

COMMISSIONER'S HANDBOOK





41st GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONER'S HANDBOOK

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Dear Commissioner,

Welcome to the 41st—and first-ever hybrid—General Assembly! Our theme this year is "God Will Restore," based on Joel 2:25-27, "I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. Any my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God and there is none else. And my people shall never again be put to shame."

This handbook is available in our GA app and on the EPC website, but feel free to print it and have it handy while you participate in the meeting. The Handbook includes two sections:

- 1) "Preliminaries" which provides important introductory material to help familiarize you to our time together, and
- 2) "Matters Received and Referred." This is the business the Assembly will address. Other documents, such as the *Rules for Assembly*, committee reports, audited financial statements, and more are available at www.epc.org/ga2021documents.

Each year at the New Commissioner Orientation, I'm asked, "What should I read to get a good overview?" My response has been to read the Moderator's Report, National Leadership Team Report, and my report. These three reports are gathered together as an "Executive Summary" at the end of the Preliminaries section.

Normally, we hold a New Commissioner Orientation for all of our first-time Commissioners on the morning our GA convenes. As we thought about it, we realized that many of us will be "New Commissioners" this year. For that reason, we are hosting two "New Commissioner Orientations" via Zoom the week before we meet. These meetings will cover the same information and be held on Tuesday, June 15, from 4:00-5:30 p.m. (Eastern) and Thursday, June 17, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Eastern). The links to these meetings will be emailed to all registered and certified commissioners no later than Monday, June 8.

I hope you'll join me in praying that the God of grace and truth—who always leads us in triumphal procession—will bless our time together!

Yours in Christ.

Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah

Stated Clerk

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Jun Geremal

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<u>OVERVIEW OF ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE</u>

Event for On-site participants only*

TUESDAY, JUNE 22

8:00 a.m. (Central)

8:45 a.m.

Chaplains Workshop *

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Creating Church Planting Networks *

9:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Leadership Institute Plenary Session 1

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 – 5:00 p.m. World Outreach: The Israel of God*

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. World Outreach Banquet*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Central) Check-in/Information Open 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Leadership Institute Plenary Session 2 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Ticketed Networking Lunches* 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Leadership Institute Plenary Session 3 3:15 - 4:00 p.m. Worship 4:15 - 5:15 p.m. **Business Session 1** 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Ticketed Dinner Stated Clerks Dinner* - Invitation Only) WO Global Workers Presentations* Women's TESS Talks Dinner* 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. **Evening Worship**



THURSDAY, JUNE 24

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Central) Check-in/Information Open

9:00 – 9:45 a.m. **Morning Worship**

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Business Session 2**

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Pastor's Wives Luncheon*

12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Ticketed Networking Lunches *

1:45 – 3:00 p.m. **Business Session 3**

3:15 – 5:00 p.m. Standing Committee Meetings*

Giving Culture Study Committee Update

5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Jeff and Cindy Jeremiah Celebration Dinner*

7:30 – 9:00 p.m. **Evening Worship** / Global Worker Commissioning

FRIDAY, JUNE 25

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Central) Check-in/Information Open

9:00 – 10:15 a.m. Moderator's Communion Service

10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Business Session 4**

12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Ticketed Networking Lunches

1:45 – 4:00 p.m. **Business Session 5**



GENERAL ASSEMBLY PERMANENT COMMITTEES

(Through the 41st General Assembly)

BENEFIT RESOURCES, INC., BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:
RE Robert Draughon	RE Michael Busch	RE Will Barnes
Central South	Alleghenies	<i>Midwest</i>
Michael Moore	RE Jim Lewien	TE Erik Ohman
Central South	<i>West</i>	West
TE Bill Reisenweaver Florida and the Caribbean	RE Sandy Siegfried Great Plains	Randy Shaneyfelt Great Plains

CHAPLAINS WORK AND CARE COMMITTEE

Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:
TE Jennifer Prechter Florida and the Caribbean	RE Bruce Alexander <i>East</i>	TE Scott Rash Great Plains
TE David Snyder <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	TE Timothy Foster Central South	TE Marty Carpenter Pacific Southwest
RE Richard Swedberg West	TE Glen Holman Mid-Atlantic	TE Brad Yorton Pacific Northwest

FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:
RE Carol Culbertson, Chairman West	RE Jerry Harmon Central South	RE Gwynn Blair <i>Florida</i>
TE Don Fortson Mid-Atlantic	TE Alan Trafford Gulf South	TE Joe Pallikkathayil <i>Mid-America</i>

GENEROSITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:
TE Ben Borsay <i>Midwest</i>	RE Kevin Byma Alleghenies	RE Bobby Cobbs Pacific Southwest
RE Mark Eibel Pacific Northwest	TE Jeff Porter <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	RE Theodore Hailes Central South



MINISTERIAL VOCATION COMMITTEE

Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:
RE Neal McAtee Central South	TE Fred Lian West	TE Doug Resler <i>West</i>
RE Caroline Tromble Rivers and Lakes	RE Frank Rotella East	RE Richard Gash Alleghenies

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:
RE Phil Fanara	RE Chris Danusiar	RE Victor Jones
East	Rivers and Lakes	Gulf South
	RE Brian Evans <i>Midwest</i>	TE Patrick King Pacific Southwest
RE Michael Gibson	RE Frank Carter	RE Rosemary Lukens
Great Plains	Mid-Atlantic	Pacific Northwest
RE Robert Liddon	RE Earla Bethel	TE Dave Strunk
Central South	Florida and the Caribbean	Southeast

NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES COUNCIL

Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:
Greg Aydt <i>West</i>	Jen Burkholder, Chairman Alleghenies	TE Michael Davis Central South
Meg DeHaven East	Martha Daniel <i>Alleghenies</i>	Becky Shultz <i>West</i>
TE Andrew Mills Gulf South	RE Enid Flores Florida and the Caribbean	
	TE Andy Koesters Mid-Atlantic	

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:
TE Larry Carlson Pacific Northwest	RE John Adamson Central South	RE Marian Bradshaw Rivers and Lakes
RE Susan Humphreys	RE Brian Altmyer	TE Alan Conrow
Mid-America	Alleghenies	Midwest
RE Joe McCoy	RE Henry Beck	TE Wayne Hardy
Mid-Atlantic	Gulf South	Great Plains



TE David Ricketts Pacific Southwest	RE Jan Bole <i>West</i>	TE Juan Rivera Florida and the Caribbean
TE Bill Dudley Southeast	RE Alan Smith East	

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:
RE Amanda Cowan Florida and the Caribbean	TE George Dakin Pacific Northwest	RE Yvonne Chapman Central South
RE Donald Flater	TE Neil Ellison	RE Ken Roberts
Rivers and Lakes	<i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	<i>West</i>
TE Dana Opp	RE Donald Harms	RE Jeff Hollingsworth
Alleghenies	<i>Midwest</i>	Southeast

PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:
RE Cecil Matthews	RE George King	RE Ron Bengelink
<i>West</i>	Gulf South	Pacific Northwest
TE Gary O'Keefe	RE Ray Kinat	TE Jason Steele
Midwest	Alleghenies	<i>Midwest</i>

THEOLOGY COMMITTEE

Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:
TE Ron DiNunzio East	RE Gordon Miller <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	RE Fred Flinn Central South
TE Ryan Mowen <i>Alleghenies</i>	RE John Moody Great Plains	TE Zach Hopkins Rivers and Lakes
TE Cameron Shaffer East		

WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:
TE Rick Dietzman Pacific Northwest	RE Phyllis Ellsworth <i>Midwest</i>	TE Whitney Alexander Gulf South
RE Susan Lear	RE Johnny Long	TE Waring Porter
Great Plains	West	Central South
RE Patrick Tucker	RE David Van Valkenburg	RE David Miller
Central South	<i>West</i>	Rivers and Lakes



OTHER COMMITTEES

(Through the 41st General Assembly)

REVELATION 7:9 TASK FORCE

Appointed by the Moderator following the adjournment of the 38th General Assembly

TE Rufus Smith, Co-Chairman <i>West</i>	TE Andrew Smith, Co-Chairman East	TE Jeff Cook Mid-Atlantic
TE Marc de Jeu	RE Enid Flores	RE Phyllis LePeau
<i>Alleghenies</i>	Florida and the Caribbean	Rivers and Lakes
TE Soon Pak <i>Midwest</i>	TE Jose Figueroa Pacific Southwest	RE Brandon Queen Gulf South
TE Steve Burton	RE Tom Werner	TE Ben Tzeng
Central South	Mid-America	Mid-America
TE Doug Resler <i>West</i>	TE Tommy Allen Pacific Northwest	TE Joe Kim East
TE Michael Davis	TE Laurie Johnston	TE Dean Weaver
Central South	Great Plains	Alleghenies

GIVING CULTURE STUDY COMMITTEE

Appointed by the Moderator following the adjournment of the 39th General Assembly

RE Bob Coleman West	RE Jane Cooper, Chairman <i>Gulf South</i>	TE Jamie Cupshalk <i>East</i>
TE Scott McKee Midwest	RE Bruce Novkov Southeast	RE Gina Stewart Pacific Northwest
RE Mike Gibson, Ex-Officio Great Plains	TE Case Thorp, Ex-Officio Florida and the Caribbean	TE Jeff Jeremiah, Ex-Officio Pacific Northwest



2020-2021 EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

MODERATOR'S REPORT

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

STATED CLERK-ELECT'S REPORT



$\frac{\textbf{Moderator}}{\text{Report to the } 41^{\text{st}} \text{ General Assembly}}$



Glenn Meyers, Moderator 40th General Assembly

"...For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future..."

Jeremiah 29:11

Brothers and sisters,

What a year we have had. My term as your Moderator has been unlike any other. I hope and pray that we never have a year like this again. Yet in the midst of all that we have been through as individuals, as families, as churches, and as a denomination, God has been faithful. He is the same yesterday, today and always. God is good. His plans are not to harm us, but to prosper us.

One of the most important themes of my learning as your moderator has been that all of our ministries in the service of our Lord are contextual. God has us, if we have yielded to Him, exactly where He wants us. We love God best when we love and serve the people in the very place that He has put us. But contextual ministry is not just a matter of place but also a matter of time. God has us exactly where He wants us to be in redemptive history, in our cultural times and in the life of His bride, the church. I hope and pray that I have served you well as your moderator in these unprecedented times.

I was blessed to moderate the first, and hopefully the only, all virtual General Assembly of the EPC. As your Moderator, I have witnessed firsthand the gracious transfer of responsibility and privileged call between Jeff Jeremiah and Dean Weaver. I am thankful to be able to say that these men are not only my brothers in Christ but have become my friends as well. Their examples of Christian leadership as churchmen have made a significant impression on me. I have learned much and loved much during my time spent around the National Leadership table.

