



EPC

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

COMMITTEE REPORT

Next Generation Ministries Council

Report to the 40th General Assembly



Jennifer Burkholder
Chairman

Summary of Work, 2019-2020:

1. Collaborated with the Stated Clerk of each presbytery to invite 1-2 Next Generation Ministries workers to a NextGen Summit Meeting in Orlando in order to launch NextGen Networks in every presbytery.
2. Hosted various NextGen Networking events, opportunities, and resources for children's and youth workers.
3. Resourced EPC youth workers and college students with scholarships for training and conferences in partnership with Reformed Youth Ministries and CCO Campus Ministry.
4. Collaborated with World Outreach to promote EPC mission opportunities among youth and college students.
5. Made plans for Leadership Institute and General Assembly networking lunches on the topic of Next Generation Ministries.

Recommendations to the 2020 General Assembly:

None

Work of the Committee in 2019-2020:

Collaborated with the Stated Clerk of each presbytery to invite 1-2 Next Generation Ministry workers to a NextGen Summit Meeting in Orlando in order to launch NextGen Networks in every presbytery.

- In order to follow up on the approved recommendation from the 39th General Assembly to launch NextGen Networks in every presbytery, we decided to invite 1-2 Next Generation Ministries leaders (both ordained and non-ordained) to a NextGen Summit meeting in Orlando, April 16-17, 2020, with assistance from Stated Clerks of each presbytery. Due to the pandemic, this meeting is postponed until October 2020.
- Jerry Iamurri invited Stated Clerks to help fund the NextGen Summit Meeting and recommend Next Generation Ministries leaders from their presbyteries to help launch NextGen Networks. They all approved funding assistance for the meeting and submitted recommendations from their presbyteries.
- Each Next Generation Ministries Council member made invitations to the NextGen Summit as well. A complete list of those who were invited and have committed to launching a NextGen Network in their presbytery is attached to this report.

Next Gen Network Leader Invitations to April 16-17, 2020, Meeting

Presbytery	Name	Phone	Email
Alleghenies	Joe Stroup	925-588-1987	jstroup@graystoneepc.org
Alleghenies	Amanda Leavitt		amanda@venice-church.org
Central South	Dan Kish	256-585-9338	dan@centralpresb.org
Central South	Michael Davis	314-402-2839	michael@downtownchurch.com
Central South	Sirgregory Thorton	901-679-2742	sirgregory@downtownchurch.com
Central South	Brandon Terry	901-644-9020	Brandon.terry@2pc.org
East	Katie Rowe		katie@orchardnh.org
East	Stefan Wiltz		swiltz@4thpres.org
Florida/Caribbean	Enid Flores	787-717-3970	Flores.enid@gmail.com
Great Plains	Luke Johnston	913-259-9060	luke@sleppingbear.media
Great Plains	Mark Potter	913-220-0472	mpotter@colonialkc.org
Gulf South	Weston Blaha	601-278-0396	weston@lakesidepres.com
Mid-America	Karen Brown	314-550-0571	kbrown@centralpres.com
Mid-Atlantic	Bryan Lees	540-898-4673	bryan@hopechurchva.org
Mid-Atlantic	Laura Morris	828-808-6953	familiamorris@gmail.com
Midwest	Josh Boehr	734-904-8992	jboehr@knoxannarbor.org
Midwest	Scott Bearer	517-662-9829	Scott.bearer@fellowshipepc.org
Pacific Northwest	No Rep Available		
Pacific Southwest	Meagan Bergem		Mergem2011@gmail.com
Pacific Southwest	Bryan Yeo	559-467-9322	byeo@centerpointroseville.org
Rivers and Lakes	David Goetz	630-550-2672	dgoetz@firstpresaurora.org
Southeast	Skylar Adams	919-754-7496	sadams@fpcthomasville.org
Southeast	Camille Ward	423-598-3231	cward@signalpres.org
West	Chris Piehl	720-840-1749	cpiehl@cherrycreekpres.org

Next Generation Ministries Council Members have hosted various NextGen Networking events/opportunities:

