



EPC

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

THE JEREMIAH JOURNAL

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A hallmark of the EPC is that we enjoy being together. It's a feature of who we are that sets us apart. It's something that we are known for.

Our annual General Assembly is when we gather as a family of churches to not only conduct church business, but also to enjoy this fellowship as believers in Jesus Christ.

This year's Assembly will be historic!

It will be our first annual meeting at a church on the west coast, as we're meeting at Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church in Sacramento, California. It's the first Assembly that will end on Friday night instead of Saturday. And it's an Assembly in which history will be a big part of our time together.

"Generation to Generation," from Psalm 79, is the theme of this year's meeting. Our Leadership Institute plenary speakers are going to help us look across the generations.

On Wednesday morning, we're going to look back and celebrate and reflect on the impact of the Protestant Reformation on its 500th anniversary. Our own Mark Noll will be our speaker. Mark is one of the great church historians of this generation.

On Thursday morning, we're going to look ahead and consider the history we can make in the years ahead as we share the Good News with the next generation of believers in Jesus Christ. David Kinnaman of Barna Research will be our special speaker that day. He is an acknowledged expert in the study of the next generation.

Of course, we'll also have another great line-up of offerings for our Leadership Institute workshops on Tuesday.

We have some outstanding speakers for our worship services this year. We'll hear from host pastor Kirk Bottomly as we convene the Assembly on Wednesday. Our preacher that night is Shane Farmer, lead pastor of Cherry Hills Community Church in Denver.

On Thursday morning, we'll hear from Troy Wilson, church planter of The Table in San Francisco. Thursday night's speaker is Mike Kuhn of World Outreach. Also that night we'll commission our new World Outreach global workers.



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Scott Griffin will preach the Moderator's Communion Service on Friday morning.

How about some time to just be together? As usual, we'll have extended lunch times for networking lunches or just to connect with friends.

Finally, there's the business that we will conduct as the national church.

We'll get a progress report as we continue to become a mission-driven denomination of churches inspired by a God-given vision for our ministry in the 21st century. We'll also discuss a new funding model for support for the national ministry of the EPC.

The Preliminary Position Paper on Human Sexuality will be considered for approval, and the Interim Committee on the Pastoral Letter on Sexuality Issues will give us an update on their work. That letter is due to us at our 2018 Assembly.

Each year, it makes my heart sing when I hear, "I love to come to our General Assembly!" and "I can't wait to come to next year's meeting!"

Online registration begins on April 1; look for the "Click to Register" button on the General Assembly page of our website.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in Sacramento. I trust that we will have a great time together in California in June!