

# DOCKET

FOR THE

Winter Presbytery Meeting

January 24/25, 2025

The 34<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting

Great Plains Presbytery

of the

Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC)

Hosted by

Colonial Presbyterian Church  
12501 West 137th Street  
Overland Park KS 66221

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**Did you know the EPC recently got a new logo?** We encourage you to visit <https://epc.org/branding/> to learn the meaning of this latest design and download it for your church needs. You may notice the symbols of doves, tulips, the open Bible, and the cross.

We encourage our churches and ministry partners to take full advantage of EPC branding elements. The EPC logo is the most visible representation of our denomination and is a valuable asset to achieving our mission and vision.



**A global movement of  
evangelistic presbyterians**



January 6, 2025

To: **Great Plains Presbytery TE's, CP's, RE's and Clerks of Session**  
Re: **Spring Presbytery docket – January 24/25, 2025**

Grace and Peace in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I look forward to seeing you at the combined Antioch Missions Conference and 34<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Great Plains Presbytery being hosted by Colonial Presbyterian Church. Commissioners will need to be present to vote and/or to speak during this Presbytery.

The link to register for Presbytery and the Antioch Conference is below:  
<https://greatplainsepc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2674688>

**TE's and Commissioned Pastors (CP's):** if unable to attend, notify the Stated Clerk by e-mail (oppriecht@me.com) noting the reason for your absence.

**Session Clerks:** please ensure all your elected RE Commissioners and TE's have access to the Docket.

**If you notice any corrections needed to the minutes from the last Presbytery, please email them to my attention.**

God bless you,

Kermit Oppriecht Stated Clerk – Great Plains Presbytery  
Email: [statedclerkgpp@gmail.com](mailto:statedclerkgpp@gmail.com)

**PRESBYTERY SCHOLARSHIPS:** (Session Clerks, please assist your CP/TE/RE Commissioners if they qualify for this scholarship from the Presbytery.)

Those attending **Presbytery meetings** from:

- 1) Congregations of 100 or less (up to three people from each church)
- 2) Each Outside of Bounds TE/CP.

Each applicant will be reimbursed up to \$150.00 for Presbytery related expenses (travel, meals, lodging, registration).

For scholarship reimbursement: submit receipts to: Treasurer Geri McFall, 12413 E Killarney St, Wichita, KS, 67206.

To: TE's, CP's, Clerks of Session, Churches, Out of Bounds Ministries, Executive Council and Candidates

From: Great Plains Presbytery Office, Kermit Opprieht Stated Clerk

Save the dates: January 24/25, 2025

**Antioch Missions Conference** (10 AM to 3 PM Friday)

**Great Plains Presbytery** (4:30 PM Friday to noon on Saturday)

**Special Invitation from Colonial** to join them Thursday January 23<sup>rd</sup> for dinner at their annual "Under the Stars" missions' event – more details to follow.

Presbytery is being hosted by Colonial Presbyterian Church, 12501 West 137th Street, Overland Park KS 66221.

- 1) The Antioch Conference will start at 10 AM on Friday. \$25 to cover lunch and snacks.
- 2) Presbytery will start at 4:30 PM Friday with dinner followed by worship and opening business.
- 3) Ruling Elder Commissioners need to be elected by their respective Sessions.
- 4) Presbytery Fee: \$25 to cover Friday dinner plus snacks at Presbytery.
- 5) The link to register for Presbytery and the Antioch Conference will be sent January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 6) Commissioners to make their own hotel reservations. (Suggested Hotel info below)  
Ps. Feel free to find a different Hotel on your own if that works better for you.

Candlewood Suites Overland Park – The rates below are good for Thursday and Friday 1/23 & 1/24.  
8953 West 135th St., Overland Park, KS 66221

Two Queen Beds @ \$109 + tax, or One King Bed w/sofa bed @ \$119 + tax. These rates will be honored through January 6, 2025. Cancellations without penalties must be made prior to 01/21/25.

Guests can use the link below to complete their reservations:

[Great Plains Presbytery](#)

Or you can copy and paste the link below into a web browser:

<https://www.candlewoodsuites.com/redirect?path=asearch&brandCode=CW&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=MKCGV&checkInDate=23&checkInMonthYear=002025&checkOutDate=25&checkOutMonthYear=002025&rateCode=6CBARC& PMID=99801505&GPC=GPP&cn=no&viewfulsite=true>

Guests may also call the hotel directly at (913)-685-8200 or the Sales Department at (913) 600-7010 and mention **Great Plains Presbytery** with group code **GPP**.

**The Presbytery Docket** will be emailed about 2 weeks before Presbytery to all TE's, Clerks of Session and registered RE Commissioners and guests.

## **Proposed Presbytery Agenda**

### **Friday, January 24, 2025**

- 4:30 Registration opens
- 5:30 Dinner and fellowship
- 6:30 Worship - Communion – TE Tammy Lundgren preaching
- 7:30 Opening prayer, Greeting & Administrative Actions
- 7:40 Stated Clerk’s Report
  - Discussion and vote on GA Overture
  - Discussion and vote on GPP Proposed Bylaw revision
  - Discussion and vote on Executive council Proposed 2025 Budget revision
- 7:50 Nominating Committee Report & election of committee members
- 8:00 Initial MinCom Report

### **Saturday January 25, 2025**

- 8:00 Worship – Praise & Prayer (Julien De Leiris to preach ordination sermon)
- 9:00 MinCom report continues
- 9:45 Break
- 10:00 Education event
- 10:40 GPO Report
  - Macedonia update
  - Church Planting update
- 11:10 Session Records Report
- 11:15 Treasurer’s Report
  - Financial report 1/1/24 to 12/31/24
- 11:20 Unfinished business and closing Prayer.

### **Omnibus Motion**

- 1) Approve Provisional Minutes of Great Plains Presbytery Stated Meeting: 24.9.28.
- 2) Approve 2026 Presbytery Host sites: Winter at Eastminster in Wichita, KS; Spring at Kirk Crossing in Jenks, OK; and Fall at Grace Community in Ottawa, KS.
- 3) Approve 2025 Parity.
- 4) Receive Minutes of Executive Council: 24.10 .15; 24.11.12 and 24.12.10.
- 5) Receive Minutes of Great Plains Outreach Committee: 24.11.15.
- 6) Receive the Stated Clerk’s Report.
- 7) Receive the Session Records Committee Report

**Provisional Minutes of 33 Stated Great Plains Presbytery**

Fall Presbytery – September 27/28, 2024

Hosted by Glen Haven Presbyterian Church

**33:01 Worship**

Worship was led by Glen Haven worship team. The sermon was preached by TE Luke Johnston who also officiated the Sacrament of Communion.

**33:02 Administrative Actions**

- A. Moderator RE Gary Fuller called the meeting to order with prayer and expressed appreciation to Glen Haven for hosting the Presbytery.
- B. A quorum was declared by Stated Clerk TE Kermit Oppriecht.
- C. It was moved, seconded, and sustained to approve the GPP Fall Presbytery agenda.
- D. It was moved, seconded, and sustained to seat TE Hunter Bailey, Southeast Presbytery; TE Jay Fowler, Pastor Serve; TE Arthur Jackson, Pastor Serve and RE Roy Yanke, PIR Ministries/Midwest Presbytery as Corresponding members.
- E. It was moved, seconded, and sustained to approve items 1-7 on the Omnibus Motion:
  - 1. Approve Provisional Minutes of Great Plains Presbytery Stated Meeting: 24.4.28.
  - 2. Receive Minutes of Executive Council: 24.4.9; 24.5.21; 24.8.20; 24.9.10
  - 3. Receive Minutes of Great Plains Outreach Committee: 24.8.6 and 24.9.3
  - 4. Receive the Stated Clerk’s Report
  - 5. Approve GA review of GPP 2023 Minutes with responses noted
  - 6. Receive the Report of the Session Records Committee
  - 7. Receive GPP 24.1.1-24.8.31 Financial report including financials

**ATTENDANCE**

CHURCH OR MINISTRY	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ROLE	CITY	
Avery Church	Susan	Nielsen	Ruling Elder	Bellevue, NE	Present
Avery Church	Steve	Nielsen	Ruling Elder	Bellevue, NE	Present
Avery Church	Gary	Fuller	Ruling Elder	Bellevue, NE	Present
Avery Church	Nell	Fuller	Guest	Bellevue, NE	Present
Bathgate Church	John	Werth	Teaching Elder	Cavalier, ND	Excused
Clay Center/Idana	Scott	Lingle	Teaching Elder	Clay Center, KS	Excused
Colonial Pres. Church	Tami	Lundgren	Teaching Elder	Overland Park, KS	Present

Colonial Pres. Church	Greg	Ealey	Teaching Elder	Kansas City, MO	Excused
Colonial Pres. Church	Todd	Weiland	Teaching Elder	Overland Park, KS	Present
Colonial Pres. Church	Mark	Potter	Teaching Elder	Overland Park, KS	Present
Colonial Pres. Church	Jeff	Sparks	Teaching Elder	Kansas City, KS	Present
Colonial Pres. Church	Randall	Leonard	Ruling Elder	Kansas City, MO	Present
Colonial Pres. Church	Julien	de Leiris	Candidate	Kansas City, MO	Present
Colonial Pres. Church	Jim	West	Teaching Elder	Kansas City, MO	Present
Colonial Pres. Church	Rick	Beyer	Ruling Elder	Kansas City, KS	Present
Colonial Pres. Church	Tim	Madderom	Ruling Elder	Kansas City, MO	Present
Colonial Pres. Church	Nathan	Edwards	Teaching Elder	Lee's Summit, MO	Present
Colonial Pres. Church	Brett	Milbourn	Ruling Elder	Kansas City, MO	Present
Cornerstone Church	Jeff	Hunter	Ruling Elder	Leawood, KS	Present
Cornerstone Church	Deb	Swirczynski	Ruling Elder	Leawood, KS	Present
Covenant Pres Church	Andrew	Myers	Teaching Elder	Omaha, NE	Present
Covenant Pres Church	Jan	McDonald	Guest	Omaha, NE	Present
Covenant Pres Church	Kevin	McDonald	Teaching Elder	Omaha, NE	Present
Covenant Pres Church	Mike	Ross	Ruling Elder	Omaha, NE	Present
Covenant Pres Church	Meg	Ross	Ruling Elder	Omaha, NE	Present
Eastminster Church	Matt	Jaderston	Teaching Elder	Wichita, KS	Present
Eastminster Church	Ron	Hawkins	Guest	Wichita, KS	Present
Eastminster Church	Linette	Hawkins	Guest	Wichita, KS	Present
Eastminster Church	Mike	Goolsby	Teaching Elder	Wichita, KS	Present
Eastminster Church	Geri	McFall	Ruling Elder	Wichita, KS	Present
Eastminster Church	Don	Lear	Ruling Elder	Wichita, KS	Present
Eastminster Church	Susan	Lear	Ruling Elder	Wichita, KS	Present
Eastminster Church	Michael	Bankston	Ruling Elder	Wichita, KS	Present



Eastminster Church	Roger	Wilson	Ruling Elder	Wichita, KS	Present
EPC World Outreach	Jordin	Greer	Teaching Elder	Orlando, FL	Excused
Faith United	Tony	Toth	Teaching Elder	Brandon, SD	Excused
Fountain City	James	Cottier	Teaching Elder	Kansas City, KS	Present
Freeman	Mary	Brown	Teaching Elder	Overland Park, KS	Present
GlenHaven	Luke	Johnston	Teaching Elder	Kansas City, MO	Present
GlenHaven	Al	Steed	Ruling Elder	Kansas City, MO	Present
GlenHaven	Debra	Blackman	Ruling Elder	Kansas City, MO	Present
GlenHaven	Patricia	Schoenrade	Ruling Elder	Kansas City, MO	Present
GlenHaven	John	Hertenstien	Guest	Kansas City, MO	Present
GlenHaven	Carol	Nolting	Guest	Kansas City, MO	Present
GlenHaven	Pat	Payne	Guest	Kansas City, MO	Present
GlenHaven	Joshua	Wolstad	Guest	Kansas City, MO	Present
GlenHaven	Enez	Wolstad	Guest	Kansas City, MO	Present
Grace Community	Drew	Reding	Teaching Elder	Ottawa, KS	Present
Harbor Church	Many	Reno	Guest	Overland Park, KS	Present
Hillsdale Presb. Church	Laurie	Johnston	Teaching Elder	Paola, KS	Present
Hillsdale Presb. Church	Tom	Cole	Ruling Elder	Hillsdale, KS	Present
Kirk Crossing	Sean	Farver	Teaching Elder	Jenks, OK	Present
Kirk Crossing	Josh	Weeks	Teaching Elder	Jenks, OK	Present
Kirk of the Hills	Aaron	Elmore	Teaching Elder	Tulsa, OK	Present
Kirk of the Hills	Dan	Bair	Teaching Elder	Tulsa, OK	Present
Kirk of the Hills	Shano	Raranje	Teaching Elder	Tulsa, OK	Excused
Kirk of the Hills	George	Hertensteiner	Ruling Elder	Tulsa, OK	Present

Kirk of the Hills	Mainor	Arcia	Guest	Tulsa, OK	Present
Kirk of the Hills	Ingrid	Zuniga	Guest	Tulsa, OK	Present
Kirk of the Hills	Rick	Hebard	Ruling Elder	Tulsa, OK	Present
Kirk of the Hills	Barry	Fulda	Ruling Elder	Tulsa, OK	Present
Lighthouse	Kirk	Johnston	Teaching Elder	Paola, KS	Present
Lighthouse	Carole	Moore	Guest	Paola, KS	Present
Lighthouse	Julien	Zoller	Ruling Elder	Paola, KS	Present
Lighthouse	Stacy	Boan	Ruling Elder	Paola, KS	Present
Mt. Pleasant	Lynette	Stanger	Guest	Abilene, KS	Present
Mt. Pleasant	Mark	Stanger	Commissioned Past.	Abilene, KS	Present
New Covenant	Craig	Waetke	Teaching Elder	Hutchinson, KS	Present
New Covenant	Beth	Oliver	Ruling Elder	Hutchinson, KS	Present
New Hope EPC	Jacob	Schmitz	Commissioned Past.	Blue Rapids, KS	Excused
Retired	Wayne	Hardy	Teaching Elder	Tulsa, OK	Present
Siloam Springs	Heather	Thurman	Ruling Elder	Siloam Spr, AR	Present
Siloam Springs	Sandy	Van Thiel	Ruling Elder	Siloam Spr, AR	Present
St. Luke Presbyterian	Paul	Sanford	Ruling Elder	Newton, KS	Present
Out of Bounds	Kent	Mathews	Teaching Elder	Overland Park, KS	Present
Out of Bounds	Roy	Yanke	Guest	Farmington Hi, MI	Present
Out of Bounds	Sid	Rice	Teaching Elder	Tulsa, OK	Excused
Out of Bounds	Chris	Lemmon	Teaching Elder	Kansas City, KS	Present
Out of Bounds	Craig	Babb	Teaching Elder	Prairie Village, KS	Present
Out of Bounds	Kyle	Livingston	Teaching Elder	Tulsa, OK	Excused
Out of Bounds	Vanessa	Platek	Teaching Elder	Annapolis, MD	Excused

Out of Bounds	Brad	Buescher	Teaching Elder	Overland Park, KS	Present
Out of Bounds	Drew	Henderson	Teaching Elder	Brookdale, MO	Excused
Out of Bounds	Doug	Karst	Teaching Elder	Overland Park, KS	Present
Out of Bounds	Jeff	McDonald	Teaching Elder	Bellevue, NE	Excused
Out of Bounds	Doug	Overall	Teaching Elder	Lenexa, KS	Present
Out of Bounds	Scott	Rash	Teaching Elder	Overland Park, KS	Excused
Out of Bounds	Jim	Robinson	Teaching Elder	Olathe, KS	Present
Out of Bounds	Mike	Wichman	Teaching Elder	Overland Park, KS	Excused
Out of Bounds	Hunter	Bailey	Guest	Memphis, TN	Present
Out of Bounds	Jay	Fowler	Guest	Overland Park, KS	Present
Out of Bounds	Arthur	Jackson	Guest	Overland Park, KS	Present
Out of Bounds	Ian	Johnston	Teaching Elder	Spring Hill, KS	Excused
Stated Clerk	Kermit	Oppriecht	Teaching Elder	Wichita, KS	Present
Three Timbers	Jeff	Ryan	Teaching Elder	Bennington, NE	Excused
Westminster	Bruce	Jackson	Ruling Elder	Enid, OK	Present
Westminster	Mitch	Lyon	Candidate	Enid, OK	Present
Westminster	Dedra	Lyon	Guest	Enid, OK	Present
Westminster	Chuck	Shields	Guest	Enid, OK	Present
Total Commissioned Pastors		1			
Candidate		2			
Total Guests		20			
Total Ruling Elders		30			
Total Teaching Elders		31			
<b>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</b>		<b>84</b>			

### 33:03 Stated Clerk's Report

- A. An explanation of the EPC process for handling Descending Overtures was provided followed by the first reading of Descending Overture 44-A. Commissioners were instructed to report back to their sessions and come prepared to vote at the January 2025 Presbytery. (Yes or No vote with no amendments allowed)
- B. The first reading of a proposed GPP Bylaw revision to Article VI unanimously recommended by the Executive Council as noted below (proposed additions and/or changes noted in red) was shared. Commissioners were instructed to report back to their sessions and come prepared to vote at the January 2025 Presbytery. (Proposed Bylaw revisions are subject to amendment before passage)

### Article VI COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

Section 6.1 The Corporation shall have the following standing committees: **Next Generation Committee (Next Gen)**, Ministerial Committee (MinCom), Session Records Committee (SRC), Nominating Committee (NomCom) and Great Plains Outreach Committee (GPO).

#### **Section 6.8 Next Generation Committee**

##### **(a) Purpose**

- The purpose of the Next Gen committee will be to educate and encourage younger members of Great Plains Presbytery in their participation in the work and ministry of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church at local, presbytery and national levels of the denomination.

##### **(b) Structure**

- **Membership.** There shall be at least three (3) members of this Committee with an even or close to even membership of Ruling and Teaching Elders. Every attempt shall be made to have members geographically distributed throughout Presbytery. Each member of the Committee shall be elected to serve a 3-year term and shall be eligible to serve a second 3-year term. If elected to a second 3-year term, no member will be eligible to serve another term until after a 1-year time period elapses. To provide continuity, members shall be divided equally into 3 classes such that no more than 1 class rotates off at one time.

#### **Section 6.9 Elections**

### 33.04 Nominating Committee Report

RE Paul Sanford opened his report with prayer and on behalf of the Nominating Committee placed the following slate of Officers and Committee members in nomination.

OFFICERS: Moderator Elect, RE Paul Sanford, Moderator, TE Dan Bair, Council Moderator, Gary Fuller, Treasurer, RE Geri McFall and Assistant Stated Clerk, TE Luke Johnston.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR CLASS OF 2027:

GPO: TE Dan Bair, RE George Hertensteiner and RE Brad Rops

MINCOM: TE Kent Mathews (Chairman), TE Tony Toth, RE Steve Funk and RE Gary Fuller

SESSION RECORDS: RE Debbie Erdman

### 33.05 Pastor Serve Educational Presentation

The Moderator invited TE Mark Potter to introduce TE Arthur Jackson from Pastor Serve. Arthur shared insights on how Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders can most productively serve in a TEAM capacity to advance the cause of Christ in their respective churches. An outline of this presentation is available from the Stated Clerk.

The meeting was recessed with prayer at 9:00 pm.

### 33:06 Worship

Morning worship was led by the Glen Haven worship team.

### 33.07 Pastor Serve Educational Presentation

The Moderator opened the morning session with prayer and invited TE James Cottier to introduce TE Jay Fowler from Pastor Serve. Jay shared an Emotional Funnel model depicting a useful method of enabling productive conversation in stressful situations. An outline of Jay's presentation is available from the Stated Clerk.

### 33:08 Great Plains Outreach Report

TE Dan Bair opened the report with prayer.

- A. TE Mary Brown introduced Mandy Reno, one of the lay leaders at the New "Harbor" Church plant in Overland Park, Kansas City, KS. She presented an update on their progress reaching especially younger adults. They meet Thursday evenings for worship and fellowship.
- B. An updated prayer needs list for the workers being partnered with by the Great Plains Engage 2025 Macedonia project was distributed. WO materials were also noted as being available in the narthex.
- C. TE Hunter Bailey spoke to the importance of every Great Plains Church being involved in the church planting efforts in the presbytery. TE Andrew Myers from Covenant Presbyterian Church spoke about their church offering one a "Church Planters Residency" program. Hunter indicated the desire is for there to be at least two of these Residency programs in Great Plains.

### 33:09 MinCom Report

TE Kent Mathews opened the report with prayer and shared a brief review of the Pastor's Retreat that was led by RE Roy Yanke from PIR Ministries. Twenty members of the Presbytery attended with the theme being the importance and challenge of finding Joy in ministry.

- A. Mitchell Lyon, an endorsed member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Enid, OK, having been recommended by the Ministerial Committee was presented for examination to come under care as a Candidate for Ordination in the EPC. Following the examination in accordance with G. 11-2, B, it was moved, seconded, and sustained to suspend the examination. The Candidate was excused. Following discussion it was moved, seconded and approved that the examination be sustained, that the Candidate be approved to come under Care for Ordination in the EPC and be enrolled as a Candidate in the Great Plains Presbytery in accordance with G.11-2, C. The Candidate was asked the required Constitutional questions which were all answered in the affirmative. TE Wayne Hardy brought a "charge" to the candidate and was delegated to serve as Mitchell's advisor in accordance with G.11-2, E.
- B. Mitchell Lyon was then examined to serve as Commissioned Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Enid, OK.
  1. RE Mitchell Lyon, a ruling elder of good standing at Westminster Presbyterian Church (Enid, OK), having presented those credentials required of one seeking a call as a Commissioned Pastor in the EPC and having sustained oral examination by the Ministerial Committee was presented to the Presbytery for examination.
  2. The elder's exception(s) to the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms were declared to the Presbytery.
  3. The Presbytery examined the elder in the areas required by Book of Government 9-11. Upon motion, the examination was arrested and the elder was excused.
  4. Upon motion, the elder's examination was sustained in the areas prescribed by Book of Government 9-11.
  5. Upon motion, the elder's exception(s) to the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechism were allowed.
  6. The presbytery sustained a motion to recognize RE Mitchell Lyon as Commissioned Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church for a renewable term of 3 years authorized to preach the Word, administer sacraments, moderate session, provide pastoral care, and perform any other duties traditionally associated with a pastor.
  7. TE Wayne Hardy was assigned as Mitchell's Supervisor and mentor in accordance with 9-11 D.
  8. Presbytery administered the vows of commissioning with all vows being answered in the affirmative.
  9. RE Mitchell Lyon terms of invitation are on file in the Stated Clerk's office.

- C. The MinCom acting as an GPP Administrative Commission approved the Changes in terms of Call for TE Mike Goolsby and TE Matthew Jaderston both from Eastminster Presbyterian Church.

### 33:10 Report from the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

TE Andrew Reding opened the report with prayer. Both Andrew and RE Randall Leonard shared from their experiences at this year's GA. The following points were noted:

- a. Child care being provided this year made it possible for younger TE's with families to attend.
- b. Worship leaders and Keynote Speakers were amazing even taking time to speak to kids following their presentations.
- c. Focus on Next Gen was clearly an emphasis
- d. Keynote speeches are online for anyone to watch.
- e. Business meetings revealed an uncharacteristic sense of dissidence and divisiveness that seemed to be a highly coordinated effort with text messages being sent to alert who was to speak next. It was "Painful to be in the room" because it was so uncharacteristic. Basically, around the "same sex attracted issue".
- f. God moved in the midst to bring a major resolution by the passage of an Motion which combined several competing Motions to form an Ad-interim Committee to study the issues and report back to the next two GA's.
- g. Dean's conciliatory move to the floor in response to Jeff Jeremiah was viewed as what we have come to expect from the EPC leadership.

### 33: 11 Session Records Report

RE Randall Leonard opened his report with prayer. He expressed appreciation for those churches who have submitted their 2023 Minutes and encouraged timely submission for all others.

Session minutes for 2023 have been received from the following Great Plains Churches:

Bathgate, Colonial, Cornerstone, Eastminster, Faith United, Skiatook, Freeman, Hillsdale, Kirk Crossing, Lighthouse, Mt. Pleasant, New Hope, St. Luke and Turner County.

Session minutes for 2023 have not yet been received from the following Great Plains Churches: Avery, Clay Center, Siloam Springs, GlenHaven, Grace Community, Kirk of the Hills, New Covenant, Three Timbers and Westminster.