My next responsibility will be to chair the National Leadership Team. I will moderate their quarterly meetings and lead them through any necessary business. I am looking forward to what God will do for us as a denomination as our newly elected Stated Clerk, Dean Weaver, steps fully into his call.

We are called to go forward as the church in difficult and challenging times. I encourage you to remember where we have been and remember God's faithful love for us that endures forever. He is truly unchanging. May we be led into all truth by the Holy Spirit. May we accurately understand the times and the places to which we have been called. May we fulfill God's purpose for our lives in our generation. I thank God for all of you and would like to thank the assembly for confirming my call and giving me this opportunity to serve as your Moderator in the year 2020 at the $40^{\rm th}$ General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Meyers, Moderator

40th General Assembly

June 2021



National Leadership Team

Executive Summary Report to the 41st General Assembly



Case Thorp
Chairman

Summary of Work, 2020-2021:

- 1. Evaluated the "all virtual" 40th General Assembly and approved a "hybrid" 41st General Assembly in response to restrictions imposed by the continuation of the COVID-19 shutdown.
- 2. Completed the Executive Transition Plan originally created in 2018 with the arrival of Stated Clerk-elect Dean Weaver in January 2021 and the appointment of Gabriel de Guia in May as the Executive Director of World Outreach.
- 3. Continued its oversight of the strategic priorities of church planting, church revitalization, effective biblical leadership, and global movement of churches.
- 4. Received regular reports and continued to promote the work of the Revelation 7:9 Task Force.
- 5. Monitored closely EPC finances and was able to restore strategic line items in the FY21 budget due strong revenue and reduced expenses.

Recommendations to the 2021 General Assembly:

- 1. That the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the amendments to "*Rules for Assembly*" governing the meetings of the General Assembly.
- 2. That the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the minutes of the 40th General Assembly.
- 3. That the 41st General Assembly **ELECT** Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah as Stated Clerk Emeritus.
- 4. That the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the FY22 Administration Budget.
- 5. That the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the FY22 Special Projects.
- 6. That the 41st General Assembly **RECEIVE** "The Role and Purpose of the Office of the General Assembly"

Work of the Committee in 2020-2021:

1. COVID-19 shutdown and General Assembly meetings

The success of the first ever "all-virtual" 40th General Assembly in September 2020 resulted in a number of requests that the virtual component be included in future meetings. At its October meeting, the National Leadership Team discussed at length the value of our onsite annual meetings. It affirmed the high connectional value of in-person attendance at General Assembly meetings. It also affirmed the live streaming of business meetings to provide opportunities to observe business meetings for individuals who may not otherwise by physically able to attend in person. The NLT further affirmed that virtual participation does not provide sufficient opportunities to debate meaningfully issues before the Assembly. It concluded that virtual participation will not be continued at future assemblies absent exigent circumstances.

As OGA staff worked with leadership of Second-Memphis, host for 41st GA in 2021, it became clear in January 2021 that onsite commissioner participation would be restricted to no more than 400 commissioners and 550 total attendees. In order to maximize commissioner participation at the 41st GA, on February 2 the National Leadership Team voted to convene a first-ever "hybrid" General Assembly. This could only be done after the Office of the Stated Clerk issued a provisional opinion permitting a hybrid meeting. In addition, the NLT proposed amendments to *Rules for Assembly* this would allow for future General Assemblies to be hybrid or entirely virtual. These amendments are found in Recommendation 41-03. Finally, the National Leadership Team presents the Minutes of the 40th General Assembly for approval. This request is Recommendation 41-08.

2. Executive Transition

Since 2018, the NLT has been conscious of and planning for the departures of the Stated Clerk, Director of World Outreach (both scheduled to retire in June 2021), and Chief Operating Officer, who departed in 2019. With the announcement of Gabriel de Guia as the new Executive Director of World Outreach, the successors to Phil Linton and Jeff Jeremiah are in place. The COO was not replaced, but rather existing staff were tasked with specific, additional duties to much operational success. The NLT held a dinner in Phil and Janet Linton's honor in Orlando to express our appreciation for their ministry and service to the EPC.

The 40th General Assembly received and approved the recommendation of TE Dean Weaver as the next Stated Clerk following the retirement of Jeff Jeremiah at the conclusion of his elected term in June of 2021 during the 41st General Assembly. To ensure a smooth and productive Stated Clerk transition, there has been a six month "overlap" between Jeff Jeremiah and Dean Weaver that began on January 2, 2021. The Personnel Committee, with help from former Moderator Scott Griffin, developed an executive transition plan for Jeff and Dean in November 2020. This plan set out clear responsibilities and milestones for when responsibilities would move from Jeff to Dean. During this interim period, Dean was known as the Stated Clerk-elect.

At its April 2021 meeting, the NLT approved **Recommendation 41-09**, that Jeff be elected Stated Clerk Emeritus at the 41st General Assembly.

The Personnel Committee of the NLT—Co-chair RE Chris Danusiar (Rivers and Lakes), RE Victor Jones (Gulf South), TE Patrick King (Pacific Southwest), Co-chair RE Rosemary Lukens (Pacific Northwest), RE Brian Evans (Midwest), and TE David Strunk (Southeast)—worked hard this spring with Dean on a comprehensive review of our staff in the Office of the General Assembly. I am pleased to share that we endorsed the recommendation to promote and expand the roles of the following:

- Zenaida Bermudez: from Executive Assistant to the Assistant Stated Clerk to Executive Assistant to the Stated Clerk and Director of Operations.
- Marti Ratcliff (nee Brenner): from Executive Assistant to the Stated Clerk to Executive Assistant to the Office of the Stated Clerk and Human Resources Manager.
- Patrick Coelho: from Director of Finances to Chief Financial Officer.

We have an outstanding team of faithful and servant-minded staff in the OGA. I encourage you to greet them as brothers and sisters in Christ, thank them for their service, and enjoy rich fellowship.

3. Strategic Priorities

A. Church Planting

Even in the midst of the shutdown, the commitment to church planting has continued. Today we have just over 50 active church plants, and a new, full-time church planting leadership position coming in the next year to the EPC. In fact, plants have been *launched* since March of 2020 in Port Orchard, WA; Ferguson, MO; and Jacksonville, FL! In the last 3 years we have new church planting networks in St. Louis, East Tennessee, and Charlotte NC; New Church plants in Tennessee, Colorado, Illinois, North Caroline, Kansas, and Pennsylvania. We received a \$250,000 grant that is being put to good use! Thank you, Lord!

A strength of our church planters is that they're adaptive and flexible; better suited to shift quickly in response to changes imposed upon them from without and create new pathways for ministry. Their passion to bring the gospel to their communities has not dimmed. Similar to our local church pastors, many of our church planting pastors feel disconnected and alone. The emotional stress coupled with the financial pressure during this shutdown has been a real challenge to some. As a result, the care of our church planters has been a major focus of the Church Planting Team during the shutdown. The annual church planters retreat in the fall of 2020 had to be cancelled. However, Zoom conversations featuring Thabiti Anyabwile, Zack Eswine, Greg Thompson, and Carey Nieuwhof took place from September to February. These gatherings have kept our planters connected and resourced. In addition, Church Planting Team members each committed to connect with 5-8 planters to assure them they're not alone. Finally, monies not used due to the cancellation of the annual retreat were used for counseling and coaching for our church planters and their spouses.

Because of the shutdown, a much-needed assessment for potential church planters could not be scheduled. Currently there are almost a dozen candidates for EPC church planting around the country in need of assessment. Sean Sunn and the Denver-based Aspen Grove Church Planting Network plan to offer an assessment later this summer.

As EPC church planting expands into ethnically diverse communities, there is a growing need to recruit church planters from the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico (INPM). The EPC has a fraternal agreement with the INPM that provides for this. The Church Planting Team is currently working to bring a Presbyterian Church of Brazil-ordained pastor to the Philadelphia area to work with a core group of Brazilian immigrants. The Team is also working with Richard Rieves to create and sustain a church planting residency program in Memphis, TN specifically designed to equip and train church planters for work in mono-ethnic or underserved communities.

B. Church Revitalization

Under the direction of Assistant Stated Clerk Jerry Iamurri, the EPC inaugurated the Virtual Leadership Institute on Church Revitalization in 2020. Monthly workshops led by Teaching Elders Doug Resler, Bryn McPhail, Mike Wright, and John Mabry began in October. These gatherings have focused on three areas: the revitalization of the pastor, the revitalization of the Session, and the revitalization of the congregation. Each workshop has been well-attended. After each 15-20 minute "plenary," breakouts have taken place to discuss the topic presented, which lasts for 15-20 minutes to create dialogue and sustain engagement over the two-hour time slot. In addition to strong participation, Jerry and this leadership team has had many follow up conversations with TEs and REs. The need for revitalization is very real, especially as churches ponder life after COVID.

In addition to GO Center leaders and coaches, the EPC has benefited recently from the ministry of Vital Church Ministry. This revitalization organization is currently serving First-EPC in Moline, IL; Moraga Valley EPC in Moraga, CA; and Faith-EPC in Quincy, IL. VCM previously performed diagnostic services for First EPC-Fairbanks, AK.

Even during the shutdown, churches applied for revitalization matching funds. The NLT was very pleased to restore this line item in the FY21 budget to its original level of \$55,000. As of May 1, 2021, \$15,959.25 had been disbursed.

C. Global Movement

The updates on this strategic priority may be found in the reports from World Outreach and Fraternal Relations.

D. Effective Biblical Leadership

One of the highlights of our annual General Assembly is our Leadership Institute workshops. Because the 40^{th} General Assembly in 2020 was an "all business, all virtual" meeting, the Leadership Institute could not be convened. Under Jerry Iamurri's leadership, the first-ever Online Leadership Institute for Revitalization met for the first time on October 28, 2021. This is an interactive monthly workshop that provides encouragement, coaching, and peer support for those engaged in the challenging work of revitalization.

The work of Presbytery Ministerial and Candidates Committee chairs is critically important to the health and future of the EPC. The OGA hosted an all-virtual meeting of this group of leaders in October 2020 and a hybrid meeting in March 2020. New editions of the *Leadership Training Guide* and the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees* have been released in 2021. The online EPC ordination exams have been tested and approved. The great advantage of online testing is that it will save as many as two weeks in the turnaround time for each set of exams.

