



**EPC**

*A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches*

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Presbytery Review Committee**  
Report to the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly



*Helen Franssell*  
*Chairman*

**Summary of Work, 2018-2019:**

1. Provided structure, order, and continuity in reviewing the minutes of the presbyteries.
2. The minutes of each of the 13 presbyteries was reviewed by two readers, with findings reviewed by the committee as a whole.
3. The report was finalized for presentation at the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

**Recommendations to the 2019 General Assembly:**

1. **Recommendation 39-30:**  
The Presbytery Review Committee is recommending to the 2019 General Assembly a change in the *Rules for Assembly* X 10-1K.1, increasing the committee members from four to six. (formerly Recommendation 38-28).
2. **Recommendation 39-31:**  
That the Assembly approve the Minutes of the Presbyteries with exceptions requiring responses by December 31, 2019.
3. **Recommendation 39-32:**  
That the Assembly approve the responses of the Presbyteries to exceptions by the 38<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.



**Work of the Committee in 2018-2019:**

Presbytery Review Committee members RE Diane Manon, RE Cecil Matthews, RE Max Riddle, and I convened our work with a web meeting on Monday, March 18, when readers and presbytery minutes to be read were assigned. We met electronically in pairs to review our findings and met as a whole again on May 9, 2019, to compile our final report; soft copies were all made available to each other. Meetings were held with the guidance and support of Assistant Stated Clerk Jerry Iamurri and Executive Assistant Zenaida Bermudez. Each was opened and closed with prayer and a time of warm fellowship.

**Recommendations to the 2019 General Assembly:**

**Recommendation 39-30:**

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

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

**Recommendation 39-31:**

That the Assembly approve the Minutes of the 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. 14<sup>th</sup>/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**.)

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. 13<sup>th</sup> /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.

## **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, California. 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 Church (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:

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 22<sup>nd</sup> Stated Meeting.

- a. Reporting the RE/TE attendance ratio at its meetings.
- b. Prayer time by geographic regions.
- c. Encouraging families to bring their children to Presbytery.
- d. 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 Presbytery of the West.
- h. Fall meeting featured the Gettys and explored music in worship.
- i. Pastor's Benevolence Fund
- j. New Women's Network

### **Recommendation 39-32:**

That the Assembly approve the responses of the Presbyteries (Attachments PRC-A through PRC-M)

- A. Alleghenies (see Attachment PRC- A).
- B. Central South (see Attachment PRC-B).
- C. East (n/a)
- D. Florida (see Attachment PRC-C).
- E. Great Plains (see Attachment PRC-D)



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- F. Gulf South (see Attachment PRC-E)
- G. Mid-America (n/a)
- H. Midwest (see Attachment PRC-F)
- I. Pacific Northwest (see Attachment PRC-G)
- J. Pacific Southwest (n/a)
- K. Rivers and Lakes (see Attachment PRC-H)
- L. Southeast (see Attachment PRC-I)
- M. West (see Attachment PRC-J)
- N. Mid-Atlantic: Did not submit its response to exceptions from the 38<sup>th</sup> General Assembly by May 9, 2019, when the Presbytery Review Committee concluded its meeting.

[www.epc.org/files/ga2019document-prcreportofpresbyteryminutes](http://www.epc.org/files/ga2019document-prcreportofpresbyteryminutes)  
[www.epc.org/files/ga2019document-prcpresbyteryresponsestoexceptions](http://www.epc.org/files/ga2019document-prcpresbyteryresponsestoexceptions)

**Committee Members:**

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

**Committee Meeting Dates:**

The PRC met on a series of video conference meetings from March 18-May 5, 2019, to review the minutes of the presbyteries for the past reporting year (2018).

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Franssell  
Chairman

June 2019