- Andrew Mills started a Facebook group for youth directors in Presbytery of the Gulf South. It has 15 members and has been a good source of sharing ideas and asking questions. A networking event for the April presbytery meeting was planned but ended up being cancelled due to the pandemic. Andrew hosted a lunch for EPC people taking a youth ministry course at RTS Jackson in January 2020. Six people attended that lunch.
- Martha Daniel in the Presbytery of the Alleghenies scheduled a Children's Ministry networking event around the May presbytery meeting that is now postponed until August 7-8. She hosted an online video conference in March (27 attended) and April (9 attended) for leaders in children's and family ministry.
- Martha is offering her book *It's Never to Early* as a resource for both parents and children's ministry leaders. Many in the Presbytery of the Alleghenies have purchased the book. She is exploring how to share this more widely in other presbyteries.
- Greg Ayt and Shawn Stewart have been leading Youth Ministry video conferences to connect and encourage one another in youth ministry in the midst of the pandemic. (One in March and one in April) They are keeping up on communication with youth workers through the EPC Facebook page as well.
- The Presbytery of the Alleghenies have an active network called Epic, led by six youth and family pastors/leaders meeting monthly. They plan an annual youth retreat, meet for encouragement and prayer, and produce and share resources. For example, see their YouTube Bible study on the Book of Mark at www.youtube.com/channel/UCP2EaNGHvthkIVoriiNRUng

We resourced EPC youth workers and college students with scholarships for training, conferences, and networking in partnership with Reformed Youth Ministries and CCO Campus Ministry.

- CCO Campus Ministry Partnership and Collaboration
 - Provided scholarships to 40 EPC college students to attend Jubilee Conference, February 21-23, 2020 @\$50 each for a total of \$2,000).
- Jubilee Student Testimonies
 - **Jonathan VanKirk**
 - Jubilee taught me the importance of seeing the world through the gospel. As one who has a strong desire to pursue a full-time ministry job in the future, I often do not think of how to do ministry well in the context of a worldly job (engineer, doctor, etc.). Not only did Jubilee provide many practical ways of living faithfully to the Christian call in whatever God is calling one to, but the conference also impressed the importance of seeking a Kingdom-mindedness in all of life. I'm grateful for my experience at Jubilee; it transformed my perceptions of how Christians should act in an ever-increasingly godless world.

- **Michaela Kimball**
 - Jubilee brought about so many wonderful and unexpected experiences for me. I grew much closer to the people in the FPC college group through this trip. One take away I had from Jubilee this year is that God is much bigger than my doubts. In the last few months my heart has been filled with questions, doubts, and anger about who He says He is. During one of the worship sessions at Jubilee, He made Himself known to me in the middle of my anger and frustration. My heart calmed and I knew that He was much bigger than the doubts that were on my heart. I hope that after Jubilee I can begin to live out what I have learned by beginning to go deeper and wrestle more with God's Word. I am praying that God continues to work on my heart and give me the courage to entrust those around me with my questions and doubts. Jubilee gave me a better understanding of what it looks like for me to trust God in my unbelief.
- CCO invited EPC pastors/church leaders to attend the Jubilee Conference through Jubilee Partner event. 32 EPC leaders attended.
- EPC World Outreach (Shawn Stewart and Saul Huber) attended Jubilee as an Exhibitor to share world mission opportunities with students. Jen Burkholder connected them to CCO staff serving in EPC churches and to the Jubilee Partner dinner to help them make deeper connections with students and churches.
- CCO is still building networks with EPC churches exploring partnerships for campus ministry. CCO is exploring partnership potential with Enid Flores about partnering with EPC churches in Puerto Rico for campus ministry.
- Current EPC churches partnering with CCO for campus ministry include:
 - Central Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, Missouri—
CCO Staff: Cole Lescher.
 - First Presbyterian Church, Fresno, California—
CCO Staff: Geraud Brumfield.
 - Eastminster EPC, Wichita, Kansas—
CCO Staff: Joseph Wimer.
 - First Presbyterian Church, Kokomo, Indiana—
CCO Staff: Joe Torren.
 - Christ Community Church, Montreat, North Carolina—
CCO Staff: Amy Oxendale-Imig.
 - First Presbyterian Church, Orlando, Florida—
CCO Staff: Jonathan Wagner.
 - Hope Church, Cordova, Tennessee—
CCO Staff: Ivan and Heather Moore,
with two additional CCO Fellows each year.
 - Graystone Church, Indiana, Pennsylvania—
CCO Staff: Kenny Campbell and Madison List,
with one additional CCO Fellow each year.
 - Bellefield Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania—
CCO Staff: Andy Moore, Bobbi Perkins, Mark Michaels, Cay Johnson,
and Greg Burdette, with 1-2 additional CCO Fellows each year.