Another important meeting of EPC leaders is the annual Presbytery Stated Clerks' Workshop. This group held a hybrid meeting in November 2020. Ron Bengelink, former Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest, has prepared a manual for Presbytery Stated Clerks. This tool is designed to assist Stated Clerks in organizing their business and creating minutes that will comply with the *Book of Order* and the guidelines of the Presbytery Review Committee. Stated Clerk-elect Dean Weaver and I are exploring ways for congregations to develop more ordained pastors (including church planters) with a strategic "ordination pipeline." This pipeline would be a series of coordinated efforts by existing TEs, REs, congregations, presbyteries, and seminaries to identify, nurture, resource, and train the talent of tomorrow. The work of the Revelation 7:9 Task Force also shows me that if we are to recruit future ethnic minority TEs we cannot just wait for such candidates to appear. We have to grow them with a strategic plan for identifying, nurturing, resourcing, and training such individuals.

4. Revelation 7:9

The formation of the Revelation 7:9 Task Force was approved by the 38th General Assembly in 2018. Appointed by Moderator Tom Werner, it originally had 13 members and was cochaired by TE Rufus Smith and TE Dean Weaver. With Dean's election as the fourth Stated Clerk at the 40th GA in 2020, he stepped down as co-chair of the committee. TE Andrew Smith succeeded him. In 2020-2021, the Task Force was expanded to 16 in an effort to include representation from all EPC presbyteries. Those members are TE Rufus Smith (West-co-chair), TE Andrew Smith (East-co-chair), TE Tommy Allen (Pacific Northwest), TE Steve Burton (Central South), TE Jeff Cook (Mid-Atlantic), TE Michael Davis (Central South), TE Marc De Jeu (Alleghenies), TE Cheryl Ellis-Mendez (Florida and the Caribbean), TE Jose Figueroa (Pacific Southwest), RE Enid Flores (Florida and the Caribbean), TE Laurie Johnston (Great Plains), TE Joe Kim (East), RE Phyllis Le Peau (Rivers and Lakes), TE Soon Pak (Midwest), RE Brandon Queen (Gulf South), TE Doug Resler (West), TE Eric Shipman (Mid-America), TE Ben Tzeng (Mid-America) and RE Tom Werner (Mid-America).

In 2021-2022, the Task Force created four sub-committees: 1) The Assessment Team, which will help churches in their evaluation of their congregation, community and readiness to implement a 7:9 strategy, 2) The Presbytery Team, which will work with presbytery leadership to promote Revelation 7:9 to its member churches, 3) the Curriculum Team, which will assist in selecting appropriate curriculum and in training facilitators in the local church, and 4) the Execution Team, which will assist the local church with step-by-step implementation and vision casting for the future. More information on the work of the Revelation 7:9 Task Force is available in their report.

5. Finances

The 40th General Assembly approved two recommendations from the National Leadership Team that addressed the FY21 budget (the budget year runs from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021). The first was the proposed FY21 budget. It was called a "Bare Bones Plus" budget that totaled \$2.36 million. Anticipating that our churches may be stressed financially as the COVID-19 shutdown continued, the NLT reduced its original budget request by 17%, to \$2.36 million. The reduction enabled us to keep the essential ministries of the EPC going.

The second recommendation the Assembly approved authorized the NLT to restore the funding of strategic items in the budget that had to be cut in the event that giving to the FY21 budget produced a surplus. The NLT has continued to be amazed as it praised the Lord and thanked our churches for the strong giving the EPC has enjoyed in FY21. During this most challenging and difficult time in the life of our church you've demonstrated how much you value the rich connection that is so central to who we are. Because of this strong giving, the NLT was able to restore to their original levels funding support for such strategic priorities as church planting and church revitalization in January.

This strong giving has also affected the NLT's thinking about next year's budget. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2022 (FY22), which runs from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, totals \$2,784,634. This budget includes \$200,000 to support EPC church planting, \$56,000 to support the church revitalization matching funds program, and \$116,220 for effective biblical leadership. And of course, 20%—or \$481,946—is allocated to EPC World Outreach. This budget request is found in Recommendation 41-18. The National Leadership Team also asks the Assembly to approve the FY22 Special Projects, which are those items not included in the budget but that EPC ministry leaders are authorized to raise funds for. It is found in Recommendation 41-19.

I have been moved by how generous our congregations have been when responding to congregational and community needs in the face of natural disasters. The current balance of the EPC Emergency Relief Fund is \$201,449. A sample of the churches assisted by these funds include:

St. Andrews-Nassau/Kirk of the Pines-Marsh Harbour-Abaco	\$245,000
Lucaya-Freeport	\$75,000
Genesis-Mercedes, TX	\$27,250
Grace-Alexandria, LA	\$34,730
Hope-Memphis on behalf of All Soul's Church; Nashville, TN	\$65,000
Lake Charles Relief	\$21,122
Edna (TX) EPC	\$5,525

The EPC Medical Benevolence Fund balance as of April 30th is \$423,547. The NLT approved a proposal to add dependents of ministers as eligible beneficiary for the cost of care not covered by the pastor's medical plan. This beneficiary expansion has enabled a number of families, two of whom I know and love deeply, to find a bit of relief in challenging yet rewarding dependent care situations. We also added medical expenses related to COVID-19 as an eligible category for a benevolent distribution.

The NLT often discusses the size of these and other fund balances. Our desire is not to have designated funds sitting in coffers while there is so much need in our world. The NLT has not made an appeal for contributions to the Emergency Relief Fund since 2019 due to the fact that we have ample funds on hand. Congregations must request disaster relief funds to rebuild their ministry or reach out in the rebuilding efforts of their community following a natural disaster. I want to encourage congregations to be missionally-oriented and take advantage of these resources to expand your outreach as you love your neighbor in times of need. Likewise, TEs who have burdensome healthcare expenses for themselves, or dependents are encouraged to apply so that we all may share in the joy of serving you.

Finally, the National Leadership Team is pleased to report that the EPC received a "clean" FY20 audit. Patrick Coelho continues to do an outstanding job as the EPC's Chief Financial Officer. His role is especially important in the year ahead as three key members of the Finance Committee of the NLT conclude their service this month. They are RE Mike Gibson (Great Plains), RE Rob Liddon (Central South), and RE Phil Fanara (East).

6. Role and purpose of the Office of the General Assembly.

The 40th General Assembly approved the recommendation of the Giving Culture Study Committee that direct the Office of the General Assembly to develop a plan to educate Presbyteries and Sessions as to the purpose and role of the Office of the General Assembly. The document Appendix A that purpose and role was developed and presented to the NLT at its April 13-14, 2021 meeting. Due to the continuation of the COVID-19 shutdown and to the Stated Clerk transition, the plan to promote and educate the ministry of the OGA will be implemented in 2021-2022. The 41st General Assembly is asked to receive this document, which is **Recommendation 41-20**.

A Personal Note:

What a tremendous honor and joyful experience it has been to serve as your 39th Moderator of the General Assembly and NLT Chairman. I have been inspired by so many qualified and deeply spiritual people on the front lines for Jesus Christ. The pandemic cut short my opportunity to be present with an additional five Presbyteries, but this opportunity confirmed in me the spiritual gift of apostleship that I hope to develop further. We have an exciting future before us as a church, as well as challenges that will only bring us to our knees and in deeper communion with our Lord. Thank you for this opportunity to grow and serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Thoy

Chairman <u>www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-nlt</u>

Stated Clerk Report to the 41st General Assembly



Jeff Jeremiah Stated Clerk

As I've reflected across my service as Stated Clerk since 2006, I'm increasingly convinced that the genius of our Presbyterian system is found in the word "with." In our churches, presbyteries, and General Assembly, leaders (Teaching and Ruling Elders) work with each other. It's a collaborative, collegial dynamic that makes our system so effective. I've observed and enjoyed this over and over in the last fifteen years. There are so many I've had the pleasure to work with during that time!

I have to list all the Moderators because I'd hate to leave anyone out; their influence and friendship have meant so much to me. There's Bill Meyers, Paul Heidebrecht, Bill Vogler, Allen Roes, Nate Atwood, Rob Liddon, Doug Klein, Ken Roberts, Bill Dudley, Gordon Miller, Mike Moses, Scott Griffin, Dean Weaver, Tom Werner, Case Thorp, Glenn Meyers, and now Brad Strait.

Members of the Committee on Administration and National Leadership Team who stand out in my gratitude include John Adamson, Alan Smith, Stretch DePuy, Nancy Duff, Leigh Swanson, Luder Whitlock, Jeff Chadwick, Gwynn Blair, and Mike Gibson.

In the General Assembly office, I've been blessed beyond measure to have served with Assistant Stated Clerks Ed McCallum and Jerry Iamurri. Stepping up to the challenge of supporting a remote working boss, "excellence" is the only word to describe Della Cullins and Marti Ratcliff in their roles as Executive Assistants to me. I do not believe it would have been remotely possible to relocate the office from Livonia, MI to Orlando, FL had it not been

for Chief Operating Officer Phil VanValkenburg. His project management expertise was on full display as we successfully made this move. World Outreach Directors Jeff Chadwick, George Carey, and Phil Linton brought distinctive strengths and leadership to EPC WO as each advanced the global mission of the EPC. Director of Communications Brian Smith has been a good friend and wise counsel on all communication matters. He was invaluable to our efforts to keep you in the loop during the Andrew Brunson ordeal. By the way, with my departure Brian is now #1 in seniority in the office. For the excellence of his work, Pat Coelho has been promoted from Director of Finance to Chief Financial Officer. Bart Francescone has brought experience and expertise to Benefit Resources, Inc. like we've never had before. During our annual meeting I've had the pleasure of working with Carol Templin and then Zenaida Bermudez. They've been "behind the scenes" but have been absolutely essential to our business meetings being organized well and running smoothly. I know there are many more deserving of my recognition and thanks, but I will conclude with Paul's words, "In all my prayers for all of you I always pray with joy because of our partnership in the gospel" (Philippians 1:3-4).

Responding to COVID-19 (continued)

The staff in the Office of the General Assembly did an outstanding job continuing to respond to questions, concerns, and problems raised by churches and presbyteries as the COVID-19 shutdown dragged on. "How can I help?" has been the hallmark of our staff during this time. Working remotely almost exclusively from April 2020 to March 2021, the Office of the General Assembly served in the following ways:

Presbytery meetings – led by Brian Smith, Director of Communications, the office gave guidance and technical support to our presbyteries as they convened virtual meetings this spring. Presbyteries are urged to revise their bylaws to provide for virtual meetings.

Local churches – Brian Smith helped many churches convene virtual congregational meetings. Led by Pat Coelho, Chief Financial Officer, the finance department of the office provided online giving services for 37 churches to help them through the shutdown. Led by Benefit Resources, Inc. Executive Director Bart Francescone, EPC benefits has maintained its high standard of service to medical and retirement plan participants.

