

*Keep on asking
Keep on seeking
Keep on knocking
~Matthew 7:7*

JUNE 18-21
2019

CHERRY CREEK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DENVER



Unstoppable

39TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COMMISSIONER'S HANDBOOK

39TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
COMMISSIONER'S HANDBOOK
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EPC

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

Dear Commissioner,

Welcome to the 39th General Assembly! Our theme this year is “Unstoppable,” based on Jesus’ admonition in Matthew 7:7 to “keep on asking ... keep on seeking ... keep on knocking.”

This handbook is sent to Commissioners who have registered as of May 31. The Handbook includes two sections:

- 1) “Preliminaries” which provides important introductory material to help familiarize you to our time together, and
- 2) “Matters Received and Referred.” This is the business the Assembly will address. Other documents, such as the Rules for Assembly, committee reports, audited financial statements, and others are available at www.epc.org/ga2019documents.

Each year at the New Commissioner Orientation, I’m asked, “What should I read to get a good overview?” My response has been to read the Moderator’s Report, National Leadership Team Report, and my report. These three reports are gathered together as an “Executive Summary” at the end of the Preliminaries section.

If this is your first General Assembly, please take advantage of the New Commissioner Orientation on Wednesday morning, June 19. I really enjoy hosting this each year, and it is intended to help you make the most of your first Assembly. GA “veterans” and guests are welcome too!

This Handbook will be in our GA app and website, but feel free to print it and bring it with you. Additional pages may be distributed at Registration.

Our host church, Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church, has planned many opportunities for enrichment, edification, and worship. I hope you’ll join me in praying that the God of grace and truth—who raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead—will bless us during our time together!

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah
Stated Clerk

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Orlando, FL 32822

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www.epc.org

OVERVIEW OF ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

All events are held at Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church unless indicated otherwise.

MB = Main Building

CC = Community Center Building

Check "Schedule" section of the app for possible location updates.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18

7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Prayer Walk Open	CC Chapel
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Check-in/Information Open	MB Fireside Room
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Prayer Room Open	MB 116
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Women's Retreat Open	Creek House
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Presbytery Mission Strategy Gathering	MB 209
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Leadership Institute All-Day Tracks:	
	1—Children and Family Ministry Training	CC 109
	2—Unstoppable Youth Ministry	CC112
	3—Chaplains Workshop 4—	CC 202
	Transitional Pastor Training	MB 205
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	World Outreach Global Worker Training	MB 207/208
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Ticketed Lunch	
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Leadership Institute Afternoon-Only Tracks:	
	A—Leadership	CC 206, 207, 212
	B—Reformed Theology C—	CC 201
	Congregational Ministry	CC 111, 207/208
	D—Prayer	MB 209
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	World Outreach Banquet	CC Gym

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Prayer Walk Open	CC Chapel
7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.	New Commissioner Orientation	CC Gym
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Check-in/Information Open	MB Fireside Room
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Prayer Room Open	MB 116
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Women's Retreat Open	Creek House
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Leadership Institute Plenary Session 1	MB Sanctuary
	Speaker: Andrew Brunson	
12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	Networking Lunches	Various

**EPC***A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches***WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19 (continued)**

1:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Leadership Institute Plenary Session 2 Speaker: Doug Webster	MB Sanctuary
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Worship Speaker: Chris Piehl	MB Sanctuary
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Business Session 1	
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Ticketed Dinner	CC Gym
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Women's Resource Council "TESS Talks" Dinner	CC 206
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	World Outreach Global Worker Presentations	CC 202
7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Evening Worship Speaker: Léonce Crump Jr.	MB Sanctuary

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Prayer Walk Open	CC Chapel
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Check-in/Information Open	MB Fireside Room
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Prayer Room Open	MB 116
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Women's Retreat Open	Creek House
8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Morning Worship Speaker: Brad Strait	MB Sanctuary
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Business Session 2	MB Sanctuary
11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Ministry Wives' Lunch	Greenwood Community Church
12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Networking Lunches	Various
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Business Session 3	MB Sanctuary
3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Standing Committee Meetings	Various
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Ticketed Dinner	CC Gym
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Women's Ministry Dinner Speaker: Evie Bodett	CC 206
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	WO Global Worker Presentations Dinner	CC 202
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Worship with Global Worker Commissioning Speaker: Andrew Brunson	MB Sanctuary

**EPC***A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches***FRIDAY, JUNE 21**

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Prayer Walk Open	CC Chapel
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Prospective WO Missionary Breakfast	CC 202
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Check-in/Information Open	MB Fireside Room
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Prayer Room Open	MB 116
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Women's Retreat Open	Creek House
8:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Moderator's Service of Communion & Prayer Speaker: Tom Werner	MB Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Business Session 4	MB Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Networking Lunches	Various
1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Business Session 5	MB Sanctuary
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Business Session 6 (If Needed)	MB Sanctuary



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STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND RECORDING CLERKS

Administration (National Leadership Team)

Chairman – RE Ron Hickman (Central South)

Recording Clerk – TE David Taylor (Mid-Atlantic)

Church Planting

Chairman – RE Pat Canfield (Gulf South)

Recording Clerk – TE Megan Hackman (Pacific Northwest)

Church Revitalization

Chairman – TE Doug Resler (West)

Recording Clerk – RE Gary Smith (Mid-America)

Fraternal Relations

Chairman – TE Tim Russell (Central South)

Recording Clerk – RE Brandon Queen (Gulf South)

Memorials and Appreciation

Chairman – RE Richard Swedberg (West)

Recording Clerk – RE Doris Houck (Florida and the Caribbean)

Ministerial Vocation

Chairman – RE Joe Slesinski (East)

Recording Clerk – RE Suzanne Zampella (Alleghenies)

Next Generation Ministries

Chairman – TE Jason Steele (Midwest)

Recording Clerk – RE Joe McCoy (Mid-Atlantic)

Overtures and Resolutions

Chairman – TE Paul Bammel (East)

Recording Clerk – RE David Mennel (Midwest)

Theology

Chairman – TE John Mabray (Gulf South)

Recording Clerk – TE Ramona Spilman (West)

Women's Resources

Chairman – TE Sue Bailey (West)

Recording Clerk – TE Mark Willems (Pacific Northwest)

World Outreach

Chairman – RE Don Lear (Great Plains)

Recording Clerk – TE Michael Goolsby (Great Plains)



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GENERAL ASSEMBLY PERMANENT COMMITTEES*(Through the 39th General Assembly)*

BENEFIT RESOURCES, INC., BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Class of 2019:	Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:
RE Will Barnes <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>	TE Ronald Horgan, Chairman <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	RE Robert Draughon <i>Central South</i>
RE Michael Busch <i>Alleghenies</i>	TE Erik Ohman <i>Midwest</i>	Michael Moore <i>Central South</i>
RE Ray Kim <i>Pacific</i>	Randy Shaneyfelt <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	TE Bill Reisenweaver <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>

CHAPLAINS WORK AND CARE COMMITTEE

Class of 2019:	Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:
RE Bruce Alexander <i>East</i>	TE Karen Bolte <i>Pacific Southwest</i>	TE, Jennifer Prechter <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>
TE Timothy Foster <i>Central South</i>	TE Ted Tromble, Chairman <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>	TE David Snyder <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>
TE Glen Holman <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	TE Brad Yorton <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	RE Richard Swedberg <i>West</i>

FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Class of 2019:	Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:
RE Jerry Harmon <i>Central South</i>	RE Gwynn Blair <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>	RE Carol Culbertson <i>West</i>
RE Tod Paulson <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>	TE Joe Pallikkathayil <i>Mid-America</i>	TE Don Fortson <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>

GENEROSITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Class of 2019:	Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:
RE John Graham <i>Southeast</i>	RE Bobby Cobbs <i>Pacific Southwest</i>	TE Ben Borsay <i>Midwest</i>
Elizabeth Hickman <i>Gulf South</i>	RE Theodore Hailes, Chairman <i>Central South</i>	RE Mark Eibel <i>Pacific Northwest</i>

**EPC***A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches***MINISTERIAL VOCATION COMMITTEE**

Class of 2019:	Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:
TE Michael Flake <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	TE Bradley Strait, Chairman <i>West</i>	RE Neal McAtee <i>Central South</i>
RE Frank Rotella <i>East</i>	RE Philip Stump <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	RE Caroline Tromble <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Class of 2019:	Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:
RE Sabra Carman <i>Midwest</i>	RE Gerry Arnold <i>Gulf South</i>	RE Phil Fanara <i>East</i>
RE Chris Danusiar <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>	TE Nancy Duff <i>Pacific Southwest</i>	TE Brett Garretson <i>West</i>
TE Luder Whitlock <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>	RE Rosemary Lukens <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	RE Michael Gibson <i>Great Plains</i>
		RE Robert Liddon <i>Central South</i>

NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES COUNCIL

Class of 2019:	Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:
Jen Burkholder <i>Alleghenies</i>	RE Enid Flores <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>	Greg Aydt <i>West</i>
Martha Daniel <i>Alleghenies</i>	TE Andrew Koesters <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	Meg DeHaven <i>East</i>
Ryan Suzuki <i>Pacific Southwest</i>	RE Becky Shultz <i>West</i>	TE Andrew Mills <i>Gulf South</i>

**EPC***A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches***NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Class of 2019:	Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:
RE John Adamson <i>Central South</i>	RE Marian Bradshaw <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>	TE Larry Carlson <i>Pacific Northwest</i>
RE Brian Altmyer <i>Alleghenies</i>	TE Jeff Chadwick <i>Southeast</i>	RE Susan Humphreys <i>Mid-America</i>
RE George Blackburn <i>Gulf South</i>	TE Alan Conrow <i>Midwest</i>	RE Joe McCoy <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>
RE Janet Bole <i>West</i>	TE Wayne Hardy <i>Great Plains</i>	TE David Ricketts <i>Pacific Southwest</i>
RE Alan Smith <i>East</i>	TE Woody Johnson <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>	TE Bill Dudley <i>Southeast</i>

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Class of 2019:	Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:
TE George Dakin <i>Pacific</i>	RE Yvonne Chapman <i>Central South</i>	RE Amanda Cowan <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>
TE Neil Ellison <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	RE Ken Roberts <i>West</i>	RE Donald Flater <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>
RE Anson Keller <i>East</i>	RE David Tyra, Chairman <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	TE Dana Opp <i>Alleghenies</i>

PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Class of 2019:	Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:
RE Max Riddle <i>Southeast</i>	TE Helen Franssell, Chairman <i>East</i>	RE Cecil Matthews <i>West</i>
	RE Diane Manon <i>Midwest</i>	TE Gary O'Keefe <i>Midwest</i>

