



EPC

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

COMMITTEE REPORT

Generosity Resources Committee
Report to the 41st General Assembly



Bobby Cobbs
Chairman

Summary of Work, 2020-2021:

1. In summary, 2020-2021 was spent researching, identifying, and developing the resources that the local church needs to help them expand their culture of generosity.
2. Worked with Crown Ministries to negotiate a suitable and affordable online resource available to local church leadership and its members to promote redemptive biblical stewardship training.
3. Developed a partnership relationship with “Freewill.com” which is an online service that provides individual and family church members an online Will, Advanced Medical Directive, and a Power of Attorney at no cost. This service is approved in all 50 states and has a bequest section that will list your local church, EPC, etc.
4. Met with Jane Cooper, Chairman of the Giving Culture Study Committee, to coordinate our committee's efforts in response to that committee's report recommendations approved by the General Assembly in 2020.
5. Initiated development of a comprehensive three-year plan to promote generosity and stewardship that will include beta-testing with select churches using metrics to measure outcomes that can be evaluated for effectiveness and cost efficiency.
6. Worked to update and refine the EPC Generosity Resources section of the EPC website so that users within the denomination can readily access generosity and stewardship resources.

Recommendations to the 2021 General Assembly:

None

Work of the Committee in 2020-2021:

The purpose of the Generosity Resources Committee is to provide resources to local churches to assist in developing, expanding, and supporting their culture of generosity. It starts with recognizing that generosity is a *heart issue* and not simply a financial issue. Thus, we focused on Crown's online training of biblical stewardship as a critical part of the local church's discipleship journey.

It is recognized that changing culture is a long-term process. Rather than focus upon year-to-year objectives, the Generosity Resources Committee adopted the goal to develop a three-year plan with three priority objectives:

1. Provide/build a theological framework that promotes stewardship and generosity as central to a believer's discipleship journey, and emphasizes the importance of local churches partnering and supporting denominational priorities,
2. Provide readily available on-line resources for local churches and its members that promote, instruct, and encourage the concept of generosity and how best to implement a generosity culture for individuals and families, and
3. As recommended above, increase the Generosity Resources Committee membership to ensure representation from each presbytery in the EPC.

The Generosity Resources Committee met a total of seven times in 2020/2021. Due to the pandemic, all meetings were virtual via Zoom. Initially, the committee's goals were to promote and expand online resources to the presbyteries, local churches, and its members regarding stewardship. The focus was and continues to be promoting generosity and stewardship awareness as an essential part of one's discipleship journey.

In September, the Generosity Resources Committee met with Jane Cooper, the Chairman of the Giving Culture Study Committee. That committee's report, received by the General Assembly in 2020, presented a recommendation regarding the efforts of the Generosity Resources Committee. As a result of that report's recommendation, the committee agreed to modify and expand its efforts regarding the promotion of generosity and stewardship awareness in the denomination.

Currently, the Generosity Resources Committee is in the final stages of negotiating plans to provide online stewardship resources at little or no cost to EPC users from Crown Ministries and Freewill.com, which provides free resources to individuals and families who wish to create or update their will and charitable request. It is anticipated that beginning in mid-2021, the Generosity Resources Committee will be in a position to launch a beta-testing effort targeting five to ten churches for a projected period of six months. The results will shape a plan that can be utilized throughout the denomination starting after the 2022 General Assembly. It is anticipated that this stewardship plan will become financially self-sustaining by the end of the third year.

The Generosity Resources Committee plans to meet with the National Leadership Team in August 2021 and present its three-year plan currently being formalized.

The Generosity Resources Committee also will promote the use of the recently published book *Creating a Culture of Generosity* by Greg Gibbs, as a valuable resource for local church leaders to help develop a culture of generosity within their church. Greg will be discussing his book at this year's General Assembly Networking Lunch hosted by the Generosity Resources Committee on Friday, June 25.

Committee Members:

RE Bobby Cobbs (Chairman), Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
TE Ben Borsay, Presbytery of the Midwest
RE Kevin Byma, Presbytery of the East
RE Mark Eibel, Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest
RE Ted Hailes, Presbytery of the Central South
TE Jeff Porter, Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic
TE Rus Howard, Presbytery of the Rivers and Lakes (Presbytery Representative)
Tim Stephenson, Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean (ex-officio)
Bob Welsh, Generosity Resources Field Representative,
Presbytery of Florida and Caribbean

Committee Meeting Dates:

October 31, 2020: Video Conference
September 28, 2020: Video Conference
October 13, 2020: Video Conference
December 16, 2020: Video Conference
February 15, 2021: Video Conference
March 3, 2021: Video Conference
March 17, 2021: Video Conference

Respectfully submitted,



Bobby Cobbs, Chairman

June 2021