



## August 2020

The 40th General Assembly—the first (and hopefully the last) fully virtual GA in the history of the EPC—is just weeks away! Led by Director of Communications Brian Smith, the GA planning team is working hard to make this event as user-friendly as possible. We cannot guarantee “no glitches,” but we will do our best! It really helps that we had a successful called General Assembly meeting on the first of May. In addition, Brian has been assisting a number of our presbyteries and local churches as they convene Zoom meetings as well.

Our 2020 Assembly will be held Thursday and Friday, September 17 and 18, and will be hosted from the General Assembly Office in Orlando. Because we are scattered across five time zones, we will convene each day with worship at 11:30 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time.

Key business on our agenda includes electing Glenn Meyers as our Moderator, and Dean Weaver, the nominee to succeed me as Stated Clerk next June.

We’ll also receive reports and act on recommendations from the Revelation 7:9 Task Force and the Giving Culture Study Committee. In all, there are 38 items of business on the docket. These are included in the Commissioner’s Handbook, which will be made available to you on Monday, August the 31st.

In order to minimize the number of people traveling for this meeting, almost all of those presenting reports and recommendations will do so virtually.

We delayed a few of this year’s recommendations to the 2021 General Assembly. While important, they are not time-sensitive; it’s best that they be discussed in standing committees next year before we debate them on the floor.

Normally, the day General Assembly convenes we hold a “New Commissioners Orientation” for all of our first-time commissioners. As we thought about it, we realized that all of us will be “New Commissioners” at this virtual General Assembly. You’ve confirmed this already with the many questions you have sent in about how we’re going to conduct this meeting. For that reason, we’ll be hosting two “New Commissioners Orientations” via Zoom the week before we meet. Two meetings covering the same information will be held on Tuesday, September 8th, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. EDT, and Thursday, September 10th, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. EDT.



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We'll address issues like how to participate in debate, how to vote, and security matters. Registered commissioners will receive the link to these meetings by Monday, September the 7th.

If you have any questions you want to be sure we'll answer, please send those questions to the [thankyouforyourinquiry@epc.org](mailto:thankyouforyourinquiry@epc.org). By the way, as of August the 26th we have 581 registered for this Assembly.

We're also getting a lot of questions from those of you interested in the "live streaming" option. Our plan is to stream the meeting on the General Assembly page of the EPC website.

I trust it will be a General Assembly that we will never forget...and one we'll never have to do again!

Thank you. God bless you, and remember: He is risen!