As Dean, Jerry, and I have engaged with pastors, we became aware that many are struggling with what has been dubbed, "Pastor Separation Syndrome." It's produced by the absence of a personal touch in ministry amid the COVID-19 shutdown. It's caused by separation from staff, officers, and church members. In addition to this, there's the challenge pastors have faced in this highly politicized time. One friend said, "Jeff, I don't remember that class in seminary, "How to lead your church during a pandemic." I'm very grateful to know that with National Leadership Team and Benefit Resources, Inc. support, Dean Weaver is working to convene gatherings that will focus on restoring the health of our pastors, church planters, and global workers this fall.

Executive Transition

The National Leadership Team and its predecessor, the Committee on Administration, has distinguished itself by its strategic "look out on the horizon" perspective. In 2018 it realized

that a major change in the executive leadership of the EPC was coming with the retirement of Chief Operating Officer Phil VanValkenburg in 2019 and the retirements of Director of World Outreach Phil Linton and me in 2021. It began to escrow funds to cover the potential costs of these transitions. With the departure of the COO, the NLT gave permission for existing staff to take on the COO responsibilities for a six-month trial period. When it was clear that existing staff could cover these duties, the NLT decided to not fill this vacancy.

For World Outreach, the NLT concluded that an evaluation of this important ministry would be timely before the search for Phil's successor began. This evaluation was done in 2019-2020. Last fall the search committee for this position was appointed. In May we celebrated the announcement that Gabriel de Guia had been named to succeed Phil.

The NLT took a different approach to my transition. It concluded that a good overlap between me and my successor was necessary for the smoothest transition possible. It asked the 39th General Assembly in 2019 to approve the search committee chaired by TE Bill Dudley. Dean Weaver was announced in the spring of 2020 and elected by the 40th General Assembly in September 2020 as the fourth Stated Clerk. With his election and resignation as pastor of Memorial Park effective December 31, 2020, the Personnel Committee of the NLT (co-chaired by RE Chris Danusiar and RE Rosemary Lukens), focused its attention on the transition from me to Dean. Given his extensive experience with executive transitions, former Moderator Scott Griffin was asked to offer his expertise and wisdom and to consult with Dean and me. By December, a written plan was created and approved by the NLT. I am very grateful for all that Scott, Chris, Rosemary, and Dean invested in this transition. During our "overlap," Dean has been incredibly affirming and gracious as he's stepped into his new role. I am encouraged and confident that the Lord has His man in place to do His work in the years ahead. The future is bright for the EPC!

Per Member Asking appreciation

During the financial uncertainties that accompanied the COVID-19 shutdown, no less than 247 of our 638 churches (38.7%) distinguished themselves in 2020 for their faithful and outstanding support for Per Member Asking (PMA). The following churches contributed 100% (or more) of their PMA to support the mission and vision of the EPC. Because of their leadership, our expectations for giving in FY21 were exceeded in a way we thought unimaginable when we approved the FY21 budget in September 2020. I am disappointed to report that 172 churches (27%) did not contribute to PMA in the last year. PMA is the active membership of the local church multiplied by \$23.

Presbytery of the Alleghenies

Amazing Grace Evangelical Presbyterian Church Bay Presbyterian Church

Bethany Presbyterian Church

Bethel Evangelical Presbyterian Church Brighton Presbyterian Church

Covenant Presbyterian Church
Covenant Presbyterian Church

CUP Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Highland Heights, OH

Bay Village, OH Mercer, PA Enon Valley, PA Rochester, NY Ligonier, PA Sharon, PA Beaver Falls, PA First Presbyterian Church of Bentleyville Bentleyville, PA Hanover Presbyterian Church Clinton, PA Harmony Evangelical Presbyterian Church Harrisville, PA Hickory United Evangelical Presbyterian Church Hickory, PA Leicester Evangelical Presbyterian Church Leicester, NY Mansfield First Presbyterian Church Mansfield, OH Middle Sandy Evangelical Presbyterian Church Homeworth, OH Mill Creek Evangelical Presbyterian Church Hookstown, PA Mountville Presbyterian Church Portersville, PA Mt Olivet Presbyterian Church Aliquippa, PA Mt. Lebanon Evangelical Presbyterian Church Pittsburgh, PA Mt. Pleasant Church Aliquippa, PA Butler, PA Muddy Creek Presbyterian Church North Park EPC Wexford, PA Petrolia Presbyterian Church Petrolia. PA Shiloh Presbyterian Church St. Marys, PA Starkdale Presbyterian Church Wintersville, OH Tabernacle Evangelical Presbyterian Church Austintown, OH Presbyterian Church of Portersville Portersville, PA Unionville Presbyterian Church Butler, PA Windy Gap Presbyterian Church West Finley, PA

Presbytery of the Central South

Central Presbyterian Church Huntsville, AL Covenant Presbyterian Church Columbus, MS First Evangelical Presbyterian Church Anna. IL First Presbyterian Church Opelika, AL First Presbyterian Church Tallassee, AL First Presbyterian Church West Point, MS First Presbyterian Church Corinth, MS First Presbyterian Church West Memphis, AR First Presbyterian Church Greenfield, TN Memphis, TN Second Presbyterian Church Sylvania Presbyterian Church Ward. AR Tunica Presbyterian Church Tunica. MS Woodland Presbyterian Church Memphis, TN

Presbytery of the East

Argyle Presbyterian Church Argyle, NY Ashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church Voorhees, NJ Bethlehem Steltz Reformed Church Glen Rock, PA Christ Presbyterian Church Springfield, MA Deerfield Presbyterian Church Deerfield St., NJ Fairview Evangelical Presbyterian Church Glenmoore, PA **Grace Covenant** Exton, PA Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church Huntingdon Valley, PA Little Britain Presbyterian Church
Oreland Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church of Kennett Square
Princetown Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Silver Lake Christian Community Church
Upper Octorara Presbyterian Church
Peach Bottom, PA
Kennett Square, PA
Duanesburg, NY
Brackney, PA
Parkesburg, PA

Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean

Community Presbyterian Church
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church
GracePoint Plant City

Clewiston, FL
Tallahassee, FL
Brooksville, FL
Plant City, FL

Presbytery of the Great Plains

Avery Presbyterian Church Bellevue, NE Bathgate Presbyterian Church Cavalier, ND Colonial Presbyterian Church Kansas City, MO Cornerstone Presbyterian Church Leawood, KS Eastminster Presbyterian Church Wichita, KS Faith United Presbyterian Church Brandon, SD First Presbyterian Church Siloam Springs, AR Clay Center, KS First Presbyterian Church Grace Evangelical Presbyterian Church Lawrence, KS Clay Center, KS Idana Presbyterian Church Kirk of the Hills Tulsa, OK New Hope Evangelical Presbyterian Church Blue Rapids, KS Turner County Evangelical Presbyterian Church Davis. SD

Presbytery of the Gulf South

Christ Presbyterian Church Daphne, AL City of Refuge Church Houston, TX **Cornerstone EPC** Katy, TX Covenant Evangelical Presbyterian Church Lake Jackson, TX **Covenant Presbyterian Church** Monroe, LA Edna Presbyterian Church Edna, TX Faith Church Brownsville Brownsville, TX First Presbyterian Church Mexia, TX Baton Rouge, LA First Presbyterian Church First Presbyterian Church Ocean Springs, MS First Presbyterian Church of Port Gibson Port Gibson, MS Grace Chapel Madison EPC Madison, MS Alexandria, LA Grace Presbyterian Church Memorial Presbyterian Church San Augustine, TX Minden Presbyterian Church Minden, LA Osyka Presbyterian Church Osyka, MS Westminster Presbyterian Church Gulfport, MS

Woodland Presbyterian Church Yokena Presbyterian Church New Orleans, LA Vicksburg, MS

Presbytery of Mid-America

Big Creek Presbyterian Church Hannibal, MO Brookdale Presbyterian Church St. Joseph, MO Central West End Church Saint Louis, MO City Church St. Louis, MO EPiC Evangelical Presbyterians in Christ Church Troy, MO Faith Presbyterian Church Perryville, MO **Greentree Community Church** Kirkwood, MO Providence Presbyterian Church Bowling Green, MO

Sutter Presbyterian Church Bridgeton, MO

Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

Bethlehem Presbyterian Church
Bishopville Presbyterian Church
Bouldin Memorial Presbyterian Church
Buffalo Presbyterian Church
Buffalo Presbyterian Church
Greensboro, NC

Centre Presbyterian Church
Christ Community Church - Montreat

Greensboro, NC

Mooresville, NC

Montreat, NC

Christ Fellowship Church Montreat Montreat, NC
Southern Pines, NC

Christ the King Community Church
Concord Presbyterian Church
Elon Presbyterian Church
Madison Heights, VA

Englewood Presbyterian Church Rocky Mount, NC

Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Elkton Elkton, VA
Fellowship of Christ Cary, NC

First Presbyterian Church Martinsburg, WV

Forest Hills EPC Wilson, NC
Galatia Evangelical Presbyterian Church Eagle Rock, VA

Galatia Presbyterian Church Fayetteville, NC
Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church Charlotte, NC

Grove Presbyterian Church EPC Dunn, NC

Hendersonville Presbyterian Church Hendersonville, NC

Hope Church Raleigh Raleigh, NC

Kershaw Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Lighthouse Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Mooresville, NC

Mebane Presbyterian ChurchMebane, NCMemorial Presbyterian ChurchGreensboro, NCMidway Evangelical Presbyterian ChurchNew Zion, SC

New Cut Presbyterian ChurchLancaster, SCNew Hope Community ChurchLynchburg, VAOverbrook Presbyterian ChurchGaffney, SC

Peace Church Durham, NC
Princeton Presbyterian Church Princeton, WV

Riceville Valley Community Church Ridgecrest Presbyterian Church

Roseann Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Rourk Presbyterian Church Siler Presbyterian Church

Trinity Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Troy Presbyterian Church Valley Hope Church

Walkers Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Walkersville Presbyterian Church

Wayside Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Presbytery of the Midwest

Attica Evangelical Presbyterian Church Cedarville United Presbyterian Church College Corner Presbyterian Church

Community Evangelical Presbyterian Church Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Covenant Church

Covenant Presbyterian Church of Tecumseh

Evangelical Community Church

Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Faith Presbyterian Church

Fellowship Evangelical Presbyterian Church

First Evangelical Presbyterian Church First Evangelical Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church First Presbyterian Church First Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church of Bucyrus First Presbyterian Church of Hillsdale

Gateway Church

Kirkmont Presbyterian Church

Lake City Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Lebanon Presbyterian Church Living Hope Evangelical Church

North Oaks Church

Oakhill Presbyterian Church

Olivet EPC

Peace Presbyterian Church Russellville Presbyterian Church Southport Presbyterian Church

Stonebridge EP Church

Westminster Church of Port Huron

Wheat Ridge Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Asheville, NC Locust, NC Hurley, VA

