



**EPC**

*A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches*

## **41-10**

### ***FROM THE THEOLOGY COMMITTEE***

The Theology Committee recommends that the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** withdrawing approval from Bethany Christian Services as an approved agency of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

#### Background:

1. The 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly requested that the Permanent Committee on Theology to review Bethany Christian Services (BCS) as an approved agency of the EPC in light of the EPC Position Papers on Abortion and Human Sexuality.
2. Acts of Assembly 89-19 records that the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly took the following action: “[BCS] is approved as an agency for ministry to unmarried mothers and the unborn, providing alternatives to abortion including adoption services. Bethany is commended as deserving of the prayers of our people as well as worthy of financial support from those of our people who feel so led.” (Minutes, 9-39).
3. Standing with historic Christian belief and practice, the EPC has long supported ministry to women and the unborn, through recommending resources and agencies as alternatives to abortion including adoption services.
4. In April 2019, the Michigan chapter of BCS acceded to the State government’s requirement and agreed to place children for adoption in homes which include relationships that are forbidden according to the historic, orthodox, and biblical definition of marriage as between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5; WCF 24.1).
5. At its meeting on September 11-12, 2019, the Permanent Committee on Theology, after careful review of this matter in light of Scripture, the Constitution of the EPC, and the EPC Position Papers on Abortion and Human Sexuality, was prepared to offer this recommendation to the 40<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The circumstances of the 40<sup>th</sup> General Assembly did not offer the opportunity for the interaction on this matter that it deserves. Therefore, the matter was deferred to the 41<sup>st</sup> Assembly.
6. On March 1, 2021, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Bethany Christian Services, Chris Palusky, announced that BCS would begin providing services to LGBTQ parents nationwide, effective immediately.
7. The committee now offers Recommendation 41-10 for consideration by the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly.