger, more spiritually diverse and more antagonistic to the Gospel than ever before.

The term “missional” has become common and therefore highly nuanced. We desire to define missional in a simple and specific way so that each EPC church can commit to a unified, obedient pursuit of the expansion of the Kingdom of God.

1. A missional church grasps that God is a missionary God and that “it is not so much that God has a mission for his church in the world, but that God has a church for his mission in the world.”\*
2. A missional church believes that the mission of God is rooted unalterably in the Bible, God’s infallible Word. Therefore, a missional church believes that the essence of God’s mission is to extend the reign of God and is summed up in the gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. A missional church is a visible community of authentic disciples of Jesus Christ who *gather* for celebration, prayer and teaching and then *disperse* locally and globally as His missionaries to love and serve people. In so doing, a missional church both *pursues* and *welcomes* sinners as they are drawn into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. The greater purpose in all of this is that the earth will be filled with the worship of God.
4. A missional church believes that it is more than just a collection of individuals, but that it is a community called together by God both to love Him and serve Him.
5. A missional church is concerned with more than maintaining programs for existing members; it is called to mobilize its people both individually and as a community to daily self-sacrifice for the hurting world around them. A missional church is both inwardly strong and outwardly focused.
6. A missional church perceives that the essence of these things is the essence of its existence. Therefore, a missional church will constantly seek to reevaluate itself as to whether or not its emphasis, organization, and activity effectively positions the church to partner with God in His mission.
7. A missional denomination:
  - a. Believes ministry begins with the local church.
  - b. Is made up of local congregations committed to being missional.
  - c. Believes that the Presbyteries and General Assembly, being expressions of the larger church, have an important role to play in identifying, equipping and supporting leaders and churches. They are a key link in the principle of mutual accountability toward missional ministry and Biblical standards.
  - d. Constantly examines whether its polity, structures and programs are supporting or inhibiting that missional commitment.

\* J. Andrew Kirk, *What is Mission? Theological Explorations* (London: Darton, Longman and Todd; Minneapolis: fortress Press, 1999), pp 23-37.

[Adopted by the 29th General Assembly, June, 2009]

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**RESPONSE OF THE PERMANENT THEOLOGY COMMITTEE  
TO THE SEVENTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS  
REGARDING “THE ESSENTIALS” AND THE *WESTMINSTER CONFSSION***

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**1. Introduction.**

**1.1. Assignment of General Assembly**

Upon recommendation of the Overtures and Resolutions Committee, the Assembly directed the Theology Committee to undertake a comprehensive study of the relationship that now exists and that should exist between the document entitled “The Essentials of Our Faith” and the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, to include, but not be limited to, an examination of the relevance of each to (i) the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, (ii) the vows of ordination for pastors and elders, (iii) relations with other denominations, and (iv) the teaching and edification of lay persons.

**1.2. Our understanding of the task**

The Committee has engaged itself in this task remembering the God-inspired words of the Apostle Paul, “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” And “...speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.” (Eph 4:3, 15) The Committee recognizes that within our General Assembly there is a concern to clarify the relationship between the *Westminster Confession* and “The Essentials.” There has been some confusion as to what relationship does exist between the two when answering the third and fourth ordination vows and in cases of determining attrition from the faith on the part of a pastor, elder or deacon. In the maturing process of our denomination these questions must be answered as we zealously seek to “be zealous and faithful in promoting the truths of the Gospel and the purity and peace of the Church.” (Minister’s vow #8, **G 14.1.A.8**, see Appendix F)

**1.3. Summary and outline**

In carrying out this assignment this study will present first a historical perspective of the *Westminster Confession* and its continuing relevance today. It will trace the adoption of the *Westminster Confession* in Reformed churches including our denomination. A brief history of “The Essentials of Our Faith” will be presented including a statement regarding its intent and any relevance to the ordination vows of church officers, to the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and its general usage in the ministry of our Church.

This study will also examine the distinction between “essentials” and “non-essentials” and what guiding principles can be used in determining what these are. It will clarify which judicatories have responsibility in this determination. The study will endeavor to define what it means to “sincerely receive and adopt the *Westminster Confession* and *Catechisms* of this Church as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scripture.”

**1.4. Pastoral statement**

This paper is presented in a gracious pastoral spirit with a high regard to our responsibility to be wholeheartedly faithful to the Word of God and in Christian

love to maintain our adopted motto: “In Essentials...Unity; In Non-essentials...Liberty: In all things...Charity.”

## **2. Historical perspective.**

### **2.1. Broad background**

Unless we would be guilty of hubris, we must consider the relationship of “The Essentials” to the *Confession* within the context of the *Confession’s* historical purpose and development. Though we are ultimately confident in the Spirit of Christ to lead and sanctify His Bride, Presbyterian polity is ever vulnerable to both willful and unintended ignorance of the past. While this report cannot fully compensate for any weakness that exists on this count, the bibliography and following summaries may provide some help.

#### **2.1.1. Westminster Confession**

Confessional history is at least as old as the New Testament itself, as reflected in such places as Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 15:3-5; Phil. 2:5-11 and 1 Tim. 3:16. The post-apostolic period, beginning with the church fathers’ references to the *regulae fidei* (rule of faith), continuing through the classic creeds of the ancient church (Apostles’ Creed, Nicene Creed, Definition of Chalcedon) and concluding with the pre-Westminster Reformed confessions (e.g. *Augsburg Confession*, *Belgic Confession*, *Thirty-Nine Articles*, *Second Helvetic Confession*, *Scots Confession*, *Heidelberg Catechism*) evidence a noble pedigree for the church’s practice of formulating secondary standards intended to articulate the teachings of scripture. Never intended to supplant scripture’s ultimate authority, these expressions of the church’s belief met various challenges, threats and other needs throughout her history.

The *Westminster Confessions of Faith* and *Catechisms* were the product of a call by the British parliament to revise the *Thirty-Nine Articles*. While political changes prevented the adoption of the Westminster standards by the Church of England, they were adopted by the Presbyterian churches in Scotland, England and Ireland in the 1690s. The debates surrounding confessional assent, along with the exclusion of ministers who would not subscribe as well as those who might have insincerely subscribed, provide the background to American presbyterianism’s history of subscription. The British history includes the Irish Pacific Act of 1720 which allowed ministers to state their differences with the *Confession*, with the individual presbyteries ruling whether those exceptions were acceptable.

The EPC’s constitutional form of the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms* reflects amendments of the original work of the Westminster Assembly in changes to the chapter on the civil magistrate and other minor matters as well as the addition of chapters on the Holy Spirit and the love of God and missions.

#### **2.1.2. Adopting Act of 1729**

The Adopting Act of 1729 was the result of the act of the Synod of Philadelphia which at that time constituted the vast majority of American presbyterians (see Appendix A for full text of the Act). In the spirit of the Irish Pacific Act, it constituted a compromise between those calling for strict subscription and those who resisted any secondary standards. It confirmed the ultimate authority of scripture, but called for all ministers to

declare their agreement in, and approbation of, the Confession of Faith, with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms of the Assembly of

Divines at Westminster, as being in all the essential and necessary articles, good forms of sound words and systems of Christian doctrine.

All ministers and candidates were required, in writing or by verbal assent, to make this declaration. They were, if applicable, to declare “any scruple [exception] with respect to any article or articles of said Confession or Catechisms” to their respective presbyteries or to the Synod. The appropriate court could approve one with such exceptions if those exceptions were considered “not essential and necessary in doctrine, worship, or government.” The Act concluded with an affirmation that no one with acceptable exceptions would be more lowly regarded or derogatorily described as a result. Though debate continued and splits opened and healed, no action of the Synod (or later Assembly) served to weaken the Act until the 1880s.

Beginning in the 1880s and continuing until the present day Modernity made greater and greater inroads into the faith and life of the mainline presbyterian denominations. However, even given the separatist presbyterian movements of this century, no change to the status of the *Confession* occurred until the UPCUSA (Northern Presbyterian Church) added the *Confession of 1967* and other creedal statements to make up *The Book of Confessions*. At this time the vow “to receive and adopt” the Confession and Catechisms was changed to a vow to be guided by the multiple confessions.

Today, the ministerial vows regarding confessionalism of the major presbyterian denominations are as indicated on the chart following.

## **2.2. EPC history**

At its founding, the EPC identified itself thoroughly with historic presbyterianism when the First General Assembly adopted the *Book of Order* and the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms* as its constitution. This testified to the denomination’s desire to be reformed according to scripture both in its doctrine and government.

Though the EPC is young as denominations go, entering her ecclesiastical adolescence with the attendant growing pains, she is in the blessed position of having many of her founding members not only living, but with clear and vivid memories of those founding years. Their recollections constitute an important source of data for determining our present position on and future direction in many areas of denominational life. Yet time can elevate past expectations to the status of history. Hence we must not turn to our individual expectations and undocumented understandings of what “The Essentials of Our Faith” is, but to our documented history. Of course this history is amendable where it can be shown to err, but it provides the only objective basis for this discussion.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)	Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essentials tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? Will you be a minister of Word and Sacrament in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and continually guided by our confessions?
Presbyterian Church in America	Do you sincerely receive and adopt the <i>Confession of Faith</i> and the <i>Catechisms</i> of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will on your own initiative, make known to your Presbytery the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church	Do you accept the doctrines of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, as founded on the Word of God as the expression of your own faith and do you resolve to adhere thereto?
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America	Do you believe in and accept the system of doctrine and the manner of worship set forth in the <i>Westminster Confession of Faith</i> , the <i>Larger</i> and <i>Shorter Catechisms</i> , and the <i>Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church</i> , as being agreeable to, and founded upon, the Scriptures?
Orthodox Presbyterian Church	Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Confession of Faith and Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?
Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures? Do you promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the essentials of the faith you will on your initiative make known to your Presbytery the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?

*Confessional Vows of  
Presbyterian Denominations*

### 2.2.1. Stated Clerk's "Reflections on the Essentials"

The best starting place for understanding the relationship between "The Essentials of Our Faith" and the *Confession* are the remarks of Stated Clerk L. Edward Davis delivered at the Sixteenth General Assembly entitled "Reflections on the Essentials." These remarks were occasioned by an inquiry from the Permanent Judicial Commission and are included in their entirety as Appendix A to this report. A summary of the most relevant points are as follows:

- The fourth ordination vow in **G.14-1.A-4** as ratified by the First General Assembly contained the phrase "fundamentals of faith" rather than the present wording.
- The First General Assembly adopted the document entitled "Essentials of the Faith" "to provide a short, brief explanation of the non-negotiable essentials which may be found in fuller expression within the *Confession*." Such identifying statements, as Dr. Davis reported, have been a common phenomenon within the broader evangelical, non-confessional community.
- The Second General Assembly amended the fourth vow to read "essentials of the faith." It also made some minor changes to "Essentials of the Faith" including changing the title to "Essentials of Our Faith."
- By the conclusion of the Second General Assembly the *Confession* was our historic, confessional statement while the "Essentials of Our Faith" existed for the purpose of "testimony and witness."
- In the 1984 edition of the *Book of Government*, without any action by the General Assembly, the wording of the fourth ordination vow was changed from "essentials of the faith" to "*Essentials of the Faith*."
- It was the Stated Clerk's conclusion that, unless specific evidence to the contrary can be provided, it appears that the change in the fourth ordination vow (i.e. capitalizing and italicizing "essentials of the faith") as printed in the *Book of Government* was an unauthorized change.

Subsequent to the Stated Clerk's report, the Sixteenth General Assembly voted down a motion to correct the unauthorized capitalization of this phrase, but then acted to refer the matter to the Permanent Judicial Commission for review. The PJC reported to the Seventeenth General Assembly with its ruling described below. Even without correcting the *Book of Government*, it should be noted that the wording in the fourth ordination vow, "essentials of *the* faith," is not the same as the title of the document "Essentials of *Our* Faith."

### 2.2.2. Act of the Assembly 88-29: Advisory letter on relationship of "The Essentials" and the *Westminster Confession of Faith*

Prior to the Stated Clerk's report to the Sixteenth General Assembly, had acted twice on the matter of the relationship of "The Essentials of Our Faith" and the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms*. The first such action was **Act 88-29** (see Appendix C). There the Eighth General Assembly stated the following:

As Presbyterians, we hold the *Westminster Confession of Faith* to be our standard of doctrine as it is found in Scripture... "The Essentials" is a distillation for [sic] the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and is helpful in stating what we believe. The two are not in contradiction but are in harmony with one another as an expression of Reformed doctrine.

In this action the Assembly stated that “‘The Essentials’ should not be made a part of our Constitution and given that authority.”

**2.2.3. Act of the Assembly 93-17: PJC ruling on role of “The Essentials”**

The Thirteenth General Assembly reiterated the previous position in sustaining a Permanent Judicial Commission ruling (see Appendix D). It further clarified that “The Essentials” were “never to be used as an explicit standard for a minimal core of beliefs for candidates, ordination, or ministerial exams. It is not...to be construed as a substitute for the WCF.” The Assembly stated that a person, though assenting to “The Essentials,” disagreed with the *Westminster Confession* and “would be unacceptable as a Teaching or Ruling Elder in the EPC, being out of accord with the Constitution.”

**2.2.4. Act of the Seventeenth General Assembly: PJC Ruling that vow 4 should be “essentials of the faith”**

The Permanent Judicial Commission issued two rulings on this matter that the Seventeenth General Assembly sustained. One ruling called for the wording in the third ordination vow to be corrected to “essentials of the faith” (removing italics and capitalization), since the correct version of the *Book of Government* had been changed without Assembly authorization.

**2.2.5 Act of the Seventeenth General Assembly: PJC ruling regarding meaning of third ordination vow**

The other PJC ruling on this matter sustained by the Seventeenth General Assembly (see Appendix E) responded to an inquiry from the Presbytery of the West regarding the meaning of the third ordination vow, particularly what it means to “receive and adopt the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms* of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures.” The substance of this ruling was that it means “the ordinand holds these teachings as his own, and will teach them as truth.”

Though not constituting part of the Assembly’s action, the grounds given by the PJC for this ruling included “the exclusive role of each individual presbytery in examining and evaluating candidates for church office.” This ground, even if considered part of the Assembly’s action, could in no way be understood to mitigate the process of review and control which is fundamental to presbyterian polity and provided for in the Constitution of the Church.

**3. Recapitulation of present position: Relationship of “The Essentials” to the *Westminster Confession of Faith***

The discussions that have surrounded this issue, the actions of the Assembly notwithstanding, make it apparent that varied understandings have existed in the past regarding the relationship of “The Essentials” and the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms*. These varied understandings are probably the result of several factors. It seems these factors include at least the following:

- The expected variety of beliefs which are the result of studied persons following their respective consciences.
- Varied histories from previous ecclesiastical contexts where attitudes toward confessional adherence varied greatly.
- Lack of awareness of the historical meaning of confessional adherence.

- Lack of understanding or misunderstanding of the system of doctrine taught in the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms*.
- Varied verbal representations made to individuals and congregations as they considered affiliation with the EPC.
- Expediency when ordination vows and constitutional standards were subordinated to effecting pastoral and other officer relationships.

Regardless of their sources, it is apparent that these varied understandings exist. However, it is the conclusion of the Committee that the record of the Assembly's actions is unambiguous. The standard for holding office in the EPC includes "sincerely receiv[ing] and adopt[ing] the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms* of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures." Though it is not our desire to find otherwise, even if we were willing the record will not permit it. This conclusion does not address what constitutes this system of doctrine. Further, it is not intended as an interpretation of the vow. This is the responsibility of the courts of original jurisdiction.

#### **4. Relationship of the *Westminster Confession of Faith* to...**

##### **4.1. ...the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church**

The Preface to the *Book of Order* of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church states, "The constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, which is subordinate to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, consists of its doctrinal standards set forth in the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, with the *Larger* and *Shorter Catechisms* and the *Book of Order*..." Therefore, it is the conclusion of the Committee that the relationship of the *Westminster Confession of Faith* to the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church is one of inclusion. The *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms* are part of our Constitution.

##### **4.2. ...the vows of ordination for pastors and elders**

The third ordination vow for pastors, elder and deacons asks candidates to answer positively, "Do you sincerely receive and adopt the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and the *Catechisms* of the Church as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?" (**G 14-1.A.3** and **14-1.E.3**)

Therefore, it is the conclusion of the Committee that a relationship of substantial subscription exists between all ruling and teaching elders and the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms*. Consequently, no one can be ordained into the office of ruling or teaching elder in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church without answering this vow in the affirmative.

##### **4.3. ...relations with other denominations, and**

While the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms* grant us no official relationship with any other denomination, they do serve positively to identify us theologically with other Reformed denominations. This biblical heritage opens avenues of fellowship and mutual encouragement within the larger body of Christ.

The *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms* also serves to differentiate us from non-Reformed denominations. This system of doctrine guards us from error and also establishes a platform from which we may address the differences within the larger body of Christ.

#### 4.4. ...the teaching and edification of lay persons

G 4-5 states,

The home and the church should also make special provision for instructing the children in the Bible and in the Church Catechisms... The Session shall encourage the parents of the Church to guide their children in the catechizing and disciplining of them in the Christian religion.

The *Book of Order* does not specifically state that the church is to teach their children the catechism of the Westminster Confession of Faith. However, it is clearly implied in the instructions because in every other instance where the catechism is mentioned, it is mentioned in relationship to the *Westminster Confession of Faith*.

G 14.1.E.3 asks, “Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of the Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?” This third ordination vow for ruling elders and deacons assumes both training in, and understanding of, the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms*. Therefore preparation for office should be thorough enough to allow officers to take this vow with understanding and integrity.

G 16-10.H states that a portion of the Church Session’s responsibility is “To oversee the educational program of the congregation, and to determine its literature.” This does not state unequivocally that the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms* are to be used for the purpose of education. However, since both the church and parents are to instruct their children in its catechisms, adult believers must be trained therein if they are to teach the children.

D1-1 states

The term [discipline] has two senses: the one referring to the whole government, inspection, training, guardianship and control which the church maintains with respect to its member, its officers and its courts; the other a restricted and technical sense, signifying ecclesiastical judicial procedures.

In the former sense, “discipline” within the Church is an operation of teaching and training. Although the *Book of Discipline* does not specify that the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms* are to be used in such a role, it can be said that the Church, which elects to omit the *Confession* and its *Catechisms*, does so to its own detriment.

#### 5. Relationship of the document “Essentials of Our Faith” to...

##### 5.1. ...the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church,

The preface to the *Book of Order* of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church states that: The Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, which is subordinate to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, consists of its doctrinal standards set forth in *The Westminster Confession of Faith*, with the *Larger* and *Shorter Catechisms* and *The Book of Order* consisting of the *Book of Government*, the *Book of Discipline* and the *Book of Worship*. The Standards set forth in the *Book of Order* regulate the government, discipline, and worship of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

It is therefore the conclusion of the Committee that, since it is nowhere mentioned as a part of the Constitution, no constitutional relationship exists between the document “Essentials of Our Faith” and the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

**5.2. ...the vows of ordination for pastors and elders,**

Nowhere in the chapters of the *Book of Government* which deal with the ordination and role of pastors, elders and deacons (**G.10-G.15**) is there any mention of the document “Essentials of Our Faith.” **Act 93-17** states that “Essentials of Our Faith” is “never to be used as an explicit standard for a minimal core of beliefs for candidates, ordination, or ministerial exams.”

Further, the document “Essentials of Our Faith” is inadequate in its scope of Christian doctrine as it applies to ordination (i.e. “Essentials of Our Faith” is silent on such issues as hell, covenantal theology, assurance of salvation, freedom of conscience, Presbyterian polity, the bodily resurrection of believers, divorce and remarriage and the existence of Satan). By its silence on such doctrinal matters it shows that adherence to the “Essentials of Our Faith” alone is not adequate for ordination to the office of pastor, elder or deacon.