Rockingham, NC Wesley Chapel, NC

Florence, SC Trov. NC

Black Mountain, NC

Pamplin, VA Waxhaw, NC Sanford, NC Bluefield, WV

Attica, IN Cedarville, OH College Corner, OH

Owosso, MI Brighton, MI West Lafayette, IN Tecumseh, MI

Cincinnati, OH Rochester Hills, MI West Lafayette, IN

South Lyon, MI Kokomo, IN Battle Creek, MI Greenville, OH Ossian, IN

Paulding, OH Bucyrus, OH Hillsdale, MI Findlay, OH

Beavercreek, OH Lake City, MI Lebanon, OH Grosse Pointe, MI Clarkston, MI Grand Rapids, MI

Evansville, IN Flint, MI

Russellville, OH Indianapolis, IN Perrysburg, OH Port Huron, MI Seaman, OH

Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest

Alder Presbyterian Church Eatonville, WA Bickleton Evangelical Community Church Bickleton, WA Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church Gig Harbor, WA Christ Presbyterian Church Boise, ID Community Church of Ephrata Ephrata, WA Community Presbyterian Church of Omak Omak, WA **Evangelical Valley Presbyterian Church** Hazelton. ID Evergreen Church Graham, WA First Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Oregon City, OR First Presbyterian Church of Fairbanks Fairbanks, AK Grace Evangelical Presbyterian Church Gig Harbor, WA Living Waters Evangelical Presbyterian Church Wendell, ID Logos Presbyterian Church Seattle, WA McCloud Community Church McCloud, CA Merrill Presbyterian Church Merrill, OR New Hope Evangelical Presbyterian Church Burney, CA New Hope Presbyterian Church Kent. WA Oakville Presbyterian Church Shedd, OR Okanogan Evangelical Presbyterian Church Okanogan, WA Parkdale Community Church Parkdale, OR Parkway Presbyterian Church Tacoma, WA Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church Klamath Falls, OR Roslyn Presbyterian Church Roslyn, WA Saddlerock Evangelical Presbyterian Church Wenatchee, WA Sequim Community Church Sequim, WA Sterry Memorial Presbyterian Church Parma, ID Wabash Church Auburn, WA Woodland Presbyterian Church Woodland, WA

Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest

Centerville Presbyterian Church Fremont, CA Community Presbyterian Church of Danville Danville. CA **Covenant Community Church** Vacaville, CA Easton Presbyterian Church Fresno, CA First Armenian Presbyterian Church Fresno, CA First Presbyterian Church Hanford, CA First Presbyterian Church of Bakersfield Bakersfield, CA Kingman Presbyterian Church Kingman, AZ Sierra Presbyterian Church Nevada City, CA Woodlake Presbyterian Church Woodlake, CA

Presbytery of the Rivers and Lakes

Aplington Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Bethel Presbyterian Church
Buffalo Prairie Presbyterian Church
Reading, MN
Reynolds, IL

Christ Alone Church Green Bay, WI Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church Crivitz, WI First Evangelical Presbyterian Church Cedar Grove, WI First Presbyterian Church Waukegan, IL First Presbyterian Church Hillsboro, IL First Presbyterian Church of Mora Mora, MN First Presbyterian Evangelical Church Montezuma, IA First United Presbyterian Church Moline, IL Highview Evangelical Presbyterian Church Dousman, WI **Hogarty Community Church** Aniwa, WI Kishwaukee Community EPC Stillman Valley, IL Riverside Evangelical Church Sartell, MN Romine Prairie Presbyterian Church Kell, IL United Presbyterian Church of Amberg Amberg, WI Wabash Presbyterian Church at Orio Allendale, IL

Presbytery of the Southeast

Bethany Presbyterian Church Kingsport, TN Buck Hill Presbyterian Church Newland, NC Covenant Presbyterian Church Rome, GA First Presbyterian Church Stanton, KY Murphy Presbyterian Church EPC Murphy, NC New Hope EPC Kingsport, TN Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church Signal Mountain, TN Trion Evangelical Presbyterian Church Trion, GA Hixson, TN Valleybrook Presbyterian Church

Presbytery of the West

Cherry Hills Community Church Highlands Ranch, CO **Christ Covenant Church** Leoti, KS Stapleton, NE Cornerstone Church of Stapleton **Cornerstone Community Church** Aurora, CO Cornerstone Community Church of Greeley Greelev, CO Faith Evangelical Church CO Loveland, CO First Presbyterian Church of Hagerman Hagerman, NM Good Shepherd Evangelical Presbyterian Church Ajo, AZ Mountain Road Church Fruit Heights, UT

Respectfully submitted,

Huy Germal V Jeremiah

June 2021

<u>Click here for the 2020 Annual Church Report</u> <u>Click here for the 2020-2021 Descending Overture 20-A Ballot and Totals Overview</u>

Churches Received, Dissolved, or Dismissed, May 2020-May 2021

Churches Received:

Presbytery	of the	Central	South

Church	City	State	Received	From
Covenant Family Church	Memphis	TN	8/1/2020	Church Plant

Presbytery of the East

Church	City	State	Received	From
Resurrection Clinton Hill	Brooklyn	NY	11/1/2020	Church Plant
Resurrection Sheepshead Bay	Brooklyn	NY	11/1/2020	Church Plant
Resurrection Williamsburg	Brooklyn	NY	11/1/2020	Church Plant

Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

Church	City	State	Received	From
Hopewell Presbyterian Church	Florence	SC	10/18/2020	PC(USA)

Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest

Church	City	State	Received	From
Wintersburg Presbyterian Church	Santa Ana	CA	10/9/2020	ECO

Churches Dissolved or Dismissed:

Presbytery of the Alleghenies

Church	City	State	Received	Dismissed/Dissolved
Connellsville Presbyterian Church	Connellsville	PA	5/23/2015	2/7/2021

Presbytery of the Central South

Church	City	State	Received	Dismissed/Dissolved
First Presbyterian Church of New Madrid	Florence	SC	5/23/2012	7/15/2020

Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean

Church	City	State	Received	Dismissed/Dissolved
Cornerstone Bible Church	St. Petersburg	FL	5/20/2007	12/31/2020

Presbytery of the Midwest

Church	City	State	Received	Dismissed/Dissolved
Peace Church	Middleville	MI	11/14/2014	7/15/2020

Presbytery of the West

Church	City	State	Received	Dismissed/Dissolved
Celebration Community Church	Denver	CO	8/24/2003	3/26/2021

Stated Clerk-elect Report to the 41st General Assembly



Dean Weaver
Stated Clerk-elect

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." —Joshua 1:9

Although I was privileged to serve as the Moderator of our 37th General Assembly, I knew in January of this year when I began service as your Stated Clerk-elect that I was now in territory where I had never been before. Humbled to be chosen to follow Jeff Jeremiah who has served us so faithfully for these past 15 years, I am also deeply grateful to have had these past 6 months of transition to learn from and serve alongside of my friend and my brother Jeff.

These past 6 months have been a tremendous "learning curve" for me as I grew in familiarity of our Office of the General Assembly, our staff, and ministries. By sitting in on and participating in all the EPC's committees and teams, I have come to an increasingly greater appreciation for all the Lord is doing in and through our beloved denomination. From pastors, elders, and congregations to presbyteries and GA committees, to the very ends of the earth...God is active and moving to restore His Church.

Some of my activities during this period include:

- Evaluating and revamping our OGA Employee Manual (policies and procedures).
- Realigning some of our OGA staff to better fit their gifts and our needs.
- Becoming Head of Staff on March 1st and beginning to listen and learn from my new "direct reports."
- Working with the GA Nominating Committee to learn our process and assisting them in the all-important, Holy Spirit driven process of populating all our GA committees and teams.

- Working with our National Leadership team to set a course for what comes next in the EPC in alignment with our mission, vision, and values.
- Learning from Jeff in all areas of the Stated Clerk's job, including preparation for this year's General Assembly.
- Serving on the World Outreach Executive Director Search Committee.
- Giving leadership to several new/renewed initiatives related to our strategic priorities.

Two of the of the initiatives I have been working on include a Pastor/Spouse Retreat(s) and the Timothy Russell Memorial Scholarship. To supplement and support what many of our presbyteries are doing to care for our Teaching Elders and their families coming out of this unprecedented year of quarantine, the OGA will be sponsoring two retreats: one at Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Champion PA on October 19-22, 2021, and the other at the Canterbury Conference Center in Oviedo FL (near Orlando) on February 15-17, 2022. Both retreats are entitled "Moving Out of the COVID Wilderness" based on guidance and teaching from Psalm 13 as led by Bishop Jim Hobby and his wife, Rev. Shari Hobby, of the Anglican Church of North America (ACNA). The other initiative flows from the work of the EPC's 7:9 Task Force in honor of one of our founding team members, Rev. Tim Russell of Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis who contracted COVID-19 last year and subsequently celebrated his homegoing to be with the Lord. In partnership with RTS Orlando, First Presbyterian Church of Orlando, Second Presbyterian Church of Memphis, and the EPC's Office of the General Assembly, we will be offering a full tuition/full housing scholarship to one person of color each year, including internships at FPCO and the OGA. Tim's deep love for his Savior and a Reformed theological education make this tribute a natural for us!

As we look to the future, we can expect to see the Lord at work in each of our congregations and presbyteries as we live into our mission and the strategic priorities that inform that mission. Expect to hear more about intentional church planting, evangelism training, and revitalization as we reach those in our 1, 3, and 5-mile radius of our congregations; more strategic directives in the development of effective biblical leaders; and finally, a renewed expression of what it means for us to be a truly global movement of Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical, and Missional congregations.

When Joshua led Israel into uncharted territory, he was commanded to not be afraid, because the Lord who had promised them the land, had also promised them His presence. I am humbled and honored to serve you in this new calling and I am excited to see all that the Lord will do as we place our trust in Him and follow where He leads. Wherever God guides, He provides!

