



January 2021

Long before the historic disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdown, a major leadership transition was underway in the EPC.

In 2019, the 39th General Assembly directed the appointment of a committee to search for my successor. Bill Dudley chaired that committee, which began its work last August. In March of 2020, Dean Weaver—lead pastor of Memorial Park Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh—was announced as the search committee’s candidate. Last September, the 40th General Assembly elected Dean to become the fourth Stated Clerk of the EPC. At the end of December, Dean stepped out of his role at Memorial Park. This month he’s relocated to Florida and is now serving as Stated Clerk-elect.

Because my term of service doesn’t end until the end of the 41st General Assembly this coming June, this is a unique time in the life of our denomination. Dean and I will be in a “transitional overlap” in the coming months as I hand off to him my responsibilities as Stated Clerk. An Executive Transition Plan has been approved by the National Leadership Team to help us in this important work. Our goal is the smoothest and best transition possible, even as the COVID-19 shutdown and political unrest continues.

Dean and I first met almost 15 years ago. I was the newly elected Stated Clerk, and he was the leader of the New Wineskins Association. Many of you were part of that group, which formed in response to theological drift by the mainline denomination. Dean and I have enjoyed a great relationship over the years as we’ve worked closely during the entry of hundreds of churches into the EPC, and later during our time together on the National Leadership Team. Dean will bring vision, creativity, and energy to the EPC. I know the future will be in great hands with Dean as Stated Clerk.

That’s one big change in process in 2021. But it’s not the only one.

Phil Linton, Director of World Outreach, also will be departing in June of this year. A search committee chaired by Rob Liddon has been formed and has begun its work to identify the person God has called to succeed Phil. Applications are being received through February 28. The goal is for the next Director of World Outreach to be appointed this spring.

These are major changes taking place in the Office of the General Assembly. Here’s what is not changing in the EPC: Our eternal, unchanging God. He is sovereign and He is faithful.



EPC

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

THE JEREMIAH JOURNAL

Victorious over all our enemies, Jesus Christ is alive and reigns at this moment as King of kings and Lord of lords. He has a purpose for human history—for our very lives—and that purpose cannot be thwarted. His gospel is the only way to forgiveness, salvation, and an abundant and eternal life!

What's also unchanged is the mission and the vision we believe Jesus has given the EPC. That mission is to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus as Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical, and Missional congregations. That vision is to aspire to be a global movement of congregations embodying Jesus' love to our neighbors near and far, engaged together in God's mission through transformation, multiplication, and effective biblical leadership.

In the office of the General Assembly, we are committed to effectively serving you, encouraging you, and resourcing you as you faithfully follow the leadership of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in your church, presbytery, and denomination.

May God bless you and continue to keep you safe!