### 33:12 Financial Report

Treasurer, RE Geri McFall opened her report with prayer

1. Accounting of all fund balances noted below (Approved in the Omnibus motion)
  - A. The General Account balance for all funds as of
    - a. 1/1/2024 was \$166,166
    - b. 8/31/2024 was \$211,552

- B. Checking Account balance as of
    - a. 1/1/2024 was \$55,095
    - b. 8/31/2024 was \$65,103
  - C. Hispanic Church Plant Fund balance as of
    - a. 1/1/2024 was \$47,291
    - b. 8/31/2024 was \$67,333
  - D. Macedonia Fund balance as of
    - a. 1/1/2024 was \$41,133
    - b. 8/31/2024 was \$55,400
  - E. Church Planting/Re-planting Fund balance as of
    - a. 1/1/2024 was \$15,715
    - b. 8/31/2024 was \$23,715
- 
- 2. It was noted that “An audit of the Presbytery finances was done with no irregularities or negative findings found. A copy of the full audit report is on file in the Stated Clerk’s office.”
  - 3. It was moved, seconded, and sustained to approve the 2025 Budget as noted below:



Great Plains Presbytery				
		Proposed Budget	Budget	
		2,025	2024	2023
<b>Receipts</b>				
4000	Church Giving	\$ 140,720	\$ 144,100	\$ 92,591
4090	Other Receipts	\$ 12,000		
<b>Total Receipts</b>		\$ 152,720	\$ 144,100	\$ 92,591
4900	From Previous Year Unallocated		\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Funds Available</b>		\$ 152,720	\$ 144,100	\$ 92,591
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>Ministerial Committee</b>				
5200	Chair Stipend	\$ 18,540	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000
5205	Chair Travel	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
5206	Committee Travel	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
5210	Chaplain Stipend	\$ 7,169	\$ 6,960	\$ 6,600
5211	Chaplain Travel	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
5212	Church Health Coordinator	\$ 6,000	\$ -	\$ -
5213	Church Health Coordinator Travel and Other	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ -
5215	Printing and Supplies	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250
5220	Education, Conferences, GA	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
5225	Pastors' Retreat	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,750
5290	Other Expense	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250
<b>Total Ministerial Committee</b>		\$ 42,459	\$ 33,710	\$ 33,350
<b>Moderator</b>				
5300	Stipend	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5305	Travel	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
5390	Other Expense	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
<b>Total Moderator</b>		\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
<b>Presbytery Meetings</b>				
5400	Host Church Support	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500	\$ 2,000
5470	Speakers, Instructors	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000
5490	Other Expense	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000
<b>Total Presbytery Meeting</b>		\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 6,000
<b>Stated Clerk's Office</b>				
5500	Stipend	\$ 39,354	\$ 38,208	\$ 36,384
5501	Assistant Stated Clerk	\$ 10,506	\$ 10,200	\$ 9,636
5505	Travel	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,500
5515	Printing and Supplies	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600
5520	Website and Computing	\$ 2,500	\$ 300	\$ 300
5525	Education, Conferences, GA	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
5590	Other Expense	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250
<b>Total Stated Clerk's Expense</b>		\$ 59,710	\$ 56,058	\$ 55,170
<b>Treasurer's Office</b>				
5600	Stipend	\$ 5,562	\$ 5,400	\$ 4,800
5605	Travel	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300
5615	Printing and Supplies	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200
5625	Education, Conferences, GA	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
5650	O & D and Workman's Comp Insurance	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600
5665	Financial Review	\$ 300	\$ 500	\$ 500
5690	Other Expense	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200
<b>Total Treasurer's Office</b>		\$ 13,362	\$ 11,200	\$ 10,600
<b>Great Plains World Outreach</b>				
5705	Travel	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750
5751	Mission Giving	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
5790	Other Expense	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250
<b>Total World Outreach</b>		\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000
<b>Other Expense</b>				
5950	Administrative Commission	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
5951	Executive Council Expense	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800
5955	GA Committee Members Travel	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
5980	Pass Through Payments	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ -
5990	Other Expense	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
<b>Total Other Expense</b>		\$ 15,800	\$ 3,800	\$ 3,800
<b>Total Expenses</b>		\$ 138,331	\$ 125,768	\$ 122,420
<b>Total Unallocated</b>			\$ -	\$ -

### 33:13 Installation of Moderator

Moderator Gary Fuller opened with prayer and invited TE Dan Bair forward to be installed.

1. TE Dan Bair was asked the required constitutional questions which all were answered in the affirmative.
2. The Presbytery was also asked the required constitutional question which was answered in the affirmative.
3. The gavel symbolizing the authority of the Office of Moderator of the Great Plains Presbytery to which Dan has been called and elected was passed concluding with prayer.

### 33:14 Adjournment

Following an announcement inviting the Presbytery to attend the “Dinner Under the Stars” missions’ event at Colonial on Thursday just prior to the Antioch Conference and Presbytery the last weekend in January 2025, it was moved, seconded, and sustained to adjourn the meeting which was closed in prayer at 11:30 am.

### Executive Council Minutes

October 15, 2024 - Zoom meeting 10 am

Present: TE Dan Bair, Moderator and GPO Chair; RE Gary Fuller, Council Moderator; RE Randall Leonard, Session Records Chair; TE Luke Johnston Assistant Stated Clerk (ex-officio); TE Kent Mathews, Ministerial Committee Chair; TE Kermit Oppriecht, Stated Clerk; and RE Paul Sanford, Moderator Elect and Nominating Chair

Excused: RE Geri McFall, Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM by Moderator Gary Fuller. He opened the meeting with prayer.

It was moved, seconded, and sustained to approve the Proposed Agenda for today’s meeting and the Council Provisional Minutes from September 10, 2024.

Updates from Council members:

GPO Report (TE Dan Bair)

- TE Dan Bair reported on the General Presbytery Operations (GPO) and the ongoing support for Hurricane Helene victims.
- A significant portion of the funds in the Macedonia account remain unspent but several projects are currently under consideration for potential funding.
- Dan recommended the appointment of two Members at Large to join the Executive Council:
  1. TE Andrew Myers (Covenant, Omaha) – Accepted

- 2. TE Tami Lundgren – Under consideration
  - 3. Drew Reding – Under consideration
  - It was moved, seconded, and sustained to approve the Moderator’s selection of Andrew Myers and either Tami or Drew as the second Member at Large addition to the Council.
- Ministerial Committee Report (TE Kent Mathews)

- The committee is drafting ethics guidelines for GPP separation of Teaching Elders (TEs) in the Presbytery upon retirement or departure.
- A new pastoral evaluation tool, the Pro-D will be required for incoming ordination candidates in addition to the MMPI-2.
- Winter Presbytery 2024:
  - Plan to examine and ordain **Julien De Leiris**. from Colonial Presbyterian.
  - Plan to present **Timothy Roberts** from Clay Center as a potential candidate for coming under care.
  - Plan to examine TE **Sean Spencer** from Siloam Springs Presbyterian as their called pastor transferring from the EPC Pacific Northwest Presbytery.
  - Plan to examine TE **Jodi Mathews** transferring from PCUSA to the EPC as a retired pastor/Associate Member.
  - Positive review of the Pastor’s Retreat. Will plan to use a similar format next year with Jay Fowler form Pastor Serve being the presenter. Noted the need to work to increase attendance as there is high value for those in attendance.

Stated Clerk Report (TE Kermit Oppriecht)

- The Fall Presbytery 2024 meeting at GlenHaven was successful, with a smaller, more intimate setting being appreciated by attendees. Special mention was made in appreciation of the worship, training events and hosting done by GlenHaven.
- **Future Presbytery Meetings:**
  - It was moved, seconded, and sustained to recommend to the Presbytery that the following be GPP Host sites in 2026.
    - **Winter:** Eastminster, Wichita, KS
    - **Spring:** Kirk Crossing, Jenks, OK
    - **Fall:** Grace Community Fellowship, Ottawa, KS
  - The Stated Clerk will follow up with these three churches regarding their willingness to host in 2026 with Lighthouse being a backup site possibility.
- Kermit and TE Luke Johnston will attend the annual Stated Clerk meeting in Orlando during the first week of November.

Nominating Committee Report (RE Paul Sanford)

- Two positions remain open:
  1. Nominating Committee
  2. Session Records

- **Action:** Kermit will reach out to session clerks to gauge interest in serving on Session Records.

Treasurer's Report (RE Geri McFall, Excused)

- In Geri's absence, Kermit reported that a \$5,000 check was issued for disaster relief through GPO.
- Kermit expressed appreciation for Geri's work on facilitating having the Presbytery financial records audited.

Session Records Report (RE Randall Leonard)

- No significant updates at this time.

Executive Council Moderator (Gary Fuller)

- Gary is working with St. Luke's in Newton, KS, on church health, utilizing a book aligned with EPC's church health initiatives.

It was moved, seconded, and sustained to approve the next Executive Council meeting to be November 12 at 9 am by Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 10:40 am.

### Executive Council Minutes

November 12, 2024 - Zoom meeting 9 am

Present: TE Dan Bair, Moderator and GPO Chair; RE Gary Fuller, Council Moderator; TE Tammy Lundgren, Member at Large; TE Luke Johnston Assistant Stated Clerk (ex-officio); TE Kent Mathews, Ministerial Committee Chair; RE Geri McFall, Treasurer; TE Andrew Myers, Member at Large; TE Kermit Opprecht, Stated Clerk; and RE Paul Sanford, Moderator Elect and Nominating Chair

Excused: RE Randall Leonard, Session Records Chair

The meeting was opened with prayer at 9:00 am.

It was moved, seconded, and sustained to approve the proposed agenda.

It was moved, seconded, and sustained to approve the Council Provisional Minutes from October 15, 2024.

Updates from Council members:

Nominating Chair

- 1) Paul noted we still need one RE candidate for both the nominating and Session Records committees.

Stated Clerk

- 1) Potential Presbytery Host sites for 2026 have been contacted and indicated willingness to host: Winter/Eastminster, Spring/Kirk Crossing and Fall/Grace Community. These sites will be brought to the 2025 Winter Presbytery for approval.

- 2) It was moved, seconded, and sustained to approve the following agenda for the 2025 Winter Presbytery:

**Friday, January 24, 2025**

4:30 Registration opens

5:30 Dinner and fellowship

6:30 Worship - TE Tami Lundgren preaching and officiating communion.

7:30 Opening prayer, Greeting & Administrative Actions

7:40 Stated Clerk's Report

Discussion and vote on GA Overture

Discussion and vote on GPP Proposed Bylaw revision

(subsequent actions if approved – Nominations and election of Committee members; adjustment of 2025 budget)

2025 Parity Approval

7:50 Nominating Committee Report & election of Class of 2027 committee members for Nominating Committee, Session Records Committee and Next Gen Committee (assuming the bylaw revision passes)

8:00 Initial MinCom Report

**Saturday January 25, 2025**

8:00 Worship – Praise & Prayer

9:00 MinCom report continues

9:45 Break

10:00 Education event utilizing Antioch Conference workshop presenters

10:40 GPO Report

Macedonia update

Church Planting update – highlight Fountain City Church Plant

11:10 Session Records Report

11:15 Treasurer's Report

Financial report 1/1/24 to 12/31/24

11:20 Unfinished business and closing Prayer.

- 3) It was noted that adjustments may be needed if the NextGen Bylaw passes at our January Presbytery?
- 4) Budget questions will be addressed at our December Council meeting
- 5) Paul will reach out to Ian Johnston for recommendations for three nominees to serve on the committee with staggered terms starting in 2025.
- 6) Luke and Kermit provided a brief update from the Annual Stated Clerks meeting in Orlando they attended last week.

#### Treasurer

- 1) The Financials as of 10/31/2024 were received.
- 2) An issue with receiving the “Stripe” payments from the Fall Presbytery is still in process of being resolved. Geri is working with Jeff Sparks on this.

#### MinCom Chair

- 1) Update on Pastors/Churches
- 2) Potential of three exams. One for ordination, one for transfer from another EPC Presbytery and one to begin the Ordination process.
  - *Julien De Leiris* (Colonial Presbyterian) - ordination.
  - *Timothy Roberts* (Clay Center) - candidate for care.
  - *TE Sean Spencer* (Siloam Springs Presbyterian) - transfer as called pastor.
  - *TE Jodi Mathews* - transfer from PCUSA to EPC as retired/associate member.
- 3) Cornerstone, Leawood, KS: Engaged in a pastoral search with two quality EPC candidates.
- 4) Eastminster, Wichita, KS: Lead pastor search resumed, working with Shepherd’s Staff organization. TE Matthew Jaderston being recommended by the congregation to be moved from Assistant to Associate Pastor status.
- 5) Bathgate, ND: The three church parish that originally joined the EPC is now down to just one church. A meeting with Church Health Coordinator Gary Fuller has been scheduled to seek to address the smaller number of members to support a full time TE.
- 6) Avery, Bellevue, NE: Search committee has formed, finalizing PIF.
- 7) Covenant, SD: Kevin McDonald at will retire officially on January 28, 2025.
- 8) Fountain City, Overland Park, KS: Anticipate being able to move from Mission church status to local church status in the next year.
- 9) Kirk Crossing, OK: Challenging to locate a person to fill Youth Pastor opening.
- 10) Skiatook, OK: Continuing to receive support from Kirk of the Hills via zoom worship services.