It is therefore the conclusion of the Committee that, although all candidates for ordination would be in agreement with the document “Essentials of Our Faith” because it contains Scriptural truths, it nonetheless has no official relationship to the vows taken by officers of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

**5.3. ...relations with other denominations, and**

**Act 81-01** states that, “The intent of the ‘Essentials of the Faith’ shall be to give a clear concise statement of the fundamentals of Christian faith as embodied in the *Westminster Confession* and professed by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.” It is therefore the conclusion of the Committee that the document “Essentials of Our Faith” helps to distinguish us from other Christian denominations. While the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms* express our commitment to historic Reformed orthodoxy, “The Essentials of Our Faith” expresses our desire to hold to that commitment with an evangelical and irenic spirit.

**5.4. ...the teaching and edification of lay persons.**

**Act 81-01** states that, “The intent of the ‘Essentials of the Faith’ shall be to give a clear concise statement of the fundamentals of Christian Faith as embodied in the *Westminster Confession* and professed by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.” The *Book of Government* in chapters 14 and 16 call for the teaching and edification of God’s people. The document “Essentials of Our Faith” is an effective and appealing summary of our Christian Religion.

It is therefore the conclusion of the Committee that the document, “Essentials of Our Faith” should be commended for use by all congregations within the Evangelical Presbyterian Church as a tool for teaching people the truths of our Christian religion. It is also recommended that where the document “Essentials of Our Faith” is limited in its scope of doctrine, the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms* be used to expand the Church’s understanding of God’s Word.

**6. Defining: What is it to “sincerely receive and adopt?”**

The action of the Seventeenth General Assembly stated that to

“receive and adopt the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and the *Catechisms* of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures...” means that the ordinand holds these teachings as his own, and will teach them as truth.

When one answers affirmatively the questions asked at the service of ordination, an oath is taken before God and before a congregation or a presbytery. This oath, or any oath, should be a serious matter for a Christian. In the “Pastoral Letter Regarding Criteria for Evaluating Membership in Secret Fraternal Organizations” adopted by the Assembly, advice is given about the taking of oaths. This letter says that one should not swear to anything that he is not completely convinced is true. But there is one more condition regarding an oath taken before a court of the church. If one says that he sincerely receives and adopts the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms* as containing the system of doctrine as taught in the Scriptures, this oath involves more than his own understanding of the *Confession*. It also involves the understanding of the Church. It would be dishonest for someone to take an oath that he receives and adopts the *Confession* if he knows that his own understanding of that *Confession* is different from that of the Church. That oath is taken before witnesses who have every right to assume that there is a common understanding of the system of doctrine. It is an obligation of every officer of the church to promote and defend the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms*. Confusion would result if there were no common understanding of doctrine.

Even though the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms* have stood for centuries as a fine expression of the Reformed faith, they are not the Word of God. They stand as secondary standards and define what the Reformed church believes to be true doctrine as given in the Holy Scriptures. Because the *Confession* and *Catechisms* are not Scripture, Reformed Christians may differ on some minor points of doctrine as stated in those documents. Candidates for ordination should be willing to state the points on which they disagree with the *Confession* and *Catechisms* and give their reasons. Courts would do well to encourage candidates to state their differences.

## **7. Conclusion**

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church is a Reformed denomination in terms of its history and Constitution. The goal of Reformed theology is to be reformed according to the scriptures without being bound by human tradition. While coming to full flower in the centuries since the Reformation, it believes itself to be the doctrines of the ancient church, including such great theologians as Augustine.

In addition to its desire to be biblical, Reformed theology sees the glory of God as the highest good. In serving that end it draws biblical teaching in relationship to itself in a self-consistent system of doctrine. When scriptural truth is shown to be self-consistent, it results in the greater glory of God, who is Truth. Furthermore, the individual teachings of scripture are not fully understood apart from their relations to the rest of scripture.

If the standards of the Church are neglected, the Church will, in time, drift farther from this biblical teaching. Out of their love for God and the people that have been entrusted to their care, officers of the church must guard that truth and have the courage to proclaim it. The courts of the church must guard the offices of minister,

elder and deacon to be sure that none be admitted to those offices who will not promote and defend the Reformed faith as found in the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms*.

As a denomination we desire to be able to say with the apostle Paul

Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. Therefore take heed to your-selves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. —Acts 20:26-28

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Adopted 6/98



## APPENDIX A

### **The Adopting Act**

*As Adopted by the Synod of Philadelphia in 1729*

Although the Synod do not claim or pretend to any authority of imposing our faith upon other men's consciences, but do profess our just dissatisfaction with, and abhorrence of such impositions, and do utterly disclaim all legislative power and authority in the Church, being willing to receive one another as Christ has received us to the glory of God, and admit to fellowship in sacred ordinances, all such as we have grounds to believe Christ will at last admit to the kingdom of heaven, yet we are undoubtedly obliged to take care that the faith once delivered to the saints be kept pure and uncorrupted among us, and so handed down to our posterity; and do therefore agree that all the ministers of this Synod, or that shall hereafter be admitted into this Synod, shall declare their agreement in, and approbation of, the Confession of Faith, with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms of the Assembly of Divines at Westminster, as being in all the essential and necessary articles, good forms of sound words and systems of Christian doctrine, and do also adopt the said Confession and Catechisms as the confession of our faith. And we do also agree, that all the Presbyteries within our bounds shall always take care not to admit any candidate of the ministry into the exercise of the sacred function but what declares his agreement in opinion with all the essential and necessary articles of said Confession, either by subscribing the said Confession of Faith and Catechisms, or by a verbal declaration of their assent thereto, as such minister or candidate shall think best. And in case any minister of this Synod, or any candidate for the ministry, shall have any scruple with respect to any article or articles of said Confession or Catechisms, he shall at the time of his making said declaration declare his sentiments to the Presbytery or Synod, who shall, notwithstanding, admit him to the exercise of the ministry within our bounds, and to ministerial communion, if the Synod or Presbytery shall judge his scruple or mistake to be only about articles not essential and necessary in doctrine, worship, or government. But if the Synod or Presbytery shall judge such ministers or candidates erroneous in essential and necessary articles of faith, the Synod or Presbytery shall declare them incapable of communion with them. And the Synod do solemnly agree, that none of us will traduce or use any opprobrious terms of those that differ from us in these extra-essential and not necessary points of doctrine, but treat them with the same friendship, kindness, and brotherly love, as if they had not differed from us in such sentiments.

## APPENDIX B

### “Reflections on the Essentials”

*Remarks of the Stated Clerk to the Sixteenth General Assembly (1996)*

Permit me to walk slowly through this most sensitive issue so that you may understand the conclusion to which I have come. I speak not only in response to the questions raised by the PJC, but also from the perspective of the Stated Clerk as denominational historian and archivist. Please hear me from that perspective.

In this Presbytery (West) a hearty and robust discussion on the nature of the Essentials has been developing for several months. Overture #96-B on this subject has been offered the Assembly. One part of the discussion surrounding this overture is the question of what constitutional authority, if any, does the document known as the “Essentials of Faith” have? In Chapter 14 of the *Book of Government* one finds in the fourth ordination vow for ministers, elders and deacons, an explicit italicized reference to the “Essentials of Faith.” Herein lies a major question.

As presbytery discussion related to the “Essentials of Faith” has developed, I have been compelled to reexamine our earliest years, especially 1981, 1982 and 1983. Our early and most formative years were exciting years--years in which both the excitement and passion of a new movement drove and energized us all. Years in which highest priority for many people wanting to be part of “something new” was no organizational clarity. Thus, to pursue historical clarity one has to dig and dig. Research on this question has been hindered by the following factors.

The chairman of the task group charged with producing what we know today as the “Essentials of Faith” was Dr. George Scotchmer. A man deeply loved and respected by many, George pastored Memorial Presbyterian Church in St. Louis for many years. George is now deceased. With the help of his wife, we have looked for the working file of this theological committee. But for very brief notes, the two additional members of the task group did not retain written information helpful in historical clarification. We have been further handicapped in this matter by Andrew Jumper’s death. Andy rendered a most formidable influence in the writings of the Assembly. He provided the church its first provisional Book of Government. In these earliest years Andy’s contribution was prolific. Securing access to Andy’s files during those earliest years has been difficult. I hope such information can be found and assimilated into our denominational history.

Some of you recall the First General Assembly that convened in September, 1981. Documents presented to that Assembly were a provisional Book of Government and a provisional Book of Worship. These two works were initially drafted by Andy Jumper and subsequently edited by a committee composed of Messrs. Jumper, Davis, Gray, Hess and Wolf. Others like Bill Flannagan and George Scotchmer would contribute at specific points. In that Assembly, the provisional Book of Government was adopted with a limited number of amendments. In Chapter 14 the fourth ordination vow reflected the following language: “the fundamentals of this system of doctrine.” The First Assembly, however, amended its provisional Book of Government, Chapter 14-vow 4, to read “fundamentals of faith” rather than “fundamentals of this system of doctrine.” The Assembly then ratified the proposed Book of Government.

Reflecting the evangelical spirit as well as the Reformed spirit characteristic of its initial membership, there arose an expressed need from the Constituting Convention of March 1981 for a brief statement of faith in addition to an historical confessional statement. Consequently, the Steering Committee elected by the Constituting Convention tasked its first theology committee (Dr. Scotchmer plus 2) responsibility to bring to the First Assembly a brief statement of faith that, for the most part, is what you have today in the document entitled the “Essentials of Faith.” The Steering Committee offered that statement to the First Assembly not as a substitute but as a brief statement to stand alongside the Confession for this infant church to use in a variety of ways. Such a tool was very common to those with broader evangelical roots who had come out of that broader evangelical world into Presbyterianism. In that First Assembly, the title of the document was changed to “Essentials of the Faith.” Minutes of the First Assembly and the 1981-1982 minutes of the Steering Committee, reflect the purpose and intent of the “Essentials of the Faith” to provide a short, brief explanation of the non-negotiable essentials which may be found in fuller expression within the Confession. A statement of faith in brief form, sometimes called a “creed,” was a familiar tool to many attending the First Assembly. When that Assembly adjourned, it had adopted a Book of Government, a Book of Worship, and would adopt, at a later time, a Book of Discipline borrowed from the PCUS and the PCA.

Subsequent to the First Assembly, the first blue book (Book of Order) was published under the oversight of an editorial committee working in consultation with the initial Theology Committee of three. In that first blue book (dates June 1, 1982 in its preface), one finds in Chapter 14, the fourth ordination vow, the words “fundamentals of the faith.” The Second Assembly (though its minutes are unfortunately sketchy at points) took action to the effect that the next publication of the Book of Government, Chapter 14, should substitute the words “essentials” for the word “fundamentals” in the Book of Government. This, however, was done without capitalization of any language in the fourth vow.

The Second Assembly adopted a few minor changes to the “Essentials of the Faith” document and then approved the Theology Committee’s recommendation to change the documents to “Essentials of Our Faith.” It can, therefore, be reasonably established that the continuing intent of the Assembly was to have in one hand, an historic confessional statement known as the Westminster Confession of Faith (although the specific version of the Westminster Confession and which chapters to include were questions yet to be determined), and in the other hand, for purposes of testimony and witness, a brief document entitled “Essentials of Our Faith.”

In the continuing work of that early editorial committee, much was still being done in St. Louis alongside the corresponding work of the Theological Committee. Somewhere between the 1982 and 1984 editions of the Book of Government, the words “Essentials of the Faith” in the fourth ordination vow were italicized and printed. This, in effect, established a frame of reference to a specific document. Just how and when this took place (somewhere between Government, 1982 edition and Government, 1984 edition) remains a question.

All this brings me to the following: In seeking as clear a picture as possible of those earliest years, with supportive historical date, I am unable to find any clear evidence indicating the Assembly duly authorized changing the language “essentials of the

faith” into language to be capitalized and italicized as it is today, indicating a reference to a specific document. This is the conclusion I must bring to the PJC as together we struggle with this issue. In the context of Overture #96-B and the understandable debate which surrounds the larger question, I have endeavored in good conscience to clarify with reasonable historic data what genuinely did exist in those earliest documents, and what was the Assembly’s original intent regarding the “Essentials of Our Faith” document.

Mr. Moderator, I’m not sure what implications this may have. If it is indeed true, and I believe it is, and unless additional evidence to the contrary is forthcoming, the fourth ordination vow found in Chapter 14, Book of Government, should read “essentials of the faith” with no italics or bolding. And if indeed this is how the Book of Government, Chapter 14, should be understood in terms of historical accuracy, such conclusion may influence the discussion of the larger question emerging as to the appropriate relationship of the document known as the “Essentials of Our Faith,” clearly adopted by the First Assembly and moderately amended by the Second Assembly, and the Westminster Confession of Faith.

Let me be clear. There is no question this body in the first two assemblies adopted a brief statement of faith, initially named it the “Essentials of the Faith,” then changed the caption to read “Essentials of Our Faith,” thus giving us the content one finds today in the little pamphlet published as the “Essentials of the/our Faith.” The historical question I have raised does not bear upon the legitimacy of that document which stood alongside Confession of Faith, although not explicitly with the Book of Government. There is no question as to the historical adoption of that document for the purposes initially stated.

There is serious question as to whether the Assembly ever took explicit action to place the “Essentials” document *per se* in the fourth ordination question of G.14. I believe not. Rather, what it did was to take the most original sense understood in the words “fundamentals of the faith” and substitute that same sense with lower case language to read “essentials of the faith” with the understanding that if persons both outside of and within the church ask what is meant when one cites our motto, “In Essentials, Unity; in Non-essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Charity” here is a short, concise statement of faith to help. The original intent seems clear.

When, however, you study the language of the fourth ordination question of Chapter 14, you should understand that the historical intent was to have some means whereby the potential problem of faith attrition on the part of persons already ordained to the office of minister, elder, or deacon could be addressed. In my judgment, the intent of this Assembly, at least through its Fifth Assembly, was that the document known as “Essentials of the Faith” should be the exclusive frame of reference as to how the fourth vow may be understood. There are occasional footprints in the Assembly’s history recognizing that some day the church would need to grapple further with the relationship between its Confession and the “Essentials.”

Those of us who withdrew from either the PCUSA or the PCUS will remember the historical concerns as to how best the church shall deal with loss of faith and change of belief on the part of ordained ministers and elders. The original intent of the fourth question was to address that historical problem. God forbid that such similar

issues of faith should ever confront us. God forbid there ever be an attrition and loss of essential truth held in good faith by our office bearers.

Mr. Moderator, it is my assessment - and that is what the PJC has asked of me - that clear evidence does not currently exist in the historical records of our church, at least through the Fifth General Assembly, to authenticate the capitalization of the words "essentials of the faith" in ordination vow four, Chapter 14 of Government. What this means to us today and shall mean in the future to this Assembly, the Assembly in its wisdom will need to determine.

**APPENDIX C**  
**An Advisory Letter on the Relationship of**  
**the Westminster Confession of Faith and “The Essentials”**  
*Act of the Assembly 88-29*

The Committee on Theology was given the task of studying the relationship between “The Essentials” and the Westminster Confession of Faith. This referral came out of a motion to the 7th General Assembly to make “The Essentials” a part of our Constitution.

The Committee concurs with the Stated Clerk that “The Essentials” should not be made a part of our Constitution and given that authority. This document now carries the authority of an Act of the Assembly (reference Acts of the Assembly §81-1).

In order to further understand the relationship between “The Essentials” and the Westminster Confession of Faith, it is important to remember our historical context. As Presbyterians, we hold the Westminster Confession of Faith to be our standard of doctrine as it is found in Scripture. This standard is held not only in the intellect but also in the heart. The Westminster Confession of Faith is a positive statement of what we believe Scripture teaches.

“The Essentials” is a distillation for [sic] the Westminster Confession of Faith and is helpful in stating what we believe. The two are not in contradiction but are in harmony with one another as an expression of Reformed doctrine.

Courts of the EPC should encourage their members to continue studying our Confession in the light of the Word of God that we may grow theologically and spiritually together, unto the stature of the fullness of Christ.

*[Adopted by the 8th General Assembly, June, 1988]*

**APPENDIX D**  
**Permanent Judicial Commission Opinion Upheld by the**  
**Thirteenth General Assembly**

*Act of the Assembly 93-17*

The purpose of the Essentials of the Faith is to provide an explicit and concise expression of the essentials of the Christian faith, but also leave room for Christians to disagree on non-essentials. It is never to be used as an explicit standard for a minimal core of beliefs for candidates, ordination, or ministerial exams. It is not to duplicate the Westminster Confession of Faith, or to be construed as a substitute for the WCF. Because it is not part of the Constitution, it is never to be used as such. Theoretically, a person could affirm the Essentials, as all knowledgeable Christians would do, but disagree with the WCF. Such a person would be unacceptable as a Teaching or Ruling Elder in the EPC, being out of accord with its Constitution. On the other hand, a person cannot affirm the WCF and disbelieve any part of the Essentials. ~~The Essentials are to be subscribed to in addition to the full WCF (G.14-1A.4). (Minutes 13-38)~~

*NOTE: The last sentence of this opinion was struck by Act of the Assembly 96-26.*

APPENDIX E

**Action of the Seventeenth General Assembly  
Regarding Meaning of the Third Ordination Vow**

*The following was the ruling of the Permanent Judicial Commission sustained by  
the Seventeenth General Assembly in response to a request from the Presbytery of  
the West*

Every Assembly, Presbytery and Session of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church has lawfully required every ordinand to affirm his or her personal faith in the doctrines taught by the Westminster Confession of Faith and its catechisms as wholly consistent with Holy Scripture. Doctrinal affirmation by the ordinand is clearly focused in the third ordination vow (**G.14-A-3, 14-E-3**). It is the nature of a vow to settle the question being asked. There are no conditional vows, by design as well as by definition. To "...receive and adopt the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and the *Catechisms* of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures..." means that the ordinand holds these teachings as his own, and will teach them as truth.

APPENDIX F

**Vows of Ministers, *Book of Government* 14.1**

- A. The Ordination of a Minister: The person presiding shall propose the following questions for one being ordained and for one coming into the Evangelical Presbyterian Church from some other denomination:
1. Do you reaffirm your faith in Jesus Christ as your own personal Lord and Savior?
  2. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, totally trustworthy, fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, the supreme, final, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
  3. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?
  4. Do you promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the essentials of the faith you will on your initiative make known to your Presbytery the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?
  5. Do you subscribe to the government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church?
  6. Do you promise subjection to your fellow Presbyters in the Lord?
  7. Have you been induced, as far as you know your own heart, to seek the office of the holy Ministry from love to God and a sincere desire to promote His glory in the Gospel of His Son?
  8. Do you promise to be zealous and faithful in promoting the truths of the Gospel and the purity and peace of the Church, whatever persecution or opposition may arise unto you on that account?
  9. Will you seek to be faithful and diligent in the exercise of all your duties as a Christian and a Minister of the Gospel, whether personal or relative, private or public; and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your manner of life, and to walk with exemplary piety before the flock of which God shall make you overseer?

10. Are you now willing to take the charge of this Church, agreeable to your declaration when accepting their call? And do you, relying upon God for strength, promise to discharge to it the duties of a Pastor?



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**RULES FOR ASSEMBLY**  
**As amended through the 29th General Assembly (2009)**

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**I. Date and Place of Meeting**

- 1-1** The General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall meet annually on the date and at the place fixed by the preceding General Assembly, between May 1 and June 30.
- 1-2** The place of meeting shall be rotated among the various areas of the church as much as practical. Any Presbytery or church of Presbytery that desires to entertain the General Assembly shall forward an invitation to the Stated Clerk no later than three years before the preceding Assembly. If two or more Presbyteries or churches submit invitations to host the General Assembly for the same year, the Committee on Administration will submit a recommendation to the General Assembly naming the host church or Presbytery. The Committee on Administration will make its recommendation based on the following criteria:
- a.** Capability to host, i.e., availability of housing, costs, travel arrangements, committee meeting rooms, availability of food service for breaks and meals, space for exhibitors and General Assembly staff, and local transportation.
  - b.** Priority will be given to the Presbytery or church which has never hosted a General Assembly or which hosted General Assembly the greatest number of years ago.

