



EPC

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

COMMITTEE REPORT

EPC Foundation Board
Report to the 38th General Assembly



Theodore Hailes
Chair

Summary of Work, 2017-2018:

1. Completed creation of the Legacy Planning Seminars
2. Financial support provided to Foundation Field Representative
3. Partnering with Go Center to assist their fund-raising efforts.

Recommendations to the 2018 General Assembly:

1. **RECOMMENDATION 38-15:**
Supplement the Foundation Board with at least one volunteer representative from within the Presbyteries representing the Foundation, be knowledgeable on all the financial programs the Foundation provided and make face to face contact with churches and individuals within their presbytery.
2. **RECOMMENDATION 38-16:**
Request GA annually budget the Foundation \$5,000 for field operations and approve \$10,000 GA Special Asking that will provide a direct way for individuals and churches to donate to Foundation operations.

Work of the Committee in 2017-2018:

In 2018 the EPC FOUNDATION refined its business plan and expanded its focus to assist the local churches in Transformational Generosity and further support the Denomination in funding its Four Strategic Visions. Critical issues completed and in place include an established partnership with the National Christian Foundation that provides numerous financial services that can work with cash, non-cash assets, annuities and trusts; multiple training programs for individuals and churches to enhance transformational generous giving; and a start on funding to cover the costs of the Foundation (with plans to increase this funding).

Our plan is to provide Legacy Planning Seminars exploring God's Word and help the individual church member take action on their stewardship calling. This is a demanding task and requires a level of support and trust from the local church. Our theme in 2018 is Biblical Stewardship and the Changing Tax Laws. During these seminars we will examine how to set up a Giving Fund with our partner the National Christian Foundation, and how to use such vehicles as Charitable Gift Annuities and other tax advantaged approaches. Another important avenue for giving is through the EPC Denomination and its four Strategic Visions (Church Planting, Church Revitalization, Global Movement, and Effective Biblical Leadership). These four initiatives were recently added to the budget and that budget is limited in its ability to generate new funds for these worthy causes. The Foundation has accounts set up to receive funding for each of these initiatives and encourages gifting to the initiatives at our Legacy Planning Seminars.

The primary challenge for the Foundation in 2018 is a publicity issue. The Foundation needs to dramatically increase its name recognition, reach into the denomination, introduce its services to the Presbyteries, churches and individuals and establish itself as a trusted vehicle for the best practices of tithes, offerings and gifts. Many of the recommendations to the GA revolve around this effort.

One of the key requirements is funding the field operations in order to help churches achieve their goals of increasing generosity and funding the strategic initiatives. Obviously, funding for this operation is a challenge and like many Christian organizations, we must turn to people and organizations for that support. The GA has been able to provide limited support and we have also received gifts from individuals and churches. For example, the Foundation recently received \$15,000 to fund the Field Representative activities. Future fund raising will also be a major emphasis for this next calendar year.

Recommendations to the 2018 General Assembly:

RECOMMENDATION 38-15 and RECOMMENDATION 38-16:

Most of the critical infrastructure for the proper operation of the EPC Foundation is in place. We have the capability to handle a wide range of gifts, from cash through non-cash to buildings or businesses. Several educational programs are completed to cover

individual needs, church wide funding drives all the way through methods to fund the EPC four Strategic Initiatives. Two open issues are now critically at the forefront of our attention. The first is name recognition with its attended recognition as a trusted source for gifting. This can only be achieved if the recipients perceive that we are strongly attached to and supported by the denomination, that we have trusted vehicles to receive and direct their generous giving and that we provide value through our educational programs that can help the individual and the church in their fiscal needs. We can only accomplish this through face to face contact down to the church and the individual congregant. Therefore, we need representatives in each Presbytery that can reach each church to provide education, direction and capability to use the funds offered. The second issue is adequate funding so that the representatives can travel to the churches to present the programs and support both fund raising efforts and be a tax advantaged vehicle to accelerate generous giving. We see this as a shared responsibility so those churches that are financially sound can help cover those costs. But many of the smaller churches do not have that capacity and the Foundation must find a way to reach those churches as well. Hence the need for EPC support, donations from churches and individuals directly focused on providing Foundation information to all who are in need.

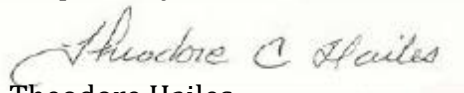
Committee Members:

RE Theodore Hailes (Chair), Presbytery of the Central South
RE Greg Baggenstos, Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest
RE Bobby Cobbs, Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
RE Elizabeth Hickman, Presbytery of the Gulf South
Bob Welsh, Field Representative working with Churches and Presbyteries
Chief Operating Officer Phil VanValkenburg and Stated Clerk Jeff Jeremiah
provide staff support

Committee Meeting Dates:

February 17-18, 2017 Meeting, Entire Board at EPC OGA
Multiple video meetings creating Legacy Planning Seminars
March 19, 2018 Video conference – Entire Board

Respectfully submitted,



Theodore Hailes
Chairman

June 2018