



**EPC**

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

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**DESCENDING OVERTURE 19-A  
FROM THE 39<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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To amend *Book of Government* 11-2C which addresses the examination of candidates for ordination.

<b>Current <i>Book of Government</i> 11-2C</b>	<b>Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 11-2C amendment. Additions in <i>bold italics</i></b>
The Presbytery shall make public examination of the Candidate as to Christian experience and growth, the motive for seeking ordination, and a statement regarding the person’s call to the Ministry.	The Presbytery shall make public examination of the Candidate as to Christian experience and growth, the motive for seeking ordination <b><i>by a Presbytery of the EPC</i></b> , and a statement regarding the person’s call to the Ministry.

**Whereas** a Candidate for ordination is expected to experience both an “inward call” to the ministry per se as well as an external call to a specific church or agency [BoG 10-1], and

**Whereas** there are many Christian churches and agencies with a wide range of theology and polity who offer such calls, and

**Whereas** some who come seeking ordination in the EPC have been previously ordained in non-reformed bodies or unaffiliated churches, and

**Whereas** even within the bodies of churches and agencies that call themselves Presbyterian and reformed there are significant differences of belief and practice;

**Therefore**, it is necessary that the presbytery, when considering a candidate to come under its care to prepare for ministry in a church or agency of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, carefully consider the candidate’s motivation to not only be an ordained Teaching Elder, but also to be a part of the EPC.



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**VOTE OF THE PRESBYTERIES**

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<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Alleghenies	<b>61</b>	<b>2</b>
Central South	<b>51</b>	<b>0</b>
East	<b>67</b>	<b>0</b>
Florida and the Caribbean	<b>51</b>	<b>1</b>
Great Plains	<b>44</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Gulf South</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Mid-America</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>
Mid-Atlantic	<b>134</b>	<b>2</b>
Midwest	<b>63</b>	<b>0</b>
Pacific Northwest	<b>64</b>	<b>0</b>
Pacific Southwest	<b>58</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Rivers and Lakes</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>33</b>
Southeast	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>
West	<b>83</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>71</b>