#### GPO Chair

- 1) Updates on sub-committees
  - a. Hispanic update
    - Avery looking to move toward being a multi-ethnic church. About ready to submit PIF to MinCom for Pastor Search process – looking to call a bilingual pastor.
    - Kirk of the Hills Hispanic church plant doing well.

- b. Macedonia update - funds dispersed as follows:
    - **LEAD Center:** \$6,000 approved to support LEAD Center’s facility expansion.
    - **Shift Center - Pre-Evangelism Production:**
      - \$6,000 approved to assist in covering costs of creating a live presentation of “St. John of God” which will be presented in various locations in Macedonia as a Gospel outreach opportunity.
    - **Gretchen Masiello - Launch Fund:**
      - \$6,000 approved to assist with launch fund shortfall.
    - **Advance Center (Herbert):**
      - \$6,000 donation approved to cover a one-year rent deficit for two facilities.
    - **Wheaton Family - Visa Approval Support:**
      - \$6,000 approved to assist with financial hardships while awaiting visa approval for return to NMK.
    - **Parlier Family - Travel Support:**
      - \$3,000 approved to support travel needs.
  - c. Disaster Relief response
    - RE Jordan Vermillion in process of facilitating an organizational meeting with representatives from several churches in the Presbytery. Will be encouraged to look toward sending teams to assist with relief following the hurricane-stricken areas in our nations’ SE.
- 2) Our new Executive Council Members at Large for 2025 are TE Tami Lundgren and TE Andrew Myers.
  - 3) Looking to plan a time in the next couple of months to review of GPP policies and procedures and strategize what can we be doing different – more of, or less of, or different than - to increase our Kingdom effectiveness. Potential of inviting others from the Presbytery to be a part of this meeting.

The next Executive Council meeting will be December 10<sup>th</sup> by Zoom starting at 9 am.

The meeting was closed in prayer at 10:30 am.

### **Executive Council Minutes**

December 10, 2024 - Zoom meeting 9 am

Present: TE Dan Bair, Moderator and GPO Chair; RE Gary Fuller, Council Moderator; RE Randall Leonard, Session Records Chair; TE Tammy Lundgren, Member at Large; TE Luke Johnston Assistant Stated Clerk (ex-officio); RE Geri McFall, Treasurer; TE Andrew Myers, Member at Large; TE Kermit Oppriecht, Stated Clerk; RE Paul Sanford, Moderator Elect and Nominating Chair and RE George Hertensteiner visiting as incoming GPO Chairman.

Absent: TE Kent Mathews, Ministerial Committee Chair

The meeting was opened with prayer at 9am.

It was moved, seconded, and sustained to approve the Council Provisional Minutes from November 12, 2024.

Updates from Council members:

#### Stated Clerk/Assistant Stated Clerk

- 7) Following discussion, it was agreed that the Zoom AI function to aid in minute taking would be used on a trial basis to test its usefulness.
- 8) The proposed agenda for 2025 Winter Presbytery was finalized noting the majority of the examinations will be Friday evening.
- 9) A potential incoming church was discussed. They have asked to have a Great Plains representative attend their January 13, 2025, Session meeting to share regarding the EPC. Luke agreed to take the lead on this.
- 10) Assuming the NextGen Bylaw passes at our January Presbytery there will need to be a budget revision and three nominees to serve on the committee.
- 11) It was moved, seconded, and sustained to recommend to the Presbytery adding line items 5800 Next Gen Support \$2400 and 5801 Next Gen Misc. \$400 increasing the total budget by \$3,000.
- 12) TE Ian Johnston has agreed to be nominated as one of three members to serve on the Next Gen Committee.
- 13) A discussion regarding the recent NLT Letter noted the Session from Eastminster took time to review it with positive feedback. This will be discussed again at our January Council meeting where potentially more sessions will have had an opportunity to address it.

#### Nominating Chair

- 1) Two individuals needed to serve on the Nominating Committee. Need a TE to serve a two-year term and an RE for a three year term.

#### Treasurer

- 14) The financials as of 11/30/2024, were reviewed.
- 15) Discussion of the advisability of communicating with all the Great Plains member churches regarding Per Member Asking support. The Treasurer will work with the Stated Clerk to draft and send something in the near future.

#### GPO Chair

- 1) Updates on sub-committees
  - a. Hispanic – progress was noted with the works in progress at both The Kirk and at Avery.
  - b. Macedonia – one time funding was distributed to all the partner Macedonia workers
  - c. Church Planting – Fountain City Church will be featured at the January Presbytery

#### Session Records Chair

- 1) Continuing to pursue churches who haven't sent records and reviewing those who have.
- 2) Antioch Missions conference update – The theme will be Reaching Unreached People Groups. Workshop leaders will include Mark Vanderput, Brad Buescher, Sean Stewart and Nancy Cimprich. There will also be workshops dealing with disaster response and church planting.



- 3) Colonial is extending an invitation to the presbytery to attend their annual missions conference Thursday evening.
- 4) Plans are in progress to offer a Session Clerk's workshop at Fall Presbytery led by Geri, Randall and Kermit

January 7, 2025, was set for the next Council meeting. It will be by Zoom starting at 9 am.

The meeting was closed in prayer at 10:30

### **GPO Meeting Minutes**

#### **3:30 pm November 5, 2024 – Zoom meeting**

#### **Committee Participation (absent)**

Dan Bair	Nathan Edwards	Luke Johnson	Kermit Oppriecht
Susan Lear	Bonnie Gorrell	Jordan Vermillion	Gary Fuller
Randall Leonard	Susie Nielsen	Bob Bingaman	Don Gladhart
			Doug Overall

#### **Open with Prayer**

Dan opened the meeting with prayer

#### **Review and Approve Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes from the September meeting – Moved, seconded – approved.

#### **Meeting Dates:**

- GPO: Every other month on the first Tuesday at 3:30-4:30 (**2025 Schedule**)

January 7 / March 4 / May 6 / August 5 / September 2 / November 4

#### **Church Planting Report**

Luke was unavailable so there was not CPT report

#### **Disaster Relief**

We need to schedule a planning meeting with interested representatives from key churches: Eastminster, Colonial, Kirk of the Hills, Kirk Crossing, Lighthouse, and anyone else who wants to participate. Dan invited the committee to send him the names and contact information of interested people from their churches so that a zoom meeting may be scheduled and we begin to work on a disaster relief network. **Dan would like Jordan Vermillion to take the lead on this since he has successfully begun a program at Colonial.**

## **North Macedonia Funding Proposals:**

LEAD CENTER: The project that we have is about installing a retractable roof and sliding-or-retractable PVC-crystal walls that we are needing for covering the terrace and closing part of the perimeter at LEAD. The purpose is to convert the terrace into an In-Out space that will be used to hold larger meetings and/or activities like Seminars, Conferences, Concerts, Fairs, Art Expositions, Game Nights, and even activities for kids that require more space for them, etc.

We are planning to have a talking with the landlord in order to get a deal with him, so that any amount of money that may be invested in this project can be discounted from the rent. We are praying for this to happen. Also we will be asking the costs from different companies and as soon as we have the best offer from them we will send it to you with some slides that will show the things that need to be to be built.

**\$6,000 was approved as a donation to get this work started on the LEAD Center – Bob will contact**

SHIFT CENTER: Gregor is continuing with his one-man production of “St. John of God” a theatrical production that will be used as a means of pre-evangelism. There is an attached pdf of his project proposal, which totals around \$30,000

**\$6,000 was approved as a donation to help cover production costs – Bob will contact**

GRETCHEN MASSIELLO: Gretchen is still about \$15,000 short in her launch fund account – Bob and Susan have recommended a donation of (at least) \$5,000

**\$6,000 was approved as a donation to Gretchen’s Launch Fund – Susan Lear will contact**

ADVANCE CENTER: Herbert has a \$500 per month deficit per month for the two facilities that he has been renting to do the work of Advance – non-religious work – and the Church – religious work – to do discipleship and Christian activities. (\$6,000 would cover one year of his rent problem)

**\$6,000 was approved as a donation to help with a year of rent deficit – George will contact**

Wheaton’s are living on the west coast and waiting for visa approval to return to NMK. Their target is summer of 2025. They are facing financial hardships and Todd is looking for work to help to make ends meet.

**\$6,000 was approved as a donation to help them in this time of waiting – Susan Lear will contact**

The Parliers are planning travel and have been “holding down the fort” in NMK. We would like to encourage them and help to facilitate their future travel

**\$3,000 was approved as a donation for their up-coming travel – Randall will contact**

**Note:** It was mentioned that we need to communicate to the presbytery how their funds have been used. **Dan will put this information in the “newsletter”** he prepares for the GPO each

presbytery. **Susan will write an article on the future of the ENGAGE 2025** program from the perspective of WO to also include in the newsletter

### **Macedonia Prayer Call**

The last prayer call was lightly attended. Ricky communicated with Randall and shared that he felt like it was too difficult and awkward for all of the field workers to be on the same call. We discussed how we want to do one call to help to bring reconciliation. We will pray and seek the Lord on the future but the next call is scheduled for

**November 19 at 12 pm.**

**Interesting Note:** Parliers have been asked to consider taking over the language school from Larry and Dawn Blair who are plaining to leave the field permanently in 18 months.

### **Antioch Conference Update:**

Randall has been making progress on the planning of the conference. The theme will be John 14:12 – *“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”* The focus will be on the unreached. There will be a strong presence of WO Staff who will be presenting and attending and representatives from All Nations will possibly the plenary speaker and give a mini-course on how to become sending churches.

### **Financial Update:**

- |                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| • GPO General Fund                | 2,300     |
| • Macedonia Fund                  | 56,049.93 |
| • Church Planting/Replanting Fund | 12,215.47 |
| • Hispanic Church Plant Fund      | 65,583.22 |

### **New Business**

#### **Action Items:**

**Bonnie** will communicate with Geri, the treasurer, to disperse the funds.

**Dan** will contact Jordan about leading the effort on Disaster Relief zoom call

**Dan** will prepare the newsletter with financial update

**Susan** will write an article for the newsletter about the ENGAGE 2025 program moving forward.

**Above mention committee members** will contact the recipients of donations communicating the intention of the GPO to encourage their ministries.

**Randall** will continue work on the Antioch Conference – asking for help when needed.

**Closing:** Don Gladhart closed in prayer

## **Stated Clerk's Report for 2025 Winter Presbytery**

### **Attended or participated in:**

- GPO Macedonia Prayer calls
- Fall 2024 Presbytery
- Annual Stated Clerk's meeting in Orlando

### **Communications sent and received**

- Prepared and sent out Winter Save the Date letter, Presbytery Pre-registration notices and GPP Docket to all interested groups
- Communications with various Clerks of Session and Pastors
- Ongoing communications with First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) Philipsburg, KS, plus one other PCUSA church & pastor.

### **Committee meetings, phone, e-mail, and/or visits**

- Executive Council meeting agendas prepped and attended
- Multiple consultations with MinCom Chairman

### **Tasks completed**

- Docket & "Scripting" prepared for 2025 Winter Presbytery
- Minutes compiled for Presbytery and Executive Council mtgs
- GPP 32<sup>nd</sup> Presbytery Approved Minutes sent to GA
- GPP 33<sup>rd</sup> Presbytery Provisional Minutes sent to GA
- Expense Vouchers prepared and submitted
- Preparations for Colonial hosting Winter 2025 Presbytery

### **Presbytery Web Site now active**

- Presbytery Events page: <https://www.greatplainsepc.com/events>

## **Session Records Report**

2023 Session Records have been received from the following churches:

Bathgate, Colonial, Cornerstone, Covenant, Eastminster, Faith United, Freeman, Hillsdale, Kirk Crossing, Lighthouse, Mt. Pleasant, New Hope, Skiatook, St. Luke Evangelical, Turner County.

2023 Session Records are yet to be received from the following churches:

Avery, Clay Center, Siloam Springs, Glen Haven, Grace Community, Idana, New Covenant, Three Timbers, and Westminster

**Proposed Bylaw revision (additions and/or changes in red)**

Article VI **COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS**

Section 6.1 The Corporation shall have the following standing committees: **Next Generation Committee**, Ministerial Committee (MinCom), Session Records Committee (SRC), Nominating Committee (NomCom) and Great Plains Outreach Committee (GPO).

**Section 6.8 Next Generation Committee**

**(c) Purpose**

- The purpose of the Next Generation (Next Gen) committee will be to educate and encourage younger members of Great Plains Presbytery in their participation in the work and ministry of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church at local, presbytery and national levels of the denomination.

