



EPC

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

COMMITTEE REPORT

Ministerial Vocation Committee
Report to the 39th General Assembly



Brad Strait
Chairman

Summary of Work, 2018-2019:

1. **With Ministerial Committees:** We worked with the gathered Chairs of presbytery Ministerial and Candidates Committees at two, two-day meetings.
2. **For Church Well-being:** With presbytery leaders, we assisted with the immediate needs of several EPC pastors and EPC churches.
3. **With Denominational Resources:** We created working teams to review or update our EPC resources.
4. **With TE Candidates:** Interviewed several CEEP candidates for ordination and made appropriate recommendations to their local presbyteries.
5. **With Church Transitions:** We assisted with several Transitional Pastor situations and resources.

Recommendations to the 2019 General Assembly:

None



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Work of the Committee in 2018-2019 (in more detail):

1. **With Ministerial Committees:** Worked with the gathered Chairs of presbytery Ministerial and Candidates Committees at two, two-day meetings. We gathered together to process and problem-solve for specific issues:
 - A. Identification and solutions for common issues that have been arising in presbyteries, and
 - B. To design, encourage, and/or support healthy actions, communication, and relationships across our presbytery committees.
2. **For Church Well-being:** With Presbytery leaders, the MVC oversaw and assisted (directly and through approved agencies) the needs of several EPC pastors or EPC churches. This included offering intervention, guidance, counseling, coaching, or monetary help in crisis situations. The MVC also concurred with the presbytery Ministerial and Candidates Committee Chairs that, as part of the transfer process, all pastors entering the denomination should complete a “Fitness for Duty Evaluation” as part of the mental health screening to ensure that the pastor has the capacity to fulfill the requirements of the office.
3. **With Denominational Resources:** In response to discussions with Presbytery Chairs, the MVC created working teams to:
 - A. Review or update Position Papers,
 - B. Broaden EPC resources into more languages,
 - C. Update the MC Procedure Manual,
 - D. Modernize language for the Theology and Bible Exams,
 - E. Update the Leadership Training Guide, and
 - F. Began significant work on standardization of IT and resource platforms for Candidate and Ministerial Committees to have access to for sharing of information.
4. **With TE Candidates:** Interviewed several CEEP candidates (Candidates Educational Equivalency Program) for ordination and made appropriate recommendations to their local Presbyteries. This included Peter Geiger, Janet Branham, Joshua Hurd, Ryan Suzuki, Robbie Dakel, and Stacey Miller. We also oversaw and managed the grading of the ordination exams for 47 presbytery TE candidates.
5. **With Church Transitions:** With presbyteries, we reviewed and managed several Transitional Pastor situations and resources. We also worked on role clarification and communications with several Pastoral Search Firms that work with the EPC.



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Recommendations to the 2019 General Assembly:

None.

Committee Members:

TE Brad Strait (Chairman), Presbytery of the West
TE Michael Flake, Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic
RE Neil McAtee, Presbytery of the Central South
RE Frank Rotella, Presbytery of the East
RE Phil Stump, Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic
RE Caroline Tromble, Presbytery of the Rivers and Lakes

Committee Meeting Dates:

September 11-13, 2018—Office of the General Assembly, Orlando, FL
November 1, 2018—Video Conference
January 16, 2019—Video Conference
March 12-13, 2019—Office of the General Assembly, Orlando, FL
March 28, 2019—Video Conference
April 24, 2019—Email Correspondence
May 8, 2019—Video Conference

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Strait
Chairman

June 2019