**II. Organization of a General Assembly's Meetings**

- 2-1** The General Assembly shall be called to order at the designated time by the Moderator, and shall begin with a worship service which shall include a prayer for the President of the United States, all United States military personnel (to include their families) especially those serving in harm's way, the Governor of the State in which the General Assembly takes place, and the United States of America. Also, this public prayer should be communicated in writing by the Moderator to the President and the Governor.
- 2-2** The Stated Clerk shall present a report on the enrollment and declare if a quorum is present. If such is present, the Assembly shall be declared to be properly constituted.
- 2-3** The first order of business shall be the election of a Moderator. Though the Moderator-elect will normally be the presumptive nominee, the Committee on Nominations must make such nomination. The floor shall be opened for additional nominations. There shall be only one nominating speech per nominee not to exceed five minutes for each nominee. No seconding speeches shall be permitted.

- 2-4 A Moderator-elect shall be elected according to the same procedure as the election of Moderator.
- 2-5 Election shall be by ballot, on ballots provided by the Stated Clerk. Tellers appointed by the Stated Clerk shall gather, count and report the ballot tabulation to the Stated Clerk. Election shall be by majority. Should no majority exist among a plurality of nominees, a second ballot shall be called for the two highest nominees. The Moderator shall declare the election. If there is only one nominee, a motion for a voice vote to elect by acclamation shall be in order.
- 2-6 The Moderator and Moderator-elect shall assume their respective duties immediately upon being declared elected.

### III. The Moderator

- 3-1 The Moderator shall preside at all sessions of the Assembly except for those times when the Moderator may temporarily invite another Commissioner to act as the presiding officer.
- 3-2 The Moderator shall call the succeeding Assembly to order and preside until a successor has been elected. An address from the retiring Moderator is appropriate. If the Moderator is unable to act, the most immediate past Moderator present, or in the absence of any, the Stated Clerk shall call the Assembly to order and preside over its session until a Moderator has been elected.

### IV. Moderator-elect

- 4-1 The Moderator-elect is an officer of the General Assembly and shall ordinarily be the presumptive nominee for Moderator at the succeeding Assembly. The duties of the Moderator-elect shall be to assist the Moderator in the performance of the Moderator's duties as requested by the Moderator.

### V. The Stated Clerk

- 5-1 The Stated Clerk shall be elected on the last day of the Assembly. A new Stated Clerk shall assume office at the end of the Assembly, or at such time thereafter as designated by the General Assembly. (Cf. Acts 82-09)
- 5-2 The Stated Clerk shall perform the duties assigned by the **Book of Government** and by the **Rules for Assembly**, and such other duties as are assigned by action of the Assembly.
- 5-3 The Stated Clerk shall assemble the items of business to come before the Assembly and prepare a daily docket for the receiving of committee reports and consideration of all appropriate business to come before the Assembly.

- 5-4 The Stated Clerk shall keep the **Minutes** of the General Assembly. He shall publish them annually with statistical reports of the Church and reports of the committees of the Assembly.
- 5-5 The Stated Clerk shall have the privilege of the floor in all matters pertaining to his office and at such times when the Moderator, chairmen of assembly committees, or any Commissioner request clarification of Assembly business.
- 5-6 The Stated Clerk shall be the parliamentarian of the General Assembly.
- 5-7 The Stated Clerk shall have surveillance over denominational archives and historical documents on behalf of the General Assembly, and shall be responsible for the right of access to such documents.

## **VI. The Assembly Arrangements**

- 6-1 The Moderator of the last General Assembly and the Stated Clerk shall plan the periods of worship at the meeting of the Assembly, including the celebration of the Lord's Supper and public services. A brief worship service shall be included at the beginning of each day's session.
- 6-2 The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated by the General Assembly. The retiring Moderator shall preside on this occasion and shall preach a sermon or deliver an appropriate address. The newly elected Moderator shall assist in this service.
- 6-3 The first order of the day, except the opening day, at the beginning of the business session shall be the presentation of a docket listing the business which is to be considered that day. Revision of the docket may be necessary during the day.
- 6-4 The Stated Clerk shall oversee all arrangements for the meeting and housing of the General Assembly in conjunction with the host Presbytery and/or host church.

## **VII. Communications and Overtures**

- 7-1 A communication to the General Assembly is formal correspondence received by the Stated Clerk from other churches, inter-church agencies and from other organized bodies outside the church proper having business with the Assembly.
- 7-2 The Stated Clerk shall recommend to the Assembly reference for all communications.
- 7-3 An overture ordinarily is the request of a Presbytery for action by the General Assembly upon a specific matter.
- 7-4 All overtures shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of General Assembly. No overtures received by the Stated Clerk less than thirty (30) days prior to the opening of

the Assembly shall be considered by its Assembly convening in that year. Overtures from the floor of General Assembly shall be considered only if received by a 2/3 vote of assembled Commissioners.

### **VIII. Reports to the General Assembly**

- 8-1** The Moderator, Stated Clerk, permanent committees and special committees shall make annual reports. Such reports shall be transmitted to the Stated Clerk by May 1. These reports shall be referred to the Commissioners by the Clerk by June 1.
- 8-2** All ad interim committees shall make full reports in writing with the rationale for all recommendations included therein, and such reports shall be mailed to all Commissioners at least two weeks prior to the convening of the Assembly.

### **IX. Assembly Committees**

- 9-1** All business shall ordinarily come to the floor of the Assembly for final action through Assembly committees, except reports of ad interim committees, which shall report directly to the Assembly. The following committees shall handle the matters indicated:
  - A.** Administration - concerning administrative matters
  - B.** World Outreach - concerning world missions
  - C.** National Outreach - concerning home missions and evangelism
  - D.** Christian Education & Publications - concerning Christian education and publications
  - E.** Ministerial Vocation - concerning preparation and care of ministers
  - F.** Fraternal Relations - concerning other denominations and agencies
  - G.** Memorials and Appreciation - concerning appreciation
  - H.** Overtures and Resolutions - concerning communications
  - I.** Theology - concerning theological matters under study
  - J.** Women's Ministries - concerning ministries for the women of the church
  - K.** Student Ministries - concerning ministries for the youth of the church
  - L.** College Ministries – concerning ministries related to colleges
- 9-2** The Moderator will appoint chairmen and secretaries of each Assembly committee. Representation on each committee shall be presbyterial. The Assembly Nominating Committee will elect committee personnel from Commissioner registrations mailed no later than ten days prior to the Assembly convening. Ratio should be as close to 2:1 (RE:TE) as possible.

- 9-3** The committees may be scheduled to meet prior to the opening session of the Assembly to handle business referred by the Stated Clerk.
- 9-4** The Assembly committees shall proceed as follows:
- A.** At the assigned time, each committee shall assemble in its assigned place, review material in hand and begin its work.
  - B.** Each committee shall be available to reconvene to consider additional matters referred from the Assembly floor.
  - C.** A quorum is considered to be a simple majority.
- 9-5** The Assembly committee's report shall be brief and concise. It shall include the following:
- A.** A list of all items referred to and considered by the committee;
  - B.** A statement of all issues discussed;
  - C.** A report of all recommendations contained in reports, communications and overtures referred. Action taken by the Assembly committees to approve, modify or not approve those items referred shall be reported back to the Assembly with reasons.
- 9-6** Minutes of the corresponding permanent committee shall be submitted to the Assembly committee for review.
- 9-7** Informational presentation of special aspects of work reported by a particular Assembly committee shall be limited to five (5) minutes. The Moderator may extend this time up to an additional ten (10) minutes.
- 9-8** Any recommendation affecting the budget of the Assembly shall be referred to the Committee on Administration for review before presentation to the Assembly.
- 9-9** The completed report of an Assembly committee shall contain the full text of the report and handled as follows:
- A.** Proofed and signed by chairman of committee and thereafter given to Stated Clerk for permanent record;
  - B.** Presented to the Assembly during docketed time by chairman or designate.
- 9-10** No partial report of an Assembly committee shall be presented without consent of the Assembly.
- 9-11** **A.** Presbytery **Minutes** shall be examined for conformity to:
- 1.** The constitutional standards of the church, as to substance of the action recorded;
  - 2.** Appropriate standards as to the use of the English language.
- B.** Each set of Presbytery **Minutes** must be read by at least two members of the Committee on Presbytery Review.

- C. The findings of the Committee with respect to the **Minutes** of each Presbytery shall be reported under the following categories as appropriate:
  - 1. Notations: Typographical errors, misspellings, improper punctuation, non-prejudicial statements of facts and other variations in form may be reported here. Also, failure to provide sufficient or proper information or identification, misstatement of facts, etc., may be included here.
  - 2. Notations requiring response: Insufficient information in the Minutes to determine if an action is constitutional. Such notations are not read to the General Assembly but require a response of the presbytery to the Presbytery Review Committee.
  - 3. Exceptions: Violations of constitutional standards of actions which in substance appear not to conform to EPC standards should be reported here.
- D. The Committee should prepare a report concerning the **Minutes** of each Presbytery. After action by the Assembly, two copies shall be given to the Stated Clerk, one for his permanent file and one to be mailed to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery.
- E. Notations and exceptions in the Committee's report shall be handled as follows:
  - 1. Notations shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery without being read to the Assembly or recorded in its Minutes.
  - 2. Exceptions shall be read before the Assembly, recorded in its Minutes, and disposed of as the Assembly determines.
- F. The Presbyteries shall take note in their **Minutes** of exceptions and notations conveyed from the Assembly and of the disposition they have made of such.
- G. **Guidelines for Presbytery Minutes**
  - 1. Date, time, place of meeting, Presbytery must meet at least three (3) times a year. (**G.16-17**). Presbytery review year shall include those minutes approved by Presbytery up to June 1 of each Assembly year. **Minutes** should reflect the names of Ruling and Teaching Elders present, visitors present, and include excused and unexcused absences. Minutes should reflect the number of the stated meeting.
  - 2. Meeting opened and closed with prayer.
  - 3. Declaration of quorum (**G.16-18**).
  - 4. Accurate record of motions passed and actions taken (**G.16-19**).
  - 5. Minutes should be typed with complete sentences, correct spelling and bound in hard cover.
  - 6. Minutes should be signed by Stated Clerk and Moderator.
  - 7. Minutes should reflect an accurate record of candidates received and dismissed.

8. Minutes should reflect an accurate record of ministers received and dismissed including proper examination procedures leading to ordination and/or installation.
9. Record of approved pastoral calls and any changes in calls and the granting of permission to labor outside the bounds of Presbytery (**G.16-16A**).
10. Minutes must reflect an annual review of sessional records.
11. Minutes must reflect establishing, dissolving, dividing, uniting, receiving, and dismissing of churches (**G.16-16E**).
12. Minutes must reflect observations of and carrying out of General Assembly injunctions and instructions.
13. Overtures to the General Assembly must be recorded.
14. Minutes will reflect any judicial cases before Presbytery and the disposition thereof in accordance with the **Book of Discipline**.
15. Minutes will include all actions of Presbytery appointed commissions.
16. Minutes should include annual approved Presbytery budget and related financial reports.

**9-12** The minutes of each day will not be read at the beginning of each day of Assembly but will be proofread by a committee of three Commissioners in consultation with the recording clerks of the Assembly. The committee of three shall be nominated by the convening Moderator and the minutes shall be posted in a public place where they can be read by interested Commissioners.

**X. Permanent Committees and the Permanent Judicial Commission**

**10-1** The ministries of the Assembly shall be conducted primarily through permanent committees and the Permanent Judicial Commission, to wit:

**A. Committee on Administration**

1. Chaired by the immediate past Moderator.
2. Committee Membership: Moderator, Moderator-elect, Stated Clerk, immediate past Moderator, and nine elected members.
3. Functions in the following ways:
  - a. Administrative oversight
    1. Oversight and coordination of Administration Committee with World Outreach, Christian Education, Ministerial Vocation, National Outreach, Women's Ministries, Student Ministries and College Ministries Committees.
    2. Responds to emergency and disaster situations
    3. Serve as Directors of the corporation
  - b. Denominational Development
    1. General Assembly planning
    2. Promotion/public relations
    3. Personnel administration (staff hiring, staff accountability)

4. Budget development: receive projections from all committees and submit to General Assembly a proposed budget
5. All legal and corporate matters
6. Property and liability insurance
- c. All other business of ecclesiastical matters not specifically assigned to any other committees.

**B. Committee on World Outreach**

1. To be comprised of nine members on a three-year, three class system, with the Moderator, Moderator-elect, and Stated Clerk to serve as ex-officio members. The permanent Nominating Committee will nominate replacement members from within EPC membership. Members may serve a maximum of two terms and then may not be reelected without at least one year's break. WOC members are to include three Teaching Elders and at least four Ruling Elders. The two remaining positions may be filled by non-elders with particular expertise or experience in world missions, and who are active members of EPC churches. The WOC is to meet at least twice a year, including the General Assembly.

**C. Committee on National Outreach**

1. Membership to be three. Chairman is to be elected by committee.
2. Duties:
  - a. To coordinate, encourage and provide resources for church planting, evangelism, and church development efforts of presbyteries and churches.
  - b. To provide oversight of Church Planter Assessing and Equipping, the Home Missionary application process, the Urban Ministries Network (UMN) and to encourage the pursuit of ethnic domestic ministry opportunities.

**D. Committee on Ministerial Vocation**

1. Membership to be six members; chairman elected by committee.
2. Monitors and aids ministerial committees of local presbyteries.
3. Assists in placement of pastors and helps churches to find pastors.
4. Provides information on colleges and seminaries.
5. Examines extraordinary candidates.
6. Oversees theological testing.

**E. Committee on Women In Ministry**

1. Membership shall be comprised of eight women, currently active members of the EPC. No more than one person from any given Presbytery may be elected.
2. Duties: to provide an atmosphere for the women of the church to mature spiritually and to recognize and develop their God-given gifts.



**F. Committee on Christian Education & Publications**

1. To be comprised of six members, two of whom may be non-elders qualified in Christian Education and who are active members of EPC churches. Chairman is to be elected by committee.
2. Duties:
  - a. To develop and evaluate curriculum for presbyteries and local churches as needed.
  - b. To cooperate with and encourage church day schools as needed.
  - c. To provide assistance to local churches for the development and operation of Christian Education.
  - d. To develop, evaluate, and support publications of general interest to the church, especially those valuable to the area of Christian Education. This includes supporting and promoting publications handled by other Permanent Committees or General Assembly staff.
  - e. To participate in camp and conference center development, should it be feasible and desired.
  - f. To participate in and support lay leadership development.
  - g. To promote and evaluate prayer, worship and music resources.
  - h. To help communicate the identity, vision, mission, and advantages of the EPC to local churches and to those outside the EPC.

**G. Committee on Student Ministries**

1. Membership of nine to be composed of a minimum of two Teaching Elders and two Ruling Elders in three rotating classes of three each. The five remaining positions may be filled with non-ordained EPC youth workers who are active members of EPC churches. To the extent possible, members should be broadly representative of EPC presbyteries.
2. Duties: to promote networking in student ministries among EPC churches; to provide resources for leadership development, training, and equipping for EPC youth workers; to assist EPC churches in ministry to middle and high school students.

**H. Committee on Theology**

1. Membership shall be comprised of six people, one-half of whom shall be Teaching Elders and one-half of whom shall be Ruling Elders, to be in three rotating classes of two each.
2. Duties: to receive and study such theological matters as may be referred to it by the General Assembly and to return to the General Assembly its opinions and requested papers or documents.

**I. Committee of Fraternal Relations**

1. Membership to consist of six members plus the immediate past Moderator, the Moderator, the Moderator-elect and the Stated Clerk as members ex-officio. The chairman is to be selected by the committee.
2. Duties: to assist the General Assembly in identifying, developing, and implementing relationships with other bodies of Christians including denominations in the Reformed tradition, ecumenical agencies (evangelical or Reformed in character) and other groups working to advance the Kingdom of God through evangelism, nurture, and service. The committee shall receive, study, and pursue only such fraternal matters as may be referred to it by the General Assembly and shall report annually to the General Assembly on all matters referred and the development of existing fraternal relationships.

**J. Committee on College Ministries**

1. Membership shall be comprised of six people which shall include at least two ruling elders and at least two teaching elders. The remaining two members, if not ordained, shall be persons with particular expertise or experience in ministry to college students.
2. Duties:
  - a. Review, revise and implement an ongoing strategic plan for college ministry in the EPC
  - b. Assess and approve partner churches and staff candidates for new college ministry works
  - c. Help to create and cultivate presbytery and church connections and networks
  - d. Provide oversight of denominational college conferences and mission trips
  - e. Maintain communication with the National Outreach Committee for the purpose of seeking church planting opportunities.

**K. Permanent Judicial Commission**

"The Permanent Judicial Commission: The General Assembly shall establish a PJC. The Commission shall consist of a minimum of nine persons in three classes of three each, and of which at least two-thirds must be Ruling Elders. The Assembly shall determine their eligibility to succession. Efforts shall be made to give fair representation to the various Presbyteries. During service on this Commission, no member may hold office or employment in the court. Its quorum shall be two-thirds of its membership. It shall elect its own moderator and a clerk from among its members and an accurate record shall be kept of its deliberations and actions, with a permanent record of these Minutes filed with the

Office of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly." Duties of the PJC described in the **Book of Government, §16-27.B**

**L. Committee on Presbytery Review**

1. Membership: Committee to consist of three members, including at least one former stated clerk.
2. Duties: To provide structure, order, and continuity in reviewing the minutes of the Presbyteries.

- 10-2** The power and authority of the permanent committees shall be those set forth in these **Rules** or by direction of the General Assembly.
- 10-3** Each committee shall be constituted on a three year, three class structure. All members shall be Teaching Elders or Ruling Elders except as noted. Insofar as practicable, the ratio of two Ruling Elders to one Teaching Elder shall be maintained.
- 10-4** In the event of a vacancy on a permanent committee of the General Assembly, when such vacancies seriously affect the work of the committee, and upon the request of the chairman of that committee, the Committee on Administration is authorized to appoint a person to fill the vacancy of that committee. Such appointees shall serve until the following General Assembly at which time the person shall be presented to the General Assembly by the Nominating Committee for approval. Upon approval of the General Assembly, the nominees shall then be approved for the terms and the classes according to the vacancies being filled.
- 10-5** A majority of a permanent committee shall constitute a quorum.
- 10-6** Each permanent committee shall elect its chairman for the forthcoming assembly year before the Assembly that initiates that assembly year. Persons not yet elected to the forthcoming year shall not be eligible.

**XI. Committee on Nominations**

- 11-1** The membership shall consist of 9 members, in three classes of three each composed of four Teaching Elders and five Ruling Elders, with at least one person from each Presbytery. When the number of Presbyteries exceeds nine, membership shall be rotated fairly among the Presbyteries. A member may not succeed himself. The Stated Clerk shall work with the committee to insure compliance with the requirements of the **Rules for Assembly**.
- 11-2** The chairman shall be named from the next outgoing class by the outgoing Moderator of the Assembly. The chairman shall take office at the close of the Assembly.
- 11-3** Each year at the Assembly, the outgoing Moderator shall nominate three persons to the Assembly for membership on this committee. At that time, the floor will be opened for other nominations. However, all nominations must meet the requirements for Presbytery representation

and for the Teaching Elder and Ruling Elder distribution. The Stated Clerk shall rule if a nomination from the floor is valid, and if it is valid, the Stated Clerk shall determine which of the Moderator's three nominees the nominee from the floor will run against. Those elected shall take office at the close of the Assembly.

**11-4 Duties:**

1. Nominees for Moderator-elect: The committee shall advise each Presbytery following the meeting of the Assembly of the privilege of that Presbytery to recommend to the committee a person for Moderator-elect of the General Assembly. Such recommendation shall be forwarded to the committee no later than February 28 of that year. After February 28, the committee shall evaluate the recommendations of the Presbyteries, as well as other recommendations it may receive, and at the next meeting of the Assembly shall recommend no more than two persons as its nominees for Moderator-elect. At that time, nominations may also be made from the floor. Election shall be by a majority vote of the Assembly. Nominees of the committee shall be advised of their pending nomination, ordinarily no less than thirty days prior to the meeting of the General Assembly.
2. Nominees for Moderator: Ordinarily, the Committee shall nominate the Moderator-elect for Moderator of the succeeding Assembly. However, if the Moderator-elect is unable or declines such nomination or the Committee deems it unwise to do so, it shall nominate at least one but not more than two candidates for Moderator utilizing the same procedures as for Moderator-elect.
3. To nominate to the Assembly persons for vacancies of all Assembly permanent committees. Recommendations from Sessions or Presbyteries shall be forwarded to the Committee no later than February 28 of that year. The Endorsement for Nomination form shall be used and shall reflect official action of the Session or the Presbytery.
4. To name from the Commissioners to the Assembly those who will serve on the various standing committees of the Assembly.
5. The Committee shall meet in March each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator-elect or Moderator of the General Assembly as the case may be and for permanent committees.

**XII. The Board of Benefits**

**12-1** The Board of Benefits shall oversee the administration of the denominational Retirement Plan and the Group Insurance Plan.

1. Membership to consist of six persons in three classes of two each, with each person able to succeed himself for one term. A member may be reelected for additional terms after an interim of one year. The members of the Board shall be nominated to the Assembly by the Nominating Committee, with the chairman to be nominated at the Assembly by the outgoing Moderator.

2. Duties: to serve as trustees under the Retirement Plan adopted by the Assembly; to administer the Group Insurance Plan; to administer the proceeds of the "Gratitude Gift;" to make annual report of its proceedings to the Assembly.

### **XIII. New Business**

- 13-1 Any matter presented in any form which has not been received by the Stated Clerk prior to the opening of the General Assembly shall be treated as new business.
- 13-2 New business must be presented to the Assembly by noon of the second day of business. The Committee on Administration may assist the Stated Clerk in referring all new business coming to the Assembly.

### **XIV. Parliamentary Procedure**

- 14-1 Except as otherwise specifically provided in these **Rules, Robert's Rules of Order** shall be the standard in parliamentary procedure.
- 14-2 In presenting the report of a committee, the chairman shall lead the Assembly in a brief prayer before making the report. The entire report shall be read before any comment. The Assembly may waive the reading of any particular report by a majority vote of commissioners present. When a minority of a committee wishes to present a minority report the member reporting for the minority shall have the privilege of presenting the minority report and moving it as a substitute for the portion of the majority report affected.
- 14-3 Each recommendation in each report must be read, considered, and acted on separately.
  1. The chairman moves the adoption.
  2. The Moderator asks, "Is there objection or question?"
  3. Hearing no objection or question, the Moderator states, "It is adopted." (Procedure known as "Short Form of Voting.")
- 14-4 Procedure in debating a question:
  1. The committee chairman may answer questions concerning the report addressed through the Moderator.
  2. The chairman shall have the opportunity to make the final statement in debate.
  3. No Commissioner may speak on the same question more than once until all desiring to speak have done so.
  4. Debate on the main motion shall be limited to fifteen (15) minutes unless extended. A simple majority may extend debate in additional five (5) minute increments. No Commissioner may speak longer than three (3) minutes at one time.
  5. Debate shall be free, open, and responsible with equal time being given to proponents insofar as possible.
- 14-5 All motions shall be presented in writing and read before the vote.

**XV. Amendment or Suspension of Rules**

**15-1** The **Rules** of the General Assembly may be amended or suspended only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total enrollment of the Commissioners. A motion to amend is debatable. A motion to suspend is not debatable.

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## WHAT IT MEANS TO “RECEIVE AND ADOPT” THE WESTMINSTER STANDARDS

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S. Donald Fortson, III

In the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century, American Presbyterians determined that it was necessary to adopt a doctrinal statement in order to declare their common faith. The Synod of Philadelphia in 1729 adopted the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms as the confession of their faith. In the 1729 “Adopting Act,” Presbyterians declared their “agreement in and approbation of the Confession of Faith, with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms of the Assembly of Divines at Westminster, as being, in all the essential and necessary articles, good forms of sound words and systems of Christian doctrine.”

The Adopting Act stipulated that ministers may state their “scruples” with the Confession, i.e., describing places where they had disagreements with particular articles. After hearing the candidates’ scruples, a Presbytery would determine whether or not these reservations were about articles “essential and necessary” in doctrine, worship or government. If scruples were judged to be over “extra-essentials,” the minister was admitted as a member. This established the principle of liberty of conscience.

When the first General Assembly met in 1789 they endorsed the Adopting Act and established a formula for subscribing the Confession that was included in the Form of Government. The subscription formula asked this question of the ministerial candidate: “Do you sincerely **receive and adopt** the confession of faith of this church as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?” The phrase “system of doctrine” was understood to include not only fundamental catholic Christianity and the evangelical doctrines of the Protestant Reformation but also the unique Reformed or Calvinistic system of doctrine embodied in the Westminster Standards. It was the Reformed system of the Confession that distinguished the Presbyterian theological heritage from Roman Catholic, Lutheran or Arminian systems of doctrine.

The 1789 formula of subscription has served American Presbyterians well for over 200 years. Amidst significant doctrinal diversity, schism and reunion, the historic subscription vow has stood the test of time as a median position between the extremes of strict subscription (every word) and a minimal subscription requiring “essentials of Christianity only.” The historic moderate doctrinal position of Presbyterianism has allowed diversity in expressing the Reformed faith while at the same time affirming our distinctives as Reformed people committed to the doctrines of grace.

When a church officer takes the traditional ordination vow in the EPC, he or she is affirming a personal commitment to the doctrines displayed in the Westminster Standards. The subscription vow is understood to be an acknowledgment of the Reformed or Calvinistic “system of doctrine” as expressing one’s own belief of what the Holy Scriptures teach. This vow allows one freedom to express reservations about parts of the Confession provided these “scruples” are

not about “essential” components of the Reformed system. It is the duty of sessions and presbyteries when examining candidates for church office to determine what constitutes an essential of the “system of doctrine” found in the Confession and Catechisms. The balance of individual liberty and commitment to Reformed theology is a hallmark of Presbyterianism and a value we hold dear.

*Commended for use in the churches 2002*



**PART IV**  
**DIRECTORY OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEES**  
**OF THE**  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

## NOTES

**OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
 DIRECTORY OF PERMANENT COMMITTEES**

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<p>Presbytery of the <b>MID-ATLANTIC</b>          TE Howard Shockley          PO Box 10          261 Lauren Hope Lane          Moore, SC 29369          864-587-6440          hshockley@msn.com</p>	<p>Presbytery of the <b>MIDWEST</b>          RE John Calvin Manon          P.O. Box 6047          Auburn, IN 46706          260-925-2317          epcmideast@juno.com</p>
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<b>Class of 2012</b>		
<p>Ms. Dianne Buehler                      9 Bay Circle                      Laurel, MS 39440                      610-498-9667                      buehler7@bellsouth.net</p>	<p>Mrs. Lilian Werner                      4262 Shenandoah Avenue                      St. Louis, MO 63110                      314-452-0896                      lil@gatewaytograce.org</p>	
<b>Staff Contact</b>		
<p><b>Women In Ministry Director</b>                      Mrs. Jacky Gatliff                      190 Greenbriar Drive                      Memphis, TN 38117                      901-881-4597                      jacky.gatliff@epc.org</p>	<p><b>Administrative Assistant</b>                      Ms. Rill Currie                      Office of the General Assembly                      17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Suite 567                      Livonia, MI 48152-7912                      734-742-2020 x-245                      rill.currie@epc.org</p>	

**WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

<b>Class of 2010</b>		
RE Ted Galyon, <i>Chairman</i> 1387 Hayne Road Memphis, TN 38119 901-685-6961 jgalyon1@comcast.net	RE Elsie Demarest 8212 S. Peninsula Drive Littleton, CO 80120 303-797-8857 elsie_demarest2@msn.com	RE Helena Wolfe 8639 Huntington Beach Rd. Barker, NY 14012 845-649-3016 wolfeh@galacticomm.org
<b>Class of 2011</b>		
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<b>Class of 2012</b>		
TE Jim Murphy Faith Evangelical Church 2707 N. Wilson Avenue Loveland, CO 80538 970-663-0522 jmurphy@faiethepc.org	Ms. Cathy Hartman 1709 S. Keaney Denver, CO 80224 303-759-2553 denhartman@msn.com	RE Mr. Bob Sluka 16791 Fitzgerald Livonia, MI 48154 734-464-7382 rob.mar.sluka.livonia@juno.com
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<b>Muslim Ministry Coordinator</b> Mr. John McCurry 28 Wakefield Irvine, CA 92620 949-701-8883 john.mccurry@epc.org		<b>Administrative Assistant</b> Ms. Patti Moore Office of the General Assembly 17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Suite 567 Livonia, MI 48152-7912 734-742-2020 x-240 patti.moore@epc.org

**WORLD OUTREACH PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

<p><b>World Outreach Director</b>                  TE George Cary                  Office of the General Assembly                  17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Suite 567                  Livonia, MI 48152-7912                  734-742-2020 x-224                  george.cary@epc.org</p>	<p><b>Stated Clerk</b>                  TE Jeff Jeremiah                  Office of the General Assembly                  17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Suite 567                  Livonia, MI 48152-7912                  734-742-2020 x-232                  jeff.jeremiah@epc.org</p>
<p>RE Ted Galyon, <i>Chairman</i>                  1387 Hayne Road                  Memphis, TN 38119                  901-685-6961                  jgalyon1@comcast.net</p>	<p>RE Emily Reid                  P.O. Box 250424                  Franklin, MI 48025                  26628 Fourteen Mile                  Bloomfield, MI 48301                  248-626-4284</p>
<p>RE Bob Healy                  33875 Kiely Drive                  Apt. M-1                  Chesterfield, MI 48047                  586-273-7762                  roberthealy2007@comcast.net</p>	<p>RE Bob Sluka                  16791 Fitzgerald                  Livonia, MI 48154                  734-464-7382                  rob.mar.sluka.livonia@juno.com</p>
<p>TE Thom Burbridge                  Grace Community Church                  6012 N. Skeel Avenue                  Oscoda, MI 48750                  989-739-3424                  tburbridge@aol.com</p>	<p>TE Doug Thompson                  Ward EPC                  40000 Six Mile Road                  Northville, MI 48168                  248-374-7400                  doug.thompson@wardchurch.org</p>

**NWEPC JOINT COMMISSION**

<b>EPC</b>		
<p>TE Bill Meyer, <i>Chairman</i> 2050 Lakeview Drive, #103 Clearwater, FL 33763 727-729-7368 wmeyer9@tampabay.rr.com</p>	<p>RE Chris Danusiar 917 N. Cross St. Wheaton, IL 60187 312-404-3351 cdanusiar@yahoo.com</p>	<p>RE Ed Wedin 5643 Grape St. Houston, TX 77096 713-776-2449 ewedin@comcast.net</p>
<p>TE Marty Martin Cherry Creek Pres. 10150 E. Belleview Ave. Englewood, CO 80111 303-779-9909 mmartin@cherrycreekpres.org</p>		<p>RE Zelda Artz 1220 S. Buchanan St. Arlington, VA 22204 703-671-1760 ZeldaArtz@aol.com</p>
<b>New Wineskins</b>		
<p>TE Dean Weaver Memorial Park Presbyterian 8800 Peebles Road Allison Park, PA 15101 412-364-9494 dean@memorialparkchurch.org</p>	<p>Mr. Dennis Gorman 525 Jersey Street P.O. Box 1069 Quincy, IL 62301 217-223-3030 dgorman@srm.com</p>	<p>TE Gerrit Dawson First Presbyterian Church 763 North Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70802 PO Box 2006, 70821 225-387-0617 gerrit@fpcbr.org</p>
<p>TE Randy Jenkins Central Presbyterian Church 406 Randolph Avenue Huntsville, AL 35801 256-534-8446 revrtj@bellsouth.net</p>		<p>Ms. Trish Dietz 42 Pond Drive Rocky River, OH 44116 440-331-3994 trish_dietz@hotmail.com</p>
<b>Ex-Officio</b>		
<p><b>Stated Clerk</b> TE Jeff Jeremiah 17197 N. Laurel Park Drive Suite 567 Livonia, MI 48152-7912 734-742-2020 x-232 jeff.jeremiah@epc.org</p>	<p><b>COA Chairman</b> RE Allen Roes 14907 Stonegreen Lane Huntersville, NC 28078 704-948-9508 allenroes@bellsouth.net</p>	<p><b>Moderator</b> TE Nate Atwood Kempsville Presbyterian 805 Kempsville Drive Virginia Beach, VA 23464 757-495-1913 nate@kpc.org</p>
<p><b>Co-Moderator, NWAC</b> TE Carmen Fowler Providence Presbyterian 171 Cordella Pkwy. Hilton Head, SC 29928 843-842-5673 csfowler2003@yahoo.com</p>	<p><b>Moderator – Elect</b> RE Rob Liddon 3991 N. Galloway Drive Memphis, TN 38111 901-683-3499 robertliddon@comcast.net</p>	<p><b>NWEPC TP Stated Clerk</b> RE Michael McCarty 407 Carpenter’s LN Downingtown, PA 19335 215-665-2076 mc106086@verizon.net</p>

**NATIONAL TRANSITIONAL PRESBYTERY COMMISSION**

RE John Adamson, <i>Chairman</i> 6365 Old Orchard Cove Memphis, TN 38119 901-767-6408 adamson.j@comcast.net		RE John Graham, <i>Commissioner</i> Smith, Shaw & Maddox, LLP PO Box 29 Rome, GA 30162-0029 706-291-6223 jgraham@grahamfirm.com
RE Alan Smith 5408 Galley Court Fairfax, VA 22032 703-352-8990 w.h.alan.smith@dla.mil	RE Carolyn Nystrom 38 W 566 Sunset St. Charles, IL 60175 630-377-1777 rcnys@aol.com	RE Cecil Matthews 4677 Springmeadow Lane Castle Rock, CO 80109 303-741-3968 cecmatthew@aol.com
TE Jerry Brundle Faith EPC 160 West Hamlin Road Rochester, MI 48307 248-651-3535 jerry@faith-epc.org	TE John Mabray Rivermont EPC 2424 Rivermont Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24503 434-846-3441 john@rivermont.org	TE Woody Johnson Church of the Lakes 2530 Wilson Road Land O' Lakes, FL 34639 813-948-4358 <a href="mailto:lolepc@verizon.net">lolepc@verizon.net</a>

**INTERIM COMMITTEE ON WOMEN TEACHING ELDERS\***

Mr. Ron Bengelink 30025 104th Street SE Auburn, WA 98002 206-833-0608 rbengelink@comcast.net	RE Bill Connor 9037 Shoal Creek Drive Tallahassee, FL 32312 850-893-7494 billgayleconner@cs.com	TE David Cover The Crossing 3615 Southland Drive Columbia, MO 65201 573-256-4410 dave@thecrossingchurch.com
TE Grady Davidson Lookout Valley Pres. Ch. 435 Patten Chapel Road Chattanooga, TN 37419 423-821-3419 pastor@lookoutvalleypc.com	TE Gerrit Dawson First Presbyterian Church 763 North Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70802 PO Box 2006, 70821 225-387-0617 gerrit@fpabr.org	Ms. Trish Dietz 42 Pond Drive Rocky River, OH 44116 440-331-3994 trish_dietz@hotmail.com
TE Ron DiNunzio 915 Pawstand Rd. Celebration, FL 34747 321-939-0577 rdinunzio@rts.edu	TE Jim Dixon, <i>Co-Chairman</i> Cherry Hills Community 3900 Grace Blvd. Highlands Ranch, CO 80126 303-791-4100 jdixon@chcc.org	RE Mike Fike 5706 Hunt Road Adrian, MI 49221 517-266-1418 mikenlisafike@mac.com
Mr. Thomas Fisher 316 Cedar Lane Farm New Hill, NC 27562 919-271-2718 papy.foc@gmail.com	TE Don Fortson 400 Leighton Court Matthews, NC 28105 704-366-5066 dfortson@rts.edu	RE Helen Franssell 10637 Gunston Road Lorton, VA 22079-3919 703-550-7178 helenfran@aol.com
Mr. Greg Goss 425 Wayland Road Cherry Hill, NJ 08034 630-890-6867 greggoss@aol.com	RE Paul Heidebrecht 435 Kammes Court West Chicago, IL 60185 630-562-1640 paulhh@sbcglobal.net	TE Scott McKee Ward EPC 40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168 248-374-7400 scott.mckee@wardchurch.org
RE Donna Peterson 1079 Candlewick Ct Signal Mtn., TN 37377 423-886-2679 donnaPETE886@msn.com	RE Carol Vance 5758 Indian Circle Houston, TX 77057 713-780-9991 csvance@sbcglobal.net	TE Sandy Willson, <i>Co-Chairman</i> Second Presbyterian 4055 Poplar Avenue Memphis, TN 38111 901-454-0034 swillson@2pc.org
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\* Appointed by the Moderator following adjournment of the 29th General Assembly.

**INTERIM COMMITTEE TO REVIEW BOOK OF ORDER\***

TE Howard Shockley PO Box 10 261 Lauren Hope Lane Moore, SC 29369 864-587-6440 hshockley@msn.com	RE Ted Brandsma 7548 S. Webster Ct. Littleton, CO 80128-4857 303-972-9344 tedbrandsma@msn.com	TE James Quillin Highland Hts. Presbyterian 2855 Morning Sun Road Cordova, TN 38016 901-385-9000 jquillin@bellsouth.net
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\* Appointed by the Moderator following adjournment of the 29th General Assembly.