**(d) Structure**

- **Membership.** There shall be at least three (3) members of this Committee with an even or close to even membership of Ruling and Teaching Elders. Every attempt shall be made to have members geographically distributed throughout Presbytery. Each member of the Committee shall be elected to serve a 3-year term and shall be eligible to serve a second 3-year term. If elected to a second 3-year term, no member will be eligible to serve another term until after a 1-year time period elapses. To provide continuity, members shall be divided equally into 3 classes such that no more than 1 class rotates off at one time.

**Section 6.9 Elections**

## Great Plains 2025 Parity

Great Plains Presbytery --- EPC Parity 2025	TE's	RE	Parity	Number	Church member	Church members
				2025	2022	2023
Local Church Name	# TE's	# RE's	Parity +	RE Parity		
Avery Presbyterian (0:3)	0	2	1	3	190	126
Bathgate Presbyterian (1:3)	1	2	1	3	75	74
Clay Center Presbyterian (1:3)	1	2	1	3	135	119
Colonial Presbyterian (8: 17)	8	16	1	17	1660	1459
Cornerstone (0:3)	0	2	1	3	288	260
Covenant Presbyterian (1:2)	1	2		2	469	467
Eastminster (2:6)	2	6		6	1431	1388
Faith United (1:2)	1	2		2	192	180
Freeman Pres (1:2)	1	2		2	24	23
Glen Haven (1:2)	1	2		2	80	78
Grace Community (1:2)	1	2		2	118	133
Hillsdale (2:4)	2	4		4	193	196
Idana Pesbyterian (0:2)yoked w/ Clay Cnt, KS	0	2		2	62	58
Kirk Crossing (2:4)	2	4		4	336	370
Kirk of the Hills (3:6)	3	6		6	1009	1022
Lighthouse (1:2)	1	2		2	352	377
Mt. Pleasant (0:2)	0	2		2	30	15
New Covenant (1:2)	1	2		2	66	89
New Hope (0:3)	0	2	1	3	45	48
Siloam Springs Presbyterian (1:3)	1	2	1	3	113	114
Skiatook (0:3)	0	2	1	3	33	35
St. Luke Evangelical (0:3)	0	2	1	3	30	22
Three Timbers (1:3)	1	2	1	3	110	64
Turner County (0:3)	0	2	1	3	62	63
Westminster (0:3)	0	2	1	3	90	71
Executive Council		4		4		
<b>sub totals</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>92</b>	7193	6851

Parity: The additional number of RE's from local churches (by rotation) are added to achieve

"parity" of 2RE's for every TE within the Presbytery. New Hope through Cornerstone for 2025

Great Plains Presbytery --- EPC	2025 TE's	RE's	Parity RE's	
<b>Pastor without Call &amp; or Retired Active</b>				
Wayne Hardy	1			
Jordin Camacho Greer (student at Gordon)	1			
<b>Outside of Bounds Pastors</b>				

Rhythm of Grace Babb	1			
World Outreach Brad Buescher	1			
Fountain City NCP Cottier	1			
Transitional Pastor Brookdale, MO Henderson	1			
CRU Karst	1			
Tulsa Hills Youth Ranch Livingston	1			
Heartland School Mathews	1			
Ex Director PSC Jeff McDonald	1			
Chaplain Crossroads Hospice Overall	1			
Chaplain Navy Platek	1			
Chaplain Liberty Hospital Rash	1			
Literacy Evangelism International Rice	1			
Chaplain Crossroads Hospice Robinson	1			
Transitional Pastor Diamond Head, MS Van Den Berg	1			
Chaplain Adult Detention Center Wichman	1			
GPP Stated Clerk Opprecht	1			
<b>page two sub total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>page one sub total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>			<b>92</b>

Proposed Amended 2025 budget Including funding for Next Gen

Great Plains Presbytery		Proposed Budget	Budget		
		2,025	2024	2023	2022
<b>Receipts</b>					
4000	Church Giving	\$ 140,720	\$ 144,100	\$ 92,591	\$ 91,566
4090	Other Receipts (SEE LINE 5980)	\$ 12,000			
	Total Receipts	\$ 152,720	\$ 144,100	\$ 92,591	\$ 91,566
4900	From PREVIOUS year Unallocated	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Total Funds Available	\$ 152,720	\$ 144,100	\$ 92,591	\$ 91,566
<b>Expenses</b>					
<b>Ministerial Committee</b>					
5200	Olair Stipend	\$ 18,540	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000
5200	Olair Travel	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
5200	Committee Travel	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
5210	Chaplain Stipend	\$ 7,169	\$ 6,960	\$ 6,600	\$ 6,600
5210	Chaplain Travel	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
5210	Church Health coordinator	\$ 6,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5210	Church Health Coordinator Travel and Other	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5210	Printing and Supplies	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250
5220	Education, Conferences, GA	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
5220	Pastors' Retreat	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,750
5290	Other Expense	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250
	Total Ministerial Committee	\$ 42,459	\$ 33,710	\$ 33,350	\$ 33,350
<b>Moderator</b>					
5300	Stipend	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5300	Travel	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
5390	Other Expense	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
	Total Moderator	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
<b>Presbytery Meetings</b>					
5400	Host Church Support	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
5470	Speakers, Instructors	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
5490	Other Expense	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
	Total Presbytery Meeting	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
<b>Stated Clerk's Office</b>					
5500	Stipend	\$ 39,354	\$ 38,208	\$ 36,384	\$ 34,008
5500	Assistant Stated clerk	\$ 10,506	\$ 10,200	\$ 9,636	\$ 9,000
5500	Travel	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
5510	Printing and Supplies	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600
5520	Website and Computing	\$ 2,500	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300
5520	Education, Conferences, GA	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
5590	Other Expense	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250
	Total Stated Clerk's Expense	\$ 59,710	\$ 56,058	\$ 55,170	\$ 52,158
<b>Treasurer's Office</b>					
5600	Stipend	\$ 5,562	\$ 5,400	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,800
5600	Travel	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300
5610	Printing and Supplies	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200
5620	Education, Conferences, GA	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
5630	0 & D and Workman's Comp Insurance	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600
5660	Financial Review	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
5690	Other Expense	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200
	Total Treasurer's Office	\$ 11,362	\$ 11,200	\$ 10,600	\$ 10,600
<b>Great Plains World Outreach</b>					
5700	Travel	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750
5750	Mission Giving	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
5790	Other Expense	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250
	Total World Outreach	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000
<b>Next Generation</b>					
5800	NextGen Support	\$ 2,400	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5800	Next Gen Misc	\$ 600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Total Next Generation	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Other Expense</b>					
5950	Administrative Commission	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
5950	Executive council Expense	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800
5950	GA Committee Members Travel	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
5980	Pass Through Payments (SEE OTHER RECEIPTS)	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5990	Other Expense	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
	Total Other Expense	\$ 15,800	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
	Total Expenses	\$ 153,331	\$ 125,768	\$ 122,420	\$ 119,405
	Total Unallocated	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -



## William Baker Papers

### Preliminary Questionnaire

#### **1) Describe what factors have influenced you to consider vocational Christian service.**

I have a passion for God's word and his people. I love teaching the word of God and walking with people through the joys and trials of this life. I have an immense desire to see the gospel realized in the life of people, being free from the shackles of death and sin; which I myself was entrapped until God saved me. This call on my life has been affirmed by others in previous churches and they have walked beside me in this process.

#### **2) What kind of vocational ministry are you contemplating? How will ordination within the EPC assist you in accomplishing this ministry?**

I feel the Lord leading me to pastoral ministry. I believe that is a lead pastor one day in a church but am still open to what the Lord may have for me and my family. Being ordained in the EPC will confirm what others have stated and will allow me to step into a pastoral role officially.

#### **3) Describe how you are cultivating your relationship with God. What are you doing in the areas of prayer, Bible reading and study, and reading of Christian literature?**

Currently I lead our prayer team at Renew. This helps me pray constantly and think about prayer. Also my wife and I pray together every morning and every evening. We have a prayer board we keep our prayer requests on and other prayer requests from friends, family, and church. I am currently in Seminary so I am constantly reading my Bible and reading Christian Literature. Honestly I wish I had more time to read all the materials I am coming into contact with at Seminary. I also try to do my own personal devotion and study in the morning before work. I am currently going through Romans. Finally, my wife and I try to have two weekly things we do together, 1) we listen to a christian podcast and discuss it in the morning as we get ready, and 2) we go through a book of the Bible together or a Christian book.

#### **4) Describe your current and past involvement in the local church and/or in other areas of service, teaching, witness, and ministry. Give approximate dates for each.**

I am currently the Family Ministries Director at Renew EPC. I have been in this role since September of 2023. I lead our youth and oversee the Kids Ministry, lesson planning and teaching. I also lead the Prayer team at Renew and preach when needed. Before that (2022-2023) I served in an unofficial role at Mill Creek Community Church helping with youth ministry small groups and teaching the youth group from time to time. I also preached when needed at Mill Creek Community Church. I also helped with kids ministry and preaching at Redemption Church when I was home from college and professional baseball in Lee's Summit. (2015-2022). While in college I served as a

leader in on campus ministries at both Fort Scott Community College and Ball State University and led bible studies with my teammates at both schools.

**5) Why did you choose the EPC to apply to come under care?**

I choose the EPC because I think the commitment to gospel centrality and the foundational beliefs of the faith should be the thing the church unifies around. In a day in age where there is so much division, even within evangelicalism, this is a refreshing breath of air.

**6) Provide a brief (no more than 3 to 4 sentences) Personal Statement of Faith to explain your view or position on each of the following:**

a) The Bible: The Bible is God's breathed, inspired, and inerrant word. As believers we submit ourselves under its authority. It is the standard by which the natural law is confirmed and objective truth is solidified.

b) God the Father: God the Father is the first person of the one Triune God. He is the maker of heaven and earth, and all things visible and invisible. He is the giver of life and sustainer of all things. He is The Good Father who loves his children unconditionally.

c) Jesus Christ: Jesus is the second person of the one Triune God. He is the God Man, Fully God and Fully Man being of the same substance as the Father, eternally begotten. He took on flesh for us and our salvation, going to the cross and being the perfect atoning substitute. He rose from the dead, conquering sin and death, and sits at the right hand of God ruling over everything and establishing His Kingdom.

d) The Holy Spirit: The third person of the one Triune God. He is our helper and giver of life, who seals believers. He proceeds from the Father and the Son. He inspired the prophets and apostles to speak and write the words of God.

e) Humankind: Humans are created in the image of God and were meant to rule and reign with God over creation as vice regents. We are the peak of creation, the display of God's handy work and beauty. Therefore all human life is precious to God and begins at conception. Due to the Fall, Man has forfeited his claim to rule and reign with God apart from Christ. We are sinful from birth and destined for wrath unless saved by God's grace.

f) Sin: Sin is any action or thought that does align with God's righteous law and moral character. It has stained and corrupted the very essence of every man and woman because of the sin of Adam and Eve. Our wills are so entrenched in sin that we are sinners by nature now, yet because we are made in the image of God still retain some goodness and are not as evil as we could be.

## Adam Lipps Preliminary Questionnaire

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**1) Describe what factors have influenced you to consider vocational Christian service.**

From a fairly early age, I realized that I did not desire to work for the sake of working or to make a lot of money, but wanted to do something that I was passionate about and felt called by God to do. I have now been working in vocational ministry for the past 12 years, and those 12 years have only reinforced to me that this was the right decision. I cannot imagine a more rewarding and important job than to help others deepen their love for and connection with the God who created and loves them.

**2) What kind of vocational ministry are you contemplating? How will ordination within the EPC assist you in accomplishing this ministry?**

I believe God has given me passion and gifts in many different areas of ministry - leadership, teaching, and discipleship, among others. I have considerable experience leading and discipling youth and have also served as a pastor/director of discipleship for the past few years. These experiences have led me to trust in God's timing and placement for me. However, I believe that God has called me to eventually be a lead pastor of a church.

Being ordained in the EPC will help me be able to minister better in my current context as Director of Discipleship and Local Missions at Renew EPC, but it will also help prepare me for future pastoral roles that I believe God will call me to.

**3) Describe how you are cultivating your relationship with God. What are you doing in the areas of prayer, Bible reading and study, and reading of Christian literature?**

I begin each morning with a prayer of adoration before I get out of bed to get ready for my day. On my way to work each morning, I listen to a prayer app in my car that includes a Scripture reading and reflection time. While teaching a high school theology class at a private Christian school during the day, I study church history, theological concepts and principles, and the Scriptures themselves. I also get many opportunities to pray with and for students. In the evenings, I am able to pray (and sing the Doxology each night before bed) with my family. My wife and I are currently working through a 2-year Bible reading program, finding time in the evenings several times a week to read and discuss the Scriptures together.