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Weaver, Stated Clerk-elect

June 2021



SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

(Communications, Overtures, and Recommendations)

41-01	The Nominating Committee recommends that the 41 st General Assembly ELECT Brad Strait as the Moderator of the 41 st General Assembly. (p. 33).
41-02	The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 41 st General Assembly SUSTAIN Provisional Opinion 2021-01 issued by the Office of the Stated Clerk of January 29, 2021, to permit holding a hybrid (including virtual attendance) 41 st General Assembly. (p. 34)
41-03	The National Leadership Team recommends that the 41 st General Assembly APPROVE the amendments to <i>Rules for Assembly</i> governing the meetings of the General Assembly. (p. 34)
	The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 41 st General Assembly APPROVE 41-03 .
41-04	The Nominating Committee [First Reading] recommends that the 41 st General Assembly ELECT the slate of nominees for the 41 st General Assembly Permanent Committees and Boards. (p. 35).
41-05	The Revelation 7:9 Task Force recommends that the 41 st General Assembly APPROVE the extension of its work from June 2022 to June 2023. (p. 37)
41-06	Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Northville, Michigan, INVITES the 41 st General Assembly to hold the 42 nd General Assembly on its campus. (p. 37)
41-07	The Stated Clerk recommends that the 41 st General Assembly RATIFY an amendment to <i>Book of Government</i> G-13m Overture 20-A (14 Presbyteries voted to approve). (p. 37)
41-08	The National Leadership Team recommends that the 41 st General Assembly APPROVE the minutes of the 40 th General Assembly. (p. 37)
41-09	The National Leadership Team recommends that the 41 st General Assembly ELECT Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah as Stated Clerk-emeritus. (p. 37)
41-10	The Theology Committee recommends that the 41st General Assembly APPROVE withdrawing approval from Bethany Christian Services as an approved agency of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. (p. 38)
41-11	The Theology Committee recommends that the 41 st General Assembly APPROVE the amendment to <i>Book of Government</i> 19-4.C.1. (p. 39).

The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 41st General



- The Theology Committee recommends that the 41st General Assembly APPROVE the amendment to the *Book of Government* 20-4A.3. (p. 39)

 The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 41st General Assembly APPROVE the amendment to *Book of Government* 20-4A.3.
- **41-13 The Theology Committee** recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the amendment to *Book of Worship* 7-5. (p. 40) **The Permanent Judicial Commission** recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the amendments to *Book of Worship* 7-5.
- **41-14 The Theology Committee** recommends that the 41st General Assembly **RECEIVE** the report of the committee concerning the terms "connectional" and "connectionalism" as understood by the EPC. (p. 40)
- **41-15 The Chaplains Work and Care Committee** recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the amendments to *Book of Government* 9-5E and *Book of Worship* 3-1A. (p. 41)

The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the amendments to *Book of Government* 9-5E and *Book of Worship* 3-1A.

- **41-16** The Chaplains Work and Care Committee recommends that the 41st General Assembly APPROVE the EPC CWCC Policy Statement on Chaplain Ministry to Same-Sex Couples and LGBTQ individuals. (p. 42)
- 41-17 The Giving Culture Study Committee recommends that the 41st General Assembly DIRECT the Office of the Stated Clerk to send to all Presbyteries and churches, for study, the proposed change in the funding formula from Per Member Asking (PMA) to Percentage of Budget (POB). (p. 42)
- **41-18 The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the <u>FY22 Administration Budget</u>. (p. 42)
- **41-19 The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the <u>FY22 Special Projects</u>. (p. 42)
- **41-20 The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 41st General Assembly **RECEIVE** "The Role and Purpose of the Office of the General Assembly." (p. 43)
- 41-21 The Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic OVERTURES that the 41st General Assembly APPROVE the creation of three Presbyteries from the current Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic effective July 1, 2022. (p. 43)

The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the creation of three Presbyteries from the current Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic, effective July 1, 2022.



- **41-22 The Chaplains Work and Care Committee** recommends that the 41st General Assembly **DELETE** the reference to CWCC Chairman as denominational endorser in *Acts of Assembly* 11-13. (p. 43)
- **41-23 The Chaplains Work and Care Committee** recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the amendment to *Rules for Assembly* X.10-1 I.3. (p. 44)
- **41-24 Benefit Resources, Inc., Board of Directors** recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** ordained ministers drawing retirement income from the EPC 403(b)(9) Defined Contribution Retirement Plan be allowed to designate up to 100% of their retirement income for housing allowance as permitted by applicable regulations adopted pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code. (p. 44)
- **41-25 The Nominating Committee** recommends that the 41st General Assembly **ELECT** Rosemary Lukens as the Moderator-elect of the 41st General Assembly. (p. 45)
- **41-26** The Moderator of the 40th General Assembly recommends that the 41st General Assembly APPROVE the 2021-2022 Chairman for the BRI Board of Directors, and a slate of nominees to fill vacancies on the Permanent Nominating Committee. (p. 46)
- 41-27 (Possible omnibus motion) (p. 47)
- **41-28 The Presbytery Review Committee** recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the Exceptions Requiring Responses by December 31, 2021. (p. 47)
- **41-29 The Presbytery Review Committee** recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the responses of the Presbyteries to those Exceptions approved at the 40th General Assembly. (p. 50)
- 41-30 The Presbytery Review Committee recommends that the 41st General Assembly APPROVE the referral of the Committee's findings regarding the failure of at least 12% of EPC churches to provide any engagement with their presbytery during 2020 by either TEs or RE Commissioners to the Ministerial Vocation Committee for further study and action. (p. 50)



41-01 (to the Floor) FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominee for Moderator of the 41st General Assembly TE Brad Strait



Dr. Brad Strait is Lead Pastor at Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church in Englewood, Colorado. He has more than 30 years of pastoral experience, and also teaches at Denver Theological Seminary in both Leadership and Spiritual Formation. His passion is to exhort people toward a deeper relationship with the living, incarnational Jesus—especially as it applies to prayer, missional living, and world Christianity. His doctoral work was in developing *Spiritual Intimacy with God and Others*.

Brad's energetic faith pushes through the cracks of real life: he was a grief counselor on scene after the Columbine High School shooting in 1999, the Aurora Theater tragedy in 2012, and the 2004 tsunami in south India. He has taught the Bible around the world and worked with the poor in refugee camps of Central America, South America, Africa, and Asia. He also has served as Chaplain for the Colorado House of Representatives, the Denver

Rescue Mission, and several police and fire departments. He has chaired the EPC's permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee and was part of the team that produced the EPC Leadership Training Guide: A Resource for Pastors, Elders, and Churches.

He has been married to his wife, Cathy, for 39 years. His three daughters and three granddaughters are his treasure and cheering section. His stories of spiritual life can be found at bradstrait.com.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-nominating



41-02 (to the Floor) FROM THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 41st General Assembly **SUSTAIN** Provisional Opinion 2021-01 issued by the Office of the Stated Clerk on January 29, 2021, to permit holding a hybrid (including virtual attendance) 41st General Assembly.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-pjc Provisional Opinion 2021-01

41-03 (to the Floor) FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the amendments for *Rules for Assembly* as follows (amendments in **bold**):

- Rule 1-1 The General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall meet annually on the date and at the place fixed by the preceding General Assembly, between May 1 and June 30. In the event of a natural disaster, epidemic or restrictions mandated by the federal, state, or local government affecting the host church, virtual participation of commissioners may take place; the National Leadership Team will determine whether virtual participation is permitted no less than 30 days prior to the first day of registration for an upcoming General Assembly.
- Rule 1-2 The place of meeting for **physically present commissioners** shall be rotated among the various areas of the church as much as possible.
- Rule 2-2 The Stated Clerk shall present a report on the enrollment and declare if a quorum is **physically and virtually** present (if virtual presence is necessary).
- *Rule* 2-3 The first order of business shall **ordinarily** be the election of a Moderator.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-nlt

The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE 41-03**.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-pjc



41-04 (to the Floor)

FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE Slate of Nominations—Permanent Committees and Boards

Some nominees had not confirmed acceptance of their nomination at press time and will be announced at the 41st General Assembly.

Note: ^second term; *pending Session or Presbytery endorsement

Benefit Resources, Inc., Board of Directors

Class of 2024	TE Eric Shipton	Mid-Atlantic
Class of 2024	Michael Moore [^]	Central South

Class of 2024 TE Bill Reisenweaver Florida and the Caribbean

Chaplains Work and Care Committee

Class of 2024	RE Ben Brychta	Southeast
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Class of 2024 RE Darrell DeHaven Pacific Northwest

Class of 2024 TE Russ Ragon West

Fraternal Relations Committee

Class of 2023	TE Stan Van Den Berg	Great Plains
Class of 2024	RE Carol Culbertson [^]	West

Class of 2024 TE Don Fortson[^] Mid-Atlantic

Generosity Resources Committee

Class of 2024 TE Ben Borsay^ Midwest

Class of 2024 TE Rus Howard[^] Rivers and Lakes

Ministerial Vocation Committee

Class of 2024 TE Joe Kim East

Class of 2024 TE Rachel White Pacific Northwest

National Leadership Team

Class of 2024	RE Mark Buntz	Great Plains
Class of 2024	RE Linda McDaniel	West
Class of 2024	TE Neil Smith	East

Class of 2024 RE John Ivy Central South

Next Generation Ministries Council

Class of 2024	Greg Aydt^	West
Class of 2024	Meg DeHaven^	East
(1) (1) (1)	TTT A 1 3.4:11 A	0.100

Class of 2024 TE Andrew Mills^ Gulf South



Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2024 RE Amanda Cowan[^] Florida and the Caribbean

Class of 2024 RE Brain Wyatt Pacific Southwest

Class of 2024 RE Forest Norman Alleghenies

Presbytery Review Committee

Class of 2024 RE Jane Bodden[^] Florida and the Caribbean

Class of 2024 RE Bill Myers Pacific Southwest

Theology Committee

Class of 2024 RE Carol Williams Alleghenies

Class of 2024 TE Cameron Shaffer^ East

World Outreach Committee

Class of 2024 TE Rick Dietzman[^] Pacific Northwest

Class of 2024 RE Susan Lear^ Great Plains
Class of 2024 RE Wes Peterson^ Mid-Atlantic

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-nominating



41-05 (to the Floor) FROM THE REVELATION 7:9 TASK FORCE

The Revelation 7:9 Task Force recommends, due to the COVID-19 interruption and work stoppage, that the initial two-year request be extended from June 2022 to June 2023. Churches are responding to the vision of living out the Great Commission and the Great Commandments in our local neighborhoods where the Lord has placed them. Another year will make it possible to serve them more effectively.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-rev79

41-06 (to the Floor)
COMMUNICATION

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Northville, Michigan, **INVITES** the 41st General Assembly to hold the 42nd General Assembly on its campus.

Invitation Letter from Ward EPC

41-07 (to the Floor)
FROM THE STATED CLERK

The Stated Clerk recommends that the 41st General Assembly **RATIFY** an amendment to *Book of Government* G-13m <u>Overture 20-A</u> (14 Presbyteries voted to approve).

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-sc

41-08 (to the Floor)
FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the Minutes of the 40th General Assembly.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-nlt

41-09 (to the Floor)
FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 41st General Assembly **ELECT** Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah as Stated Clerk-emeritus.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-nlt



41-10 (to the Theology Standing Committee) **FROM THE THEOLOGY COMMITTEE**

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

Background:

- 1. The 39th 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 9th 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 40th General Assembly. The circumstances of the 40th General Assembly did not offer the opportunity for the interaction on this matter that it deserves. Therefore, the matter was deferred to the 41st 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 41st General Assembly.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-theology



41-11 (to the Theology Standing Committee) FROM THE THEOLOGY COMMITTEE

The Theology Committee recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the amendment to *Book of Government* 19-4.C.1. The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the amendment to *Book of Government* 19-4.C.1.