THEOLOGY COMMITTEE

Class of 2019:	Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:
RE John Moody <i>Great Plains</i>	RE Fred Flinn <i>Central South</i>	TE Ron DiNunzio <i>East</i>
TE Ramona Spilman <i>West</i>	Zach Hopkins <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>	TE Ryan Mowen <i>Alleghenies</i>

**EPC***A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches***WOMEN'S RESOURCE COUNCIL**

Class of 2019:	Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:
Kathleen Marcy <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>	Kathleen Marcy <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>	TE Sharon Beekmann, Chairman <i>West</i>
Kim Sinclair <i>Midwest</i>	Kim Sinclair <i>Midwest</i>	RE Lynn Burdge <i>Central South</i>

WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Class of 2019:	Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:
RE Phyllis Ellsworth <i>Midwest</i>	TE Brad Buescher <i>Great Plains</i>	TE Rick Dietzman <i>Pacific Northwest</i>
RE Alan Johnson <i>West</i>	TE Kevin Cauley <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	RE Susan Lear <i>Great Plains</i>
Sheryl Smith <i>West</i>	RE David Miller <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>	RE Patrick Tucker <i>Central South</i>

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OTHER COMMITTEES
(Through the 39th General Assembly)

REVELATION 7:9 TASK FORCE

Appointed by the Moderator following the adjournment of the 38th General Assembly

TE Rufus Smith, Co-Chairman <i>West</i>	TE Dean Weaver, Co-Chairman <i>Alleghenies</i>	TE Tom Clymer <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>
TE Marc de Jeu <i>Alleghenies</i>	RE Enid Flores <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>	RE Phyllis LePeau <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>
TE Soon Pak <i>Midwest</i>	Beth Paz <i>Pacific Southwest</i>	RE Brandon Queen <i>Gulf South</i>
TE Tim Russell <i>Central South</i>	RE Tom Werner <i>Mid-America</i>	RE Ted Winters <i>Mid-America</i>



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2018-2019 EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

MODERATOR'S REPORT

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

STATED CLERK'S REPORT



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A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

Moderator's Report 39th General Assembly



Tom Werner,
Moderator
38th General Assembly

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 39th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Denver area is the gateway to one of the most beautiful areas of the world, and I trust you will enjoy this part of God's creation (perhaps a hike?) as well as our time together in study, prayer, rich fellowship, joyful worship and, oh yes, some business, as we talk together about how God is moving in and through the EPC.

Serving as your Moderator has been a pleasure and a great joy for me. I have chosen to spend my time primarily in two initiatives, church planting and the Revelation 7:9 Task Force, and I am eager to see what God will do through each of these works.

Church Planting. I have a strong personal connection to church-planting, in part because my own church, Greentree Community Church in Kirkwood, Missouri, a St. Louis suburb, is a church plant which has been a blessing to me and my family and our community. Greentree has also initiated or contributed to five church plants, with number six soon to come. During my term as Moderator, my wife Susan and I visited EPC church plants and church planters in Memphis, upstate New York, Brooklyn, Northern California and the St. Louis area, representing more than fifteen church plants in all. I think the work of church planting to be challenging, sometimes exhilarating, sometimes wearing and always requiring dependence on God, as our planters work without much of a safety net. I have found our planters and planting network leaders to be creative, full of fresh vision and surprises (who knew wearing a



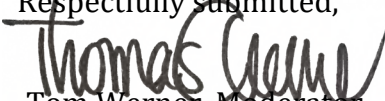
Revelation 7:9 Task Force. The Revelation 7:9 Task Force is also personal to me. Five years ago this summer, an African-American teenager named Michael Brown was killed in Ferguson, Missouri by a white police officer, and the surrounding St. Louis area community erupted. I had to acknowledge that I knew too little about the reasons for anger, and that I had not done much of anything, ever, to ease what I think is the most divisive problem facing our nation. I felt called to better understand my greater community, and what the Bible says to the people of God's church about ethnic differences. I am grateful to Rufus Smith and Dean Weaver for their leadership of Revelation 7:9 Task Force, and I would be happy if I can make some small contribution to the work. It is my prayer that, through our individual churches, our denomination would broaden the scope of our ministry to include all our neighbors and look more like our neighborhoods - and thereby look more like the Kingdom of God as we see it portrayed in Revelation 7:9. I am persuaded this is a Biblical priority.

Why these two interests? Well, as you can see, they are both personal, but they are also both future-facing, and they are important for our denomination going forward. I am glad to have gotten a glimpse of what God has in store for us.

In the next few years, we will see transition in our staff leadership, as both Jeff Jeremiah and Phil Linton retire after years of wonderfully productive ministry. The National Leadership Team wants to contribute to the transition by reassessing the priorities of the EPC and what we hope our new leadership can bring to our denomination's mission, vision and strategies. It will be a busy year ahead, and I am glad to serve next year as moderator of the NLT.

I am honored to have stood in shoes previously worn by leaders I admire and respect, and I look forward to what God will do in the EPC.

Respectfully submitted,


Tom Werner, Moderator
38th General Assembly

June 2019



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COMMITTEE REPORT

National Leadership Team

Executive Summary Report
to the 39th General Assembly



Dean Weaver
Chairman

Summary of Work, 2018-2019:

1. Began work on an Executive Transition Plan for the Office of the General Assembly.
2. Continued to monitor giving the EPC Per Member Asking.
3. Continued to oversee the mission and vision of the EPC.
4. Evaluated and recommended the expansion of the NLT to the 39th General Assembly.
5. Brought forward *Rules for Assembly* amendments that could not be addressed by the 38th General Assembly 2018.

Recommendations to the 2019 General Assembly:

1. That the 39th General Assembly approve the formation of the Stated Clerk Search Committee, to be appointed by the Moderator.
2. That the 39th General Assembly adopt its proposal to amend *Rules for Assembly* 15-1 in order to amend or suspend only by 2/3 vote of the Commissioners.
3. That the 39th General Assembly approve amending *Rules for Assembly* by adding two Standing Committees: 1) Church Planting and 2) Church Revitalization.
4. That the 39th General Assembly approve the deletion of the Church Planting and Revitalization Permanent Committee from *Rules for Assembly*.
5. That the 39th General Assembly approve an amendment to *Rules for Assembly* that would increase the size of the NLT from 13 to 16 members.
6. That the 39th General Assembly approve an amendment to *Book of Government* 9-5 that would make explicit that the office of “co-pastor” is not constitutional.
7. That the 39th General Assembly adopt the FY 2020 Administration Budget.

8. That the 39th General Assembly adopt the FY 2020 Special Projects.
9. That the 39th General Assembly approve the Moderator to appoint an ad interim committee composed of five REs or TEs from diverse, strongly-supporting churches across multiple presbyteries to address how to improve our churches' long-term culture of giving to the EPC.
10. That the 39th General Assembly approve an amendment to *Rules for Assembly* that would revise and update the functions of the National Leadership Team.
11. That the 39th General Assembly approve Third Millennium Ministries as an "approved agency."
12. That the 39th General Assembly approve its recommendation to refer the matter of the Michigan chapter of Bethany Christian Services (BCS) to the Permanent Committee on Theology for review in light of the EPC Position Papers on Abortion and Human Sexuality.
13. That the 39th General Assembly adopt the Minutes of the 38th General Assembly.
14. That the 39th General Assembly refer to the Permanent Committee on Theology for study how the EPC can be more sensitive to the needs of the disabled.

Work of the Committee in 2018-2019:

Executive Transitions

This General Assembly marks the beginning of a leadership transition in the Office of the General Assembly. Chief Operating Officer Phil Van Valkenburg will depart June 30, 2019. Director of World Outreach Phil Linton and Stated Clerk Jeff Jeremiah are scheduled to retire June 30, 2021. Aware of these impending departures, the NLT at its August 2018 meeting began addressing how to produce the best possible transition for each position.

Chief Operating Officer

The NLT decided that as of July 1, 2019, the COO position will not be filled. Factors contributing to this decision include: 1) the outstanding staff reports the COO hired, 2) the major projects the COO implemented from 2013-2019 have been completed, and 3) budget considerations. A six-month trial of this staffing arrangement will take place. The Stated Clerk will conduct an evaluation in December 2019, and make a report with recommendations to the NLT at its January 2020 meeting.

Director of World Outreach

Anticipating a search for the Director's successor in 2020-2021, the NLT concluded that 2019-2020 presented an excellent opportunity for a review and evaluation of EPC World Outreach. The NLT appointed a "World Outreach Evaluation Team," which includes TE Betsy Rumer (Presbytery of the Alleghenies), RE Brad Gill (Presbytery of the Midwest), RE Johnny Long (Presbytery of the West), TE Kevin Cauley (Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic),

and RE Alan Johnson (Presbytery of the West). RE Rob Liddon (Presbytery of the Central South) of the NLT will lead this Team.

Stated Clerk

When Dr. Jeremiah was re-elected to a fifth three-year term in 2018, it was announced that this would be his final term. The NLT has prayerfully and repeatedly considered the best way to accomplish a good transition. It has decided that the goal is for the Stated Clerk's successor to be elected by the 40th General Assembly (2020), a year before the current Stated Clerk departs in 2021. While a twelve-month "overlap" of the two Stated Clerks is not considered necessary, this goal would provide much more planning flexibility. Following past EPC practice, the NLT also decided that every presbytery would be represented on the search committee. There are currently 14 presbyteries in the EPC. "Working back" from a June 2020 election of the next Stated Clerk, the NLT concluded that this search committee needed to commence its work as soon as possible after the 39th General Assembly (2019) acts on the NLT recommendation that the Assembly instruct the Moderator to appoint a Stated Clerk Search Committee.

Financial Development

Since 2016, the NLT has committed to encouraging all EPC churches to support Per Member Asking (PMA), the primary source of revenue that funds the General Assembly budget. As a point of reference, in 2016 giving to PMA hit an historic low of 61%. That is, giving was only 61% of the amount that would be given if every church gave 100% of its PMA.

By strongly promoting financial support, giving as a percentage of total PMA giving climbed in subsequent years:

2015	61%
2016	69%
2017	73%

At the 38th General Assembly in 2018, the Assembly approved a budget for FY 2019 (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019) based on PMA giving of \$2,550,000, a 3% increase in PMA (73% to 76%) over the previous year.

