



EPC

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

Application for Transitional Membership in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church

(for churches currently within the boundaries of an existing EPC presbytery)

Churches may be received into membership in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) if they meet the following criteria:

1. A majority of the congregation votes to enter the EPC. A decision by the elders will not be sufficient. Groups that intend to enter the EPC as mission churches must also indicate a congregational decision to enter the EPC.
2. All current ruling elders and ordained ministers must affirm the EPC “Essentials of Our Faith” without any reservations (see page 10, below).
3. All current Ruling Elders and ordained pastors must acknowledge that the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms is the sole confessional standard for officers in the EPC. Signatures on pages 6-7 of this document will indicate this affirmation. When a church is ready to be received as a full member, its Ruling Elders and ordained pastors will be examined according to Chapter 12, *Book of Government* (see pages 11-12, below). The appropriate committee(s) of the receiving EPC presbytery will assist in preparing for the examination.

To apply for transitional membership, complete this application and submit to:

Evangelical Presbyterian Church
ATTN: Office of the Stated Clerk
5850 T.G. Lee Blvd., Suite 510
Orlando, FL 32822

You also can fax to 407-930-4239 or scan and email to info@epc.org. A copy of your completed form also needs to be submitted to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery to which application is being made. Contact information for each of the EPC’s presbyteries is available at www.epc.org/presbyteries.

PRESBYTERY ASSIGNMENT

By action of the General Assembly, EPC presbyteries may receive churches and ministers transitionally through December 31, 2019. Ordinarily, application for transitional membership should be made directly to the presbytery within which the church is located. In the case of a church with a woman minister, the church should first consult with the presbytery’s Ministerial Committee. If it is unlikely that the presbytery would receive a woman minister, the church and minister(s) may apply for transitional membership in a bordering presbytery per the EPC *Book of Government* 5-8 (see pages 13-14, below).



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EPC presbytery to which application is being made: _____

Current denomination: _____

Seeking: Dismissal Renouncing/Disaffiliating

Date of congregational meeting for vote to seek dismissal or renounce/disaffiliate from another denomination and apply for membership to the EPC: _____

Number of members voting: _____ Number of members voting to enter the EPC: _____

CHURCH INFORMATION

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Website: _____

Worship Address (if different from Mailing Address): _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Federal Employee Identification Number (EIN): _____ - _____

Current Membership: _____ Average Worship Attendance: _____

Session Membership: _____ Mission Committee members: _____

Full-time Staff: _____ Part-time staff: _____

PASTOR INFORMATION

Title: Rev. Dr. Name: _____

First Name of Spouse: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Current Ordination Credentials: _____



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PASTORAL STAFF

List all ordained pastoral staff including e-mail address, and indicate desire of each to transfer credentials to the EPC (attach additional pages as needed):

| Name | Email Address | Transfer credentials to EPC from: | First Name of Spouse |
|-------|---------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

CLERK OF SESSION INFORMATION

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

SESSION MEMBERS

List all current Ruling Elders (or governing body members if not a Presbyterian church). Attach additional pages as needed.

| Name | Mailing Address | Email Address |
|-------|-----------------|---------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |



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CHURCH STAFF/VOLUNTEER CONTACTS

Children's/Family Ministries Staff Volunteer None

Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Student/Youth Ministries Staff Volunteer None

Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

College Ministries Staff Volunteer None

Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Small Groups/Discipleship Staff Volunteer None

Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Missions/Outreach Staff Volunteer None

Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Women's Ministries Staff Volunteer None

Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Men's Ministries Staff Volunteer None

Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Secretary/Administrative Assistant Staff Volunteer None

Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Business Administrator Staff Volunteer None

Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Treasurer Staff Volunteer None

Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Communications/Publications Staff Volunteer None

Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____



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PROPERTY ISSUES

The constitution of the EPC assigns all property to the local church. Neither a presbytery nor the General Assembly has any claim on any local property. The EPC bears no responsibility or liability in property disputes involving transitional member churches. For information only, indicate what (if any) property issues this church is facing (attach additional pages as needed):

List any other issues or concerns the EPC should know about your church at this time (attach additional pages as needed):



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Signature Page

I affirm the “Essentials of Our Faith” of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church without reservation and acknowledge that the Westminster Confession of Catechisms is the sole confessional standard for officers in EPC. Use additional pages if necessary:

Minister(s)

| Print Name | Signature | Date |
|------------|-----------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

