

**Presbyterian Review
Committee**
Report to the 38th General Assembly



*Helen Franssell
Chair*

Summary of Work, 2017-2018:

1. Provided structure, order, and continuity in reviewing the minutes of the Presbyteries.

Recommendations to the 2018 General Assembly:

1. RECOMMENDATION 38-28

The Presbytery Review Committee is recommending to the 2018 General Assembly a change in the *Rules for Assembly* X 10-1K.1, increasing the committee members from four to six.

2. RECOMMENDATION 38-29

That the Assembly approve the Minutes of the Presbyteries with exceptions requiring responses by December 31, 2018.

3. RECOMMENDATION 38-30

That the Assembly approve the responses of the Presbyteries to exceptions issued by the 37th General Assembly.

Work of the Committee in 2017-2018:

I continue to be thankful for the particular ability that each of our teammates demonstrates in seeing particular items that the others may overlook – there is much value in having as many pairs of eyes on the minutes of each Presbytery as possible. That is why we are so excited (and relieved, to be honest) that our committee will be growing! The traditional snack mix that we have gotten used to receiving in the olden days of in-person meetings in Lavonia give us the energy and stamina we need to complete the task!

Reading and evaluating the hundreds of pages of minutes that our Presbytery Clerks put together is a time-consuming and onerous task, but it comes with much blessing – we get to witness (albeit second-hand) the work of our Lord in and through our brothers and sisters all over the world – your means of community outreach, your ministry to individuals in challenging times, your calling to ministry Candidates and transferees, and your welcoming of new churches to the EPC community. We are mutually accountable to each other, submitting to one another in love, as we are called. Minutes are records of rejoicing, not only in the good and wonderful things, but also in the things that are difficult and painful, in which we especially strive to serve with grace, love, and respect.

We continue to encourage all Presbyteries to use a template in your documentation; it spares you a lot of time and work, and it saves you (and us) from having to deal with the Exceptions and Notations Requiring a Response that no one wants to see. We also encourage you to maintain the unofficial EPC standards for meeting records:

In essentials, clarity; in non-essentials, scarcity; in all things, brevity.

All that we have been reading gives testimony to the work of the Holy Spirit in and through the activities and ministries of the 13 Presbyteries of the EPC, and we were blessed to have been witnesses to the power of God's grace as recorded in the minutes. Thank you for entrusting this privilege to us.

Recommendations to the 2018 General Assembly:

Recommendation 38-28:

That the Assembly approve the following amendment to *Rules for Assembly* X 10-1K.1 to add 2 members to the PRC.

Current Rules for Assembly X 10-1K.1	Proposed Rules for Assembly X 10-1K.1 Additions in <i>bold italics</i>
1. Membership: Committee to consist of four members, including at least one former stated clerk.	1. Membership: Committee to consist of four six members, including at least one former stated clerk.

Recommendation 38-29:

That the Assembly approve the Minutes of the EPC Presbyteries with the following exceptions requiring responses by December 31, 2018, general advice and commendations.

a. Alleghenies:

Exception(s):

There is no record of Session minutes having been reviewed in the 22nd, 23rd, 24th, or 25th stated meetings according to BOG 18-4 C.

General Advice:

EPC "Essentials Tenets" are generally referred to as the EPC "Essentials"

Commendations:

Alleghenies Presbytery is to be commended for: Chairman of the Church Development Committee TE Runyan's encouragement to get to know the church plants and pray for them. Beautiful expression of how the Church is a supportive family.

b. Pacific:

Exception(s):

- a. The call of assistant pastors, is to stipulate the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Assistant. BOG 10-6. **Christopher Popadich**, 17-15, **Ellis White**, 17-19, **Rev. Quinn Vaugh**, 19-30, **Christopher Eatough**, 19-43, do not have their primary responsibilities mentioned in the minutes.

- b. The Candidates **Tommy Branah**, **Keith Sandell**, and **Meagan Bergem**, 18-26, who were approved to coming under care of the Presbytery, did not share their Christian experience and growth, the motive for seeking ordination, and a

statement regarding the person's call to the Ministry as per BOG, 11-2 C, along with missing the charge.

- c. Need to state that each Candidate for ordination preached their Candidate Sermon. Noted in the context of worship service, but this needs to be affirmed by Presbytery vote.

Commendations

The Values shared during the session with the National Leadership Team are good and encouraged to be shared often at both the Presbyteries of the Pacific Northwest and Southwest.

Minutes are easy to follow.

Recommendation 38-30:

That the Assembly approve the responses of the Presbyteries (Attachments PRC-A through PRC-L) to exceptions issued by the 37th General Assembly.

- A. Alleghenies (see Attachment PRC- A).
- B. Central South (see Attachment PRC-B).
- C. East (see Attachment PRC-C)
- D. Florida (see Attachment PRC-D).
- E. Great Plains (see Attachment PRC-E)
- F. Gulf South (see Attachment PRC-F)
- G. Mid-America (see Attachment PRC-G)
- H. Midwest (see Attachment PRC-H)
- I. Pacific (see Attachment PRC-I)
- J. Rivers and Lakes (see Attachment PRC-J)
- K. Southeast (see Attachment PRC-K)
- L. West (see Attachment PRC-L)
- M. Mid-Atlantic: The Mid-Atlantic Presbytery did not submit its response to exceptions from the 37th General Assembly by May 24, 2018 when the Presbytery Review Committee concluded its meeting.

www.epc.org/files/ga2018document-prcpresbyteryresponsetoexceptions

www.epc.org/files/ga2018document-prcreportofpresbyteryminutes

Committee Members:

TE Helen Franssell (Chair), Presbytery of the East
RE Diane Manon, Presbytery of the Midwest
RE Cecil Matthews, Presbytery of the West
RE Max Riddle, Presbytery of the Southeast

Committee Meeting Dates:

The PRC met on a series of web meetings from April 5 – May 24, 2018 to review the minutes of the Presbyteries for the past reporting year (2017).

Respectfully submitted,



Helen Franssell
Chair

June 2018