Through May 2019, giving to PMA was off by 4% (\$92,000) from the previous year. The current projected PMA for this year is \$2,418,000. The proposed FY 2020 budget that you will act on at Cherry Creek reflects these facts. The proposed budget can be viewed at www.epc.org/files/ga2019document-fy20192020budget. The Annual Ministry Report that summarizes past year results and tells how the new budget will be put to work can be viewed at www.epc.org/files/annualministryreport20192020.

Since 2017, the NLT has repeatedly wrestled with how to promote giving to the national level of our denomination. A number of proposals have been considered. In April, the NLT decided it needed input from our churches, focusing on those churches who have a record of strong support for Per Member Asking. It is for this reason that the NLT has recommended that the Assembly instruct the Moderator to appoint a small group to study the financial support challenge the EPC faces.

Oversight of the EPC Mission and Vision

The National Leadership Team is committed to knowing and promoting the mind of Christ for the 600+ churches that make up the EPC in the United States, the Bahamas, and Puerto Rico. After the devotional and opening prayer, at each face-to-face meeting the NLT immediately reviews and confirms the EPC statements of mission and vision.

Mission: We exist to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus as Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical, and Missional congregations.

Vision: To the glory of God, the EPC aspires to be a global movement of congregations embodying Jesus' love to our neighbors near and far, engaged together in God's mission through transformation, multiplication, and effective biblical leadership.

At its October and April meetings, the NLT focuses on the business of the EPC that it needs to address. The August and January meetings are more strategic. The NLT reviews and evaluates more closely the four features of the EPC mission statement and the four strategic initiatives (which the NLT renamed as "strategic priorities" in April 2019) of the EPC vision statement.

Strategic Priorities

The statement of vision includes our four strategic priorities: 1) transformation (church revitalization), multiplication (church planting), effective biblical leadership, and global movement (World Outreach and fraternal relations).

As part of its oversight responsibility, in the past year the NLT invited the leaders of each priority to address and take questions from the NLT: Tom Ricks (church planting), Ken Priddy (church revitalization), Phil Linton (global movement—World Outreach), Jeff Jeremiah (global movement—fraternal relations), and Jerry Iamurri (effective biblical leadership).

Proposed Expansion of the NLT

The predecessor of the NLT was the Committee on Administration. Since 1994, the Committee on Administration has consisted of 13 members: three classes of three (nine members), the three General Assembly Moderators (the Moderator-elect, Moderator, and NLT Chairman [past-Moderator]), and the Stated Clerk. This structure served the EPC well when it had eight presbyteries. The number of presbyteries began to grow in 2010 so that

today there are 14. The NLT concluded that in order to increase presbytery representation, the NLT should expand by three members. If approved, this increase would be accomplished by expanding the three classes of three to three classes of four, which is the recommendation to the 39th General Assembly.

Amendment to the Book of Government

Since 1985, when the Fifth General Assembly approved the Permanent Judicial Commission's ruling that the office of "Co-Pastor" is "non-existent," it has been the official position of the EPC that this office is prohibited. However, this position is not explicitly declared in the *Book of Government*. A number of EPC churches that came from another denomination in the past ten years were familiar with or had used the "co-pastor" model in their past. Some of these churches have questioned the "constitutionality" of the prohibition of co-pastor. The NLT recommended amendment to the *Book of Government* makes explicit constitutionally the position of the EPC since 1985.

Rules for Assembly

Rules for Assembly is the "organizing document" of the EPC. It includes what is to happen at each meeting of the General Assembly, as well as the EPC committee structure and work of the General Assembly between annual meetings. Because the 2/3 majority of enrolled commissioners could not be met at the 38th General Assembly in 2018, a number of proposed amendments to *Rules for Assembly* were not addressed. By NLT action, these 2018 amendments have been presented to the 39th General Assembly, along with proposed 2019 amendments.

Respectfully submitted,



Dean Weaver
Chairman

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-nlt



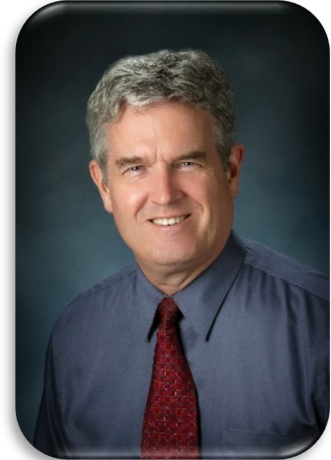
EPC

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

COMMITTEE REPORT

Stated Clerk

Report to the 39th General Assembly



*Jeff Jeremiah
Stated Clerk*

“The EPC is my church.”

Since 2012, when I’m asked, “What is your church?” or “Where do you worship?” I reply, “The EPC is my church.” That’s because your outpouring of prayer, emails, cards, and flowers in the aftermath of Cindy’s stroke in July of that year was overwhelming and connected me to you in a new and richer way. In the aftermath of Cindy’s second stroke on April 14, you once again showered us with expressions of love, encouragement, intercession, and hope. There is still progress to be accomplished, but we are hopeful. Thank you for your continued prayers for her complete recovery. The following are highlights from the last year.

Andrew Brunson

In my thirteen years as Stated Clerk, no date is more significant than October 12, 2018. That was the day that Andrew Brunson was released and allowed to depart Turkey for the United States. As we celebrate with Andrew, Norine, and their family at our General Assembly, I want to express my praise to the Lord and appreciation for the prayer and advocacy support that was mobilized on behalf of Andrew in our denomination. And you weren’t done after Andrew was released. Thanks to your financial generosity, a one-year term as “Missionary in Residence” at Christ Community Church in Montreat, North Carolina (the Brunsons’ home church) was funded. This has allowed Andrew and Norine to rest, recover, reconnect, and focus on what the Lord would have next for them.

Oversight of Strategic Priorities

The four strategic priorities embedded in our vision statement are:

- 1) Church Planting (“multiplication”),
- 2) Church Revitalization (“transformation”),
- 3) World Outreach and Fraternal Relations (“global movement”), and
- 4) Effective Biblical Leadership.

In the Office of the General Assembly, Jerry Iamurri and I split oversight responsibilities of these priorities. I have enjoyed a great working relationship with Tom Ricks, Church Planting Team leader, and Ken Priddy, Church Revitalization (GO Center) Team Leader, for more than five years. Director of World Outreach Phil Linton reports to Jerry Iamurri. The Fraternal Relations Committee is resourced by me. Jerry oversees Effective Biblical Leadership, which includes the annual Leadership Institute during GA week, and the Ministerial Vocation Committee. Another element of this priority is networking groups. These groups include Presbytery Stated Clerks, Presbytery Ministerial and Candidates Committee chairs, as well as local church leadership groups.

Protection of the EPC

Three roles (Protect, Promote, and Provide) are one way I think about my ministry as Stated Clerk. Other reports in this Handbook address Promote and Provide. There are two Protection items to call to your attention.

1. Clergy housing allowance

On March 15, 2019, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a 2017 lower court ruling and affirmed that the ministerial housing allowance is constitutional. If appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, it is unlikely to be taken up due to unanimous decision in the Seventh. A previous challenge to the housing allowance was rejected in 2014 on jurisdictional grounds. This time, the Circuit panel found that the housing allowance does not violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. It noted that the housing allowance has been in place for decades, and is parallel to housing allowances for some non-religious vocations.

The Freedom from Religion Foundation (FFRF), an atheist group that brought the original suit, said it is considering a rehearing to the full Seventh Circuit or an appeal to the Supreme Court.

According to the congressional Joint Committee on Taxation, the housing allowance saves ministers an estimated \$700 million per year in taxes.

2. Impact of the U.S. Supreme Court legalizing same-sex marriage

In his dissent to *Obergefell v. Hodges* which legalized homosexual marriage, Associate Justice Samuel Alito warned against the way this decision threatens religious liberty: “It will be used to vilify Americans who are unwilling to assent to the new orthodoxy. In the course of its opinion, the majority compares traditional marriage laws to laws that denied equal treatment for African-Americans and women...The implications of this analogy will be exploited by those who are determined to stamp out every vestige of dissent.”

For one EPC pastor, Alito’s warning recently became a reality.

Tom Ricks, Lead Pastor of Greentree Community Church in Kirkwood, Missouri, ran for a seat on the local school board this spring. A few days before the election, Tom sent me this note:

I expected some blow back from being a pastor and being evangelical, but the last few days have been a bit of a jolt, much more than I anticipated.

A former CNN reporter and local social media person got ahold of a pastoral letter I wrote to GTCC folks back in 2016 on human sexuality. The goal of my letter was two-fold. First, to lay out what Scripture says about God’s design for how we express our sexuality in the context of marriage between a man and a woman. Second, I was calling all of us out on how we can be judgmental, self-righteous, or even hypocritical when it comes to this topic. I admonished our congregation to love all equally and treat everyone with respect and care.

I don’t have to tell you which of the two aspects of my letter the person highlighted in his attack on me. This has been picked up on social media, and while many folks in Kirkwood don’t spend their day on Twitter or Facebook it has taken on a life of its own. I’m a “queer hater” and “bigot,” and “children in our schools won’t be safe if Tom Ricks is elected to the school board.”

In the April 2 election, Tom placed third among three candidates.

Churches in Transition

As Baby Boomers move into retirement, more and more of our churches are engaging in searches for pastors. In my experience since 2006, search committees that “go it alone”—resisting any outside help or counsel—are much more likely to regret the results of their work. Unlike other denominations, in the EPC the Ministerial Committee does not direct the work of a search committee. Representatives from the Ministerial Committee are there to offer guidance and support. My office always is available to offer counsel founded on our collective wisdom and experience in working with many churches across the years. Our

goal is always to help any EPC church find the individual who will lead their church into the best possible future the Lord Jesus has for it.

Change in Reporting Relationships

Phil Van Valkenburg will retire as Chief Operating Officer (COO) on June 30, 2019 (please see below for my Appreciation). At its April meeting, The National Leadership Team decided to leave the COO position vacant. One factor in their decision is the fact that Phil hired outstanding reports. In the absence of a COO, Pat Coelho (Director of Finance and Administration), Bart Francescone (Executive Director of BRI), and Brian Smith (Director of Communications) will now report to me. This arrangement will be evaluated by the NLT at its January 2020 meeting. I am very confident that this arrangement will be successful because of the excellence that Pat, Bart, and Brian bring to their work, as well as their desire for this to succeed.

Appreciation for Phil Van Valkenburg



I often reflect on the changes that have happened in the EPC since I became Stated Clerk in 2006. However, as Phil Van Valkenburg departs as Chief Operating Officer, I'm impressed by how much the Office of the General Assembly has changed since he took this position in 2014.

