



EPC

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

COMMITTEE REPORT

Theology Committee
Report to the 40th General Assembly



Zach Hopkins
Chairman

Summary of Work, 2019-2020:

1. Reviewed the 2002 EPC Endorsement Policy.
2. Reviewed Recommendation 39-26 with regard to the relationship between Bethany Christian Services and the EPC.
3. Reviewed Recommendation 39-35 and studied how the EPC can be more sensitive to the needs of the disabled.

Recommendations to the 2020 General Assembly:

Recommendation 40-09: That the 40th General Assembly approve the revision to the [EPC Endorsement Policy](#).

Work of the Committee in 2019-2020:

The Theology Committee met September 11-12, 2019, at the Office of the General Assembly in Orlando, Florida. After prayer and introduction, we set about our work by first reviewing the definition and work of our committee as described in *Rules for Assembly*. The committee then spent the remainder of our time reviewing the two items of business referred to it by the 39th General Assembly (2019). Those were:

1) **Recommendation 39-26**

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 39th General Assembly send the matter of Bethany Christian Services (BCS) to the Permanent Committee on Theology to review in light of the EPC Position Papers on Abortion and Human

Sexuality. The Permanent Committee on Theology will make a report with recommendation(s) to the 40th General Assembly (2020).

2) Recommendation 39-35

That the 39th General Assembly refer to the Permanent Committee on Theology for study how the EPC can be more sensitive to the needs of the disabled. The Permanent Committee on Theology will make a report with recommendation(s) to the 40th General Assembly (2020).

Bethany Christian Services (BCS)

The committee received reports explaining: 1) why the National Leadership Team (NLT) made the original recommendation to the Assembly and 2) about the discussion in the Theology Standing Committee on this topic. Post-Assembly research was disclosed and discussed, as well as the EPC Position Papers on Abortion and Human Sexuality. Additionally, the committee spent considerable time studying the history of the EPC's practice of entering into relationships with external agencies. The previous Endorsement Policy of the EPC (2002) was reviewed and an updated version is recommended to the 40th General Assembly.

EPC and the Disabled

The committee received reports explaining: 1) why the National Leadership Team (NLT) made the original recommendation to the Assembly and 2) about the discussion in the Theology standing committee on this topic. The committee also reviewed the documents "Constitution and the Disabled" and "Sacraments and the Disabled."

Recommendations to the 2020 General Assembly:

Recommendation 40-09:

That the 40th General Assembly approve the revision to the EPC Endorsement Policy.

[*Click for revised/recommended Endorsement Policy*](#)

Additional recommendations from the Theology Committee will be presented for consideration at the 41st General Assembly in 2021.

Committee Members

TE Zach Hopkins (Chairman), Presbytery of the Rivers and Lakes
TE Ron DiNunzio, Presbytery of the East
RE Fred Flinn, Presbytery of the Central South
RE Gordon Miller, Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic
RE John Moody, Presbytery of the Great Plains
TE Ryan Mowen, Presbytery of the Alleghenies

Committee Meeting Date:

September 11-12, 2019—Orlando, Florida

Respectfully submitted,



Zach Hopkins, Chairman

September 2020