Ruling Elders (or governing body)

| Print Name | Signature | Date |
|------------|-----------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |



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This Section to be Completed by Presbytery

CHURCH

Dismissed from: _____ Date: _____

Renounced/Disaffiliated from: _____ Date: _____

Received by EPC Presbytery of: _____ Date: _____

MINISTERS

Name: _____

Dismissed from: _____ Date: _____

Renounced/Disaffiliated from: _____ Date: _____

Received by EPC Presbytery of: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Dismissed from: _____ Date: _____

Renounced/Disaffiliated from: _____ Date: _____

Received by EPC Presbytery of: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Dismissed from: _____ Date: _____

Renounced/Disaffiliated from: _____ Date: _____

Received by EPC Presbytery of: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Dismissed from: _____ Date: _____

Renounced/Disaffiliated from: _____ Date: _____

Received by EPC Presbytery of: _____ Date: _____



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MINISTERS (CONTINUED)

Name: _____

Dismissed from: _____ Date: _____

Renounced/Disaffiliated from: _____ Date: _____

Received by EPC Presbytery of: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Dismissed from: _____ Date: _____

Renounced/Disaffiliated from: _____ Date: _____

Received by EPC Presbytery of: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Dismissed from: _____ Date: _____

Renounced/Disaffiliated from: _____ Date: _____

Received by EPC Presbytery of: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Dismissed from: _____ Date: _____

Renounced/Disaffiliated from: _____ Date: _____

Received by EPC Presbytery of: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Dismissed from: _____ Date: _____

Renounced/Disaffiliated from: _____ Date: _____

Received by EPC Presbytery of: _____ Date: _____

The Essentials

All Scripture is self-attesting, and being Truth requires our unreserved submission in all areas of life. The infallible Word of God—the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments—is a complete and unified witness to God’s redemptive acts culminating in the incarnation of the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible, uniquely and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, is the supreme and final authority on all matters on which it speaks. On this sure foundation, we affirm these additional essentials of our faith.

1. We believe in one God, the sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To Him be all honor, glory, and praise forever!
2. Jesus Christ, the living Word, became flesh through His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and His virgin birth. He who is true God became true man united in one Person forever. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. On the third day He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven where, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He now is our High Priest and Mediator.
3. The Holy Spirit has come to glorify Christ and to apply the saving work of Christ to our hearts. He convicts us of sin and draws us to the Savior, indwelling our hearts. He gives new life to us, empowers and imparts gifts to us for service. He instructs and guides us into all truth, and seals us for the day of redemption.
4. Being estranged from God and condemned by our sinfulness, our salvation is wholly dependent upon the work of God’s free grace. God credits His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justifies them in His sight. Only such as are born of the Holy Spirit and receive Jesus Christ become children of God and heirs of eternal life.
5. The true Church is composed of all persons who, through saving faith in Jesus Christ and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, are united together in the body of Christ. The Church finds her visible yet imperfect expression in local congregations where the Word of God is preached in its purity and the sacraments are administered in their integrity, where scriptural discipline is practiced, and where loving fellowship is maintained. For her perfecting she awaits the return of her Lord.
6. Jesus Christ will come again to the earth personally, visibly, and boldly—to judge the living and the dead, and to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. “Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20).
7. The Lord Jesus Christ commands all believers to proclaim the gospel throughout the world and to make disciples of all nations. Obedience to the Great Commission requires total commitment to “Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.” He calls us to a life of self-denying love and service. “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).

The Essentials are set forth in greater detail in the Westminster Confession of Faith.



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Book of Government, Chapter 12

Examination for Ordination and/or Installation

12-2 The examination of a Candidate for Ordination as a Teaching Elder

- A. The Candidate shall present evidence of competency in the original languages of Scripture, including transcripts of coursework taken, along with the required exegesis.
- B. The Candidate shall be examined in Christian experience of the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ and progress in spiritual growth.
- C. The Candidate shall be examined in writing and orally in the following areas: Theology and Sacraments, English Bible, the Book of Order, the history of the Church and the Reformed tradition, and the nature of the office of Teaching Elder.
- D. The Candidate shall preach a sermon to the Presbytery to demonstrate the ability to expound the Word of God effectively.
- E. If the Presbytery has previously received a Candidate and has not required the stipulated work of college and/or seminary, the requirements for language shall be omitted. However, every other part of the examination shall be given. The examination must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Presbytery.