Phil had come on staff in 2013 as Director of Benefits. As the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was being implemented, we assumed that the ACA would force us to shut down the EPC medical plan. The plan was for Phil to close down the medical plan and then become the Chief Operating Officer. The COO position was one the Committee on Administration (the predecessor to the National Leadership Team) concluded was needed in 2011. When it was clear the medical plan would not be forced to close (and has even prospered), Phil became COO in 2014 and a new Director of Benefits was hired.

When Phil became COO, the immediate benefit I enjoyed was that I was no longer responsible for the day-to-day operations of the OGA. However, that was just the beginning of the blessing it has been for me to work closely (if mostly at a distance) with a colleague and good friend at the national level of the EPC.

A distinguishing feature of Phil's impact and legacy is the projects he led that transformed the processes and systems of the OGA. The key result of these projects: the OGA effectively serves 14 presbyteries, more than 600 churches, and more than 145,000 members with approximately the same number of staff the Office had when I became Stated Clerk in 2006. In that year, the EPC had 8 presbyteries, 180 churches, and 75,000 members.

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Yet the key project Phil led was the re-location of the OGA from Livonia, Michigan, to Orlando, Florida. He handled the relocation of staff who moved to Florida, a relatively easy task. He handled the separation of those staff who turned down the invitation to relocate, which was not easy. He also directed all aspects of the physical move. Many whose vocational backgrounds include relocations told me they didn't think this relocation could have gone any better.

Another marker of Phil's impact is the upgrade he brought to the hiring process. While in Michigan, he hired Brian Smith, Director of Communications, and Pat Coelho, Director of Finance and Administration. In the space of four weeks in the late summer of 2016, he hired no less than ten staff for the OGA while overseeing the final phases of the physical relocation to Orlando. Those staff include who date their time with us include Marti Brenner, my Executive Assistant and Office Manager, and Zenaida Bermudez, Jerry Iamurri's Executive Assistant.

As Phil departs and returns to St. Louis with Becky after six years of outstanding service, he will certainly be missed. However, he will not be forgotten because those of us who serve in the Office of the General Assembly will continue to feel his impact each working day.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Jeremiah
Stated Clerk

June 2019

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-statedclerk

www.epc.org/files/2018acr
www.epc.org/files/2019ministryreport



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COMMITTEE REPORT



EPC

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SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS
(Communications, Overtures, and Recommendations)

- 39-01 The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **APPROVE** the formation of the Stated Clerk Search Committee, to be appointed by the Moderator. (p. 37)
- 39-02 The Nominating Committee** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **ELECT** Case Thorp as Moderator and Glenn Meyers as Moderator-Elect. (p. 39)
- 39-03 The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **ADOPT** its proposal to amend *Rules for Assembly* 15-1 in order to amend or suspend only by 2/3 vote of the Commissioners. (p. 43)
- 39-04 The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **APPROVE** amending *Rules for Assembly* by adding two Standing Committees: 1) Church Planting, and 2) Church Revitalization. (p. 45)
- 39-05 The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **APPROVE** the deletion of the Church Planting and Revitalization Permanent Committee from *Rules for Assembly*. (p. 47)
- 39-06 The Chaplains Work and Care Committee** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **ADOPT** its proposal to amend *Rules for Assembly* which would increase the membership by three (3). (p. 49)
- 39-07 The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **APPROVE** an amendment to *Rules for Assembly* that would increase the size of the NLT from 13 to 16 members. (p. 51)
- 39-08 The Nominating Committee** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **ELECT** the slate of nominees for the 39th General Assembly Permanent Committees. (p. 53)
- 39-09 The Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest OVERTURES** the 39th General Assembly to amend *Book of Government* 1-2C, which addresses the examination of candidates for ordination. (p. 55)
The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 39th General Assembly **ADOPT** the Overture of the Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest marked for identification as 39-09 (p. 56)

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS – (Cont.)

- 39-10 The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **APPROVE** an amendment to *Book of Government* 9-5 that would make explicit that the office of “co-pastor” is not constitutional. (p. 57)
The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 39th General Assembly **ADOPT** the recommendation of the National Leadership Team marked for identification as 39-10 (p. 59)
- 39-11 The Permanent Judicial Commission** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **NOT ADOPT** the Overture of the Presbytery of the East, marked for identification as 39-12. (p. 61)
- 39-12 The Presbytery of the East OVERTURES** the 39th General Assembly to **AMEND** *Book of Government* 19-2, which addresses the election of Ruling Elders to presbytery leadership positions. (p. 62)
- 39-13 The Permanent Judicial Commission** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **DISMISS** the complaint presented by FKPCV due to lack of standing under EPC *Book of Discipline* 14-2B.2. (p. 63)
- 39-14 The Permanent Judicial Commission** recommends that the 39th General Assembly ratify the decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission to refer the disciplinary charges against officers of First Korean Presbyterian Church of Virginia. The Permanent Judicial Commission holds that it is not the proper court of original jurisdiction as defined at *Book of Discipline* 4-1 and based on the decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission to not assume jurisdiction under *Book of Discipline* 4-3, the disciplinary charges must be remanded to the Presbytery of the East. (p. 63)
- 39-15 The Benefit Resources, Inc. Board of Directors** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **APPROVE** ordained ministers drawing retirement income from the EPC 403(b)(9) Defined Contribution Retirement Plan 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. (p. 65)

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS – (Cont.)

- 39-16 The Fraternal Relations Committee** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **APPROVE** its recommendation that the EPC maintain its relationship with the Presbyterian Church of Ghana (PCG) through its membership in the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC). (p. 67)
- 39-17 The Fraternal Relations Committee** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **APPROVE** the continuation of its conversation with the leadership of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland about the possibility of a fraternal relationship. (p. 67)
- 39-18 The Fraternal Relations Committee** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **AMEND** the *Rules for Assembly* to reduce the number of ex-officio members of the committee. (p. 67)
- 39-19 The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **ADOPT** the FY 2020 Administration budget. (p. 69)
- 39-20 The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **ADOPT** the FY 2020 Special Projects. (p. 69)
- 39-21 The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **APPROVE** the Moderator to appoint an ad interim committee composed of five REs or TEs from diverse, strongly-supporting churches across multiple presbyteries to address how to improve our churches' long-term culture of giving to the EPC. (p. 71)
- 39-22 The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **APPROVE** an amendment to *Rules for Assembly* that would revise and update the functions of the National Leadership Team. (p. 72)
- 39-23 The Next Generation Ministries Council** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **ENCOURAGE** each presbytery in creation of Next Generation Networks for children, youth, and college workers in collaboration with the Next Generation Ministries Council. (p. 75)
- 39-24 The World Outreach Committee** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **APPROVE** SAT-7 as an Approved Mission Agency. (p. 77)
- 39-25 The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **APPROVE** Third Millennium Ministries as an “approved agency.” (p. 79)

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS – (Cont.)

- 39-26 The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **APPROVE** its recommendation to refer the matter of the Michigan chapter of Bethany Christian Services (BCS) to the Permanent Committee on Theology to review in light of the EPC Position Papers on Abortion and Human Sexuality. (p. 79)
- 39-27 Hope Presbyterian Church in Cordova, Tennessee, INVITES** the 39th General Assembly of the EPC to hold the 40th General Assembly on its campus. (p. 81)
- 39-28 The Nominating Committee** [this item intentionally left blank]
- 39-29 The Nominating Committee** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **ADOPT** an amendment to *Rules for Assembly* that would allow for more flexibility in the Moderator's nomination of members to the Committee. (p. 83)
- 39-30 The Presbytery Review Committee** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **ADOPT** an amendment to *Rules for Assembly* that increase the membership of the Committee. (p. 85)
- 39-31 The Presbytery Review Committee** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **APPROVE** the minutes of the EPC presbyteries with eight exceptions requiring responses by December 31, 2019. (p. 85)
- 39-32 The Presbytery Review Committee** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **APPROVE** the responses of the Presbyteries (Attachments PRC-A through PRC-J) to exceptions issued by the 38th General Assembly. (p. 89)
- 39-33 The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **ADOPT** the Minutes of the 38th General Assembly (this 402-page document is available at www.epc.org/files/ga2018minutes). (p. 91)
- 39-34 The Moderator of the 38th General Assembly** recommends that the 39th General Assembly **APPROVE** the 2019-2020 Chairman for the BRI Board of Directors, a slate of nominees to fill vacancies on the Permanent Nominating Committee, and the 2019-2022 Chaplain Endorser. (p. 93)
- 39-35 The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 39th General Assembly refer to the Permanent Committee on Theology for study how the EPC can be more sensitive to the needs of the disabled. The Permanent Committee on Theology will make a report with recommendation(s) to the 40th General Assembly (2020).



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For information, Descending Overture 18-A proposing to amend *Book of Government* 9-11 concerning the ministry of the Commissioned Pastor, was not approved by our presbyteries.

The vote was 6 – yes; 7 – no; 1 – no response.



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GA39-01
FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Recommendation:

That the 39th General Assembly **APPROVE** the formation of the Stated Clerk Search Committee to be appointed by the Moderator.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-nlt

Referred to FLOOR



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GA39-02
MODERATOR AND MODERATOR-ELECT

Referred to FLOOR

Moderator Nominee – TE Case Thorp



The **Rev. Dr. Case Thorp** is the Senior Associate Pastor for Evangelism at First Presbyterian Church of Orlando where he founded and leads *The Collaborative for Cultural and Economic Renewal*, a faith, work, economics outreach to the city. In similar fashion, Case serves as a city network leader for the *Made to Flourish Network*, a faith & work network for pastors.

Case's teaching ministry includes The Gotham Fellowship, the entire Biblical narrative, and The Orlando Fellows Initiative, which he brought to Orlando. He serves as adjunct faculty for Palm Beach Atlantic University and Reformed Theological Seminary. His writings have been published in the Wall Street Journal, and is a regular contributor to *The Green Room Blog* and Orlando Sentinel. Read more at www.casethorp.com.

Dr. Thorp has preached internationally from Madagascar to Tajikistan to Brazil drawing upon his upbringing in the American Camp Meeting tradition. He is a trustee and “tent” owner at Salem Camp Ground, just east of Atlanta. Additionally, he assisted with the founding of IDignity, a social enterprise that assists the poor with obtaining essential government identification.

Originally from Atlanta, educational stops along the way have included Oxford College (AA), Emory University (BA), Princeton Theological Seminary (MDIV), and Fuller Theological Seminary (DMin in Missional Ecclesiology). He began in pastoral ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Baton Rouge (EPC).

Case is married to Jodi, a deacon, and they have three beautiful children, Alexandra (13), Charles (11), and Brooks (6).