Current Book of Government 19-4.C.1	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 19-4.C.1 <i>Amendments in bold italics</i>
1. To work with other Presbyteries and the General Assembly to create agencies for education, the orphaned, the aged, and other suitable activities.	1. To work with other Presbyteries and the General Assembly to create agencies for education, identify resources for ministry to and inclusion of the orphaned, the aged, and the disabled. other suitable activities.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-theology www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-pjc

41-12 (to the Theology Standing Committee) **FROM THE THEOLOGY COMMITTEE**

The Theology Committee recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the amendment to the *Book of Government* 20-4A.3. The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the amendment to *Book of Government* 20-4A.3.

Current Book of Government 20-4.A.3	Current Book of Government 20-4.A.3 Amendment in bold italics
3. To create separately or in conjunction with the Presbyteries those agencies or institutions needed for education or other purposes that would enhance the life and ministry of the whole church.	3. To create identify separately or in Conjunction with the Presbyteries those agencies or institutions needed for education or other purposes that would enhance the life and ministry of the whole church.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-theology www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-pjc



41-13 (to the Theology Standing Committee) FROM THE THEOLOGY COMMITTEE

The Theology Committee recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the amendment to *Book of Worship* 7-5. The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the amendment to *Book of Worship* 7-5.

Current Book of Worship 7-5

The New Testament describes the concern and compassion of Christ for the conditions of people. The Church shall emulate its Head by showing special concern for the sick, the sorrowing, the hungry, and the poor. The Session shall be responsible for establishing these ministries within the congregation, and into the community. The service of compassion to those in adversity shall include such places as hospitals. retirement homes, convalescent homes, children's homes, prisons and other public institutions. The higher courts of the Church shall seek to show compassion in these areas, including the establishment of institutions, both at home and abroad, for the care of various needs.

Current Book of Worship 7-5 **Amendments** in bold italics

The New Testament describes the concern and compassion of Christ for the conditions of people. The Church shall emulate its Head by showing special concern for the sick, the sorrowing, the hungry, and the poor. The Session shall be responsible for establishing these ministries within the congregation, and into the community. The service of compassion to those in adversity shall include such places as hospitals. retirement homes, convalescent homes, children's homes, prisons and other public institutions. The higher courts of the Church shall seek to show compassion inthese areas, including the establishment of institutions, both at home and abroad, for the care of various needs.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-theology www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-pic

41-14 (to the Theology Standing Committee) **FROM THE THEOLOGY COMMITTEE**

The Theology Committee recommends that the 41st General Assembly **RECEIVE** the report of the committee concerning the terms <u>"connectional" and "connectionalism"</u> as understood by the EPC.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-theology
Definition of "connectional" and "connectionalism"



41-15 (to the Theology Standing Committee) FROM THE CHAPLAINS WORK AND CARE COMMITTEE

The Chaplains Work and Care Committee recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the amendments to *Book of Government* 9-5E by deletion of the final sentence and insertion of a footnote to *Book of Worship* 3-1A in the first sentence as follows, "'Lawfully ordained Minister' includes EPC Chaplains who are called to serve in a military or civilian organization, have been approved by their Presbytery, and have been endorsed by the General Assembly (see G.9-5E and Rules for Assembly X.10-1I)."

The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the amendments to *Book of Government* 9-5E and *Book of Worship* 3-1A.

Current Book of Government 9-5E	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 9-5E <i>Amendments in bold italics.</i>
E. Chaplain A court of the church, a hospital, the military, institutions, universities, or other appropriate fields of service may call a Teaching Elder as Chaplain if the Presbytery deems it appropriate. In such cases, the Chaplain shall always have as a primary responsibility the sharing of the Good News of God in Jesus Christ. The Presbytery may authorize the Chaplain to administer the sacraments in that role.	E. Chaplain A court of the church, a hospital, the military, institutions, universities, or other appropriate fields of service may call a Teaching Elder as Chaplain if the Presbytery deems it appropriate. In such cases, the Chaplain shall always have as a primary responsibility the sharing of the Good News of God in Jesus Christ. The-Presbytery may authorize the Chaplain to administer the sacraments in that role.

Current Book of Worship 3-1A	Proposed <i>Book of Worship</i> 3-1A Amendment in <i>bold italics.</i>
3-1 A	3-1 A
A. Administration of sacraments Ordinarily, only a lawfully ordained Minister ²⁸² may administer the sacraments	A. Administration of sacraments Ordinarily, only a lawfully ordained Minister ²⁸² may administer the sacraments

²⁸² A 'lawfully ordained minister' includes EPC Chaplains who are called to serve in a military or civilian organization, have been approved by their Presbytery, and have been endorsed by the General Assembly. Also, a lawfully ordained minister in good standing of a non-EPC church may be authorized to serve communion in an EPC Church, with the concurrence of the Presbytery (Acts of Assembly 94-22 and 14-06) See also Westminster Confession of Faith 27-4.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-cwcc www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-pjc



41-16 (to the Theology Standing Committee) FROM THE CHAPLAINS WORK AND CARE COMMITTEE

The Chaplains Work and Care Committee recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the EPC <u>CWCC Policy Statement</u> on Chaplain Ministry to Same-Sex Couples and LGBTQ individuals.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-cwcc

41-17 (to the Floor) FROM THE GIVING CULTURE STUDY COMMITTEE

The Giving Culture Study Committee recommends that the 41st General Assembly **DIRECT** the Office of the Stated Clerk to send to all Presbyteries and churches, for study, the proposed change in the funding formula from Per Member Asking (PMA) to Percentage of Budget (POB).

Rationale:

Per Member Asking is no longer a viable method of determining a local church's giving formula at the national level of the EPC. Developing a percentage funding formula using Percentage of Operating Budget (POB) will standardize and define the accepted giving method for all churches in the denomination.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-gcsc

41-18 (to the Administration Standing Committee) **FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the <u>FY22 Administration Budget</u>.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-nlt

41-19 (to the Administration Standing Committee) **FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the FY22 Special Projects.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-nlt



41-20 (to the Administration Standing Committee) FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 41st General Assembly **RECEIVE** "The Role and Purpose of the Office of the General Assembly."

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-nlt

41-21 (to the Administration Standing Committee) **FROM PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC**

The Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic **OVERTURES** that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the creation of three Presbyteries from the current Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic effective July 1, 2022.

Overture from the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the creation of three Presbyteries from the current Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic, effective July 1, 2022.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-pjc

41-22 (to the Administration Standing Committee) FROM THE CHAPLAINS WORK AND CARE COMMITTEE

The Chaplains Work and Care Committee recommends that the 41st General Assembly **DELETE** the reference to CWCC Chairman as denomination endorser in *Acts of Assembly* 11-13.

Current Acts of Assembly 11-13	Proposed Acts of Assembly 11-13 Amendments in bold italics
11-13 The Assembly creates a Permanent Committee on Chaplains Work and Care whose chairman serves as denominational endorser.	11-13 The Assembly creates a Permanent Committee on Chaplains Work and Care whose chairman serves as denominational endorser.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-cwcc



41-23 (to the Administration Standing Committee) FROM THE CHAPLAINS WORK AND CARE COMMITTEE

The Chaplains Work and Care Committee recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the amendment to *Rules for Assembly* X.10-1 I.3.

Current Rules for Assembly X.10-1 I.3.	Proposed <i>Rules for Assembly</i> X.10-1 I.3. <i>Amendments in bold italics.</i>	
I. Committee on Chaplains Work and Care	I. Committee on Chaplains Work and Care	
3. Chaplain Endorser: The Moderator shall nominate to the General Assembly a Teaching Elder to serve as the denomination's Chaplain Endorser for a three-year term, which is renewable. The Endorser will be operationally accountable to the Office to the Stated Clerk. a. The nominee will normally be one with experience in military chaplaincy.	3. Chaplain Endorser: The Moderator shall nominate to the General Assembly a Teaching Elder to serve as the denomination's Chaplain Endorser for a three-year term, which is renewable. The Endorser will be operationally accountable to the Office to the Stated Clerk. a. The nominee will normally be one with experience in military chaplaincy. should be a well-qualified, retired military chaplain unless there is not one	
a. The Endorser is an ex-officio member of the Chaplains Work and Care Committee with voice and vote.	 b. The Endorser is an ex-officio member of the Chaplains Work and Care Committee with voice and vote, and together, recruit, endorse, and support all EPC Chaplains. 	

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-cwcc

41-24 (to the Floor) FROM THE BENEFIT RESOURCES, INC., BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Benefit Resources, Inc., Board of Directors recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** ordaining ministers drawing retirement income from the EPC 403(b)(9) Defined Contribution Retirement Plan be allowed to designate up to 100% of their retirement income for housing allowance as permitted by applicable regulations adopted pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-bri



41-25 (to the Floor) FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominee for Moderator-elect of the 41st General Assembly RE Rosemary Lukens

A Ruling Elder for Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church (CHPC) in Gig Harbor, Washington, Rosemary Lukens is an Executive Coach with extensive leadership development experience in health care and nonprofit organizations. Among her areas of professional expertise are coaching and consulting with individual developmental planning; conflict reconciliation; leadership development for teams and individuals; program and curriculum development; and workshop, meeting, and classroom facilitation.

For the past 18 years she has helped a diverse array of physicians, executive leaders, managers, and their staff members with relationships, strategy, and goal setting. She also has assisted such non-profit organizations as hospitals,



physician groups, city governments, universities, and churches adopt practices and build cultures that appreciate and embrace change, improve performance, and optimize talent.

Lukens is a Registered Nurse by training and holds a Bachelor of Science in Sociology from the University of Puget Sound and a Master of Arts in Applied Behavioral Science with a specialty in Coaching and Consulting in Organizations from Bastyr University's Leadership Institute of Seattle.

She holds certifications in the Conflict Dynamics Profile from the Center for Dynamics; Crucial Conversations from VitalSmarts, Inc.; The Harrison Assessment (Levels I & II) from Harrison Assessments International; the DISC Index from Innermetrix, Inc.; Benchmarks 360 from the Center for Creative Leadership; Coaching for Development from the Center for Creative Leadership; the Kolb Learning Style Inventory from the Hay Group; and the Mayer, Salovey, Caruso Emotional Intelligence Test (MSCEIT) from Multi-Health Systems, Inc.