## NOTES



**PART V**  
**ANNUAL FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS**

2008 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
PRESBYTERY OF THE CENTRAL SOUTH

Church	Ending Balance 2007		Receipts			Disbursements					Ending Balance 2008	
	Tithe- Offerings	Capital- Building	Other	Local Operating	Local Capital- Building	Presbytery Giving	Per Member	Total GA Causes	Other Missions	Total Receipts	Total Disbursements	
1 All Saints Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN	34,882	98,549	1,250	3,394	11,319	954	1,219	9,559	1,960	103,193	108,098	29,977
2 Aloka Presbyterian Church, Aloka, TN	1,182,725	2,293,183	3,545	260,346	2,326,249	11,340	14,490	69,641	697,117	2,563,074	3,320,701	425,098
3 Christ EPC, Houston, TX	192,275	592,935	0	101,458	619,400	0	4,500	7,500	1,000	694,393	627,900	258,768
4 City of Refuge (EPC), Houston, TX	112,852	363,620	21,171	59,273	356,962	48,432	1,908	24,338	36,295	444,064	466,310	90,606
5 Cornerstone EPC, Katy, TX	7,189	102,046	1,500	1,414	89,301	0	750	2,529	13,037	104,960	105,617	6,532
6 Covenant Presbyterian Church, Columbus, MS	171,220	277,664	110	24,012	437,154	0	1,500	1,500	0	301,776	440,154	32,842
7 Crosspointe Carrollton, TX	252,881	284,865	4,855	6,559	212,697	42,106	2,400	3,000	3,060	295,269	302,970	246,180
8 EPC of Marshall, Marshall, TX	89,732	147,621	57,693	25,027	244,178	0	0	1,674	0	230,341	245,852	74,221
9 Faith Presbyterian Church, Covington, LA	27,360	373,041	31,874	17,973	234,844	6,892	4,140	4,997	11,281	422,868	282,540	167,708
10 First EPC, Anna, IL	0	190,564	0	0	209,293	0	0	0	0	190,564	209,293	-18,729
11 First Presbyterian Church, Opelika, AL	0	790,296	0	0	691,576	14,504	0	0	84,216	790,296	790,296	0
12 First Presbyterian Church, Corinth, MS	1,503,925	665,418	272,454	45,596	552,767	64,826	6,480	8,280	20,530	50,736	983,468	695,339
13 First Presbyterian Church, Meridian, MS	63,816	108,175	0	31,139	114,530	11,624	945	14,330	4,369	139,314	144,238	59,892
14 First Presbyterian Church, Houma, LA	98,113	249,239	1,250	43,110	269,779	27,073	2,750	4,000	6,600	293,599	308,566	83,126
15 First Presbyterian Church, West Point, MS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16 First Presbyterian Church of Laredo, TX	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17 First Presbyterian Church of Waskom, TX	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 Golden Rule Presbyterian Church, Elysian Fields, TX	65,329	119,298	0	11,109	83,908	4,870	648	920	25,600	130,407	115,946	79,790
19 Grace @ Bell Road, Montgomery, AL	49,133	250,970	14,538	60,356	272,608	48,013	4,734	1,909	13,657	325,964	346,433	28,665
20 Grace Chapel EPC, Madison, MS	93,840	314,479	183,852	4,059	370,899	0	5,631	6,056	18,266	502,390	395,221	200,809
21 Grace Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, LA	88,046	452,118	0	15,483	440,071	0	4,698	6,003	7,951	467,601	471,696	83,951
22 Hope Church, San Antonio, TX	697,562	360,066	14,088	17,180	384,890	5,408	4,940	2,370	18,320	391,324	434,767	654,119
23 Hope Church, Carbondale, IL	157,370	199,086	0	6,466	161,714	95,402	25	1,472	2,512	205,562	261,125	101,797
24 Hope Presbyterian Church, Cordova, TN	1,638,572	12,315,641	2,650,746	2,985,233	12,482,432	4,944,908	0	9,996	18,996	440,228	17,951,640	17,886,562
25 Lakeside Presbyterian Church, Brandon, MS	366,316	995,645	34,769	4,806	816,035	46,963	10,433	10,890	43,130	183,178	1,035,220	1,100,339
26 New Covenant Presbyterian Church, Brandon, MS	47,314	81,066	79,952	980	63,654	46,866	668	851	3,042	161,988	135,111	74,191
27 Second Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN	384,319	12,592,801	4,681,023	2,312,827	8,790,858	3,596,401	63,180	80,730	246,773	4,941,149	19,786,661	2,532,609
28 St. Patrick Presbyterian Church, Collierville, TN	501,403	620,097	199,610	95,359	1,067,815	15,067	1,800	4,875	53,713	916,066	1,143,270	274,199
29 Synlaid Presbyterian Church, Ward, AR	29,996	90,024	3,000	1,420	75,276	4,120	1,123	1,679	1,894	82,376	82,376	42,064
30 Tunica Presbyterian Church, Tunica, MS	82,424	279,965	78,661	2,647	125,076	189,817	0	2,829	8,369	54,300	361,263	66,125
31 Westminster Presbyterian Church, Laurel, MS	797,017	701,752	0	56,564	621,851	421,229	3,900	5,400	44,180	758,316	1,162,126	393,207
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>8,735,414</b>	<b>35,916,174</b>	<b>8,536,041</b>	<b>6,194,810</b>	<b>32,137,119</b>	<b>9,335,191</b>	<b>129,376</b>	<b>183,837</b>	<b>619,722</b>	<b>6,779,460</b>	<b>50,647,025</b>	<b>49,598,769</b>

**2008 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT  
PRESBYTERY OF THE CENTRAL SOUTH**

Church	2007 Members		2008 Members		2007 GAINS			2008 LOSSES					2007 Sun School		2008 Sun School		2007 Bap. Roll		2008 Bap. Roll		Adult Bap.		Infant Bap.					
	Members	Profession	Members	Profession	Adult Profession	Youth Profession	Transfer Gain	Reaffirmation	Restored	Transfer Loss	Death	Inactive	Other Loss	Worship	Sun School	Worship	Sun School	Worship	Sun School	Worship	Sun School	Worship	Sun School	Worship	Sun School	Worship	Sun School	Worship
1 All Saints Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN*	43		42											67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67
2 Aboka Presbyterian Church, Aboka, TN	53		65		1	6	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Christ EPC, Houston, TX	630		679		14	0	16	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 City of Refuge (EPC), Houston, TX**	223		253		2	3	37	3	3	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 Cornerstone EPC, Katy, TX	106		107		5	0	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 Covenant Presbyterian Church, Columbus, MS	47		46		0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 Crosspointe, Carrollton, TX	134		118		5	3	0	8	0	24	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 EPC of Marshall, Marshall, TX	125		125		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 Faith Presbyterian Church, Covington, LA	104		108		2	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 First EPC, Anna, IL	202		201		1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11 First Presbyterian Church, Opelika, AL*	124		124		0	0	11	8	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 First Presbyterian Church, Corinth, MS*	434		434		0	3	11	11	0	6	5	48	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13 First Presbyterian Church, Meridian, MS*	360		379		2	7	10	8	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 First Presbyterian Church, Houma, LA	68		69		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 First Presbyterian Church, West Point, MS	130		130		0	1	3	0	0	4	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16 First Presbyterian Church of Lumbia, TX	38		36		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17 First Presbyterian Church of Madison, TX*	35		35		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 Golden Rule Presbyterian Church, Elysian Fields, TX	40		41		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19 Grace @ Bell Road, Montgomery, AL	83		86		0	0	11	0	0	1	5	1	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 Grace Chapel EPC, Madison, MS*	254		254		2	4	5	8	0	0	13	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21 Grace Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, LA**	263		245		2	4	9	9	0	1	0	40	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22 Hope Church, Carbonale, IL	124		129		6	0	0	0	0	2	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23 Hope Presbyterian Church, Cordova, TN	64		64		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24 Hope Presbyterian Church, Brandon, MS	5,821		6,144		37	21	176	285	23	33	20	166	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 Lakeside Presbyterian Church, Natchez, MS	484		481		2	14	16	13	0	4	1	39	4	231	4	320	162	185	79	88	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
26 New Covenant Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN	37		39		0	0	7	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27 Second Presbyterian Church, Collierville, TN**	3,614		3,675		2	42	101	46	0	85	31	14	0	1,838	0	1,892	1,861	2,007	762	783	72	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
28 St. Patrick Presbyterian Church, Ward, AR	308		330		6	16	13	6	2	5	0	15	1	340	4	400	1,671	1,671	1,671	1,671	1,671	1,671	1,671	1,671	1,671	1,671	1,671	1,671
29 SWAnita Presbyterian Church, Tunica, MS	73		75		0	0	3	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30 Tunica Presbyterian Church, Laurel, MS**	116		117		1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31 Westminster Presbyterian Church, Laurel, MS**	235		235		3	7	17	1	0	5	1	4	18	155	168	119	156	32	28	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>13,610</b>		<b>14,913</b>		<b>94</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>11,802</b>	<b>13,127</b>	<b>8,720</b>	<b>9,115</b>	<b>2,426</b>	<b>2,632</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>79</b>							
Churches of record - 12/31/08																												
NOTES: *2008 report not submitted. **2007 totals adjusted following 27th General Assembly. †Received 2008. ‡Italics represent estimated numbers due to non-reporting.																												

**2008 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
PRESBYTERY OF THE EAST**

	Ending Balance 2007	Receipts					Disbursements							Ending Balance 2008
		Tithes- Offerings	Capital- Building	Other	Local Operating	Local Capital- Building	Presbytery Giving	Per Member	Total GA Causes	Other Missions	Total Receipts	Total Disbursements		
1 Ashland EPC, Voorhees, NJ	84,390	279,587	0	10,938	287,648	17,135	1,707	3,812	8,946	35,850	290,525	351,286	3,629	
2 Bethlehem Stelz Reformed Church, Glen Rock, PA	-3,434	138,129	0	27,788	165,044	0	2,371	0	4,052	1,500	166,917	172,967	-9,484	
3 Christ Community Church, EPC, Highland Lakes, NJ	40,241	117,898	500	2,085	97,425	11,861	750	1,334	5,334	20,050	120,483	135,420	76,816	
4 Christ the King EPC, Westfield, MA	81,753	117,898	500	2,085	97,425	11,861	750	1,334	5,334	20,050	120,483	135,420	76,816	
5 Church at Ridgebury (mission church), State Hill, NY	31,225	54,152	0	8,127	59,901	0	0	0	350	3,464	62,279	63,715	29,788	
6 Circleville Presbyterian Church, Circleville, NY	16,569	150,654	16,252	32,508	134,304	44,046	0	0	0	25,490	210,012	203,840	22,741	
7 Dundalk Presbyterian Church, Dundalk, MD	115,142	365,557	0	6,172	298,506	21,642	2,100	4,553	11,778	36,628	381,729	368,654	108,217	
8 Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Kingstowne, VA	394,633	903,670	14,820	2,364	798,993	0	3,460	7,958	64,948	34,919	920,654	902,290	413,197	
9 Fourth Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, MD	4,903,214	4,423,855	2,424,397	767,160	5,237,338	5,281,060	8,000	0	124,951	634,880	7,615,412	11,286,229	1,232,397	
10 Goodwill Presbyterian Church, Montgomery, NY	127,881	1,228,430	445,050	15,278	1,327,768	0	0	12,190	21,790	100,749	1,688,768	1,450,308	366,341	
11 Lancaster Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, NY	69,718	476,094	8,525	28,277	475,973	7,947	0	0	0	45,298	512,896	528,078	53,536	
12 Living Hope EPC (mission church), Haymarket, VA	26,650	158,377	0	0	148,096	0	600	600	3,000	7,200	187,517	188,896	35,271	
13 New Covenant EPC, New Castle, PA	40,845	243,481	73,046	25,011	211,486	3,933	4,500	5,520	10,480	26,839	341,548	257,241	125,152	
14 North Park EPC, Wexford, PA	71,335	161,832	114,819	122,519	412,630	0	500	1,771	2,467	1,804	458,130	417,401	112,064	
15 Princesburg EPC, Duaneburg, NY	383,701	1,435,896	0	73,345	1,390,351	12,638	6,404	12,259	31,059	63,946	1,509,241	1,504,398	398,544	
16 Redeemer EPC (mission church), Kingstowne, VA	-33,379	451,395	29,809	0	383,881	74,725	2,640	6,440	10,799	60,190	481,204	532,235	-84,410	
17 Reston Presbyterian Church, Reston, VA	584,501	334,810	125,047	16,562	327,479	100,606	9,300	2,898	12,168	47,170	476,419	496,723	564,197	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6,934,965</b>	<b>10,914,827</b>	<b>3,252,275</b>	<b>1,138,132</b>	<b>11,754,697</b>	<b>5,575,593</b>	<b>42,332</b>	<b>59,335</b>	<b>313,122</b>	<b>1,145,937</b>	<b>15,383,934</b>	<b>18,630,681</b>	<b>3,447,997</b>	

**2008 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT  
PRESBYTERY OF THE EAST**

Church	2007 Members	2008 Members	2008 GAINS					2008 LOSSES					2007 Sun School	2008 Worship	2007 Sun School	2008 Sun School	2007 Bap. Roll	2008 Bap. Roll	Infant Bapt.	Adult Bapt.	
			Adult Profession	Youth Profession	Transfer Gain	Reaffir- mation	Restored	Transfer Loss	Death	Inactive	Other Loss	2007 Worship									2008 Sun School
1 Ashland EPC, Voorhees, NJ**	167	158	2	2	0	0	0	1	22	0	0	0	0	202	215	52	64	37	12	3	0
2 Bethlehem Steltz Reformed Church, Glen Rock, PA**	130	108	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	95	85	38	57	9	12	3	0
3 Christ Community Church, EPC, Highland Lakes, NJ*	45	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	45	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Christ the King EPC, Westfield, MA	58	60	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	69	30	25	3	3	0	0
5 Church at Ridgebury (mission church), Slate Hill, NY	14	15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	32	12	12	14	15	0	0
6 Circleville Presbyterian Church, Circleville, NY**	47	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	120	45	53	0	0	2	7
7 Dundalk Presbyterian Church, Dundalk, MD**	211	212	8	0	1	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	167	165	163	39	41	2	1	0
8 Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Kingstowne, VA	336	348	0	0	6	10	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	319	337	137	105	70	73	3	0
9 Fourth Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, MD	2,800	2,803	48	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,405	1,440	1,430	1,470	0	0	0	26
10 Goodwill Presbyterian Church, Montomery, NY	597	678	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	790	865	230	174	0	0	0	0
11 Lancaster Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, NY^	515	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	45	250	34	125	102	106	2	0
12 Living Hope EPC (mission church), Hammarket, VA	28	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	34	55	26	26	1	1
13 New Covenant EPC, New Castle, PA**	240	240	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	197	187	117	117	20	20	1	0
14 New Hope EPC, Pittsburg, PA	82	92	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	155	145	51	56	14	12	0	1
15 North Park EPC, Westford, PA	511	448	0	0	1	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	384	588	461	190	160	8	2	0
16 Redeemer EPC, Duaneburg, NY	280	270	4	5	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	325	316	206	208	41	60	8	3
17 Redeemer EPC (mission church), Kingstowne, VA^	48	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	48	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 Reston Presbyterian Church, Reston, VA	128	122	2	4	4	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	124	142	44	47	49	41	3	3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5,672</b>	<b>6,236</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>4,675</b>	<b>5,024</b>	<b>2,781</b>	<b>2,783</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>25</b>
Churches of Record 12/31/08																					
NOTES: ^*2008 report not submitted. **2007 totals adjusted following 27th General Assembly. *Received 2008. ^^^ Consulted as mission church 2008. /Italics represent estimated numbers due to non-reporting.																					

**2008 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA**

Church	Ending Balance 2007	Receipts				Disbursements						Ending Balance 2008	
		Tithes- Offerings	Capital- Building	Other	Local Operating	Local Capital- Building	Presbytery Giving	Per Member	Total GA Causes	Other Missions	Total Receipts		Total Disbursements
1 Church of the Lakes, Land O' Lakes, FL	116,609	130,121	21,480	0	157,573	0	500	1,564	1,564	1,445	151,601	161,082	107,128
2 City Church of Homestead (mission church), Homestead, FL	18,628	126,859	0	414,956	0	604	644	644	3,424	403,078	418,628	3,078	3,078
3 Cornerstone Bible Church, St. Petersburg, FL	173,436	370,979	0	312,316	0	2,860	3,220	3,220	40,667	372,378	358,863	186,348	186,348
4 EPC of Plant City, Plant City, FL	165,628	826,381	29,665	9,895	733,204	0	5,500	8,000	21,336	43,634	866,841	603,874	227,995
5 Faith EPC, Brooksville, FL	70,712	537,550	7,976	615,593	0	6,660	7,659	31,659	39,400	646,518	693,312	22,918	22,918
6 Glendale Presbyterian Church, DeFuniak Springs, FL	216,176	171,994	44,769	3,330	144,648	19,545	1,560	1,840	7,174	8,530	220,093	181,457	254,812
7 Hope EPC, Tallahassee, FL	86,827	73,527	1,600	7,941	113,844	21,950	500	575	1,565	10,145	106,069	148,004	44,892
8 New City Church, Mangate, FL	254,238							0	0	0			0
9 New Covenant EPC, Pompano Beach, FL	783,265	448,640	2,186	1,164,469	0	5,000	2,000	6,000	26,500	737,964	1,201,969	319,261	319,261
10 Trinity EPC, Ft. Pierce, FL	30,822							0	0				0
<b>TOTALS</b>	1,916,362	2,686,046	107,576	665,916	3,656,703	41,495	22,904	25,502	73,162	173,945	3,502,539	3,967,209	1,166,632



**2008 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
PRESBYTERY OF MID-AMERICA**

	Ending Balance 2007	Receipts					Disbursements							Total Disbursements	Ending Balance 2008
		Church	Local Operating Building	Capital- Building	Other	Local Operating Building	Local Capital- Building	Presbytery Giving	Per Member	Total G.A. Causes	Other Missions	Total Receipts			
1 Baldwin Community Presbyterian Church, Baldwin, IL	19,515	10,623	477	265	24,942	46	50	50	67,007	254,505	11,365	9,026,934	6,738,017	25,088	5,732
2 Central Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, MO	4,838,310	4,383,072	395,728	4,248,136	3,830,851	2,503,763	21,882	38,733	67,007	254,505	0	9,026,934	6,738,017	25,088	5,732
3 Cornerstone Community Church (mission church), Bemis, MN	412,388	1,068,890	120,755	52,045	12,16,441	35,244	4,797	6,509	12,889	85,151	0	1,241,690	1,354,501	269,577	0
4 Covenant Chapel, Leawood, KS	510,530	151,731	78,553	6,075	165,462	324,921	0	988	988	18,553	0	239,338	539,902	238,987	0
5 Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Milwaukee, MO	44,802	80,262	13,272	1,567	65,867	20,970	819	1,448	1,947	7,124	0	95,101	97,787	42,118	0
6 First Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Cedar Grove, WI	309,841	1,037,789	261,551	5,598	1,145,258	1,217	6,357	11,247	12,037	171,307	0	1,304,938	1,336,176	278,703	0
7 Gateway To Grace Fellowship (mission church), St. Louis, MO	88,236	233,298	13,731	85,714	260,068	18,137	1,950	3,450	7,450	21,136	0	312,744	308,741	92,339	0
8 Grace Point, Dubuque, IA	136,368	228,807	122,186	2,302	193,085	135,577	2,236	3,956	8,595	45,365	0	353,295	384,862	104,801	0
9 Greentree, Kirkwood, MO	97,248	597,132	62,294	55,780	623,247	43,156	5,160	7,107	12,027	40,759	0	715,206	724,349	88,105	0
10 Harmony Hills Presbyterian Church (mission church), Janesville, WI	108,607	435,759	0	6,358	484,654	0	10,314	5,648	7,071	34,119	0	442,117	535,953	14,766	0
11 Hope EPC, Graylake, IL	0	518,171	262,846	69,378	865,266	0	0	2,823	2,823	0	0	868,195	868,195	0	0
12 Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Warrenville, IL	49,535	62,725	27,500	7,513	38,390	28,741	1,014	1,645	2,810	15,972	0	97,738	87,867	59,208	0
13 Kewanee Community Presbyterian Church, Shilman Valley, IL	0	99,345	7,570	2,604	60,372	6,950	1,209	2,138	9,556	110,119	0	79,926	30,188	0	0
14 Leland Community Church, Lee's Summit, MO	37,617	182,349	36,064	777	140,485	0	1,352	2,392	4,851	12,518	0	219,790	159,208	98,201	0
15 Mercy Road Fellowship, St. Peters, MO	69,678	136,837	21,628	89,303	155,771	37,202	1,040	1,840	2,080	17,342	0	247,768	213,435	104,011	0
16 New Hope Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Rural Abilene, KS	828,283	3,067,668	140,252	126,644	2,585,255	280,997	12,000	4,800	5,800	438,600	0	3,334,555	3,292,652	870,188	0
17 Rivers Church, Webster Groves, MO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 Riverside Evangelical Church, Sartell, MN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19 Sutter Presbyterian Church, Bridgeton, MO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 The Crossing, Columbia, MO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7,550,958</b>	<b>12,293,650</b>	<b>1,864,183</b>	<b>4,740,059</b>	<b>11,916,434</b>	<b>3,406,500</b>	<b>70,190</b>	<b>110,296</b>	<b>184,148</b>	<b>1,172,947</b>	<b>18,617,894</b>	<b>16,716,862</b>	<b>9,452,190</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



**2008 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT  
PRESBYTERY OF MID-AMERICA**

Church	2007		2008		2008 GAINS			2008 LOSSES			2007		2008		2007		2008		
	Members	Members	Adult Profession	Youth Profession	Transfer Gain	Reaffirmation	Restored	Transfer Loss	Death	Inactive	Other Loss	Worship	Worship	Sun School	Sun School	Esc. Roll	Esc. Roll	Infant Bapt.	Adult Bapt.
1 Baldwin Community Presbyterian Church, Baldwin, IL	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Central Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, MO**	1,684	1,703	19	12	35	39	0	14	19	54	0	1,167	1,160	584	754	173	200	33	2
3 Cornerstone Community Church (mission church), Bemoli, MI*	44	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	36	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Covenant Chapel, Leawood, KS**	372	311	1	0	11	10	0	0	0	0	0	509	478	171	178	0	0	0	0
5 Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Wildwood, MO**	42	43	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	60	20	5	0	0	0	0
6 First Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Cedar Grove, WI	63	66	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	60	65	42	46	21	22	1	0
7 Gateway To Grace Fellowship (mission church), St. Louis, MO**	24	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	60	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Grace EPC, Lawrence, KS	489	478	18	0	0	0	0	1	26	0	0	854	848	444	439	0	0	0	15
9 Grace Point, Dubuque, IA	140	153	9	7	0	0	4	0	4	2	1	135	140	91	69	0	0	0	3
10 Greenlee Community Church, Kirkwood, MO*	391	397	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	491	491	217	217	0	0	0	0
11 Harmony Hills Presbyterian Church (mission church), Jenesville, WI*	40	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	50	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 Highway Evangelical Presbyterian, Dousman, WI	172	183	1	8	4	7	0	0	3	0	6	210	215	70	80	64	60	3	1
13 Hoce EPC, Grayslake, IL*	144	144	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	160	160	55	55	0	0	0	0
14 Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Warrenville, IL**	317	297	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	300	250	165	160	44	41	1	0
15 Kishwaukee Community Presbyterian Church, Skilton Valley, IL*	453	453	10	18	5	0	1	1	1	0	0	453	375	216	128	0	0	0	0
16 Lakeland Community Church, Lee's Summit, MO	116	162	109	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63	63	237	237	0	0	0	0
17 Mercy Road Fellowship, St. Peters, MO**	24	24	1	0	0	28	1	4	0	2	0	45	45	31	0	0	0	0	0
18 Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church, Rural Abilene, KS	77	72	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	53	60	33	31	0	0	0	0
19 New Hope Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Blue Rapids, KS*	150	150	0	0	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	400	400	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 Riverside Evangelical Church, Webster Groves, MO*	104	107	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	77	33	0	0	0	0	0
21 Riverside Evangelical Church, Sartell, MN	120	121	3	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	84	80	74	99	0	0	0	0
22 Sutter Presbyterian Church, Bridgeton, MO	1,020	1,080	153	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,100	2,100	885	1,100	0	0	0	0
23 The Crossing, Columbia, MO	927	1,080	47	111	105	7	23	36	219	10	7,202	7,480	3,100	3,625	307	351	127	65	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5,372</b>	<b>6,101</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7,480</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>3,625</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>0</b>

NOTES: \*2008 report not submitted. \*\*2007 totals adjusted following 27th General Assembly. ^Received 2008. ^^^Constituted as mission church, 2008. ^^^Recessed estimated numbers due to non-reporting.