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GA39-02 (CONT.)
MODERATOR AND MODERATOR-ELECT

Moderator-Elect Nominee
RE Glenn Meyers



RE Glenn Meyers
Nominee for Moderator-Elect
40th General Assembly

Glenn E. Meyers serves as Commissioned Pastor of Ardara Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Ardara, Pennsylvania. An ordained Ruling Elder, Glenn has been honored to oversee the revitalization of the vibrant, 120-member congregation in which he grew up.

“From nearly closing to a now-vital gospel ministry, God has done a great work among us,” Glenn says. “I am grateful to the pastors, elders, deacons, and church family members who have held the church in trust for future generations while seeking the will of God in the present. We intend to do the same.”

A graduate of Norwin Senior High School in North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, Glenn went on to study Organizational Behavior at Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. More recently, he attended Reformed Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (RPTS) before being called to his current position. Prior to becoming a Commissioned Pastor, Glenn spent more than 20 years as a Habilitation Therapist and the owner/operator of Habilis Learning Consultants.

“My work with and for adults and children with developmental delays and mental health challenges has been a blessing of profound preparation,” he notes.

Raised by his mother and grandmother in a loving home, Glenn says he was “blessed by the

many men of the church who cared for, encouraged, and mentored me along the way.”

An inseparable ministry team, Glenn and his wife, Heather (the part-time church secretary and full-time mother and grandmother) have six children and seven—and counting—grandchildren. All of their children, who range in age from 13 to 31, have professed faith in Christ and are currently working out their salvation and their individual callings.

Glenn’s many diverse opportunities include serving as manager of the Pittsburgh Children’s Museum, performing as an actor, and working as a children’s librarian. He is an Eagle Scout and has toured with a choir through Europe. He enjoys travel, new food experiences, music, the theater, and art.

“God wastes no experiences,” he says. “I am blessed to be part of a church and family in which my very faithful God has begun a good work. With every new opportunity presented by the hand of God, my deepest desire is to honor Him. I am very blessed to be asked to serve Christ’s Church to the Glory of my Father.”

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-nominatingcommittee



EPC

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GA 39-03
FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Recommendation

That the 39th General Assembly approve to amend *Rules for Assembly* 15-1 in order to amend or suspend only by 2/3 vote of the Commissioners present.

Current Rules for Assembly 15-1	Proposed Rules for Assembly 15-1 amendment Additions in <i>bold italics</i>
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.	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 <i>total enrollment of the</i> Commissioners. A motion to amend is debatable. A motion to suspend is not debatable.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-nlt

Referred to FLOOR



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GA39-04
FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Recommendation:

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 39th General Assembly amend *Rules for Assembly* divide the current Church Planting and Revitalization Committee standing committee into two committees: 1) Church Planting and 2) Church Revitalization.

Current IX. Standing Committees 9-1C.	Proposed IX. Standing Committees 9-1C. and D. (proposed amendment in <i>bold italics</i>)
C. Church Planting and Revitalization – concerning evangelism, church planting, and church revitalization.	<i>C. Church Planting – concerning evangelism and church planting.</i> <i>D. Church Revitalization – concerning church revitalization</i> (subsequent standing committees would be re-lettered)

Rationale: Church planting and church revitalization are two important and separate strategic priorities of the EPC. It is appropriate that the Church Planting Team report to a standing committee focused on church planting and that the Church Revitalization GO Center report to a standing committee focused on church revitalization.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-nlt

Referred to FLOOR



EPC

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

GA39-05
FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Recommendation:

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 39th General Assembly **ADOPT** the deletion of the Permanent Church Planting and Revitalization Committee in *Rules for Assembly*. (In 2018, this recommendation was presented by the Permanent Church Planting and Revitalization Committee to the 38th General Assembly for action. Due to the lack of commissioners present for the vote, it could not be considered.

Current Rules for Assembly X.10-1C.	Proposed Rules for Assembly X.10-1A (proposed amendment is a deletion)
<p>C. Committee on Church Planting and Revitalization.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Membership to be three. Chairman is to be elected by committee. 2. Duties: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To coordinate, encourage and provide resources for church planting, evangelism, and church development efforts of presbyteries and churches. b. To coordinate, encourage, develop and provide resources for church revitalization efforts of presbyteries and churches. 	<p>C. Committee on Church Planting and Revitalization.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Membership to be three. Chairman is to be elected by committee. 2. Duties: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To coordinate, encourage and provide resources for church planting, evangelism, and church development efforts of presbyteries and churches. b. To coordinate, encourage, develop provide resources for church revitalization efforts of presbyteries and churches.

Rationale:

Since 2009 the Church Planting and Revitalization Committee (CP&R), known then as the National Outreach Committee, fulfilled these duties primarily by supporting and resourcing the church development ministry of our presbyteries. This ministry is led by the chairs of our presbytery church development committees. The National Outreach Committee (NOC) hosted the presbytery church development chairs twice a year in the General Assembly Office. At these meetings successes and struggles in church planting and church revitalization were shared as well as best practices and other lessons

learned. The role of (NOC) in these meetings was to listen, encourage and explore how NOC help, given the limited funds at its disposal.

Responding to a request by those chairs for help with church planting in 2012, the NOC was instrumental in launching the Church Planting Team, led by Tom Ricks. Responding to a request for help with church revitalization in 2013, the CP&R launched the Church Revitalization Team (now known as the Go Center), led by Ken Priddy.

The NOC served the church development efforts of our presbyteries by launching these teams, it was also the platform from which the Church Planting Team and Church Revitalization Team (Go Center) grew in its impact in their respective areas in the EPC. One result of this “Team approach” has been the creation of networks that have improved the effectiveness of our presbyteries in their church planting and church revitalization work. With seven percent of our churches church plants, we are a church planting movement. Over 200 churches have been exposed to church revitalization seminars, with more than 70 pursuing church revitalization.

The 37th General Assembly (2017) signaled its support for the ongoing work of this team approach to church planting and church revitalization by inserting these ministries into its annual budget. With the success of these Teams and their tie to the Office of the General Assembly through the EPC budget, the Church Planting and Revitalization Committee believes a permanent committee to oversee these network ministries is superfluous and no longer necessary.

If approved by the 39th General Assembly (2019), this section of *Rules for Assembly* would be deleted. Reference to this committee in other sections of *Rules* would also be deleted (ie, *Rules* 10-1.A.3.a.1, where the committee is listed as one of those for which the National Leadership Team has administrative oversight).

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-nlt

Referred to FLOOR

GA39-06
FROM THE CHAPLAINS WORK AND CARE COMMITTEE

Recommendation:

That the 39th General Assembly revise the language for *Rules for Assembly X 10-aL. 1*, increasing the number of committee members. (formerly **38-13**)

The Chaplains Work and Care Committee asks for the following revision:

Current Rules for Assembly X 10-1L.1	Proposed Rules for Assembly X 10-1L.1 Additions in <i>bold italics</i>
Membership: The Committee shall consist of six members, including at least three members with experience as Chaplains and at least two Ruling Elders.	Membership: The Committee shall consist of six <i>nine</i> members, including at least three <i>five</i> members with experience as Chaplains and at least two <i>three</i> Ruling Elders- <i>as nominations allow.</i>

Rationale:

Due to the rapidly growing number of chaplains being added to the rosters and the subsequent and significant increase in workload, the number of chaplain contacts for each CWCC member has grown, as well as the contact and support responsibility of the Endorser. With this continuing increase and the number of chaplain applicants already in process and more in the wings, it was proposed by the Chaplain Endorser and concurred by the Assistant Stated Clerk and CWCC, to increase the Committee membership by 50% (three additional), bringing the CWCC to nine members. Three new members have been nominated, however nominations did not include an additional RE member as no RE nominations were received. We plan to address this as future members come on board. Some of these nominations also come from Presbyteries that were not yet represented in the Committee, thus providing more balance. Pending approval at GA, these nominees will become fully active in CWCC meetings following the 39th General Assembly. The nominees are: TE Jennifer Prechter, Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean, TE Brad Yorton, Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest, and TE Greg Holman, Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-chaplainsworkandcarecommittee
Referred to FLOOR



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GA39-07
FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 39th General Assembly **APPROVE** an amendment to “Rules for Assembly” that would increase the size of the NLT from 13 to 16 members.

Current Rules for Assembly X.10-1A	Proposed Rules for Assembly X.10-1A (proposed amendment in <i>bold italics</i>)
<p>10-1 The ministries of the Assembly shall be conducted primarily through permanent committees and the Permanent Judicial Commission, to wit:</p> <p>A. National Leadership Team</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chaired by the immediate past Moderator. 2. Committee Membership: Moderator, Moderator-elect, Stated Clerk, immediate past Moderator, and nine elected members. 	<p>10-1 The ministries of the Assembly shall be conducted primarily through permanent committees and the Permanent Judicial Commission, to wit:</p> <p>A. National Leadership Team</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chaired by the immediate past Moderator. 2. Committee Membership: Moderator, Moderator-elect, Stated Clerk, immediate past Moderator, and nine <i>twelve</i> elected members.

Rationale:

Since 1994, the Committee on Administration (the predecessor to the NLT) has consisted of 13 members: three classes of three (nine members), the three General Assembly Moderators (currently, the Moderator-elect, Moderator and NLT Chairman [past-Moderator]) and the Stated Clerk. This structure served the EPC well as long as there were eight presbyteries. The number of presbyteries began to grow in 2010 so that today there are 14. The NLT makes this recommendation to increase presbytery representation. If approved, this increase will be accomplished by expanding the three classes of three to three classes of four.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-nlt

Referred to FLOOR



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GA39-08**SLATE OF NOMINATIONS – PERMANENT COMMITTEES AND BOARDS**

*(Note: ^means second term; *means pending Session or Presbytery endorsement)*

Benefit Resources, Inc., Board of Directors

Class of 2022	RE Bush, Michael [^]	Alleghenies
Class of 2022	RE Lewien, Jim	West
Class of 2022	RE Siegfried, Sandy	Great Plains

Chaplains Work and Care Committee

Class of 2022	RE Alexander, Bruce [^]	East
Class of 2022	TE Foster, Timothy [^]	Central South
Class of 2022	TE Holman, Glen	Mid-Atlantic
Class of 2021	TE Prechter, Jennifer	Florida and the Caribbean
Class of 2020	TE Yorton, Brad	Pacific Northwest

Generosity Resources Committee

Class of 2022	TE Porter, Jeff	Mid-Atlantic
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Fraternal Relations Committee

Class of 2022	RE Harmon, Jerry [^]	Central South
Class of 2020	TE Pallikkathayil, Joe	Mid-America
Class of 2022	TE Trafford, Alan	Gulf South

Ministerial Vocation Committee

Class of 2022	TE Lian, Fred	West
Class of 2022	RE Rotella, Frank [^]	East

National Leadership Team

Class of 2020	RE Arnold, Gerry	Gulf South
Class of 2022	RE Danusiar, Chris [^]	Rivers and Lakes
Class of 2022	RE Evans, Brian	Midwest
Class of 2021	TE Garretson, Brett	West
Class of 2022	RE Lineberry, Duke	Mid-Atlantic
Class of 2020	TE Strunk, Dave	Southeast
Class of 2022	TE Whitlock, Luder [^]	Florida and the Caribbean

Next Generation Ministries Council

Class of 2022	Burkholder, Jen [^]	Alleghenies
Class of 2022	Daniel, Martha [^]	Alleghenies

Nominating Committee

Class of 2022	RE Adamson, John [^]	Central South
Class of 2022	RE Altmyer, Brian [^]	Alleghenies
Class of 2022	RE Beck, Henry	Gulf South
Class of 2022	RE Bole, Jan [^]	West
Class of 2021	TE Dudley Bill	Southeast
Class of 2022	RE Smith, Alan [^]	East

GA39-08 (CONT.)

Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2022	TE Dakin, George [^]	Pacific Northwest
Class of 2022	TE Ellison, Neil [^]	Mid-Atlantic
Class of 2022	RE Harms, Don	Midwest

Presbytery Review Committee

Class of 2022	RE Connor, Jim	Mid-Atlantic
Class of 2022	TE King, George	Gulf South
Class of 2021	TE O'Keefe, Gary	Midwest

Theology Committee

Class of 2022	RE Miller, Gordon	Mid-Atlantic
Class of 2022	RE Moody, John [^]	Great Plains

Women's Resource Council

Class of 2022	Clymer, Kathy	Mid-Atlantic
Class of 2022	RE Duval, Rebecca	Pacific Southwest
Class of 2020	Marcy, Kathleen [^]	Rivers and Lakes
Class of 2022	Sinclair, Kim [^]	Midwest

World Outreach Committee

Class of 2021	RE Lear, Susan	Great Plains
Class of 2022	RE Long, Johnny	West
Class of 2022	Van Valkenburg, David	West

STANDING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Standing Committee assignments are made by the Nominating Committee from those Commissioners who have completed the registration process (program registration for the General Assembly and certification of Ruling Elder Commissioners by their Clerk of Session) by May 31. **These pages will be posted on www.epc.org/ga2019documents following the Nominating Committee's June meeting.**

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-nominatingcommittee

Referred to FLOOR

**GA39-09
OVERTURE**

The Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest respectfully overtures the 39th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to amend **G. 11-2C**, accordingly:

Current G. 11-2C	Proposed G. 11-2C Amendment Additions in <i>bold italics</i>
The Presbytery shall make public examination of the Candidate as to Christian experience and growth, the motive for seeking ordination, and a statement regarding the person's call to the Ministry.	The Presbytery shall make public examination of the Candidate as to Christian experience and growth, the motive for seeking ordination <i>by a Presbytery of the EPC</i> , and a statement regarding the person's call to the Ministry.

Whereas a Candidate for ordination is expected to experience both an “inward call” to the ministry per se as well as an external call to a specific church or agency [BoG 10-1], and

Whereas there are many Christian churches and agencies with a wide range of theology and polity who offer such calls, and

Whereas some who come seeking ordination in the EPC have been previously ordained in non-reformed bodies or unaffiliated churches, and

Whereas even within the bodies of churches and agencies that call themselves Presbyterian and reformed there are significant differences of belief and practice;

Therefore, it is necessary that the presbytery, when considering a candidate to come under its care to prepare for ministry in a church or agency of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, carefully consider the candidate's motivation to not only be an ordained Teaching Elder, but also to be a part of the EPC.

Referred to MINISTERIAL VOCATION



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***GA39-09 (Cont.)
FROM THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION***

Recommendation:

Permanent Judicial Commission Recommends that the 39th General Assembly **APPROVE** the Overture GA39-09.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-pjc



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GA39-10
FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 39th General Assembly **APPROVE** an amendment to *Book of Government* 9-5A.1 making explicit that the office of “co-pastor” is not constitutional.

Current G. 9-5A.1	Proposed G. 9-5A.1 (proposed amendment is in <i>bold italics</i>)
<p>Within the office of Teaching Elder there are a variety of callings that require ordination. God distributes to each gifts according to the common needs of the Church. These include:</p> <p>A. Pastor</p> <p>1. Titles</p> <p>A Teaching Elder may be called by a congregation to be a Pastor or Associate Pastor. Sessions may call a Teaching Elder as Assistant Pastor, Transitional Pastor, or invite a Teaching Elder as Stated Supply Pastor, or Occasional Supply Pastor. Presbytery must approve all such positions. These are the only recognized callings for Teaching Elders in a congregational setting.</p>	<p>Within the office of Teaching Elder there are a variety of callings that require ordination. God distributes to each gifts according to the common needs of the Church. These include:</p> <p>A. Pastor</p> <p>1. Titles</p> <p>A Teaching Elder may be called by a congregation to be a Pastor or Associate Pastor. Sessions may call a Teaching Elder as Assistant Pastor, Transitional Pastor, or invite a Teaching Elder as Stated Supply Pastor, or Occasional Supply Pastor. Presbytery must approve all such positions. These are the only recognized callings for Teaching Elders in a congregational setting. <i>The office of the “co-pastor” is not a constitutionally recognized calling in a local church. Except as otherwise provided in the Book of Government, the Pastor of the church shall be the Moderator of Session.</i></p>

Rationale:

The Fifth General Assembly (1985) “sustained the Permanent Judicial Commission’s opinion regarding the office of co-pastor as being non-existent. Relationships between Teaching Elders and EPC congregations sanctioned by the *Book of Government* are

those of Pastor, Associate Pastor and Assistant Pastor” (**Minutes, 5-40**). The position of the EPC since this 1985 action has remained unchanged.

The reason for the proposed amendment to the *Book of Government* is that churches that have come to the EPC recently have questioned the constitutionality of the prohibition. It has been argued that its “not explicit in the *Book of Government* that co-pastor is prohibited.” This amendment would explicitly declare in the *Book of Government* the position of the EPC since 1985.

Referred to MINISTERIAL VOCATION

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-nlt



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GA39-10 (Cont.)
FROM THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Recommendation:

Permanent Judicial Commission Recommends that the 39th General Assembly
APPROVE the Overture GA39-10.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-pjc



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GA39-11
FROM THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Recommendation:

Permanent Judicial Commission Recommends that the 39th General Assembly **NOT APPROVE** the Overture 39-12.

The Permanent Judicial Commission finds that Overture 39-12 does not meet the criteria of **G. 21-D.2** requirements for clarity, consistency of language, and compatibility with other provisions of the Constitution of the EPC.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-pjc

Referred to FLOOR



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**GA39-12
OVERTURE**

The Presbytery of the East respectfully overtures the 39th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to amend **G.19-2** *Book of Government*, accordingly:

Current G.19-2A	Proposed G.19-2A Amendment Additions in <i>bold italics</i>
<p>“The Presbytery is composed of all the Teaching Elders on its roll as ongoing members, any Ruling Elder officers of the Presbytery, ¹⁴¹ and Ruling Elders elected by each Session as commissioners for a stated or called meeting as per G. 19-2A.4.</p> <p>A. Voting Members of Presbytery</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Active Teaching Elders: Teaching Elders who are serving in an approved call or actively seeking a call.2. Retired (Active) Teaching Elders¹⁴²3. Ruling Elder Officers of the Presbytery¹⁴³ <p>4. Ruling Elder Commissioners elected by each Session</p>	<p>“The Presbytery is composed of all the Teaching Elders on its roll as ongoing members, any Ruling Elder officers of the Presbytery, ¹⁴¹ and Ruling Elders elected by each Session as commissioners for a stated or called meeting as per G. 19-2A.4.</p> <p>A. Voting Members of Presbytery</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1.Active Teaching Elders: Teaching Elders who are serving in an approved call or actively seeking a call.2. Retired (Active) Teaching Elders¹⁴²3. Ruling Elder Officers of the Presbytery¹⁴³4. <i>Ruling Elders who serve by election in a leadership capacity for a specific term as established by the Presbytery pursuant to its bylaws, in accordance with G.21-1D.1</i> <p>—4.5. Ruling Elder Commissioners elected by each Session”</p>

***If PJC GA39-11 Not Sustained
Referred to Overtures & Resolutions***

Rationale:

Overture of the Presbytery of the East

Whereas, the EPC Book of Order, in Chapter G.19-2, establishes the Membership of the Presbytery as composed of all the Teaching Elders on its roll as ongoing members, any Ruling Elder officers of the Presbytery and Ruling Elders elected by each Session as commissioners for a stated or called meeting as per G.19-2A.4; and, Whereas, the EPC Book of Order, in Chapter G.19-2A, establishes that the Voting Members of the Presbytery include only such Ruling Elders who are elected Officers of the Presbytery (Moderator and Stated Clerk) or are commissioned by their local churches; and,

Whereas, the Presbytery of the East (POTE}, as stated in its bylaws, extends term-limited membership and voting rights to Ruling Elders who serve as the chairs of Presbytery committees and teams and/or on the Executive Council:

Every Ruling Elder who is an officer of Presbytery, a member of the Executive Council, or chair of a Committee or Team of Presbytery, shall be enrolled as a member of Presbytery for the tenure of the individual's office. Such members shall not be counted as part of their home church's representation unless they are specifically designated as commissioners by their church. Such members shall have the right to vote in any decision of Presbytery. Art. Ill, § 1 (emphasis added}, and,

Whereas, having been made aware of the discrepancy between the EPC Book of Order and the Presbytery's by-laws, the POTE Executive Council modified presbytery procedures to comply with the EPC Book of Order; and Whereas, Presbyteries should be permitted to extend term-limited membership to Ruling Elders who serve in elected leadership positions with full voting rights without additional designation as commissioners by their local churches for at least the following reasons:

- The respect due them for service to Presbytery would be undermined if the Sessions of their local churches declined to commission them;
- Using a scarce Ruling Elder commissioner slot for a Ruling Elder Presbytery leader causes the local church to effectively lose representation;
- Failing to issue term-limited membership and voting rights to Ruling Elders serving in elected Presbytery leadership positions undermines the logic of delegating responsibilities to an Executive Council, some of whose members could make decisions on behalf of the Presbytery without a legal right to vote.

