

Revelation 7:9 Task Force

Report to the 39th General Assembly



Rufus Smith
Co-Chairman



Tom Werner
Ex-Officio



Dean Weaver
Co-Chairman

Summary of Work, 2018-2019:

The 38th General Assembly (2018) of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church authorized the Moderator to appoint the Revelation 7:9 Task Force to explore ways that the EPC could embody more of the Kingdom of God as it has been finally and fully revealed in the scriptures. With eyes of faith.... *“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from **every nation, tribe, people, and language**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.” —Revelation 7:9*

The Revelation 7:9 Task Force:

- Met four times together as a whole team
- Conducted a denomination-wide survey of Senior/Solo Pastors
- Presented the work of the Task Force and held “listening sessions” at each presbytery.
- Met with various EPC groups (Large- and Medium-Size Church pastor’s groups, Church Planters, Stated Clerks, etc.) to listen to their ideas, hopes, and concerns about the EPC becoming a Revelation 7:9 denomination.
- Compiled the data from all of the listening teams and created an Interim Report with summary findings.
- Began to meet with “experts” in cross-cultural ministry to determine organizational best practices.



Recommendations to the 2019 General Assembly:

None

Work of the Committee in 2018-2019:

The Revelation 7:9 Task Force met four times as a whole this year. Our meetings were September 10 by conference call, and at the EPC Office of the General Assembly in Orlando on November 12-14; February 4-6; and April 22-24. Each meeting was marked by prayer, Scripture study, and robust conversation. The primary work of the Task Force this year has been that of listening. First, we conducted a survey of all the senior/solo pastors of the EPC (the results can be found in our Interim Report). Then, each member of the Task Force also presented at their own presbyteries and held “listening sessions” to receive input from anyone who wished to share hopes, dreams, and concerns about the Task Force’s commission. Additionally, Task Force members met with numerous individuals, congregations, and leaders within the EPC to gather more input.

After months of “listening” inside the EPC, our team began to compile the data and make some preliminary and summary findings. After considerable theological study and discussion, our Interim Report was written to provide both what we have learned and the theological foundations for a Revelation 7:9 Church. The final detailed report is available at www.epc.org/files/ga2019document-revelation79taskforceinterimreport.

This spring, the Task Force began listening to Christian leaders and organizations outside of the EPC. Each member of the Task Force has recruited and enlisted other TEs and REs from the EPC to join their “listening teams” as we begin to sit at the feet of those who have helped their churches and organizations to become representative of the Kingdom’s grand revelation mosaic. The best practices discerned in these “outside the EPC” listening conversations will be the focus of the Task Force’s next season of work. Finally, it is our hope to present to the 40th General Assembly (2020) not only our findings after two years of work and study, but also concrete recommendations for how the EPC as a denomination and our congregations individually can better live into the great missional work of the Kingdom as realized in Revelation 7:9.

Recommendations to the 2019 General Assembly:

None



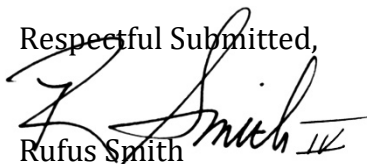
Committee Members:

- TE Rufus Smith (Co-Chairman), Presbytery of the West
- TE Dean Weaver (Co-Chairman), Presbytery of the Alleghenies
- TE Tom Clymer, Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic
- TE Marc de Jeu, Presbytery of the Alleghenies
- RE Enid Flores, Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean
- RE Phyllis LePeau, Presbytery of the Rivers and Lakes
- TE Soon Pak, Presbytery of the Midwest
- Beth Paz, Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
- RE Brandon Queen, Presbytery of the Gulf South
- TE Tim Russell, Presbytery of the Central South
- TE Andrew Smith, Presbytery of the East
- RE Tom Werner (ex officio), Presbytery of Mid-America
- RE Ted Winters, Presbytery of Mid-America


Committee Meeting Dates:

- September 10, 2019—Orlando, FL
- November 12-14, 2019—Orlando, FL
- February 4-6, 2019—Orlando, FL
- April 22-24, 2019—Orlando, FL

Respectful Submitted,


Rufus Smith
Co-Chairman


Tom Werner
ex officio


Dean Weaver
Co-Chairman

June 2019