



David DeBruler
Chair

**Next Generation Ministries
Council**
Report to the 38th General Assembly



Carolyn Hiller
Vice Chair

Summary of Work, 2017-2018:

1. Continued expansion of partner churches with CCO (our strategic partner for campus ministries).
2. Continued expansion of Reformed Youth Ministries' training and network support of our churches' student ministries.
3. Continued progress of developing a Children's Ministry support strategy.
4. Completion of our transition to the Next Generation Ministries Committee.

Recommendations to the 2018 General Assembly:

1. No recommendations from the Committee.

Work of the Committee in 2017-2018:

The following describes the passion of our Committee:

1. Our Vision Statement:

Every congregation will fulfill God's call* to disciple the Next Generation into passionate Christ-followers who pursue God's kingdom in every sphere of life.

*Psalm 78, Deuteronomy 6, Matthew 23, 2 Timothy 2, 1 Thessalonians 2, Ephesians 5

2. Our Mission Statement:

The EPC Next Generation Ministries Committee is to equip, encourage and shepherd church leadership to evangelize and disciple the Next Generation from birth through young adulthood.

3. Key Definitions:

- a) This Committee defines “Next Generation Ministries” as all of the ministries in a local church used to partner with parents to equip their children. This term is intended to describe a seamless and consistent approach to training children from birth to young adulthood, and seeks to instill an “end-in-mind” view that guides the planning and processes of all equipping stages.
- b) “Equipping stages” are aligned with the typical four age ranges churches use for Children’s Ministry, Student Ministry, College-Age Ministry, and Young Adult Ministry.

4. Key Element in our Philosophy:

As best as the local church can operate as a covenant community, we encourage all church leadership to emphasize that the ministry of the church is to equip all of the saints into the fullness of maturity in Christ and for ministry. This includes instilling a vision that God has given parents the primary responsibility to equip their children to know Christ and to follow Him as a well-equipped, passionate disciple. We encourage all Next Generation ministries of a church to operate as a secondary, supplemental training support to the parents and not as an alternative substitute in the equipping of the Next Generation.

In this final year of transition, the Committee has reduced its membership from the original eighteen (18) to the transitional twelve (12) to the final nine (9). Beginning in July 2018, the Committee will have 3 classes of 3 members per class, and Jen Burkholder has become the new Chair. All transitional issues have been identified, assigned and either completed or have become ongoing projects in their assigned area.

The Committee continued to provide scholarship support to EPC college students to attend the 2018 CCO Jubilee conference and to EPC youth leaders to attend the 2018 Reformed Youth Ministries’ Youth Leadership Training conference. These scholarships are used by the Committee as part of its strategy to connect and support current and future EPC leaders involved with Next Generation ministries. During our April meeting, we heard many wonderful stories from the college students and the youth leaders about how their respective conference impacted them. Many of them commented on how encouraged they were by the commitment of their denomination to help them. Annual scholarship funding needed is between \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Going forward into the next year, the Committee will be focusing on Children’s Ministries and the Committee’s web and social media outreach. Providing a connectional, supportive network to the leaders of our churches’ children ministries (CM) is a critical need. One idea in development is a local-area conference for EPC CM leaders in the Pittsburgh area that could become a series of conferences around the country. We are hoping we can get our web and social media outreach re-established in 2018 in order to broadcast such ideas AND to receive other ideas from our churches.

Committee Members:

RE David DeBruler (Chair), Presbytery of the Gulf South
RE Carolyn Hiller (Vice-Chair), Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
Jen Burkholder, Presbytery of the Alleghenies
Martha Daniel, Presbytery of the Alleghenies
RE Enid Flores, Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean
TE Dustin Jernigan, Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean
TE Andy Koesters, Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic
Ivan Strong Moore, Presbytery of the West

Committee Meeting Dates:

October 27 and 28, 2017 – Orlando, FL
November 16, 2017 – Video Conference
April 20 and 21, 2018 – Orlando, FL

Respectfully submitted,



David DeBruler
Chair



Carolyn Hiller
Vice-Chair

June 2018