**2008 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC**

	Ending Balance 2007	Receipts					Disbursements							Total Disbursements	Ending Balance 2008
		Tithes- Offerings	Capital- Building	Other	Local Operating	Local Capital- Building	Presbytery Giving	Per Member	Total GA Causes	Other Missions	Total Receipts				
1 Castanea EPC, Stanley, NC	515,643	145,222	150,000	1,106	79,488	65,112	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	145,222	38,075	575,006	144,600	516,265
2 Christ Church EPC, Anderson, SC	34,827	398,900	150,000	1,106	366,259	0	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	145,222	38,075	575,006	397,364	212,269
3 Christ Covenant Church (Mission Church), Fredericksburg, VA	7,881	110,707	0	6,438	110,901	2,868	150	0	895	1,280	117,145	1,280	117,145	116,194	8,832
4 Christ Fellowship, Southern Pines, NC	46,383	81,196	0	9,161	89,942	5,995	2,400	1,748	2,650	105,359	102,735	49,007	102,735	49,007	
5 Cleveland Presbyterian Church, Abingdon, VA	11,345	39,610	0	30,200	2,366	0	200	200	4,063	39,610	37,449	4,106	37,449	14,106	
6 Clover EPC, Clover, SC	15,488	264,515	25,000	465	245,332	13,855	3,500	3,500	7,000	15,956	289,980	285,683	19,785	19,785	
7 EPC of Elkton, Elkton, VA	9,851	36,893	794	25,615	9,243	437	0	200	0	36,687	35,495	11,043	35,495	11,043	
8 Faith Liberation Community Christian Church, Charlotte, NC	69,462	549,951	23,122	111,530	562,943	1,886	3,753	2,250	4,050	86,725	684,603	648,657	105,408	105,408	
9 Fellowship of Christ, Cary, NC	45,364	104,079	2,600	15,418	107,008	13,021	1,400	2,400	4,800	1,000	122,097	127,229	40,222	40,222	
10 Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, Wilson, NC	-3,189,468	689,984	769,268	6,748	829,790	5,079,391	5,221	5,221	16,271	43,369	1,465,970	5,974,062	-7,697,568	-7,697,568	
11 Hope Church EPC, Richmond, VA	12,500	61,342	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64,142	0	64,142	96,642	
12 Light Mission Church, Black Mountain, NC	234,607	2,515,051	604,560	27,520	2,446,706	261,386	17,108	33,350	52,015	144,956	3,147,131	2,922,768	468,370	468,370	
13 Kemptsville Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, VA	678,866	1,655,922	374,575	13,197	1,794,795	58,610	15,400	16,100	19,100	165,121	2,043,694	2,053,026	669,534	669,534	
14 Lake Forest Church, Huntersville, NC	15,105	150,587	50	21,664	43,484	2,075	1,656	6,051	30,361	172,291	159,615	27,781	159,615	27,781	
15 Lebanon Presbyterian Church, Greenwood, VA	20	66,000	0	48,005	0	1,500	0	0	1,500	68,000	51,005	58,995	51,005	58,995	
16 McLean Presbyterian Church, Ellerbe, NC	158,116	1,233,397	0	452,522	1,152,872	0	0	2,500	2,500	455,022	1,665,919	1,610,394	233,641	233,641	
17 Montreal Presbyterian Church, Montreal, NC	389,051	1,278,916	0	51,250	1,233,435	84,646	17,899	18,711	18,795	229,093	1,330,168	1,563,958	145,361	145,361	
18 Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, NC	63,192	167,709	5,000	1,599	224,249	2,864	0	0	1,428	3,926	285,908	227,113	57,063	57,063	
20 New Covenant Church, Burgaw, NC	18,358	126,029	1,575	72	121,918	45,400	0	1,104	1,104	127,676	168,422	117,325	117,325		
21 North Grove EPC (mission church), Wilmington, NC	198,071	77,803	205,181	1,804	76,731	198,056	902	943	1,338	1,140	284,788	280,167	96,251	96,251	
22 Northampton Presbyterian Church, Hamplon, VA	44,125	719,856	4,331	647	498,857	18,348	6,000	5,220	9,034	204,148	724,836	736,387	32,574	32,574	
23 Overbrook Presbyterian Church, Gaffney, SC	594,994	1,129,293	1,805,908	641,660	1,978,531	1,378,531	15,488	16,192	18,192	258,618	3,576,861	3,859,347	312,508	312,508	
24 Peace Presbyterian Church, (mission church), Durham, NC	440,990	1,631,817	62,734	153,140	1,579,383	61,664	20,520	15,412	25,012	168,552	1,847,691	1,845,131	443,550	443,550	
25 Penow Presbyterian Church, Cross Lanes, WV	265,475	1,378,391	119,175	0	1,338,938	0	13,000	15,000	29,130	263,168	1,497,566	1,644,226	118,815	118,815	
26 Reynolds Church, Winston-Salem, NC	64,852	61,175	0	8,987	66,900	0	0	0	0	818	70,162	69,718	64,996	64,996	
27 River Oaks Community Church, Clemmons, NC	419,432	839,988	3,100	12,493	566,891	15,291	7,418	6,565	12,092	286,027	855,581	100,522	387,294	387,294	
28 Rivermont EPC, Lynchburg, VA	17,643	103,384	0	66,151	12,000	1,300	500	2,900	6,409	103,384	86,760	35,267	86,760	35,267	
29 Rock Presbyterian Church, Elerbe, NC	92,090	435,996	9,787	36,964	414,647	0	3,450	2,000	87,836	482,737	507,933	66,894	66,894		
30 Rourk Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC	1,226,811	957,344	86,979	5,550	870,157	17,622	16,000	8,671	79,430	196,444	1,049,873	1,179,653	1,097,031	1,097,031	
31 St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Matthews, NC	87,169	786,375	21,906	17,153	1,061,752	34,669	3,600	3,600	3,600	0	827,434	1,093,821	-185,018	-185,018	
32 Threshold Church, Matthews, NC	135,260	566,945	74,919	168,245	702,942	46,315	3,525	7,245	60,054	61,694	830,109	864,530	100,739	100,739	
33 Trinity Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Florence, SC	17,028	25,806	0	26,576	0	0	0	1,350	1,350	25,806	29,239	13,595	29,239	13,595	
34 Trinity Presbyterian Church, Florence, SC	17,028	25,806	0	26,576	0	0	0	1,350	1,350	25,806	29,239	13,595	29,239	13,595	
35 Warehouse 242, Charlotte, NC	135,260	566,945	74,919	168,245	702,942	46,315	3,525	7,245	60,054	61,694	830,109	864,530	100,739	100,739	
36 Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bluefield, WV	17,028	25,806	0	26,576	0	0	0	1,350	1,350	25,806	29,239	13,595	29,239	13,595	
37 Woodside Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, VA	17,028	25,806	0	26,576	0	0	0	1,350	1,350	25,806	29,239	13,595	29,239	13,595	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,846,065</b>	<b>18,515,760</b>	<b>4,350,564</b>	<b>1,765,313</b>	<b>18,469,335</b>	<b>8,093,838</b>	<b>163,543</b>	<b>177,011</b>	<b>401,792</b>	<b>2,743,645</b>	<b>24,785,937</b>	<b>29,829,822</b>	<b>-2,261,032</b>	<b>-2,261,032</b>	

2008 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT  
PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

Church	2007 Members	2008 GAINS					2008 LOSSES					2007 Sun School	2008 Sun School	2007 Bag. Roll	2008 Bag. Roll	Infant Bapt.	Adult Bapt.			
		Adult Profession	Youth Profession	Transfer Gain	Relatic Insknt	Reswrd	Transfr Loss	Death	Other Loss	2007 Worshp	2006 Worshp							2007 Sun School	2008 Sun School	
1 Castonwe EPC, Stanley, NC	72	72	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	65	1	0	0			
2 Crest Church EPC, Anderson, SC	175	176	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	45	20	45	57	12	6		
3 Crest Covenant Church (Mission Church), Piedmonteourt, VA**	47	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
4 Crest Fellowship, SouthFremPines, NC	58	53	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59	59	23	25	1	1		
5 Cleveland Presbyterian Church, Abingdon, Va	78	77	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	53	35	28	1	2		
6 Clover EPC, Clover, SC	51	47	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	35	4	6	10	1		
7 EPC of Elkon, Elkon, VA	161	197	3	1	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	143	143	98	103	0	4		
8 Faith Liberation Community Christian Church, Charlotte, NC**	19	25	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	17	13	21	0	0		
9 Fellowship of Christ, Cary, NC	134	125	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	240	244	87	99	13	17		
10 Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, Wilson, NC**	92	73	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	52	50	0	0	2		
11 Hope Church EPC, Richmond, VA	243	272	1	0	25	10	2	1	0	0	0	0	270	459	400	400	0	30	0	
12 Light Mission Church, Bluff Mountain, NC	50	60	0	0	0	5	64	15	3	9	31	1	1,629	1,800	411	369	125	128	17	10
13 Kopperloe Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, VA	1,270	1,319	0	0	0	10	102	3	6	2	75	0	1,354	1,252	0	0	56	74	64	13
14 Lake Forest Church, Huntersville, NC	725	920	11	84	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	87	90	60	65	10	10	0	0
15 Lebanon Presbyterian Church, Greenswood, VA	72	71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	35	26	30	0	0	0	0
16 Leewood Presbyterian Church, Gastonia, NC*	53	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	40	0	0	0	0	0	0
17 Mid-Sean Presbyterian Church, Ellerbe, NC*	400	459	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	420	486	209	209	221	232	4	4
18 Montreat Presby Assn Church, Montreat, NC	807	747	2	5	22	6	4	21	7	52	17	345	295	202	306	51	20	4	2	
19 Mills Grove Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, NC	58	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	75	43	42	0	0	0	0
20 New Covenant Church, Buraw, NC*	133	70	0	1	15	0	3	3	0	13	68	101	53	39	14	26	40	1	0	0
21 North Grove EPC (Mission Church), Wilmington, NC** (†)	80	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	65	23	23	0	0	0	0
22 Northampton Presbyterian Church, Galtow, SC	48	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	40	0	0	0	0	0	0
23 Oakbrook Presbyterian Church, Galtow, SC	42	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	36	0	11	11	0	0	0
24 Peace Presbyterian Church (Mission Church), Durham, NC**	192	199	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	199	197	105	99	85	67	7	2
25 Pennow Presbyterian Church, Cross Lanes, WV	736	772	8	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	538	568	282	421	81	88	8	2
26 Reunited Church, Winston-Salem, NC	760	821	0	9	35	5	3	51	0	0	0	0	1,480	1,460	0	0	0	0	0	0
27 River Oaks Community Church, Clemmons, NC	622	662	2	6	22	35	0	19	6	0	0	0	615	900	527	362	174	174	23	2
28 Rivermont EPC, Lynchburg, VA	37	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	35	0	16	0	0	0	0
29 Rock Presbyterian Church, Greenswood, SC*	264	262	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	168	168	0	44	0	0	0	0
30 South Presbyterian Church, Ellerbe, NC*	112	108	0	12	3	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	285	308	112	131	11	26	24	2
31 St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC	25	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	30	0	34	0	0	0	0
32 The Village Church, Matthews, NC**	112	108	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	297	267	108	107	0	0	0	0
33 Trethewey Church, Matthews, NC**	398	405	2	0	17	3	9	17	1	3	0	0	319	318	222	221	103	171	8	1
34 Trinity Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Florence, SC	155	170	3	0	15	19	2	0	0	19	5	0	620	650	280	310	0	0	10	7
35 Wakehouse 242, Charlotte, NC	342	362	8	5	5	8	4	4	3	0	0	0	273	273	85	86	19	19	1	4
36 Westminster Presbyterian Church, Ballantia, WV	31	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	27	19	26	0	0	0	0
37 Woodside Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, VA	87	93	6	143	129	452	50	113	57	324	140	10,170	10,199	3,644	3,609	1,152	1,225	247	80	
<b>TOTALS</b>	8,769	9,335	32	37	329	452	50	113	57	324	140	10,170	10,199	3,644	3,609	1,152	1,225	247	80	

NOTES: \*2008 report not submitted. \*\*2008 losses adjusted following 27th General Assembly. † Received 2006. ‡ Contributed 2008. †† dissolved and reconstituted as a mission church. ‡‡‡: row absent estimated numbers due to rate reporting

2008 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
PRESBYTERY OF THE MIDWEST

	Ending Balance 2007	Receipts				Disbursements							Total Disbursements	Ending Balance 2008
		Tithe- Offerings	Capital- Building	Other	Local Operating	Local Capital- Building	Presbytery Giving	Per Member	Total GA Causes	Other Missions	Total Receipts			
1 Calvary Presbyterian Church, Flint, MI	294,436	483,020	59,275	3,052	484,461	42,440	1,749	12,006	19,506	12,350	545,347	560,506	279,277	
2 Community EPC, Owosso, MI	231,744	255,072	0	4,800	218,769	7,000	1,100	2,500	5,600	64,312	259,872	296,781	194,835	
3 Cornerstone EPC, Brighton, MI	913,852	3,647,703	79,993	86,249	3,037,231	180,767	18,045	39,399	173,562	774,530	3,812,945	4,184,135	542,662	
4 Covenant Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor, MI	37,900	191,831	5,942	9,737	126,590	45,461	2,454	2,204	2,204	4,101	207,510	180,810	64,600	
5 Discerning Church (mission church), Evansville, IN	0	49,322	0	0	56,771	0	450	0	0	3,027	77,006	60,248	16,758	
6 Evangelical Community Church, Cincinnati, OH	251,883	523,069	91,328	30,790	479,568	136,025	1,803	4,209	26,250	645,187	648,355	248,745	606,965	
7 Faith Church, Rochester, MI	1,036,357	519,253	1,392,910	56,668	560,393	1,793,685	2,400	4,763	10,181	42,554	1,968,831	2,399,213	606,965	
8 Faith Fellowship, Johnstown, OH	287,967	441,855	44,500	110	336,309	121,682	2,000	5,000	43,286	36,274	486,465	539,551	234,881	
9 Fellowship EPC, South Lyon, MI	4,856	14,551	0	0	14,389	0	108	253	253	324	14,551	15,074	4,133	
10 First Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Battle Creek, MI	674,881	1,004,288	118,720	207,349	943,567	0	4,200	14,400	29,694	275,051	1,330,357	1,252,512	752,726	
11 First Presbyterian Church, Trenton, MI	224,772	1,588,790	100,388	0	1,147,406	389,392	6,000	13,800	29,800	137,152	1,689,178	1,709,750	204,200	
12 Gateway EPC, Findlay, OH	150,672	465,084	0	69,077	398,130	0	1,753	4,094	13,394	40,270	534,161	453,547	231,286	
13 Grace Chapel, Farmington Hills, MI	24,231	114,703	1,441	134	17,714	0	0	1,610	6,020	2,810	116,278	26,544	113,965	
14 Grace Community Church of Oscoda, MI	167,057	1,203,489	0	53,790	962,630	12,735	4,481	12,735	45,390	264,705	1,263,269	1,289,941	140,385	
15 Knox Presbyterian Harrison, Twp, MI	3,147,989	2,105,941	0	90,130	1,744,739	0	1,718	11,799	34,399	166,714	2,196,071	1,947,470	3,396,000	
16 Knox Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor, MI	44,119	95,255	18,012	0	86,668	20,782	709	1,729	3,306	21,294	113,267	134,719	22,667	
17 Lake City EPC, Lake City, MI	33,916	92,765	3,420	14,803	74,285	34,296	384	897	2,947	1,861	115,988	113,695	96,209	
18 Lighthouse Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Richmond, OH	176,912	122,765	0	21,301	132,618	0	1,330	3,105	6,617	29,084	144,066	169,649	151,329	
19 Middle Sandy Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Homeworth, OH	89,950	96,400	6,000	0	157,450	25,000	600	600	1,400	5,200	178,400	189,650	78,700	
20 Military Avenue EPC, Detroit, MI	796,799	1,068,129	217,919	156,759	1,335,539	7,519	2,428	12,850	12,850	95,361	1,442,817	1,453,697	785,919	
21 Mt. Pleasant Community Church, Mt. Pleasant, MI	23,309	62,747	12,885	0	64,876	30,505	0	0	0	0	75,632	95,381	3,560	
22 North Oaks Community Church, Clarkston, MI	166,016	350,261	13,965	13,936	251,287	0	1,302	3,448	6,235	15,503	378,162	274,327	268,851	
24 Oakland EPC, Clarkston, MI	153,516	141,636	5,997	77,490	218,031	9,083	611	1,426	2,296	14,150	225,123	244,171	134,268	
25 Olivel EPC, Evansville, IN	13,953	307,853	1,443	31,678	289,850	8,032	1,025	2,351	2,851	42,275	340,974	344,033	10,894	
26 Peace Presbyterian Church, Flint, MI	47,351	108,486	0	1,177	136,019	0	675	675	5,175	5,704	114,665	147,373	8,453	
27 St. Andrew EPC, Auburn, IN	107,449	181,550	0	2,888	69,411	1,070	433	1,012	6,665	9,700	97,020	197,625	120,902	
28 Stonebridge Church, Perysburg, OH	74,285	94,132	0	2,888	154,876	18,097	975	2,277	9,377	14,300	211,078	87,279	84,026	
29 Tabernacle EPC, Youngstown, OH	59,954	591,964	0	0	573,838	0	3,893	9,241	18,720	38,500	591,964	634,951	16,967	
30 The Well (mission church), Brighton, MI	0	207,666	0	80,294	371,600	8,327	0	0	0	0	287,950	379,927	-91,977	
31 Trinity Presbyterian Church, Plymouth, MI	627,987	0	0	0	0	0	10,500	56,250	0	0	0	0	0	
32 Trinity Presbyterian Church, Columbus City, IN	96,221	253,416	14,027	52,126	261,163	14,629	1,527	3,565	3,640	36,732	319,569	317,691	98,099	
33 Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Northville, MI	2,641,511	5,693,022	255,636	0	5,619,981	0	28,338	66,173	212,935	564,908	6,848,769	6,425,063	2,964,217	
34 Warsaw Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Warsaw, IN	237,561	975,937	57,307	0	950,499	164,628	3,118	3,220	4,309	59,405	1,036,244	1,181,959	91,862	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>12,632,442</b>	<b>23,066,957</b>	<b>2,541,008</b>	<b>1,092,856</b>	<b>21,268,668</b>	<b>3,071,157</b>	<b>95,610</b>	<b>253,460</b>	<b>776,196</b>	<b>2,804,381</b>	<b>27,668,716</b>	<b>27,956,827</b>	<b>11,916,344</b>	