- Memorial Park Presbyterian Church, Allison Park, Pennsylvania—
CCO Staff: Sam Taylor, Julianna Kish, and David Kuehl,
with one additional CCO Fellow added in 2020-21.
- Gateway Church, Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania—
CCO Staff: Ben Makin.
- SOMA Gathering, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania—
CCO Staff: Caleb Mussleman.
- Campus to Parish Leadership Pipeline
 - CCO offers a discount for seminary classes through Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. Trinity also has a track for EPC ordination. Many CCO staff are enrolled in this program and are discerning a call to ordained ministry. A hope of CCO partnership with EPC has been to see this partnership result in a pipeline for next generation leadership and we are starting to see this bear fruit.
 - Jen Burkholder has met with EPC Pastors Marc DeJeu (First Presbyterian Church, Beaver Falls), Josh Brown (Bellefield Presbyterian Church), and Chris White (Gateway Church), all of whom have CCO staff in their churches who are studying in seminary and discerning a call to ordained ministry. This year Caleb Musselman was approved by the Presbytery of the Alleghenies and SOMA Gathering to serve as Commissioned Pastor (while finishing seminary) of SOMA Gathering in a position that is still partnered with CCO. There are 2-3 more CCO staff finishing seminary who will soon pursue ordained calls in the EPC. We are encouraged by this and hope to see our partnership continue to train, equip, and empower the next generation of leadership in both campus ministry and the church to reach the world for Christ.
- Reformed Youth Ministry Partnership and Collaboration
 - We continue to encourage EPC youth workers to attend RYM's Youth Leader Training. They offer this training in two locations: Pennsylvania and Tennessee.
 - Next Generation Ministries Council provided need-based scholarships to three EPC youth leaders for a total of \$1,187.
 - A total of 27 EPC youth workers attended YLT this year.
 - We had a new EPC youth leader find out about and attend YLT from the EPC Next Generation Ministries Facebook page, which affirms effective communication through that platform.

Next Generation Ministries Council members collaborated with EPC World Outreach's Mobilization Coordinator, Shawn Stewart, to promote EPC mission opportunities among youth and college students.

- Greg Aydt and Meg DeHaven served as advisors with Shawn and the team planning Summer Mission Jam.
- Shawn Stewart and Saul Huber attended Jubilee Conference on faith and vocation networking with students and churches sharing WO mission opportunities.

- Next Generation Ministries Council members promote these opportunities among their networks.

We made plans for Leadership Institute and General Assembly networking lunches on the topic of Next Generation Ministries.

- The Next Generation Ministries Council is hosting a Leadership Institute track. Jen Burkholder, Andy Koesters, and Becky Shultz are creating content for the morning session on “The Gospel and Gen Z” utilizing the book *Growing Young*. The afternoon session is a discussion led by Rufus Smith and Marc DeJeu with CCO students. This will be an opportunity to talk about Next Generation discipleship, and engage conversation between church leaders and young adults/college students.
- CCO Staff Geraud Brumfield, who serves in partnership with First Presbyterian Church in Fresno, California, and has student leaders who are interested in coming to GA to learn more about the church. Geraud’s own testimony is one of knowing little about the church as a young adult but growing in his love for and service to the church by being invited to a GA himself. He asked the Council if we could advise and resource him and his students to engage GA in a way that helps college students foster a greater love for and understanding of the church. Ivan Moore, CCO staff partnered at Hope Church, and Geraud will work together to invite student leaders from their ministries and plan the logistics. The Council will help host opportunities to have students and church leaders engage in meaningful conversation such as the afternoon of LI.
- This is all on hold as GA has been postponed. We will wait to hear if the rescheduled GA will include Leadership Institute and networking lunches or not. If not, we will hope to do this for GA 2021.
- CCO was scheduled for a networking lunch to share about opportunities for churches to partner in campus ministry.
- Brandy Miller with Redeeming Beauty was also confirmed for a networking lunch sharing her ministry on discipling young women.

Recommendations to the 2020 General Assembly:

None

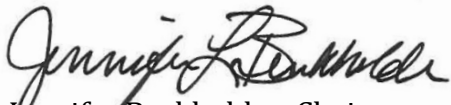
Committee Members:

Jennifer Burkholder (Chairman), Presbytery of the Alleghenies
Greg Aydt, Presbytery of the West
Martha Daniel, Presbytery of the Alleghenies
Meg DeHaven, Presbytery of the East
RE Enid Flores, Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean
TE Andrew Koesters, Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic
TE Andrew Mills, Presbytery of the Gulf South
Ivan Moore, Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest
RE Becky Shultz, Presbytery of the West

Committee Meeting Dates:

October 10-11, 2019—Orlando, Florida
December 3, 2019—Video Conference
March 24, 2020—Video Conference
April 17-18, 2020—rescheduled for October 2020 due to COVID19

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Burkholder, Chairman

September 2020