12-3 Examination of Transferees

- A. Examination of an EPC Teaching Elder seeking to transfer into a Presbytery
EPC Teaching Elders shall be examined on views of the areas indicated in G.12-2 and they shall relate their experience of the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ and progress in spiritual growth.
 1. Examination of non-EPC ordained Ministers

Examination of an ordained Minister from another Reformed denomination:
A Minister seeking to become a Teaching Elder in a Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church from another denomination from within the Reformed family shall present credentials of education required by those seeking ordination in the EPC. The Minister shall be examined on views and beliefs and may be examined on knowledge.
 2. Examination of Ministers from non-Reformed Traditions

A minister presenting current and valid ordination credentials from any other ecclesiastical tradition shall be examined in the same manner as a candidate for ordination.
- B. Presbytery shall not ordinarily receive a Minister seeking to transfer while discipline, inquiry, or charges are pending. Presbytery may, after careful review of the case, by three-fourths vote, declare pending charges insufficient for refusal of membership.



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12-4 Exceptions to the Westminster Confession and Catechisms

The Candidate or transferring Teaching Elder shall provide a written statement of any exceptions to the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms of this Church, and the Presbytery shall act to allow or disallow the exceptions. The Presbytery shall not allow any exception to the “Essentials of Our Faith.” Following ordination, should the Teaching Elder develop exceptions to the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, he or she shall report those exceptions to the Ministerial Committee and the Presbytery shall act to allow or disallow these exceptions.

12-5 Persons lacking current ordination credentials previously ordained in another

Reformed denomination with a pending call in the EPC, but who, for reasons other than disciplinary action, lack current ordination credentials, shall be examined by the Presbytery on views of those subjects set forth for ordination. Those persons shall, upon approval, become immediately eligible for ordination and to receive a call approved by the Presbytery.

Book of Government, Chapter 5

The Constitution, Establishment, Dissolution, Dismissal, or Reception of a Local Church

5-6 The reception of a local church from another body or from independency

- A. When a non-EPC congregation desires to become a part of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, it shall petition the Presbytery in which it is located to be received (see exception in G.5-8). Such petition should indicate that the congregation and its governing body have concurred in the request, and have agreed to walk together as a church, based upon the faith and government of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, to be faithful to one another, to the Lordship of Christ, to the support of the whole Church, to be obedient to the order and doctrines of our faith, submitting themselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promising to promote its purity and peace.
- B. The Petition shall include a list of the membership and a list of elected officers. Upon approval of the request, either the Presbytery or a duly appointed commission shall meet with the petitioning congregation and, depending on the particular situation:
 1. Arrange for the election of Ruling Elders.
 2. Require and arrange for training of existing officers.
 3. If the congregation is from a body with a similar form of government, declare the officers of that congregation to be duly installed.
- C. If the petitioning congregation is served by a Pastor(s) and if said Pastor(s) has been duly received by the Presbytery, the receiving body may declare the Pastor(s) duly installed.

5-8 Reception of a church from outside the EPC into a bordering presbytery

If a church that is not a member of the EPC and is seeking membership in the EPC, and it is the case that it: (1) has a woman Teaching Elder, (2) desires to call a woman Teaching Elder, or (3) has a woman who seeks to become a Candidate Under Care, then that church may petition for membership in a Presbytery sharing a common boundary (i.e., a bordering Presbytery) that will receive or ordain women as Teaching Elders or as Candidates Under Care instead of its geographic Presbytery. The church petitioning for membership in a bordering Presbytery may be received by the requested bordering Presbytery instead of its geographic Presbytery upon the fulfillment of all of the following requirements:

- A. The church requesting reception in a bordering Presbytery consults with the Presbytery Ministerial Committee of its geographic Presbytery concerning the potential for reception of women as Teaching Elders or as Candidates Under Care.
- B. The Ministerial Committee of the geographic Presbytery for the church requesting reception into the EPC discerns the need for the church to be received by a



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- bordering Presbytery on the basis set forth in this section G.5-7. The Ministerial Committee of the geographic Presbytery contacts the requested bordering Presbytery and refers to it the issue of reception of the church.
- C. The bordering Presbytery that receives the referral receives the church seeking membership.
 - D. No complaint against the above process of reception by a bordering Presbytery may be made by any person or entity except for procedural defects. Any complaint of procedural defects must be made in writing to the next higher court within 15 days of the completion of the above G.5-8 requirements, and set forth the details of the procedural defects in accordance with Book of Discipline, chapter 13.