2008 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT  
PRESBYTERY OF THE MIDWEST

Church	2007				2008 GAINS				2008 LOSSES				2007				2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	Members	Members	Members	Members	Adult	Youth	Transfer	Retired	Transfer	Death	Other	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011					
				Profession	Profession	gain	gain	Loss	Loss	Less	Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship	
1 Calvary Presb. Meth. Church, Pitt. MI	522	515	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	108	127	0	0	0	0	0	
2 Community EPC, Orono, MI	110	112	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	148	150	0	0	0	0	0	
3 Cornerstone EPC, Brighton, MI	1,954	1,943	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,942	1,973	0	0	0	0	20	
4 Covenant Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor, MI**	89	83	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	115	90	0	0	0	0	0	
5 Discoversy Church (mission church), Evansville, IN**	40													60	0	0	0	0	0	0	
6 Evangelical Community Church, Cincinnati, OH	133	195	0	4	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	205	212	98	104	94	63	9	
7 Faith Church, Rochester, MI	207	214	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	209	192	134	120	0	0	0	
8 Fall Fellowship, Jarroway, OH**	38	115	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	180	50	71	0	0	0	
9 Fellowship EPC, South Lyon, MI**	128	126	1	7	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	190	194	90	101	0	0	0	
10 First Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Solville Creek, MI**	11	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	32	0	0	0	0	0	
11 First Presbyterian Church, Trenton, MI	764	760	2	2	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	430	380	280	252	125	141	12	
12 Gateway EPC, Findlay, OH	528	527	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,027	1,160	222	322	0	0	14	
13 Grace Chapel, Farmington Hills, MI	178	163	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	157	141	65	37	119	119	0	
14 Grace Community Church of Oshtemo, MI	68	78	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	73	0	0	0	0	0	
15 Knox Presbyterian-Harrison Twp, MI**	455	487	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	368	399	80	94	170	130	5	
16 Knox Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor, MI	512	500	8	0	19	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	688	677	470	535	260	202	23	
17 Lake City EPC, Lake City, MI	69	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	79	33	28	0	0	0	
18 Lutheran Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Richmond, OH**	36	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	45	18	16	0	0	0	
19 Middle-Sandy Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Norwalk, OH	135	134	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	160	151	28	27	0	0	0	
20 Midway Avenue EPC, Detroit, MI	32	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	179	179	29	30	0	0	0	
21 Mt. Pleasant Community Church, Mt. Pleasant, MI	901	893	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,050	1,020	500	0	0	0	13	
22 New Heart Community Church, Muskegon, MI	30	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	179	189	0	0	0	0	0	
23 North Oaks Community Church, Clarkston, MI	138	141	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	148	151	0	0	0	0	0	
24 Oakland EPC, Clarkston, MI	82	81	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	82	84	23	22	0	0	0	
25 Olive EPC, Evansville, IN	194	178	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	155	151	91	108	247	238	0	
26 Peace Presbyterian Church, Pitt. MI	38	83	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	60	50	23	18	0	0	
27 St. Andrew EPC, Auburn, IN	56	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	78	75	40	40	13	14	0	
28 Stonebridge Church, Fairview, OH	44	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	41	30	20	15	9	0	
29 Tabernacle EPC, Youst, OH	404	394	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	367	387	139	134	29	34	0	
30 The West (mission church), Brighton, MI**	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	80	0	0	0	0	0	
31 Trinity Presbyterian Church, Plymouth, MI	654	611	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	800	650	553	228	395	386	7	
32 Trinity Presbyterian Church, Commerce, IN	155	142	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	140	140	425	128	46	48	0	
33 Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Northville, MI**	3,059	2,781	8	18	3	26	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,036	2,057	1,544	1,456	0	0	0	
34 Warsaw Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Warsaw, IN	488	440	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	342	294	226	175	54	56	3	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>42,157</b>	<b>41,895</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>11,314</b>	<b>11,305</b>	<b>5,006</b>	<b>1,820</b>	<b>6,151</b>	<b>1,816</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>99</b>	

NOTES: \*2005 report not submitted. \*\*2007 totals adjusted knowing 20th General Assembly. Revised 2008. †Formerly Fall EPC. ‡Values represent/estimated numbers due to non-reporting.

**2008 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
PRESBYTERY OF THE SOUTHEAST**

	Church	Ending Balance 2007	Receipts				Disbursements							Ending Balance 2008
			Tithes-Offerings	Capital- Building	Local Operating	Local Capital- Building	Presbytery Giving	Per Member	Total GA Causes	Other Missions	Total Receipts	Total Disbursements		
1	Brainerd Presbyterian Church, Chattanooga, TN	157,870	491,828	16,083	5,592	399,431	0	18,120	12,000	12,721	35,820	513,503	466,092	205,281
2	Buck Hill Presbyterian Church, Newland, NC	13,630	43,287	0	396	33,724	771	740	851	851	2,800	43,683	38,886	18,427
3	Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, TN	2,705,344	8,614,714	110,499	1,435,495	7,757,971	331,155	18,333	55,000	229,480	2,633,032	10,160,698	10,969,981	1,896,061
4	Community Evangelistic Church, Knoxville, TN	48,860	268,913	5,057	39,654	282,878	33,100	0	0	0	0	314,624	315,978	47,506
5	Cornerstone EPC, Franklin, NC	19,843	103,154	1,960	2,332	88,393	2,497	1,240	1,311	9,943	2,160	107,446	104,233	23,156
6	CrossWalk Community Church, Knoxville, TN	8,692	171,730	120,363	2,313	127,316	166,276	2,120	1,000	1,100	1,362	294,406	298,174	4,914
7	First Presbyterian Church of Rome, GA	777,743	1,688,324	11,862	527,171	1,728,913	10,000	51,266	19,422	84,297	186,788	2,227,547	2,067,242	844,048
8	Grace Presbyterian Church, Franklin, NC	292,053	100,500	162,441	0	100,500	237,161	385	200	625	5,000	262,941	343,871	211,123
9	Hope Fellowship, Chickamauga, GA													
10	Lake Pointe Church, Acworth, GA (dissolved 2008)													
11	Lookout Valley Presbyterian, Chattanooga, TN	75,171	127,975	525	17,363	134,933	17,331	2,889	0	4,719	7,360	145,863	167,232	63,802
12	Murphy Presbyterian Church, Murphy, NC	0	90,217	1,300	673	77,494	0	9,392	1,266	1,625	4,338	100,190	92,849	7,341
13	New Beginning EPC, Elizabethton, KY	126,435	168,908	86,887	4,461	127,165	93,842	3,000	1,600	4,600	6,715	260,256	235,322	151,369
14	New Hope EPC, Kingsport, TN	33,412	76,752	26,902	8,286	114,919	8,134	0	1,980	5,451	0	111,920	128,504	16,828
15	New Light Presbyterian, Knoxville, TN	119,663												
16	Plumtree Presbyterian Church, Plumtree, NC	13,731	163,179	0	17,239	168,866	0	1,533	0	3,400	25,600	180,478	189,119	5,080
17	Providence Church, Hazelwood, NC	96,053	162,244	12,725	5,424	87,402	28,397	1,380	1,587	3,945	9,660	180,393	130,784	107,662
18	Riverside (mission church), Knoxville, TN													
19	Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church, Signal Mt., TN	1,499,089	3,116,863	299,075	98,469	2,217,696	137,886	36,980	42,527	70,277	736,145	3,474,407	3,198,983	1,774,513
20	Timberidge Presbyterian Church, McDonough, GA	83,409	523,680	3,901	198,657	567,840	13,996	6,000	0	0	0	686,238	577,838	191,809
21	Trinity Presbyterian Church (mission church), Loganville, GA	-7,468	37,200	0	0	30,855	0	0	0	0	2,400	50,400	33,255	9,677
22	Trion Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Trion, GA	154,010	51,001	0	385	43,856	8,232	1,470	770	1,547	6,052	51,386	61,157	144,239
23	Valleybrook Presbyterian Church, Hixson, TN	20,211												
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6,200,041</b>	<b>16,001,459</b>	<b>668,770</b>	<b>2,283,940</b>	<b>14,069,872</b>	<b>1,088,789</b>	<b>154,848</b>	<b>141,289</b>	<b>437,856</b>	<b>3,665,210</b>	<b>19,166,379</b>	<b>19,413,500</b>	<b>5,812,846</b>

**2008 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT  
PRESBYTERY OF THE SOUTHEAST**

Church	2007 Members		2008 Members		2008 GAINS		2008 LOSSES					2007 Sun School		2008 Sun School		2007 Bsp. Roll		2008 Bsp. Roll		Infant Bapt.	Adult Bapt.	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	Adult Profession	Youth Profession	Transfer Gain	Reaffirmation	Restored	Transfer Loss	Death	Inactive	Other Loss	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008			
1 Emerald Presbyterian Church, Chattanooga, TN	359	353	0	0	0	0	-4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Buck Hill Presbyterian Church, Newland, NC	37	40	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, TN	3,698	3,736	441	11	6	11	6	31	3	42	17	6	47	2,268	2,323	2,077	1,688	1,609	1,646	1,646	63	15
4 Community Evangelical Church, Knoxville, TN**	207	206	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	253	268	82	65	25	25	25	2	0
5 Cornerstone EPC, Franklin, NC	57	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	40	25	22	2	2	2	0	0
6 CrossWalk Community Church, Knoxville, TN	1,055	1,065	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	89	84	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 First Presbyterian Church of Rome, GA	1,077	1,044	2	22	0	0	0	0	0	30	14	16	62	500	525	475	317	220	213	12	2	0
8 Grace Presbyterian Church, Franklin, NC	91	93	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	75	43	43	5	5	2	0	0
9 Hope Fellowship EPC, Chickamauga, GA*	77	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 Lake Pointe Church, Acworth, GA**	64	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	65	43	43	0	0	0	0	0
11 Lookout Valley Presbyterian, Chattanooga, TN	98	108	1	0	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	75	58	51	35	6	8	8	1	1
12 Murphy Presbyterian Church, Murphy, NC	54	58	0	1	3	0	2	3	0	2	1	0	0	60	55	17	27	0	0	0	0	0
13 New Beginning EPC, Erlanger, KY	68	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	55	76	63	28	26	1	0	0
14 New Hope EPC, Kingsport, TN	62	62	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	60	36	39	3	6	0	0	0
15 NewLight Presbyterian, Knoxville, TN**	40	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	12	12	14	6	6	0	0	0
16 Plumtree Presbyterian Church, Plumtree, NC	64	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	75	50	50	8	8	0	0	0
17 Providence Church, Hazelwood, NC*	74	74	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	73	73	25	26	8	10	2	0	0
18 Riverside (mission church), Knoxville, TN**	40	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19 Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church, Signal Mtn., TN	1,849	1,939	2	41	63	14	0	11	14	5	0	0	0	894	921	404	545	0	0	0	25	5
20 Timberidge Presbyterian Church, McDonough, GA*	304	304	9	0	24	0	0	0	0	9	5	18	0	215	215	0	133	0	0	0	0	0
21 Trinity Presbyterian Church (mission church), Loganville, GA	49	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	21	11	13	6	6	0	0	0
22 Tron Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Iron, GA	37	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	35	17	12	0	0	0	0	0
23 Valleybrook Presbyterian Church, Hixson, TN	77	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	24	24	24	7	7	7	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>8,063</b>	<b>8,527</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>4,859</b>	<b>5,305</b>	<b>3,569</b>	<b>3,224</b>	<b>1,997</b>	<b>2,030</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Churches of Record 12/31/08																						
NOTES: *2008 report not submitted. **2007 totals adjusted following 27th General Assembly ^Received 2008. ~~~Dissolved 2008. #ifcs represent estimated numbers due to non-reporting																						

2008 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
PRESBYTERY OF THE WEST

	Receipts				Disbursements							Total Disbursements	Ending Balance 2008
	Ending Balance 2007	Tithe-Churches	Capital-Building	Other	Local Operating	Local Capital-Building	Presbytery Giving	Member	Total GA Causes	Other Missions			
1 Ananda Community Church, Ananda, CO	3,470	0	0	64	0	0	736	736	0	0	52,532	51,063	4,999
2 Bear Creek EPC, Lakewood, CO	159,424	420,803	105,303	19,702	519,952	22,222	2,600	2,700	4,100	48,704	545,808	997,544	117,544
3 Celebration Community Church, Denver, CO	88,731	3,228,315	0	3,783,866	0	0	0	0	0	45,000	3,923,315	423,386	37,656
4 Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church, Englewood, CO	6,021,157	3,184,557	0	44,016	3,425,445	74,371	0	26,289	69,337	12,000	3,228,572	3,571,163	5,678,576
5 Cherry Hills Community Church, Highlands Ranch, CO	5,537,827	12,737,882	622,305	7,709,901	19,618,090	632,554	30,000	40,000	55,750	1,310,751	21,070,066	21,567,156	4,600,750
6 Christ Covenant Church, Leoti, KS	64,023	202,652	88,619	564	127,626	151,689	800	1,700	4,100	12,650	252,126	296,887	59,230
7 Christ Fellowship Church, Ft Collins, CO	14,304	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Christ the King Presbyterian Church, Castle Rock, CO	574,773	280,018	55,500	26,723	240,642	0	870	1,104	4,433	7,960	365,241	250,785	69,189
9 Clayton Community Church, Clayton, CA	318,500	937,100	238,226	11,964	841,712	100,251	0	2,400	44,338	1,188,290	986,101	578,199	
10 Community Church of Ephrata, Ephrata, WA	82,961	184,358	78,738	22,697	207,722	4,328	400	3,381	4,201	16,285	295,853	232,533	136,291
11 Cornerstone Community Church, Aurora, CO	426,299	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 Covenant Community Church, Aurora, CO	9,415	188,714	42,686	0	111,083	80,741	900	966	966	16,220	201,400	206,910	1,905
13 Covenant Presbyterian Church, Omaha, NE	180,174	1,107,102	1,695	81,293	1,028,716	77,220	30,000	12,000	17,400	54,114	1,190,090	1,207,450	132,514
14 Covenant Presbyterian Church, San Diego, CA	220,410	400,864	8,233	-6,256	3,71,733	1,091	1,130	0	700	51,628	402,341	426,342	195,909
15 Covenant Presbyterian/Valley, CO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16 Faith Evangelical Church, Loveland, CO	46,256	966,659	131,711	4,261	675,777	109,076	3,580	9,387	31,257	214,538	1,102,531	1,032,228	116,661
17 Faith Presbyterian Church, Aurora, CO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 First Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Renton, WA	121,720	1,399,173	20,705	19,432	963,316	343,827	3,200	11,000	16,786	164,109	1,436,310	1,491,236	66,792
19 First Presbyterian Church, Levelland, TX	0	190,696	38,330	111,060	155,063	50,455	0	0	0	21,527	340,046	227,049	113,001
20 First Presbyterian Church, Greeley, CO	305,765	1,521,353	11,180	3,699	1,121,335	24,256	5,660	10,264	11,206	336,747	1,536,242	1,499,114	34,893
21 Grace Community Church, Surprise, AZ	126,033	288,159	4,311	5,991	253,828	10,043	6,165	2,827	24,555	14,100	308,471	306,701	19,803
22 Grace Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Gig Harbor, WA	5,867	94,039	0	0	74,100	0	7,089	1,200	2,700	1,800	94,039	85,389	14,517
23 GracePoint Community Church, Lilliston, CO	115,913	316,643	1,500	46,916	297,221	13,335	1,168	1,572	6,648	62,205	365,056	370,578	110,393
24 Greenwood Community Church, Greenwood Village, CO	4,063,914	2,839,576	63,410	75,835	2,894,559	500,000	10,272	21,519	24,769	0	3,038,821	3,429,400	3,673,335
25 Heritage Evangelical Presbyterian, Santa Maria, CA	384,503	124,455	87,763	69,314	188,272	22,003	3,800	1,933	5,632	6,488	291,532	226,195	439,840
26 Highline Community Church, Centennial, CO	-1,780	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27 Lookout Mtn. Community Church, Golden, CO	143,911	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28 Milbrook Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA	66,592	233,056	1,705	26,871	284,157	0	0	0	0	31,292	261,632	266,449	62,775
29 Morningside Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Phoenix, AZ	55,972	123,715	0	3,075	80,444	0	375	299	1,173	27,376	126,790	109,368	83,394
30 New Community Christian Church, Lilliston, CO	128,424	245,977	24,000	13,516	302,856	0	0	0	0	26,885	283,433	335,766	16,151
31 Northwest Presbyterian Church, Woodinville, WA	742,019	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32 Parker Presbyterian Church, Parker, CO	84,670	667,598	2,350	381,369	738,077	0	0	0	0	18,297	1,051,277	809,621	396,326
33 San Ramon Presbyterian Church, San Ramon	189,514	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34 Sanger Community Church, Sanger, CA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 Thai EPC, Monrovia, CA	310,534	123,856	12,045	11,673	103,132	0	1,200	1,541	1,541	17,167	147,574	123,630	384,478
36 Valley Community Church, San Jacinto, CA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	20,641,936	29,262,698	1,544,365	8,694,068	35,199,386	2,238,078	109,705	165,286	359,462	2,599,702	39,691,121	40,435,657	18,292,533



