



EPC

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

National Leadership Team
Executive Summary Report to
the 44th General Assembly



Rosemary Lukens
Chairman

The National Leadership Team functions similarly to the Session of your local church. It is the call and the responsibility of the NLT to carry out the directives that you, the General Assembly, request of us. Most importantly, we are responsible to seek the mind of Christ as we carry out what you have asked us to accomplish. We are to assist and to lead in expressing our mission statement that states who God has called the EPC to be.

We are also to develop strategies that express what God is calling the EPC to do, to carry out the mission statement on behalf of the General Assembly. That includes assistance and support for all the missional evangelistic operations of EPC – World Outreach (Multiplication/Evangelism), Church Planting (Multiplication/Evangelism), Church Health (Transformation/Evangelism), Pastoral Health and Development (Effective Biblical Leadership (EBL)/Transformation).

The NLT consists of 12 members who participate in three different committees: Personnel Committee, Finance Committee and Strategic Planning Committee. Each committee has a representative from the Office of the General Assembly both for support and to help implement the work of the NLT committees.

To meet your requests this year we have:

- Established Church Health Coordinators for all 16 Presbyteries! Thank you to Bob Stauffer and his leadership team for their diligent work.
- Church Health received an \$888,000.00 grant from the Lilly Foundation for the creative and innovative work of our church health team.
- EBL (Effective Biblical Leadership) started a cohort for pastors following last year's General Assembly co lead by TEs Doug Resler and Rachel White. It has been very



EPC

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

successful, and you will be receiving a full report from TE Michael Davis, Assistant Stated Clerk, and the team, regarding the cohort and all the activities of EBL.

- Tom Ricks continues to work diligently in Church Planting. We, on NLT, rejoice in his success realizing that Church Planting is one of the top strategies for Evangelism.
- Gabriel de Guia and the World Outreach team are thriving and providing excellent leadership, support, and resources to our global workers, as you will note in his report.
- TE Annie Rose, Director of Ministerial Support and Development, has been working with PIR Ministries Executive Director, Roy Yanke, to provide webinars that both provide wisdom, understanding and guidance for pastors who are dealing with challenging and difficult situations. She has also organized and led Pastor and Spouse Retreats for renewal and refreshment.
- The committee on Pastoral Lament and Hope has completed its work, which will be presented at this GA.
- As asked by the 43rd GA, I have appointed three groups to review and update three of our documents:
 - Ad-Interim committee to review and update our Pastoral Letter on Domestic Abuse. Domestic abuse in many of its forms is present not only in homes, but also in churches. Clergy abuse has become increasingly evident. This committee has the challenging task of defining abuse and providing both examples and guidelines as well as how to manage abuse. That group is chaired by TE Bonnie Gatchell.
 - Task Force to review and update the Book of Discipline. The BOD has not been revised since 2016. Obviously, in our culture, where holding people accountable is grossly downplayed and bordering on non-existent, the church is challenged by these present realities, to hold to the standard of Jesus. This committee is chaired by RE Rod Liddon.
 - Ad-Interim Committee to review and revise (if necessary) the EPC Standards for Ordination. This committee will do a thorough examination of our current standards and then make recommendations, if needed, to those standards. We will not in any way be “watering down” our standards. We will need to determine what changes, if any, are necessary as we seek to replace the large number of retiring baby boomer pastors. This committee is co-chaired by TE Doug Resler and TE Julie Hawkins.

We, the members of NLT are grateful for the expertise, the passion for Jesus, and the incredible amount of work of Bob Stauffer, Annie Rose, Tom Ricks, Gabriel de Guia, and Michael Davis. These Gospel Priorities belong to each one of us. Fulfillment of these priorities requires – yes requires- the brains, energy, expertise, and feet on the ground of our leaders. These priorities are



EPC

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

essential for the growth in God's kingdom, and the EPC. Please encourage these leaders who give, and then give more, to the work of God's Kingdom in the EPC.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary W. Lukens
Chairman, NLT

June 2024

www.epc.org/2024report-nlt