In addition to being a Ruling Elder, she serves CHPC as a certified Spiritual Director, Lay Counselor, and Leadership Coach/Consultant. She is a member of the EPC's National Leadership Team (NLT) and was a member of the Stated Clerk Search Committee. She also serves as a volunteer board member with VitalChurch Ministries.

She is married to David Lukens, DO, and they have 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 3 "adopted" grandchildren.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-nominating



41-26 (to the Floor) COMMUNICATION

The Moderator of the 40th General Assembly recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the 2021-2022 Chairman for the BRI Board of Directors, and a slate of nominees to fill vacancies on the Permanent Nominating Committee.

June 2021 Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah, Stated Clerk Evangelical Presbyterian Church 5850 T.G. Lee Blvd., Suite 510 Orlando, FL 32822

Dear Jeff,

The *Rules for Assembly* stated that the Moderator is to appoint a Chairman for the Nominating Committee, and to nominate persons to fill vacancies on the Nominating Committee. The Moderator is also to nominate the Chairman for the BRI Board of Directors for the forthcoming Assembly. I am pleased to offer the following individuals:

1. Appointment: 2021-2022 Chairman, Nominating Committee

RE Brian Altmyer (Presbytery of the Alleghenies)

2. Nominations: Nominating Committee

Name	Presbytery	Class
TE Joshua Hurd	Pacific Northwest	2024
RE Ann Weston	Mid-America	2024
RE Joe McCoy	Mid-Atlantic	2024
TE David Ricketts	Pacific Southwest	2024
TE Jeff Chadwick	Southeast	2024

3. Nominations: 2021-2022 Chairman, BRI Board of Directors

Randy Shaneyfelt (Presbytery of the Great Plains)

It is my blessing and privilege to place these names before the Assembly and in so doing, to commend these fine people for service to our denomination and to our Lord.

Glenn Meyers

Moderator, 40th General Assembly



41-27 (to the Floor) POSSIBLE OMNIBUS MOTION

Business items coming from Standing Committees that are of a routine nature, such as Committee Minutes, are often put into an Omnibus Consent Motion. This single Motion is then brought to the floor of the Assembly for vote.

41-28 (to the Floor) FROM THE PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Presbytery Review Committee recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the Exceptions Requiring Responses (by December 31, 2021) as found in the Minutes of eight presbyteries.

Alleghenies

The committee recommends that the Minutes of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies be approved with the following *exceptions*:

- A. For Mr. Justin Olivetti and 36-18A (p.664) for TE Matthew Geary must list the membership of the Commissions appointed to ordain and/or install TEs to show each member's office and church represented. Minutes must also list the location and date of that proposed activity (G.21-1A.2).
- B. 35th and 36th Meeting. The reports of the Administrative Commissions for these three activities listed above are not included in the Minutes of the 35th meeting or the 36th meeting as required by **G.**21-1A.2.
- C. An out-of-bounds call be approved "for a term of up to three years." No term identified for TE Cummings, TE Bowers, or TE Zampella. 34-11B, p. 635, 35-11B, p. 649 (**G.**10-8B2(a), p. 25-26).
- D. Call of an Assistant Pastor "shall be for a definite period of time." No time period identified for Rev. Geary. 36-18A, p. 664 (**G.**10-6A, p. 23).

Florida and the Caribbean

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean be approved with the following *exceptions*.

- A. **G.11-2E** requires the Presbytery to assign a TE "in the Presbytery" as an advisor for the Candidate Under Care. Candidate Under Care Hendrickson transferred from the Presbytery of the Alleghenies to the Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean. No mention is made of assigning a new advisor from within the Presbytery. 91.06, p. 792; **(G.11-2E**, p. 28).
- B. **G.**10-8B2(a) requires that an out-of-bounds call be approved "for a term of up to three years." No term identified for TE Vande Brake. 91.06, p. 794; (**G.**10-8B2(a), p. 25-26).

Great Plains

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Presbytery of the Great Plains be approved with the following *exceptions*.



- A. Candidate Jordin Greer and Advisor Stan Van Den Berg, the Pastor, are from the same church, Eastminster Presbyterian Church. No justification for not following the requirement for "ordinarily not the Candidate's Pastor." 19-06B, Page 504, (G.11-2E, Acts of Assembly 06-08).
- B. Candidate Scott Matson and Advisor Aaron Elmore, the Pastor, are from the same church, Kirk of the Hills. No justification is presented for not following the requirement for "not ordinarily the Candidate's Pastor." 19-06A, page 504, (G.11-2E, *Acts of Assembly* 06-08).

Gulf South

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Presbytery of the Gulf South be approved with the following *exceptions*.

- A. The examination of all Teaching Elders for ordination and/or installation shall include an approval of their position with respect to the Westminster Standards—either with no stated exceptions or an acceptance of any stated exception(s). This is not recorded for Candidates Stinson, Edwards, Foster, Hutson, or Watson or for the transfer of Rev. Edwards. 17.17, 10, 13, p. 9 19.05, 13-15, p. 35. (G.12-4. p. 30).
- B. The purpose of the Called meeting should be clearly stated, as well as the details of the call. This demonstrates for the record that: 1) the requirements for calling the meeting were met, and 2) no business other than that stated as the purpose of the called meeting was conducted. C1.01, p. 18. (G.19-5.B, p. 50).

Midwest

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Midwest Presbytery be approved with the following *exceptions*.

- A. Candidates were asked questions, but no record was provided of examinations and no details of the candidates such as church membership and Session endorsement. Does not state that the motion passed. 170-08, p. 204-205 (*Rules for Assembly* 9-12G.7, *Rules for Assembly* 9-12G.4; **G.**19-5D; **G.**11-2).
- B. No record of examinations and no details of the candidates such as church membership and Session endorsement. Does not state that the motion passed. 171-17, p. 233; (*Rules for Assembly* 9-12G.7; *Rules for Assembly* 9-12G.4; **G**.19-5D; **G**.11-2).
- C. There was an attachment showing that Session minutes were received (53 of 57 churches), that included the church name, but none had been indicated as reviewed. There was no column indicating "Reviewed." This review information needs to be in the body of the minutes. 169th meeting, 169 Attachment B; 171-11, p. 231 (G.19-4.A.7; *Rules for Assembly* 9-12G.10; *Acts of Assembly* 07-08.1).
- D. Candidates Care Committee report: There were no details of how Matthew Grimm was examined for ordination (**G**.12-2).
- E. There were no details of how David Menzel was examined to come under care of the Presbytery. TE Chris Winans was approved as David Menzel's advisor, but it was not recorded that TE Winans is not Mr. Menzel's Pastor. 169th minutes, p. 186, section 169-16 (G.11-2).
- F. Candidates Committee. There were no **G.**11-2 details for candidate-coming-under-care Blaise Shields. The two advisors for Blaise Shields were not identified as not being Mr.



Shields Pastor. There were no **G.**11-2 details for candidate-coming-under-care Brandon LaFontaine. The two advisors for Mr. LaFontaine were not identified as not being Mr. LaFontaine's Pastor. There were no **G.**11-2 details for candidate-coming-under-care Octavio Samaniego. The two advisors for Mr. Samaniego were not identified as not being Mr. Samaniego's Pastor. There were no **G.**11-2 details for candidate-coming-under-care S.K. (full name redacted for security). The advisor for Mr. K. was not identified as not being his Pastor. 170th minutes, p. 204-205, section 170-08, **G.**11-2

- G. Ministerial Committee: Omnibus motion #1: "Move TE Paul Copeland to retired rolls." There were no details from **G.**15 (Retiring Pastors) in the minutes. *Acts of Assembly* 12-11. #2: "ON MOTION: That Peace Church ... be dismissed to independence." This motion should have included details that all sections of **G.**5-10 (Dismissal) were followed. 171st meeting, p. 230, continuation of section 171-09.
- H. Candidates Care Committee: Two candidates were introduced, but no details of their exam (**G.11-2C**) were recorded. Advisors for the two candidates were not noted as not being the candidate's Pastor. 171st minutes, p. 233, section 171-17 (**G.11-2**).

Pacific Northwest

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Pacific Northwest Presbytery be approved with the following *exceptions*.

- A. Authorization for a Commissioned Pastor shall be for a term of up to 3 years and may be renewed. No term specified for RE Jim Day. 7-35, p.170. (**G.**9-11.A, p. 19).
- B. Administrative Commissions of Presbytery shall have a ratio close to 2 RE to 1 TE, have not fewer than 5 members, and shall have REs representing not fewer than two member churches. (1) None of these requirements are met for the Administrative Commission approved to install RE Spencer. (2) Administrative Commission appointed to install RE Jim Day has only 3 members and no TEs. (1) 8-13, p. 8, (2) 9-20, p. 12 (G.21-1C2 and 21-1C2B).

Pacific Southwest

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Pacific Southwest Presbytery be approved with the following *exceptions*.

A. Use of the title "Executive Pastor" for a TE. EPC Teaching Elders may hold titles of Pastor, Associate Pastor, Assistant Pastor, Transitional Pastor, Stated Supply, or Occasional Supply. "These are the only recognized callings for Teaching Elders in a congregational setting." #9/p. 117/9-8 (G.9-5-A.1).

West

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of Presbytery of the West be approved with the following *exceptions*.

A. Rev. Warmath's examination was approved and his acceptance into the Presbytery of the West was approved, but no mention is made of approval of his Out-of-Bounds Call or of approval of a term of up to three years. 121st Stated, p. 9-10, 121:12B; (G.10-8B.2.a).

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Minutes of the Presbytery Review Committee



41-29 (to the Floor) FROM THE PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Presbytery Review Committee recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the responses of the Presbyteries to those Exceptions approved at the 40th General Assembly.

- Central South
- Florida and the Caribbean
- Mid-Atlantic
- Midwest
- Pacific Northwest
- Southeast
- West

The Committee commends the following Presbyteries for not having any exceptions for their 2020 meetings.

- Alleghenies
- East
- Great Plains
- Gulf South
- Mid-America
- Pacific Southwest
- Rivers and Lakes

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-prc

Minutes of the Presbytery Review Committee

41-30 (to the Floor) FROM THE PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Presbytery Review Committee recommends that the 41st General Assembly **APPROVE** the referral of the Committee's findings regarding the failure of at least 12% of EPC churches to provide any engagement with their Presbytery during 2020 by either their Teaching Elder(s) or Ruling Elder Commissioners to the Ministerial Vocation Committee for further study and action.

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-prc

Minutes of the Presbytery Review Committee



The following Committees have no recommendations

FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-fr

GENEROSITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-gr

MINISTERIAL VOCATION COMMITTEE

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-mvc

NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES COUNCIL

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-ngmc

WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE

www.epc.org/files/ga2021report-wo