**4) Describe your current and past involvement in the local church and/or in other areas of service, teaching, witness, and ministry. Give approximate dates for each.**

Renew EPC - Director of Discipleship & Local Missions (March 2024 to present): I have created a small groups ministry for all congregants from the ground up, including development of curricula, congregational vision casting, and training and oversight of leaders. I also oversee local outreach and missions opportunities for church, including the planning and administration of events. Lakeland Community Church - Assistant Pastor of Discipleship & Events (January 2022 to December 2023): I created and implemented a new discipleship program for the church, including teaching, recruitment and oversight of lay discipleship teams, church-wide promotion and communication strategies, and personal shepherding of individuals in the program. Director

of Youth Ministry and Emerging Leaders (college internship) Program (March 2012 to December 2021).

Vineyard Bible School in Changsha, China (July 2010 to June 2011): I served as a missionary, teaching prospective pastors and missionaries in the underground house church of China.

**5) Why did you choose the EPC to apply to come under care?**

I appreciate the EPC's strong anchor and desire for unity in the Gospel, while maintaining a heart for charity and freedom in non-essentials of the faith. I believe this is exactly the balance that Christians should be aiming to reach as they seek to reflect the heart of Christ in this world. I currently work at an EPC church, and it has been a refreshingly good theological fit for my family and me.

**6) Provide a brief (no more than 3 to 4 sentences) Personal Statement of Faith to explain your view or position on each of the following:**

a) The Bible

The Bible is the true and inspired Word of God, authored by both human authors and the Divine Author, telling us the story of God's faithful and loving plan to redeem creation and save his people through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. All Scripture ultimately points us to this Plan and this culmination of it. It is mysterious and beautiful and deeply rich and meaningful for teaching and devotion and connecting with God.

b) God the Father

God the Father, the 1st person in the Trinity, is the Almighty and Infinite Creator and Eternal Ruler of the Universe. He is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and End, the Uncreated Creator, the Unmoved Mover, the cause of all things that were and are and will be.

c) Jesus Christ

Jesus is God incarnate, the 2nd person in the Trinity, the One who came to earth to accomplish the will and plan of the Father to reconcile His people back to himself, so that once again, for all eternity, He might be their God and they might be His people. Jesus accomplished this through his life, his death on the cross, and his resurrection, which made the promise of eternal life with God accessible to those who believe and accept it. Jesus is the One who has brought true joy, hope, peace, and love into this world. Jesus is the One to whom all Scripture attests and culminates. Jesus is the Living Word, the Wisdom of God, the True Light, our Advocate and Judge, the True High Priest, the True King of the Universe, the True Temple, and our Savior.

d) The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit, the 3rd person in the Trinity, is the ever-present breath (ruah) of God in the Universe, sent by the Father and attesting to the beauty and glory of the Son. The Spirit dwells in the hearts of believers, convicting them of sin, providing power and courage and wisdom, equipping the members of the body of Christ with spiritual gifts, and enabling us to understand and believe the Word of God.

e) Humankind

Humans are the apex of God's creation, made to be in loving relationship with him and with one another. Humans are bearers of the image of God and the caretakers of the earth God created for us. God created humanity as male and female to complete one another. As husband and wife, they are meant to reflect and point us to the perfect, self-sacrificial love of Christ for the church and of God for his people.

f) Sin

Sin is anything that separates us from God. Though sin often results from specific acts of disobedience or denial toward God, it can even arise from a self-righteous attitude in one's good deeds. The punishment for sin is and should be death, physically and spiritually. And though sin still affects the lives of all humans and the fallen nature of the world as a whole, its power to destroy and deteriorate and tear at the fabric of all creation was vanquished by the blood of Christ on the cross and his resurrection on the third day.

### **Cody Pritchett Preliminary Questionnaire**

**1) Describe what factors have influenced you to consider vocational Christian service.**

Internal desire to serve the Lord and His church and contribute to its health and flourishing. Communal affirmations in gifts and effectiveness in gospel ministry in the past decade.

**2) What kind of vocational ministry are you contemplating? How will ordination within the EPC assist you in accomplishing this ministry?**

Pastoral Ministry and/or Family Ministry. I appreciate the thorough ordination process of the EPC which helps candidates prepare well for ministry. The EPC provides great accountability, resources, and accreditation processes for potential ministers. I have also benefited and been assisted by the EPC associated Seminary program with Kent Matthews.

**3) Describe how you are cultivating your relationship with God. What are you doing in the areas of prayer, Bible reading and study, and reading of Christian literature?**

The past year I have been studying a Psalm per day with two commentaries. I'm doing this to aid my prayer life. The Psalms have been great templates and aids in my personal worship of God and daily connection with Him! I also studied Roman 1-8, verse-by-verse this year, which was incredibly rich! I have read a lot of great Christian literature for Seminary, but in addition to that, I have worked through 1/3 of The Wonderful Works of God by Bavinck and some Christian parenting books.

**4) Describe your current and past involvement in the local church and/or in other areas of service, teaching, witness, and ministry. Give approximate dates for each.**

2010-2014: Church Member as a college student (PCA Church). Volunteered w/Children & Youth. 2014-2016: Student Ministry Director at PCA Church.

2016-2018: Church Member at a Church Plant (Sojourn Network) (volunteered in guest follow up, parking, and on youth ministry counsel; also led a gospel-care group).

2018-2020: Student Ministry Director at United Methodist Church  
2020-2021: Church Searching

2021-2022: Student Ministry Director at EPC Church.

2022-2024: Member at PCA Church (in PA where I led a men's bible study group) and Affiliate Member of EPC Church (KS).

**5) Why did you choose the EPC to apply to come under care?**

I hold to Reformed Theology (Presbyterian) and appreciate the diversity, missional-lean, creativity, and the theological-balance of the EPC.

**6) Provide a brief (no more than 3 to 4 sentences) Personal Statement of Faith to explain your view or position on each of the following:**

a) The Bible

The inerrant Word of God and the rule for life and faith.

b) God the Father

The Creator of Heaven and Earth. The first person of the Trinity.

c) Jesus Christ

The Father's only Son, our Lord. The second person of the Trinity. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary. He's fully man and fully God. He lived a perfect life, was crucified on a Roman cross, and bodily resurrected three days later. He sits at the right hand of God and reigns as King Supreme and will return.

d) The Holy Spirit

The Third person of the Trinity (He's God and is Personal). He proceeds from the Father and the Son. He applies the work of redemption to humans.

e) Humankind

Created by God and made in the image and likeness of God. God gave humans dominion over the works of His hands (and all creatures) as vice-regents on His earth. Humankind, although like their Creator is not God.

f) Sin

The condition that infects every human being and every human heart where humans naturally rebel against God, oppose his laws/commands, and defy God and God's rightful Centrality and instead place ourselves at the center. Sin is both a condition and actions that spring from that condition. Sin leads to death and deserves the Just wrath of God.

**Tim Roberts Preliminary Questionnaire** \_\_\_\_\_

**1) Describe what factors have influenced you to consider vocational Christian service.**

I grew up with several family members who worked in vocational Christian service. Because of their positive influence on my upbringing, I was able to conceptually grasp the missional call God

has placed on each individual's life. My undergraduate studies offered me an opportunity to process this call in my own life. As I engaged in my studies, I gradually noticed changes of my heart in my vocational desires. Initially, my desire was to be a classroom music teacher. As I spent more time engaging in spiritual disciplines and learning to take my profession of faith seriously, my desires became more and more directed at the condition of human hearts. Ultimately, I came to realize my true desire was to engage with others with the gospel of Jesus Christ and be used as a tool for equipping God's people in their worship of Him.

**2) What kind of vocational ministry are you contemplating? How will ordination within the EPC assist you in accomplishing this ministry?**

I have worked to be intentional in allowing my current vocational ministry work and seminary studies to be an opportunity for me to process which kinds of vocational ministry I am contemplating. Broadly speaking, I am contemplating pastoral church ministry. Within this, however, I seek the Lord's guidance as to which kind of pastoral ministry I feel especially drawn to. Some areas which I have contemplated in more depth would be rural church pastoring as well as church planting. I have also contemplated being involved in christian education.

**3) Describe how you are cultivating your relationship with God. What are you doing in the areas of prayer, Bible reading and study, and reading of Christian literature?**

Typically, I prefer my daily rhythms to include one light, devotional reading as well as a time of more in-depth study. In this current moment, I have found a lot of enjoyment in the ESV's "Unfolding Grace" devotional plan. I very much appreciate the manner in which the selected passages offer readers with a clear understanding of scriptures interconnectedness while allowing God's gracious action towards mankind to serve as the tie which connects these stories together. I have also spent a significant amount of time studying the parables of Jesus recently. Much of these studies are guided by Klyne Snodgrass' word entitled "Stories with Intent". It has been fascinating to study other 1st century extrabiblical texts and gain a newfound historical perspective as I seek to interpret Jesus' teachings. Throughout the day, I engage in regular rhythms of prayer. These are typically done in the morning, as I sit at my desk, lunch, and evening. I also utilize a fantastic prayer book entitled "Canyon Road" by Kari Kristina Reeves. The prayers found in this text have greatly enriched my prayer life and taught to to better commune with God. Finally, there are several other books I enjoy reading and engaging with regularly. In preparing sermons, I almost always reference John Calvin's commentaries as well as the currently incomplete "Reformed Expository Commentaries". Some personal favorite books I have read this year are "Anatomy of an Affair" by Dan Carder, "The Age of AI" by Jason Thacker, and "Christianity and Liberalism" by J. Gresham Machen.

**4) Describe your current and past involvement in the local church and/or in other areas of service, teaching, witness, and ministry. Give approximate dates for each.**

While in college, I worked as a summer intern for Colonial Presbyterian Church (EPC) in both their children and youth ministries. The summers employed by them were 2015,

2016, and 2017. I also served as a middle school youth leader for Faith Evangelical Free Church in Manhattan, KS from 2018-2020. In these roles, I planned and conducted bible studies, led large-group lectures, and

relationally engaged with students outside the context of the church building. Currently, I am employed by First Presbyterian Church of Clay Center and Idana Presbyterian Church as their youth director. In this role, I am responsible for all events and individuals related to our middle school and high school youth. Other notable responsibilities include preaching regularly, conducting funerals, and leading the contemporary music on Sunday mornings. I have been employed with these churches since January of 2020.

**5) Why did you choose the EPC to apply to come under care?**

I was raised in an EPC church and currently work for an EPC church. I have appreciated these churches and their investment in my spiritual health. Because of these reasons, it seemed natural to come under the care of the EPC.

**6) Provide a brief (no more than 3 to 4 sentences) Personal Statement of Faith to explain your view or position on each of the following:**

a) The Bible

The Bible is authoritative, inerrant, and inspired by God. It offers us an understanding of God's set standard by which He has committed himself to us and how we ought to commit ourselves to Him. (2 Tim 3:16)

b) God the Father

The first member of the trinity. He is the creator and sustainer of all things. He has always been and always will be perfect, good, glorious, wise, just, and true. Through his divine will, all persons, creatures, and events have come to be. (1 cor 8: 6, Rom 11:33-36)

c) Jesus Christ

The second member of the trinity. He is God in human form. He entered earth without sin, left earth without sin, yet died as if he had sin so that he might take our sins upon himself and pay the penalty for our disobedience against God. Through Jesus' work, we can be reconciled to God and Jesus acts as our mediator before the Father. (Jn 1:14, Jn 14:6, 2 Cor 5:21)

d) The Holy Spirit

The third member of the trinity. He has been sent by Christ to glorify Christ and enable our hearts to be forever saved. Through His work, we are convicted, guided towards truth, and spiritually enabled through specific giftings to bring more glory unto God. (Jn 14:26, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:38)

e) Humankind

Created in God's own image, humankind was intended to experience nothing but perfection and bliss walking in the presence of the Lord. However, in our disobedience of God's command, we ourselves caused a misdirection from God's intended narrative. Through this sin, we became separated from God and our hearts were corrupted. By faith alone, can our broken hearts be mended through the work of Jesus on the cross. (Gen 1:26, Rom 3:23, Rom 5:12)



f) Sin

Sin is the rejection of God. It is done by living against what God commands in His law and by living without acknowledging God at all. The penalty for such crime against God is death. Each man, with Jesus as the exception, has sinned against God. We have all rejected Him and are deserving of such death. (1 Jn 3:4, Rom 6:23)

### **Shaun Spencer Statement of Faith**

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#### 1. The Bible (Bibliography)

The Bible, made up of the books of the Old and New Testament, is God's revelation of himself to us. It provides us with an authoritative, faithful, and sufficient understanding of who he is, who we are, and what is necessary for our salvation. The Bible has no errors in anything it says though we must sometimes work through our own errors (exegetical, cultural, existential, etc.) to understand it correctly. As the Bible is a revelation of God to us, it bears the imprint of the entire Trinity but points to Jesus as the one who holds all things together. Because of this, it is incumbent on followers of Jesus to store it up in their hearts and live it out in their lives.