**2008 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT  
PRESBYTERY OF THE WEST**

Church	2007		2008		2008 GANS		2008 LOSSES		2007		2008		2007		2008		2007		2008					
	Members	Profession	Members	Profession	Youth Profession	Transfer Gain	Reaffirmation	Restored	Transfer Loss	Death	Inactive	Other Loss	Worship Loss	Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship	Sun School	Sun School	2007 Esp. Roll	2008 Esp. Roll	Adult Bpt.	Infant Bpt.	
1 Arvada Community Church, Arvada, CO**	26	26	26	26	1	5	2	4	2	3	2	81	5	285	237	118	106	31	20	1	0	1	0	
2 Bear Creek EPC, Lakewood, CO	345	268	345	268	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	268	219	91	91	0	0	5	1	0	7	
3 Celebration Community Church, Denver, CO**	98	102	98	102	6	2	65	2	2	6	2	180	0	872	870	435	435	0	0	0	0	27	6	
4 Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church, Englewood, CO	1,143	1,030	1,143	1,030	6	0	0	0	0	12	11	380	82	4,400	6,250	2,490	2,722	0	0	0	0	120	38	
5 Cherry Hills Community Church, Highlands Ranch, CO	5,475	5,754	5,475	5,754	4	2	6	0	0	1	14	0	86	64	54	54	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	
6 Christ Covenant Church, Leet, KS	91	88	91	88	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	75	26	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	
7 Christ Fellowship Church, Ft. Collins, CO	49	49	49	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
8 Christ the King Presbyterian Church, Castle Rock, CO	87	89	87	89	0	0	5	4	0	0	0	7	0	114	110	51	67	0	0	0	0	3	0	
9 Clayton Community Church, Clayton, CA**	307	305	307	305	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	402	509	173	173	0	0	0	0	9	2	
10 Community Church of Ephrata, Ephrata, WA	147	135	147	135	9	1	0	0	0	4	0	14	167	162	146	106	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
11 Cornerstone Community Church, Aurora, CO*	64	64	64	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	61	61	18	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	
12 Covenant Community Church, Aurora, CO**	42	46	42	46	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	52	54	18	18	2	4	2	0	0	0	
13 Covenant Presbyterian Church, Omaha, NE**	749	804	749	804	4	18	30	27	0	4	5	15	0	476	507	137	202	549	558	9	1	0	0	
14 Covenant Presbyterian Church, San Diego, CA	183	173	183	173	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	9	8	4	200	187	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
15 Covenant Presbyterian/Valley, CO*	61	67	61	67	0	0	18	24	1	7	5	10	0	533	542	287	342	15	17	2	3	0	0	
16 Faith Evangelical Church, Loveland, CO	466	496	466	496	9	0	7	9	0	6	5	9	1	364	364	176	176	0	0	0	0	3	3	
17 Faith Presbyterian Church, Aurora, CO*	597	597	597	597	7	7	9	9	0	2	2	0	0	675	657	260	263	0	0	0	0	3	3	
18 First Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Renton, WA	632	643	632	643	128	103	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	74	67	0	0	0	0	2	0	
19 First Presbyterian Church, Loveland, TX**	459	463	459	463	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	488	255	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
20 First Presbyterian Church, Greeley, CO*	133	146	133	146	1	0	9	14	2	4	3	2	4	150	155	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
21 Grace Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Gjo Harbor, WA	48	47	48	47	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	55	56	10	10	8	8	0	0	0	0	
22 GracePoint Community Church, Littleton, CO**	208	210	208	210	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	148	146	115	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	
23 Greenwood Community Church, Greenwood Village, CO**	823	900	823	900	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,500	1,675	750	750	0	0	0	0	30	15	
24 Heritage Evangelical Presbyterian, Santa Maria, CA	84	70	84	70	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	14	0	87	49	10	43	40	40	0	0	0	0	
26 Highline Community Church, Centennial, CO*	69	69	69	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	725	295	121	171	0	0	0	0	0	0	
27 Inland Community Church, Golden, CO	557	504	557	504	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	650	370	365	0	0	0	0	22	11	
28 Inland Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA*	125	125	125	125	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	99	99	34	34	21	0	0	0	0	
29 Morningstar Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Phoenix, AZ**	76	75	76	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	44	9	11	76	73	1	0	0	0	
30 New Community Christian Church, Littleton, CO*	200	200	200	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	200	38	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	
31 Northwest Presbyterian Church, Woodinville, WA**	53	49	53	49	0	0	2	4	0	2	0	0	8	103	94	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
32 Parker Presbyterian Church, Parker, CO*	518	518	518	518	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	620	620	139	139	0	0	0	0	0	0	
33 San Ramon Presbyterian Church, San Ramon**	286	279	286	279	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	260	180	180	96	96	32	8	0	0	
34 Sanger Community Church, Sanger, CA*	153	153	153	153	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	132	132	28	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	
35 Thail EPC, Morrovia, CA*	28	28	28	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	28	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	
36 Valley Community Church, San Jacinto, CA	67	60	67	60	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	10	96	84	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>13,769</b>	<b>14,672</b>	<b>13,769</b>	<b>14,672</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>13,732</b>	<b>16,072</b>	<b>4,740</b>	<b>6,857</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Churches of Record 12/31/08	33	36	33	36																				

NOTES: \*2008 report not submitted. \*\*2007 totals adjusted following 27th General Assembly. #Received 2008. #Notice represent estimated numbers due to non-reporting.

**2008 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
TRANSITIONAL PRESBYTERY**

	Receipts					Disbursements					Ending Balance 2008		
	Ending Balance 2007	Tithes- Offerings	Capital- Building	Local Operating	Local Capital- Building	Other	Presbytery Giving	Per Member	Total GA Causes	Other Missions		Total Receipts	Total Disbursements
1 First Presbyterian Church, Paulding, OH	41,300	133,715	0	117,886	5,870	9,688	0	2,484	2,484	31,591	143,403	157,831	26,872
<b>Other Transitional Members</b>													
		Receipts		Disbursements									
Ending Balance 2007	Tithes- Offerings	Capital- Building	Local Operating	Local Capital- Building	Other	Presbytery Giving	Per Member	Total GA Causes	Other Missions	Total Receipts	Total Disbursements	Ending Balance 2008	
1 First Presbyterian Church, Kokomo, IN (transitional member, Presbytery of the Midwest)													

**2008 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT  
Transitional Members**

**National Transition Presbytery**

Church	2007				2008				2009				2010				2011			
	Members	Professionals	YOUTH	Transfers	Members	Professionals	YOUTH	Transfers	Members	Professionals	YOUTH	Transfers	Members	Professionals	YOUTH	Transfers	Members	Professionals	YOUTH	Transfers
1 First Presbyterian Church, Fairport, OH	100	0	0	0	93	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Grace Chapel, EPS, Mandeville, MS	250	0	0	0	250	0	0	0	250	0	0	0	250	0	0	0	250	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	350	0	0	0	343	0	0	0	350	0	0	0	350	0	0	0	350	0	0	0
Churches of Record 12/31/08	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
Churches of Record 12/31/09	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
Churches of Record 12/31/10	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
Churches of Record 12/31/11	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0

NOTES: \*Transferred to Central South Presbytery in 2008

**Other Transitional Members**

Church	2007				2008				2009				2010				2011			
	Members	Professionals	YOUTH	Transfers	Members	Professionals	YOUTH	Transfers	Members	Professionals	YOUTH	Transfers	Members	Professionals	YOUTH	Transfers	Members	Professionals	YOUTH	Transfers
1 First Presbyterian Church, Waukegan, Ill	0	0	0	0	458	0	0	0	458	0	0	0	458	0	0	0	458	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	0	0	0	0	458	0	0	0	458	0	0	0	458	0	0	0	458	0	0	0
Churches of Record 12/31/08	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Churches of Record 12/31/09	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Churches of Record 12/31/10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Churches of Record 12/31/11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

NOTES: \*Received 2008 8's transitional member, Presbytery of the Midwest

2008 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
NWEPC PRESBYTERY

	Receipts					Disbursements					Ending Balance 2008	
	Ending Balance 2007	Tithes- Offerings	Capital- Building	Local Operating	Local Capital- Building	Presbytery Giving	Per Member	Total Caus. Causes	Other Missions	Total Receipts		Total Disbursements
1 Allie-Williamson Presbyterian Church, Allie, IN	167,221	65,234	0	1,993	87,257	0	0	0	76,974	67,227	164,231	70,217
2 Bay Presbyterian Church, Bay Village, OH	794,615	3,004,066	54,550	155,516	2,986,013	13,405	0	0	361,742	3,214,232	3,370,160	639,667
3 Beverly Heights Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, PA	69,667	695,333	0	14,437	660,368	0	0	0	115,116	712,770	760,502	2,135
4 Central Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, AL	320,069	564,065	22,750	447,755	880,270	260,188	0	0	107,448	1,034,570	1,247,606	106,633
5 College Corner First United Presbyterian Church, College Corner, OH	783,070	1,321,009	137,000	119,319	980,549	83,294	0	0	22,167	1,577,328	1,622,646	737,752
6 Covenant Presbyterian Church, Jackson, MS	85,784	517,497	123,696	63,361	489,648	18,398	0	0	67,879	704,543	690,925	394,022
7 Covenant Presbyterian Church (The Barn), Shiloh, CT	47,195	2,992,747	21,882	52,748	2,807,814	2,669	0	0	464,401	3,267,377	3,074,958	239,577
9 Faith Presbyterian Church, Brownsville, TX	136,534	348,129	1,350	70,863	271,130	60,207	0	0	6,142	420,342	380,204	176,732
11 Fallbrook Presbyterian Church, Fallbrook, CA	1,826,349	845,808	0	368	1,180,090	10,000	0	0	90,500	849,176	1,260,690	1,414,635
12 First Presbyterian Church, Roseville, CA	424,460	2,319,195	0	29,531	2,156,768	0	0	0	134,704	2,348,736	2,291,472	481,744
13 First Presbyterian Church, Baton Rouge, LA	455,630	0	0	49,576	160,254	0	0	0	17,250	17,250	0	0
14 First Presbyterian Church of Thibodaux, LA	6,777	254,872	19,772	134,801	418,905	0	0	0	1,035	1,035	12,330	138,345
15 Forks of the Brazos River Presbyterian Church, Glenmore, PA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,571	3,571	0	0
16 Fourth Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, PA	301,870	763,281	2,800	23,150	665,145	0	0	0	6,000	6,000	106,154	778,271
17 Goshland Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO	0	131,078	4,809	1,253	64,692	3,443	0	0	0	137,141	68,135	69,006
19 Great Valley Fellowship (mission church), Ottawa, KS	1,032	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,509	6,509	0	0
20 Hillside Presbyterian, Hillsdale, KS	41,966	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,174	3,174	0	0
21 Hope Presbyterian Church, Regue River, OR	14,376	457,022	0	0	408,231	0	0	0	1,180	1,180	0	0
22 Hudson Presbyterian Church, Hudson, OH	83,790	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,000	20,000	0	0
23 Kids of the Hills, Tulsa, OK	0	846,297	27,190	423	655,459	0	0	0	0	0	52,638	873,910
24 LifePath Church, Houston, TX	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,600	1,600	0	0
25 Lighthouse Presbyterian Church, Paola, KS	600,265	2,016,744	38,932	1,766,562	3,402,771	30,760	0	0	0	575,666	3,942,256	4,009,217
26 Memorial Park Presbyterian, Allison Park, PA	0	1,717,407	15,370	2,195	1,165,169	0	0	0	20,379	0	64,655	1,734,972
27 New Hope Presbyterian Church, Ft. Myers, FL	195,881	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28 Orchard Christian Fellowship, Londonderry, NH	64,805	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29 Peiers Creek Presbyterian Church, Venable, PA	430,069	535,067	50,929	117,447	707,063	14,299	0	0	4,002	4,002	0	0
30 River Community Church, Prairieville, LA	0	127,946	5,956	0	39,911	5,000	0	0	1,518	1,518	159,491	704,243
31 St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Somerset, PA	224,291	362,455	2,422	36,718	264,686	55,646	0	0	0	0	400	133,912
32 Trinity Presbyterian Church, Liverpool, NY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,149	6,875	155,680	403,659
33 Upper Octavia Presbyterian Church, Parkersburg, PA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,100	3,100	0	0
34 Woodland Presbyterian Church, New Orleans, LA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7,105,621</b>	<b>19,980,826</b>	<b>729,517</b>	<b>3,110,066</b>	<b>20,263,231</b>	<b>563,331</b>	<b>137,965</b>	<b>95,547</b>	<b>109,363</b>	<b>3,132,969</b>	<b>23,920,429</b>	<b>24,147,435</b>
												<b>5,895,597</b>

**2008 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT  
NEW WINESKIN/EPC TRANSITIONAL PRESBYTERY**

Church	2007		2008		2008 GAINS			2008 LOSSES					2007		2008		2007		2008	
	Members	Members	Adult Profession	Youth Profession	Transfer Gain	Reaffirmation	Restored	Transfer Loss	Death	Inactive	Other Loss	Worship	Sun School	Sun School	2007 Sun School	2008 Sun School	2007 Sun School	2008 Sun School	2007 Sun School	2008 Sun School
1 Alliance-Williamsport Presbyterian Church, Alliance, IN <sup>a</sup>																				
2 Bay Presbyterian Church - Bay Village, OH <sup>a</sup>																				
3 Beverly Heights Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, PA <sup>**</sup>																				
4 Central Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, AL <sup>**</sup>																				
5 College Corner First United Presbyterian Church, College Corner, OH <sup>**</sup>																				
6 Covenant Presbyterian Church, Jackson, MS																				
7 Covenant Presbyterian Church (The Barn), Slimesbury, CT <sup>a</sup>																				
8 Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, Fair Oaks, CA <sup>a</sup>																				
9 Fifth Presbyterian Church of Brownsville, TX <sup>a</sup>																				
10 Fifth Presbyterian Church of Quincy, IL																				
11 First Presbyterian Church, Fairbrook, CA <sup>a</sup>																				
12 First Presbyterian Church, Roseville, CA <sup>a</sup>																				
13 First Presbyterian Church, Baton Rouge, LA <sup>**</sup>																				
14 First Presbyterian Church of Thibodaux, LA <sup>**</sup>																				
15 First Presbyterian Church of Glenmoore, PA																				
16 First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, PA <sup>a</sup>																				
17 Goodland Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO <sup>a</sup>																				
18 Green Valley Fellowship (Presbyterian Church), Olatava, KS <sup>a</sup>																				
19 Hillsdale Presbyterian Church, Hillsdale, KS <sup>a</sup>																				
20 Hope Presbyterian Church, Rogue River, OR <sup>a</sup>																				
21 Hubson Presbyterian Church, Hubson, OH																				
22 King of the Hills, Tulsa, OK																				
23 Littleton Church, Houston, TX <sup>a</sup>																				
24 Memorial Park Presbyterian Church, Paola, KS <sup>a</sup>																				
25 New Hope Presbyterian Church, Allison Park, PA <sup>a</sup>																				
26 Orchard Christian Fellowship, Londonberry, NH <sup>**</sup>																				
27 Peabody Presbyterian Church, Vero Beach, FL <sup>**</sup>																				
28 River Community Church, Prairieville, LA																				
29 St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Somersal, PA <sup>a</sup>																				
30 Trinity Presbyterian Church, Liverpool, NY <sup>a</sup>																				
31 Upper Octonara Presbyterian Church, Parkersburg, PA																				
32 Woodland Presbyterian Church, New Orleans, LA <sup>a</sup>																				
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7,905</b>	<b>18,527</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>4,967</b>	<b>12,834</b>	<b>7,442</b>	<b>1,942</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>86</b>

NOTES: \*2008 report not submitted. \*\*2007 totals adjusted following 27th General Assembly. <sup>a</sup>Received 2008. <sup>b</sup>formerly Londonberry Presbyterian Church. <sup>c</sup>figures represent estimated numbers due to non-reporting.

**2008 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
SUMMARY**

Presbytery	Ending Balance 2007	Receipts				Local Operating	Local Capital Building	Presbytery Giving	GA Per Member	Disbursements			Ending Balance 2008
		Tithes-Offerings	Capital	Other	Total GA Causes					Other Missions	Total Receipts	Total Disbursements	
Central South	8,735,414	35,816,174	8,536,041	6,194,870	32,137,119	8,895,191	129,376	183,837	619,722	8,779,480	50,647,025	48,598,789	9,783,650
East	6,934,665	10,914,827	3,252,275	1,198,132	11,764,897	5,575,593	42,332	59,335	313,122	1,145,937	15,383,634	18,630,681	3,447,997
Florida	1,916,362	2,686,046	107,576	685,916	3,655,703	41,495	22,904	25,502	73,162	173,945	3,502,639	3,967,208	1,166,632
Mid-America	7,550,658	12,293,650	1,584,185	4,740,059	11,916,434	3,406,560	70,190	110,298	184,148	1,172,947	18,617,894	18,716,862	9,452,190
Mid-Atlantic	2,846,065	16,515,760	4,350,564	1,785,313	18,458,335	8,093,838	163,643	177,011	401,792	2,743,645	24,795,637	29,629,822	-2,261,032
Midwest	12,632,442	23,066,957	2,541,008	1,092,856	21,268,659	3,071,157	95,610	253,460	776,196	2,804,381	27,668,716	27,956,827	11,816,344
Southeast	6,200,041	16,001,469	858,770	2,283,940	14,069,872	1,088,789	154,848	141,269	437,556	3,665,210	19,166,379	19,413,500	5,612,848
West	20,641,936	29,262,688	1,644,365	8,694,068	35,188,385	2,238,079	109,705	165,286	359,462	2,599,702	39,591,121	40,435,657	18,282,533
Transitional	41,300	133,715	0	9,688	117,886	5,870	0	2,484	2,484	31,591	143,403	157,951	25,872
NWEPC	7,105,627	19,980,826	729,517	3,110,066	20,265,231	563,331	137,985	95,547	109,353	3,132,969	23,820,429	24,147,436	5,895,597
TOTALS	74,605,130	168,772,112	25,804,301	29,704,868	168,831,320	34,008,905	925,595	1,214,047	3,276,995	24,249,787	223,327,577	231,064,413	53,423,629

2008 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT  
SUMMARY

Residency	Churches (12/31/2007)		Churches (12/31/2008)		2007 Members		2008 Members		2009 Members		2008 GAINS		2008 LOSSES					2009		2008		2007		2006		2005		2004						
	Count	Value	Count	Value	Count	Value	Count	Value	Count	Value	Count	Value	Transfers	Deaths	Transfers	Other	Widows	Medical	Salv. School	Sun. School	Emp. School	3007	3006	3005	3004	3003	3002	3001	3000					
Central South	26	13,418	24	12,013	163	6,235	164	6,236	36	1,413	462	17,107	91	219	332	110	1,575	13,127	3,720	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425		
East	19	9,622	16	7,815	134	5,107	14	529	36	1,413	462	17,107	91	219	332	110	1,575	13,127	3,720	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425		
Florida	10	4,976	9	4,016	67	2,635	3	116	14	529	36	1,413	462	17,107	91	219	332	110	1,575	13,127	3,720	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	
Mid-America	20	9,712	17	8,111	111	4,335	7	283	36	1,413	462	17,107	91	219	332	110	1,575	13,127	3,720	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	
Mid-Atlantic	37	18,169	37	18,169	167	6,443	57	2,234	67	2,635	462	17,107	91	219	332	110	1,575	13,127	3,720	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	
Midwest	32	12,157	34	13,157	111	4,335	30	1,154	22	859	462	17,107	91	219	332	110	1,575	13,127	3,720	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	
Southwest	19	8,943	22	8,943	130	5,077	67	2,635	16	629	177	6,812	83	332	417	155	604	4,740	3,590	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	
West	33	13,340	36	13,340	102	3,958	102	3,958	102	3,958	462	17,107	91	219	332	110	1,575	13,127	3,720	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>69,469</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>73,696</b>	<b>2,098</b>	<b>8,008</b>	<b>1,583</b>	<b>6,011</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>1,583</b>	<b>6,011</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>1,175</b>	<b>2,175</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>65,641</b>	<b>70,407</b>	<b>33,290</b>	<b>35,759</b>	<b>9,039</b>	<b>9,319</b>	<b>9,319</b>	<b>9,319</b>	<b>9,319</b>	<b>9,319</b>	<b>9,319</b>	<b>9,319</b>	<b>9,319</b>	<b>9,319</b>	<b>9,319</b>	<b>9,319</b>	<b>9,319</b>	
National Transition	2	100	1	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other Trans. Members	10	500	10	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NWEC	15	750	34	1,700	102	400	486	1,900	96	486	486	1,900	96	486	576	233	5,023	13,407	3,069	7,485	1,557	2,183	2,183	2,183	2,183	2,183	2,183	2,183	2,183	2,183	2,183	2,183	2,183	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8,014</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>5,023</b>	<b>13,407</b>	<b>3,069</b>	<b>7,485</b>	<b>1,557</b>	<b>2,183</b>	<b>2,183</b>	<b>2,183</b>	<b>2,183</b>	<b>2,183</b>	<b>2,183</b>	<b>2,183</b>	<b>2,183</b>	<b>2,183</b>	<b>2,183</b>	<b>2,183</b>	<b>2,183</b>	<b>2,183</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>77,483</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>82,864</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>8,988</b>	<b>2,069</b>	<b>7,911</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>2,069</b>	<b>7,911</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>1,661</b>	<b>2,751</b>	<b>1,014</b>	<b>70,664</b>	<b>83,806</b>	<b>36,459</b>	<b>43,244</b>	<b>10,592</b>	<b>11,502</b>	<b>11,502</b>	<b>11,502</b>	<b>11,502</b>	<b>11,502</b>	<b>11,502</b>	<b>11,502</b>	<b>11,502</b>	<b>11,502</b>	<b>11,502</b>	<b>11,502</b>	<b>11,502</b>	<b>11,502</b>

## NOTES