Stated Clerk Search CommitteeReport to the 40th General Assembly



Bill Dudley *Chairman*

Summary of Work, 2019-2020:

- 1. The 39th General Assembly directed Moderator Tom Werner to appoint the Search Committee to conduct a nationwide search for the next Stated Clerk of the EPC. The work of the Search Committee was to commence August 2019 with the naming of a nominee by early spring 2020 and presentation to the 40th General Assembly for approval.
- 2. The intent was for the nominee to be approved by the 2020 Assembly and to be on staff by early 2021 to allow for coordinated overlap with Stated Clerk Jeff Jeremiah, whose retirement is set for June 2021.
- 3. The constituency of the Stated Clerk Search Committee as approved by the 2019 Assembly was based on representation from each of the presbyteries. Additionally, Members from the National Leadership Team's Personnel Committee and Finance Committee were represented on the Search Committee. TE Bill Dudley was named Chairman. Those appointed and having served are listed at the end of this report.

Recommendations to the 2020 General Assembly:

Recommendation 40-04: The Stated Clerk Search Committee recommends to the 40th General Assembly the <u>election of TE Dean Weaver</u> as the fourth Stated Clerk of the EPC to be installed at the 41st General Assembly.

Work of the Committee in 2019-2020:

The Search Committee initiated their assignment in late August 2019. The most obvious realization this committee experienced was the bonding by the Holy Spirit from the days of its first meeting through the course of conference calls into its last meeting. Fifteen individuals with diverse identities, from expansive geographic locations, and with new names and faces were molded into an energized and committed body to serve the Lord and His Church in the EPC.

The committee functioned with three sub-committee assignments. Those committees were: Interview (TE Laurie Johnston, Chairman); Position Description (RE Scott Griffin, Chairman); and Advertising (TE Luder Whitlock, Chairman).

Two definitive decisions were made by the committee early in their process:

Search Based Upon Application

Prior to advertising to position, the committee chose that the search would be based upon applications from individuals who had interest in the call as Stated Clerk. While names were suggested or referenced, the committee only considered those persons who submitted application to them. Following announcement throughout the Assembly of the position and its summary description, applicants responded in a short period of time.

Residency

From the outset of the search process, the committee defined that the Stated Clerk would be residential in relationship to the Office of the General Assembly (OGA). This decision was consistent with the decision by the National Leadership Team when the OGA relocated from Livonia to Orlando in 2016. That decision related to all OGA staff, and also would relate to the next Stated Clerk.

This decision was communicated to the Search Committee at its outset, and advertisements and the executive summary position description listed this expectation. This agreed-upon requirement did exclude some candidates who would have considered the position had they been allowed to commute to Orlando.

Selection Process and Conclusion

The committee was encouraged by the immediate response of applicants to the position, as well as being overjoyed at the quality and giftedness of all the applicants. The consideration of each applicant was bathed in prayer and in thanksgiving for each's devotion and commitment to the Lord's Church. Refining the list of applicants and seeking the Holy Spirit's discernment became the committee's greatest task. Interviews continued throughout the fall and were concluded by early February.

The conclusion of the committee's work was in selecting the person of the Lord's choosing to lead the Evangelical Presbyterian Church for this next season of life and ministry. What lingered with the committee was a holy celebration of the richness of God's gifting among

the leaders within the EPC, and a thanksgiving to the Lord for His work among the chosen committee members.

Recommendations to the 2020 General Assembly:

Recommendation 40-04:

The Stated Clerk Search Committee recommends to the 40th General Assembly the <u>election</u> of TE <u>Dean Weaver</u> to the position of the fourth Stated Clerk of the EPC to be installed at the 41st General Assembly.

Additional notes:

- 1. To accomplish the coordinated overlap desired on page 1 of this report (item 2), Dean's beginning date of service will be January 2, 2021.
- 2. He will reside in his previously existing home in New Smyrna Beach, Florida, outside Orlando.
- 3. Terms of Call were not assigned to the Search Committee. This matter will be presented to the Assembly by the National Leadership Team.

Our Nominee

Stated Clerk Search Committee to nominate Dean Weaver

Getting to know you: Dean Weaver

Getting to know you: Beth Weaver

Committee Members:

Committee Meeting Dates:

August 27-29, 2019—Orlando, Florida February 11-13, 2020—Orlando, Florida

Respectfully submitted,

William Dudley, Chairman

September 2020