(2 Tim 3:16; Jn 1:1-18; Psm 119; Col 1:15-20)

#### 2. God the Father (Theology proper)

God the Father is the first person of the Trinity, having eternally and equally existed with the Son and the Spirit in a unity of love. God is a spirit. He is the all-powerful maker of everything. He is merciful and gracious, but also just in all his ways. God the Father is transcendent, yet without compromising the intimacy of his fatherly love.

(Deut. 6:4; Ex 34:6-7; Psm 90:1-2; Psm 146:5-7; Matt 28:18-20; Rev 4:8)

#### 3. Jesus Christ (Christology)

Jesus Christ is the second person of the Trinity, having eternally and equally existed with the Father and the Spirit in a unity of love. Jesus took on full humanity without rejecting his full divinity, and was born to a virgin mother in real space and time. Jesus bore the curse of Adam's sin on the cross of Calvary as a substitute for his people.

Having paid the debt of sin, he physically rose from the dead in defeat of death and in vindication of his claims to be the Son of God. Still fully human and physical, Jesus ascended to the Father and is there now, awaiting his return to receive his bride the Church. He will return to judge the living and the dead; and to reign forever.

(Dan 7:13ff Matt 28:18-20; Jn 1:14ff; Jn 20:27; Phil 2:4ff; Col 1:15ff; 1 Tim 2:5-6; Heb)

#### 4. The Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)

The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Trinity, having eternally and equally existed with the Father and the Son in a unity of love. He is not an impersonal force but a unique person in the godhead who indwells those united to Christ. The Spirit is our comforter and advocate. He convicts our hearts, makes it possible for us to receive the Gospel, and empowers our sanctification. The Spirit is also the down payment on our own coming resurrection.

(Jn 15:15ff; Matt 28:18-20; 2 Cor 5:5; Rom 8:9)

## 5. Mankind (Anthropology)

Mankind, fully expressed in both men and women, is a unity of body and spirit, made in the image of God. Mankind is a finite creature who is fully dependent on the mercy and care of God. Mankind was given the duty of keeping, guarding, and developing God's creation for God's ends. Mankind was also given everything necessary for life. The historic Adam represented all mankind proceeding from him, but in discontentment rebelled against God's good care. Having sought self-rule, Adam plunged mankind into death with its attending curse and woes. Because of this, mankind still bears the marks of original glory, but now devastated by sin and awaiting rescue and restoration.

(Gen 1:26ff; 3; Psm 103:14; Rom 5 & 6; Eph 2:1-3)

## 6. Sin (Hamartiology)

Sin is both the refusal to obey God as well as the failure to live up to the perfection God requires. Sin marks the children of Adam by both rebellion and corruption/brokenness. Sin shows up not only in our own active and passive sins, but also in the effects of how we are sinned against by others. Mankind's sin is a burden upon the whole created order.

(Rom 1:21; 3:10-12, 23; 8:20ff; 1 John 3:4; Matt 15:18-19; Jer 17:9; Eph 2:1-3)

## 7. Salvation (Soteriology)

Salvation is the work of God to rescue all creation from Adam's sin and our own ongoing expression of it. Salvation as it relates to the individual involves God's election, the Spirit's effectual calling and regeneration, then our God-wrought repentance and faith.

In systematic terms, salvation involves the acts of grace described in justification and adoption, and leads to the ongoing work of grace described by sanctification. Salvation finds its full end in Christ's return and the Final Judgment where those united to Jesus are shown to be acquitted, and all creation is restored at the coming of the New Heavens and New Earth (glorification).

(Ezek 36:26; Jn 6:44; Rom 4:23-25; Rom 5:6-8; Rom 12:1-2; Gal 2:16; 1 Tim 2:5-6)

## 8. Satan

Satan is an enigmatic figure in the Scriptures but he is a deceiver, an accuser of God's people, and the enemy of God. Satan may have been an angel of God who fell in rebellion, but his origin is not expressly conveyed in the Bible. While Satan is powerful and not to be trifled with, Satan is also not God's opposite or equal. Satan is not

all-knowing, all-powerful, nor is he omnipresent. Satan's defeat is assured even though his work continues to imprint the world.

(Gen 3:1ff; Matt 4:1ff; Jn 8:44; 1 Pet 5:8; Rev 12:9; Rev 20:7ff)

## 9. Angels and Demons

Angels and demons are also somewhat enigmatic creatures in the Scriptures. We do know that they are personal beings, that they exist as a part of reality unseen by most and at most times. Angels are at times messengers and warriors of God. They often invoke fear and awe in those that see them. Demons appear to be servants of Satan who are involved in the torment of those they interact with. It is possible that demons are fallen angels who followed Satan in a rebellion against God's rule. (Psm 103:20:21; Matt 22:30; Col 1:16; 2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6; Rev 12:7ff)

## 10. The Church (Ecclesiology)

The Church is the assembly of God's people, made up of believers from all peoples and nations. The visible Church is made of all those (ordinarily) baptized who profess faith in Christ along with their children at any given point in history. The invisible Church is made of all those elect of Jesus throughout history. Until Jesus returns the Church will always be a mix of truth and error; maturity and immaturity. But the Church has the responsibility to minister and declare Christ in Word, Sacrament, and life as a priestly kingdom, lighting the way for the world to see Jesus.

(Ex 19:6; Matt 13:24-30; Rom 11:7, 25-37; Eph 1:22-23; Eph 5:32; 1 Pet 2:9)

## 11. The Spiritual Life of the Believer

In that humans exist as a unity of body and spirit, I believe that all of life is spiritual. We live all of our lives before the throne of God and all of life is a form of worship. So I lean back against a false distinction between spiritual and physical. But I also believe that there are core habits in the life of a Christian that help us see how all of our life belongs to, and is being shaped by Jesus. To that end I try to emphasize growing in habits of prayer, Scripture reading, corporate worship, and healthy patterns of work and rest. (Eccl 3:1-15; Rom 12-16; Col 3)

## 12. Future Things (Eschatology)

Believers who die before the return of Christ are immediately with the Lord, having been made perfect in holiness, and await the Resurrection of their bodies. The promise of Jesus is to return to earth to sit in Final Judgment, claim his Bride, and restore all creation.

I tend toward an amillennial viewpoint on that particular part of the eschatological discussion. In spite of the many difficulties of eschatology, we have a sufficient understanding to look forward in the real hope of Jesus' physical return. It may or may not be in our day, but the day will come and it will be glorious.

(2 Cor 5:8; 1 Thess 4:13ff; Mat 5:14; Matt 25:31-34; Acts 17:31; Phil 1:21; Heb 12:22-23)

## 13. Evangelism

All Christians have a part to play in presenting Jesus to the world, even if for some those ways are more mundane and ordinary.

I believe that evangelism is best when it is:

1. Relational - rooted in building humble bridges to non-Christians, inviting them into our lives, and participating in theirs.
2. Doxological - inviting non-Christians into the "other-ness" of our corporate worship.
3. Ethical - living out a visible witness to what a people look like when they are being changed by the Spirit more and more into the image of Jesus. This also includes our service to the world, and our attempts to bring the promise of the Resurrection to bear on our present age.

(Ex 19:6; Deut 4:5-8; Isa 42:6; Matt 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-43; 1 Pet 2:9)

## 14. Spiritual Gifts

Speaking generally, I believe that all Christians have gifts from God. Some are more "up front" and some are more "behind the scenes" but they are all important for the Body of Christ to be fully expressed.

As it relates to "charismatic gifts" (like speaking in tongues), I believe that some of what are called charismatic gifts are ecstatic expressions not necessarily related to the work of the Holy Spirit. I also believe that when the Gospel is rooted in a location, the more ordinary gifts are more prominent. At the same time, I am reluctant to forbid something that the Scriptures say not to forbid, and believe that the Spirit blows where he wills.

Even still, I would admit to being guarded about many charismatic expressions and would default to "decent and in good order." (1 Cor 13 & 14; Eph 4:11ff; Jn 3:8)

**Answer the following integration questions:**

**1. State your view of the Scriptures and the place the Scriptures will have in your ministry.**

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the final rule for all things pertaining to our faith and life. They are the authoritative, trustworthy, and true revelation of God to mankind; with no errors in anything they say (when understood rightly). While the Scriptures bear the mark of the entire Trinity, in whole they point to Jesus who is the one who holds all things together.

The Scriptures must guide not only the content of ministry, but also its method and manner. That is not to "proof-text" every action, but rather to recognize that everything we do must be shaped by God's revelation of himself in his word. What he commands clearly, we seek to do whether we prefer it or not. What we find there by reasonable inference, we pursue with humility. What isn't clear, we hold loosely as (perhaps) a good idea but not as a rule.

(Psm 36:9; Psm 119:11; Col 1:15ff; 2 Tim 3:16ff; Heb 11:1ff).

**2. What distinctions of the Reformed faith appeal to you?**

I find the theological unity and integratedness of the Reformed emphasis on covenant appealing. It helps to see the work of God in a way that is consistent across the Testaments and takes in the whole of life and history.

I also find the Reformed emphasis on grace and the priority of God acting to be appealing, recognizing that I am hopeless if the initiative must come from me.

Further, I find the Reformed emphasis on the necessity of the Spirit's work and empowerment appealing. I find it to be humbling, in that my ministry is not dependent on my mustering enough strength, skill, tenacity, or innovation to do it. But I also find it comforting in that my ministry is not dependent on my mustering enough strength, skill, tenacity, or innovation to do it.

**3. What/Who is the Holy Spirit and how important is His ministry?**

The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Trinity, co-equal with the Father and the Son, having lived in a community of perfect love with them for eternity. The Spirit is not an impersonal force but a personal member of the godhead.

Because so much of the Spirit's work is to point us to Christ, it would be easy to downplay or at least inadvertently miss the importance of the Spirit. However, the ministry of the Spirit is critical if we are to come to know our need for Jesus. It is the Spirit who works in us conviction of sin, who changes our hearts, and who applies to us the gifts of faith and repentance. He is our comforter and advocate. The Spirit is the means by which God is present with us.

(Matt 28:18-20; Jn 15:15ff; Rom 8:9; 2 Cor 5:5)

**4. What is your position on women in leadership roles in the church?**

I believe that all positions of leadership are open to women in the church who meet the qualifications of character and Biblical/theological acumen listed in the Scriptures. I hold this position because I do not believe that the Scriptures demonstrate a timeless restriction of women from leadership roles in the Church.

**5. What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of the Presbyterian form of government?**

I see the frameworks of oversight as a strength of the Presbyterian system. That this framework is built around elders who have a unified core of confessional convictions, and who are seeking to govern the church as shepherds is also an appealing strength. I see two weaknesses in our system of government that, while they may not be inherent in the system itself, they do seem to manifest themselves in it. One is to become so bogged down by the procedures of the system that we lose sight of the point of the procedures. A second is that it is easy for us to assume that having a connectional system in place is the same thing as having connectional relationships in place. The two do not always go together.

**6. Explain your philosophy of ministry.**

I am committed to faithful, Jesus-shaped, ordinary ministry over time.

Faithful: A big part of ministry is consistently showing up and doing the work that is before me with gratitude. (2 Corinthians 4:5 has been an important verse for me.) Jesus-shaped: Both my methods and my manner of ministry must be formed into the likeness of Jesus. To that end, my ministry and life must be doggedly tied to the Scriptures. My ministry is not about me.

Ordinary: There are times for innovation, but most of life is ordinary. So ministry must help us live in the regular circumstances and vocations of our lives.

Ministry: My ministry is not people-management and it is not power-brokering. It is ministering Christ to those I have the opportunity to serve.

Over time: Though the Spirit sometimes works in extra-ordinary moments, most often growth in both people and congregations happens over a longer stretch. So we should expect that the Spirit would work growth, but the angle of trajectory isn't always steep.

**7. Describe your approach to evangelism, both personally and as a pastor in a local church.**

I have tried to live out the principles I noted in 13 above. That is why I try to be a visible participant in our town, and why I emphasize worship together on the Lord's Day. I also think the principles mentioned above are best worked out in a context where members of a congregation are cultivating a winsome life together that they can invite others into. Because I currently serve in a community deeply imprinted by Mormonism, I have to be committed to doing those things with patience.