Pursuant to G.18-3N, the Session of Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Kingstowne, Virginia, respectfully overtured the Presbytery of the East to overture the General Assembly to amend the Constitution accordingly. The Presbytery of the East approved by motion this request and the following language at its 112th Stated Meeting:

1 G.18-3N: Authority and Responsibilities of the Session: In maintaining the spiritual supervision of the local church, the Session has the following authority and responsibilities:

... To overture Presbytery on matters it believes vital or helpful to the whole Church, and to observe and carry out the injunctions and instructions of the higher courts.

2 G.21-1D1. : Required Committees and Commissions: For the orderly working of the Church, it is necessary that certain committees and commissions be established in certain courts on a permanent basis, with duties outlined and established.

Pursuant to Chapter 21-3 D 2 a and b of The Book of Government of the EPC's Book of Order, the POTE requests the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly to refer this proposed Constitutional amendment to the Permanent Judicial Commission for examination as to clarity and consistency of language and for compatibility with other provisions of the Constitution of the EPC. We realize this request does not meet the 60-day requirement for the upcoming 38th General Assembly, but request consideration for the 39th General Assembly in 2019.



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GA39-13

FROM THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Recommendation:

Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 39th General Assembly dismiss the Complaint presented by FKPCV due to lack of standing under EPC *Book of Discipline* 14-2B.2.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-pjc

Referred to FLOOR

GA39-14

FROM THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Recommendation:

Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 39th General Assembly ratify the decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission to refer the disciplinary charges against officers of First Korean Presbyterian Church of Virginia. The Permanent Judicial Commission holds that it is not the proper court of original jurisdiction as defined at *Book of Discipline* 4-1 and based on the decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission to not assume jurisdiction under *Book of Discipline* 4-3, the disciplinary charges must be remanded to the Presbytery of the East.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-pjc

Referred to FLOOR



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GA39-15

FROM THE BENEFIT RESOURCES, INC., BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Recommendation:

That ordained ministers drawing retirement income from the EPC 403(b)(9) Defined Contribution Retirement Plan 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.

Rationale: To do so permits retire, ordained 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.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-briboardofdirectors

www.epc.org/files/ga2019document-bribenefitsplanauditedfinancialstatements

www.epc.org/files/ga2019document-briretirementplanauditedfinancialstatements

Referred to FLOOR



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GA39-16
FROM THE FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Recommendation:

That the 39th General Assembly approve its recommendation that the EPC maintain its relationship with the Presbyterian Church of Ghana (PCG) through its membership in the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC).

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-fraternalrelationscommittee

*Referred to **FRATERNAL RELATIONS***

GA39-17
FROM THE FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Recommendation:

That the 39th General Assembly approve the continuation of its conversation with the leadership of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland about the possibility of a fraternal relationship.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-fraternalrelationscommittee

*Referred to **FRATERNAL RELATIONS***

GA39-18
FROM THE FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Recommendation:

That the 39th General Assembly amend the *Rules for Assembly* to reduce the number of ex officio members of the committee.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-fraternalrelationscommittee

*Referred to **FRATERNAL RELATIONS***



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GA39-19
FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHP TEAM

Recommendation:

That the 39th General Assembly **ADOPT** the FY 2020 Administration budget.
Below is the proposed Administration budget.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019document-fy20192020budget

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-nlt

Referred to ADMINISTRATION

GA39-20
FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHP TEAM

Recommendation:

That the 39th General Assembly **ADOPT** the FY 2020 Special Projects budget. Below
is the proposed Special Projects budget.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019document-fy20192020specialprojects

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-nlt

Referred to ADMINISTRATION



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GA39-21
FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Recommendation:

That the 39th General Assembly (2019) **APPROVE** its proposal for the Moderator to appoint an ad interim committee composed of five ruling or teaching elders from diverse, strongly-supporting churches across multiple presbyteries' long-term culture of giving to the EPC. It will also evaluate the current Per Member Asking (PMA) funding formula and provide a report to the 40th General Assembly in 2020.

Rationale:

The EPC has been blessed with giving to the EPC via Per Member Asking (PMA) growing healthily in recent years. However, giving by churches is approaching a historic high relative to the full PMA level and has weakened in the current fiscal year. PMA giving has not kept pace with overall membership which is now flat to down. A wide divergence is seen in church giving: thankfully, about half our churches give 90+% of their PMA, however one-third give \$0 or very little. EPC churches generally are in accord on biblical and missional matters, cohesive on connectional structures, and share much cultural harmony, but seem not to be united in sharing financially what is required to carry out the EPC mission and vision. A fundamental question facing the EPC as a movement of churches is: What does it mean to be connected to the EPC? E.g. Is it theological, ecclesial, collegial, branding, or collaborative? And, should financial support of the EPC be purely voluntary, expected, or mandatory? Answers to these questions define the EPC giving culture.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-nlt

Referred to ADMINISTRATION



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GA39-22
FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Recommendation:

That the 39th General Assembly **APPROVE** an amendment to *Rules for Assembly* that would revise and update the functions of the National Leadership Team. This amendment was proposed to but not acted upon by the 38th General Assembly (2018).

Current Rules for Assembly X.10-1A	Proposed Rules for Assembly X.10-1A (proposed amendment is in <i>bold italics</i>)
<p>10-1 The ministries of the Assembly shall be conducted primarily through permanent committees and the Permanent Judicial Commission, to wit:</p> <p>A. National Leadership Team</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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:	<p>10-1 The ministries of the Assembly shall be conducted primarily through permanent committees and the Permanent Judicial Commission, to wit:</p> <p>A. National Leadership Team</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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 <i>subject to General Assembly review, approval and the Book of Order:</i><ol style="list-style-type: none">a. <i>Mission, Vision and Strategy</i><ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Primary responsibility to seek the mind of Christ for our denomination and to express this in a mission statement that states who God has called the EPC to be.</i>2. <i>Development of vision and strategies that express what God is calling the EPC to do to carry out the mission statement.</i>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Administrative oversight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Oversight and coordination of Administration Committee with World Outreach, Christian Education and Communications, Ministerial Vocation, Church Planting & Revitalization, Women's Ministries, and Student & College Ministries Committees. 2) Responds to emergency and disaster situations 3) Serve as Directors of the corporation b. Denominational Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. <i>Assess the execution of the mission, vision and strategies on behalf of the General Assembly.</i> 4. <i>Encourage EPC Presbyteries and local churches to participate in implementing the mission, vision and strategies.</i> b. Administrative oversight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Oversight and coordination of National Leadership Team with World Outreach, Ministerial Vocation, Women's <i>Resource Council</i>, and <i>Next Generation Ministries Council</i>. 2) Responds to emergency and disaster situations 3) Serve as Directors of the corporation <i>for the purposes of compliance with the laws of the state in which the EPC is incorporated and in accord with EPC by-laws.</i> c. Denominational Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
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specifically assigned to any other committees.	<p>d. All other business of ecclesiastical matters not specifically assigned to any other committees.</p> <p>4. Explanatory Statement <i>The National Leadership Team is not a court of the denomination, nor a commission of the General Assembly, but a committee of the denomination, with authority derived from the Book of Order. The NLT is therefore responsible to the General Assembly and carries out its work under the authority of the General Assembly by proactively making recommendations to the General Assembly and exercising authority to carry out those recommendations as approved by the General Assembly.</i></p>
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Rationale

With the dramatic growth the EPC since 2007, the development of the denomination as

mission- and vision-driven and the increasing complexity of leading the EPC in the 21st century, the work of the NLT has evolved significantly in the last five years. This proposed revision recognizes that development and, in the “Explanatory Statement” clarifies the relationship of the General Assembly and the NLT.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-nlt

Referred to FLOOR



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GA39-23

FROM THE NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES COUNCIL

Recommendation:

That the 39th General Assembly encourage each presbytery in creation of Next Generation Networks for children, youth, and college workers in collaboration with the Next Generation Ministries Council.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-nextgenerationministriescouncil

Referred to NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES COUNCIL



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GA39-24
FROM THE WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Recommendation:

That the 39th General Assembly approve SAT-7 as an approved Mission Agency.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-worldoutreachcommittee

Referred to WORLD OUTREACH



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GA39-25

FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Recommendation:

That the 39th General Assembly approve Third Millennium Ministries as an “approved agency.”

Rationale:

A number of EPC churches are supportive of this global mission work, which complements the ministry of EPC World Outreach’s International Theological Education Network (ITEN). Third Mill President Richard Pratt was a plenary speaker at the 30th General Assembly (2010).

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-nlt

Referred to WORLD OUTREACH

GA39-26

FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Recommendation:

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 39th General Assembly send the matter of the Michigan chapter of Bethany Christian Services (BCS) to the Permanent Committee on Theology to review in light of the EPC Position Papers on Abortion and Human Sexuality. The Permanent Committee on Theology will make a report with recommendation(s) to the 40th General Assembly (2020).

Rationale:

In April the Michigan chapter of Bethany Christian Services (BCS) acceded to the state government’s requirement and agreed to place children for adoption in the homes of same-sex couples (<https://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/2019/04/bethany-christian-services-reverses-same-sex-adoption-policy-following-legal-settlement.html>). As an application of the EPC’s position on abortion, BCS has been an EPC “approved agency” since 1989. With two strongly-held EPC positions in tension, if not in conflict: Abortion and Human Sexuality, it is appropriate for the Permanent Theology Committee to research this matter and make report with recommendation(s) to the 40th General Assembly.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-nlt

Referred to THEOLOGY



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*Referred to **FLOOR***

**GA39-27
COMMUNICATION**



**HOPE
CHURCH**
You'll fit right in.

Rev. Rufus Smith
Senior Pastor

April 29, 2019

Jeff Jeremiah
Stated Clerk
Evangelical Presbyterian
Church Office of the General
Assembly 5850 T. G. Lee
Blvd., Suite 510 Orlando, FL
32822

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 2020 as unanimously approved by our Session on April 23, 2019.

We look forward to hosting again as we did in 2018.


Rufus Smith
Senior Pastor


Dan Medley
Clerk



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GA39-28
FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Recommendation:

This item intentionally left blank.

GA39-29
FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Recommendation:

That the 39th General Assembly adopt an amendment to *Rules for Assembly* that would allow for more flexibility in the Moderator's nomination of members to the Committee.

Current Rules for Assembly XI.11-1-3	Proposed Rules for Assembly XI.11-1-3 Additions in <i>bold italics</i>
<p>XI. Committee on Nominations 11-1 The membership shall consist of one Teaching or Ruling Elder from each Presbytery, and shall be organized in three classes with numbers as close to equal as possible. There shall be at least two more Ruling Elder than Teaching Elder members. A member may not serve all or part of one term and shall then be ineligible for re-election for one year.</p> <p>The Stated Clerk, or a person designated by the Clerk, shall work with the committee to insure compliance with the requirements of the <i>Rules for Assembly</i>.</p>	<p>XI. Committee on Nominations 11-1 The membership shall consist of one Teaching or Ruling Elder from each Presbytery, and shall be organized in three classes with numbers as close to equal as possible. <i>Ordinarily</i>, there shall <i>should</i> be at least two more Ruling Elder than Teaching Elder members. A member may not serve all or part of one term and shall then be ineligible for re-election for one year. <i>A member may serve all or part of one three-year term and then be eligible for re-election for an additional three-year term.</i></p> <p>The Stated Clerk, or a person designated by the Clerk, shall work with the committee to insure compliance with the requirements of the <i>Rules for Assembly</i>.</p>



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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 four to the Assembly for membership on this committee. At that time, the floor will be opened for other nominations.

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 ~~four~~ ***the appropriate number of persons*** to the Assembly for membership on this committee. At that time, the floor will be opened for other nominations.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-nominatingcommittee

Referred to FLOOR



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GA39-30
FROM THE PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Recommendation:

That the 39th General Assembly adopt an amendment to *Rules for Assembly* that increase the membership of the Committee from 4 to 6.

Current <i>Rules for Assembly</i> X 10-1K.1	Proposed <i>Rules for Assembly</i> 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 <i>six</i> members, including at least one former stated clerk.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-presbyteryreviewcommittee
Referred to FLOOR

GA39-31
FROM THE PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Recommendation:

That the Assembly approve the Minutes of the EPC presbyteries with the following exceptions requiring responses by December 31, 2019, general advice and commendations.

a. Great Plains

Exception(s):

The action of the Ministerial Committee to approve Out of Bounds calls is not constitutional. It is the responsibility of the Presbytery to approve these calls. 14th/431/14:15c. **G. 10-8B.2.**

The Presbytery may allow the Ministerial Committee to approve temporary pastoral relationships as authorized in the **G. 21-2D.2.e.2**. This authority is limited as provided for in **G.10-7**. (See the footnote on page 57 of the 2018-2019 **Book of Order**.)



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Commendations:

Great Plains Presbytery is to be commended for: its rich teaching times during meetings. Also, as a hospice Chaplain, this reader especially appreciated the Ministry Sharing time given Chaplain Rash – very moving and helpful in providing the perspective of this ministry. Each of the Ministry Sharing times were very encouraging.

b. Gulf South

Exception(s):

When the Ministerial Committee is authorized to ordain/install, it is still required that Presbytery approve the date and time of the service. This should have been accomplished at this meeting of Presbytery. 13th /42/13.18.12; **G.** 13-1 A.1. *Acts of Assembly* – Presbyteries, 16-23.2.

Commendations:

- a. The World Outreach Committee 2025 project effort
- b. The church and safety and security guidelines
- c. The singing of hymns to start each Presbytery meeting.
- d. The new church development and support committee work
- e. The church health committee activities
- f. The prayer time for specific churches

c. Mid-America

Exception(s):

The Ministerial Committee report, 81.03 p. 1184, states that TE Mike Werkheiser was appointed as Candidate Kevin Butler's advisor. There is no mention of the church and city where he is ministering; however, after reading the list of attendees it is shown that TE Mike Werkheiser is TE with City Church in St. Louis, of which Candidate Kevin Butler is a member. TE Ryan Wampler is assigned as the advisor to Chris McKinney; TE Wampler is pastor with The Crossing of which Candidate McKinney is member. According to **G.** 11-2E, "The Presbytery shall assign a Teaching Elder in the Presbytery, ordinarily not the Candidate's pastor, to serve as advisor."

Commendations:

- a. List of correspondences shared.
- b. Small group prayer time.
- c. "Thanks Committee" organized to give thanks to hosting church.
- d. E2025 plans for ministry in Tetova, Macedonia Minutes are well recorded decently and in order. Format is easy to follow and identify reports.



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d. Midwest

Exception(s):

The practice of dividing the Presbytery for Candidate examinations does not give the full Presbytery the opportunity to examine all Candidates and should not be done. (163-12, p.23) **G. 12-1**

In 163-12, p. 23 Candidates' examinations were sustained "pending [their] required sermon[s]," which did not take place until after the vote, so that the sermons were essentially not included in the examinations. **G. 12-2 D.**

Commendations:

The PRC adds its congratulations to Stated Clerk Manon and the "First Lady of the Presbytery," our own loved and respected PRC member, on the Clerk's retirement.

e. Pacific Southwest

Exception(s):

The composition of the Administrative Commission for the ordination of Tommy Branagh needs REs from two different member churches per **G. 21-1-C-2-b p. 54**. All ruling elders for Tommy Branagh are members from the same congregation of Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, 1:26. This is also true for TE Joshua Hall from Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, Fair Oaks, CA. All Ruling Elders are from Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church. (1-40) The Administrative Commission to install TE David Pack is also composed of REs from the same church, Fremont Presbyterian (1-41).

Commendations:

1. Establishment of a meeting theme for each Presbytery meeting.
2. Focus presentations based on the theme.
3. Job well done for putting your first set of minutes together.

f. Rivers and Lakes

Exception(s):

Goetz, Henry, and Rathburn should not have been voted on in an Omnibus motion, 24-15 p. 10.

Commendations:

- a. The members of the PRC, and all of the EPC, mourn the sudden and unexpected loss of Stated Clerk TE Paul Heidebrecht; we appreciate your observance at the 22nd Stated Meeting.
- b. Reporting the RE/TE attendance ratio at its meetings.
- c. Prayer time by geographic regions.



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- d. Encouraging families to bring their children to Presbytery.
- e. Encouraging Church Health and resources available at the GO Center.

g. West

Exception(s):

A Candidate's exception to the Westminster Confession is included in the minutes, p. 12-164; this is disallowed by *Acts of Assembly* 3-09. Exceptions are to be retained in personnel file.

Election of Corporate Officers is to be done by General Council; the election is reported in Omnibus motion. The General Council, not the Presbytery, elected the President, VP, Secretary, and Treasurer. Neither a report from the Nominating Committee nor Election of Committee members is included in the minutes. Also, there is no mention of election of a Moderator. 113:10 p. 164, 114:7 p. 185.

Commendations:

- a. The exhortation of TE Addison was very thought-provoking: he exhorted the Presbytery to "holy restlessness that leads to holy discontent, and holy discontent that brings innovation and change, which will encourage us to take risks to plant churches."
- b. Praise be to God – TE Lee told of his opportunities to share the Gospel with many prisoners while imprisoned on an unwarranted arrest in Cambodia; 114:19, p. 12-192.
- c. Revitalization Team presenting vitality seminar information, GO team presentation on millennial generation, and geographic Cohort groups to revitalize their congregations in outreach to their communities,
- d. The Minutes are well presented and easy to read.
- e. Presentation of a plaque to the retiring Moderator.
- f. Retiring TE was honored for 38 years of service at Faith Presbyterian Church. He addressed the presbytery, sharing his journey of faith.
- g. Presented a new model for organizing the POW.
- h. Fall meeting featured the Gettys and explored music in worship.
- i. Pastor's Benevolence Fund
- j. New Women's Network

www.epc.org/files/ga2019document-prcreportofpresbyteryminutes

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-presbyteryreviewcommittee

Referred to FLOOR



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GA39-32
FROM THE PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Recommendation:

That the 39th General Assembly approve the responses of the Presbyteries (Link to Attachments PRC A through PRC J) to exceptions issued by the 38th General Assembly.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019document-prcpresbyteryresponsestoexceptions

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-presbyteryreviewcommittee

Referred to FLOOR



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GA39-33
FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Recommendation:

That the 39th General Assembly **ADOPT** the Minutes of the 38th General Assembly
this 402-page document may be found at:

www.epc.org/files/ga2018minutes

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-nlt

Referred to FLOOR



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GA39-34
COMMUNICATION



Referred to THE FLOOR

June 2019

Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah, Stated Clerk
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
5850 T.G. Lee Blvd., Suite 510
Orlando, FL 32822

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. The Moderator also nominates a Chaplain Endorser.

I am pleased to offer the following names

1. Appointment: 2019-2020 Chairman, Nominating Committee
TE Alan Conrow (Midwest Presbytery)
2. Nominations: Nominating Committee

<u>Name</u>	<u>Presbytery</u>	<u>Class</u>
RE John Adamson	Central South	2022
RE Brian Altmeyer	Alleghenies	2022
RE Henry Beck	Gulf South	2022
RE Jan Bole	West	2022
RE Jeff Chadwick	Southeast	2021
RE Alan Smith	East	2022
3. Nomination: 2019-2020 Chairman, BRI Board of Directors
RE Ron Horgan (Mid-Atlantic)
4. Nomination: Chaplain Endorser (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022)
TE Mark Ingles (West)

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.


Tom Werner, Moderator
38th General Assembly

GA39-35
FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Recommendation:

That the 39th General Assembly **REFER** to the Permanent Committee on Theology for study how the EPC can be more sensitive to the needs of the disabled. The Permanent Committee on Theology will make a report with recommendation(s) to the 40th General Assembly (2020)

Rationale

Two documents written by Leadership Institute speaker Michelle Munger call attention to the need and opportunity to ensure that disabled individuals are recognized and included in the life and ministry of the EPC. “Sacraments and the Disabled” encourages the EPC to look at how we view and minister to those who are disabled. “**Book of Order** notes for disability concerns” looks at places in our Constitution where we could intentionally be more inclusive of the disabled. These documents would serve as starting point for study by the permanent Committee on Theology.

www.epc.org/files/ga2019document-sacramentsandthedisabled

www.epc.org/files/ga2019document-bookofordernotesondisabilityconcerns

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-nlt

Referred to Theology

The following Committees have no recommendations.

FROM THE CHURCH PLANTING TEAM

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-churchplantingteam

FROM THE CHURCH REVITALIZATION TASK FORCE

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-churchrevitalizationtaskforce

FROM THE GENEROSITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-generosityresourcescommittee

FROM THE MINISTERIAL VOCATION COMMITTEE

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-ministerialvocationcommittee

FROM THE REVELATION 7:9 TASK FORCE

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-revelation79taskforce

FROM THE THEOLOGY COMMITTEE

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-theologycommittee

FROM THE WOMEN'S RESOURCE COUNCIL

www.epc.org/files/ga2019report-womensresourcecouncil