**8. As you reflect on your life, explain your sense of call to ministry.**

As it relates to inward call, ever sense I was in junior high I have felt a desire to do some kind of Christian service as a vocation. Even during a youthful season of frustration with the institutional Church I could never shake the underlying desire to be a part of the regular life and worship of

God's people. During challenging times as a pastor, I have never shaken the desire to do pastoral ministry.

As it relates to external call, I continue to be affirmed by others that my attempts at ministry bear fruit. This has been particularly true in areas of preaching, worship, and pastoral counsel. I see pastoral ministry as a genuine privilege. It's a privilege that sometimes has an edge to it, but I cherish it. I also see pastoral ministry as a call to serve Jesus and his church whether it feels like it serves me or not. That is a calling I pray Jesus will sustain me in for the "long haul".

**9. Elaborate on your convictions about personal accountability in your life and in the lives of Christians to whom you might minister.**

We need each other because we have spots in our lives that we aren't able to see unless someone from another vantage point reveals them to us. So we need to wisely develop relationships that are safe, but also courageous with the truth. I make a point to encourage people to look for those people in their own lives, as well as to be that kind of a person for someone else.

I'm grateful that I have a few dear friends who I know will tell me the truth about what they see in me. Those relationships have taken time, humility, and at times a fair bit of risk to build.

We also need each other because we are not able to see all of Jesus on our own. We each have our own lenses we look at Christ through. These lenses often reveal some true things but can blur others since our lenses are "smudged". Without accountability, we end up with caricatures of Jesus - overemphasizing what are often true but disproportionately represented attributes of our Lord. Everyone is not always right about everything, but we need to listen so that we can humbly correct and be corrected.

**Shaun Spencer: Narrative**

**Life Story:** In one page, describe your life's journey. Include key incidents (such as how you came to faith in Christ) that were significant in your formation as a person and your call to ministry.

I grew up in a family with layers of brokenness and divorce. But my grandfather, a former Nazarene missionary to central America, was a tether to Jesus and the Church. As my family spun out of control, his stability was one means by which the Lord kept his hand on me. While living with my grandparents and attending a local Christian school as a Junior High student, I was brought to a place where I owned my grandfathers faith as my own. From that time on I wanted to devote myself to Christian service in some form or another.

As a High School student I met my wife and we married early. She has been key to my formation as a person as we have essentially grown up together as a married couple. The Lord has been very gracious to us. Through some difficult external circumstances we have leaned into each other instead of away from each other and we are learning what it means to trust Jesus with our lives. The addition of three children has also been instrumental in forming me, demonstrating the realities of my heart, cultivating a love I didn't know was possible, and driving me to my Father in heaven.

There are three moments in my ministry that I look back on as fundamental to my view of ministry. The first was during my service to Ada Church of the Nazarene. While traveling to preach at a youth revival, I realized that I didn't really know what I believed nor what I ought to believe in light of the

Scriptures. I returned from that event and resigned my position in the hope of starting over in my relationship to Jesus and in my understanding of theology. This was the beginning of learning my need to be more humble before the Scriptures. This is a lesson I have to return to, but this was a key experience in my growth in grace.

The second experience came during a time of running away from God's call to pastoral ministry. I developed a sinful frustration with the state of the visible church. This frustration was rooted in my own arrogance, in mistrust, and in my lack of real belief in the greatness of the Gospel. The Lord graciously used a time of depression to break me, grant me a bigger view of Jesus, and renew in me a love for his Bride.

The third fundamental experience was not exactly a moment, but a season. The decade of ministry in Madison, WI taught me how to love a broken body of believers in ways I don't really have categories for. It was challenging, and sometimes exhausting, but my understanding of ministry will always show the imprints of that season.

Self-Appraisal:

**Briefly describe your leadership style:**

I try to cultivate relationships of trust where people are free to use their gifts with room for failure (but with enough support to prevent too many of them). I prefer to find trustworthy people and trust them to put their own fingerprints on the task at hand. I also tend to value cultivating strategic vision from available resources instead

(Shaun Spencer)

of trying to generate wholly new things.

**How you go about making decisions:**

I start with clear principles/commands from Scripture. If those are not clear I move to reasonable applications of known principles. I try to listen to the wisdom of others and choose deliberately. But when things are not clear, I try to lean into my confidence in the sovereign grace of Christ to continue loving me whether decisions lead to difficulty or ease. So I can choose without fear.

**Your administrative style:**

Administratively, I value simple, integrated, and un-cluttered processes as much as possible so that less time is spent supporting administrative structures.

**Talk about how you handled a recent conflict. What did you do well? What areas of conflict resolution do you need to be more effective at?**

Recently I was involved in a situation where a program leader in our town unilaterally shut down an important free lunch program for children. In that case, I was able to use my platform as a Councilman to speak for Christ-formed justice in a public forum, while also stepping in to provide practical encouragement and other support for those with authority over the program leader as they sorted out a long-term solution.

I would like to grow in being more relationally invested in people before problems erupt. Right now my investment is spread too thin.

**What do you enjoy about working as part of a team? What is challenging to you?**

I enjoy having the opportunity to see different angles on a question/project/issue that I am not as prone to seeing. That aspect of having my perspective broadened is exciting.

At the same time, sometimes working as a team creates inefficiencies that can drag out solutions and action. Sometimes that is a benefit and prevents knee-jerk responses. Sometimes it bogs down progress, which can be frustrating.

**Briefly describe your worship preferences: (*preaching style, preferred worship style [e.g., liturgical, modern, traditional, blended, etc.]*)**

I preach expositionally with an emphasis on the heart-level application of diligently-mined information from the text. I also preach as a fellow participant in the congregation's worship. My preference is for integrated liturgies with historic elements. I am flexible on music style, but value arranging the music for the sake of the congregation's ability to sing.

**Share your sense of your call to ministry:**

In frustrating or weary seasons, I sometimes try to think of something else I could do. I think there are a handful of other vocations I would be able to pull off with some measure of success. But none of them reach the depths of my heart. Even in my hardest days, I still long to do the work of ministry in a church setting as a minister of the Gospel.

**What are five key gifts/skills/abilities you would bring to a ministry position?**

Recognition of my own need to grow in wisdom

Patience with change (Love of people over processes)

Integrated thinking

Careful Communicator

Strong value for worship as a source of corporate discipleship

The New Testament teaches us that no one Christian—not even the pastor— possesses every spiritual gift, but we are meant to work together as members of Christ's one body (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12). What are the spiritual gifts you will need other team members to bring in order to complement your leadership and make the church effective in its ministry?

I think that my leadership would be complemented by someone gifted in administration. I have often served in contexts where I have been pulled in a lot of directions and had to juggle a lot of balls. I sometimes struggle to keep all of the gears connected so that things run as intended. I would love to see what ministry looks like when there is someone who is gifted in that way. I think that it would serve the congregation well because the administration would be more successful. It would also help me focus on things more fundamental to my calling as a minister.

Views:

**What opportunities do you see for the church to reflect the reality of Christ's Kingdom in our present context?**

We live in a scattered, temporary, and artificial age full of impulse and novelty.

The Church however has the opportunity to demonstrate the eternal rootedness, and transcendent truth of Christ's Kingdom as the "more true" picture of reality.

I believe that if we focus on the fundamentals of Word, Sacrament, and Prayer, we will be shaped into people who demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit (including self-control). We will also be formed



into people of wisdom and grace, who are not as prone to the polarized ways our culture abandons one another. Although this won't always garner the kind of ministry accolades or media "likes" our culture has been programmed to value, it can stand in gleaming contrast to a restless world.

**What are your views on charismatic expression in worship?**

While I believe that a view of absolute cessation is theologically/exegetically tenuous and too binding (for example, God often does "extra-ordinary" things as the Gospel moves into formerly un-reached areas), I believe that when the Gospel is established in an area, the Holy Spirit tends to maintain the Church through the more ordinary gifts (eg. Eph 4:11ff) centered on the Scriptures.

**What are your views on women in ordained office?**

Because I do not believe that the relevant texts demonstrate a timeless restriction of women from leadership roles in the church, I believe that the ordained offices are open to both women and men who have the character qualities and biblical/theological acumen listed in the Scriptures.

**What are your views on human sexuality and gender?**

I believe that the Scriptures are clear that God designed humanity to be expressed as man and woman, and that these are biologically rooted. I also believe the Scriptures are clear that the only appropriate context for sexual practice is within the marriage of a man and woman. Further, I also believe that the Scriptures are clear that all people should be treated with dignity as image-bearers, as we seek to see the Gospel take root in the depths of our brokenness and rebellion. This includes the depths of our desires for intimacy, affection, and a unified sense of self.

Part 4: Denominational Alignment

1. **Do you affirm the "Essentials of Our Faith" without exception? YES**
2. **Do you agree with and can you submit to the system of government of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church? YES**
3. **Do you sincerely receive and adopt the *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms* of this Church as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures? YES**
4. **Do you take any exceptions to the *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms*? YES (See below)**

If "Yes," identify the topic with chapter, paragraph, or question number you take your exception with. State your alternate view with biblical support. Include additional page if necessary.

**See below comments related to the Second and Fourth Commandments:**

**Westminster Exceptions - Shaun Spencer** *On the fourth commandment - WCF XXI. VIII; WSC 60-61; WLC 117,119* While I affirm the Sabbath principle and the continuing relevance of the fourth

commandment, I believe that Westminster's application is overly rigorous as it relates to recreation, and does not adequately account for the physical rest that is offered in the Scriptural command to stop from working and trust in the Lord. *On the second commandment - WLC 109* I wholeheartedly reject worshipping by means of images of the godhead. However, if by "in our mind" the Larger Catechism forbids any visual reference of the godhead that may be formed mentally from our reading of the text or reflecting on the nature of God, then I must take exception to this being possible. Further, while I think that many misconceptions are possible (for example Euro-centric representations of our Jewish Christ), and care should be taken, I cautiously believe that there may be benefit to some pedagogical, non-worship uses of images of the godhead (for example teaching diagrams, some art, children's curriculum, etc.).

**5. Do you willingly offer the sacrament of infant baptism to Christian parents? YES**

**Julien de Leiris Statement of Faith**

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**1. The Bible (Bibliography)**

I believe that Scripture, as the inspired Word of God, comes from Him (2 Timothy 3:15-17). As Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away" (Mark 13:31). The Old and New Testaments, comprising all 66 books, are inspired by the Holy Spirit, inerrant, infallible, and authoritative. I affirm my wholehearted submission to Scripture as the ultimate authority, believing it is sufficient for teaching, guiding, disciple-making, counseling, and living in community.

**2. God the Father (Theology proper)**

I believe that God the Father is the first person of the Trinity, co-equal and co-eternal with the Son and the Holy Spirit in essence, power, and glory. He is the sovereign Creator of Heaven and Earth, infinitely holy, perfect, and present in all things. As the Father, He is the loving initiator of salvation, who sent His Son into the world to redeem His people (John 3:16) and works through the Holy Spirit to apply this redemption. The Father adopted us into His family, and predestined us to salvation through His perfect and unconditional love (Ephesians 1:4-5).

**3. Jesus Christ (Christology)**

I believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, co-equal, co-eternal, and of the same essence as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. He is fully God and fully man, with two distinct natures united in one person, without confusion, change, division, or separation (Philippians 2:6-8; John 1:14). Jesus Christ, the eternal Word, became flesh, was born of the Virgin Mary, and lived a sinless life, fulfilling the law perfectly on our behalf. Through His sacrificial death on the cross, He bore our sins (2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:8). He rose bodily from the dead on the third day, securing our justification and victory over sin and death (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). He ascended into heaven, where He sits at the right hand of God the Father, intercedes for us, and reigns as the head of the Church (Acts 1:9-11; Colossians 1:18). Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6).

#### 4. The Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)

I believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, fully God, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son. He works actively in creation, redemption, and in the life of believers. The Holy Spirit applies the finished work of Jesus Christ to believers. The Spirit dwells within every believer (Romans 8:9-11), guiding, comforting, and assuring them of their adoption as children of God.

#### 5. Mankind (Anthropology)

I believe that mankind was created by God in His image (Genesis 1:26-27), endowed with inherent dignity, moral responsibility, and a calling to steward creation for His glory (Genesis 1:28). Humanity was created to live in perfect fellowship with God, reflecting His holiness, goodness, and love. However, through Adam's disobedience, sin entered the world, and all humanity fell into sin (Romans 5:12). As a result, every aspect of human nature is corrupted by sin (Ephesians 2:1-3), leaving mankind separated from God (Romans 3:23; Psalm 51:5). Through Jesus Christ, God the Son, our Savior and Lord, we have been redeemed from this original sin.

#### 6. Sin (Hamartiology)

I believe that sin is any thought, word, or deed that transgresses the law of God (1 John 3:4) or fails to conform to His perfect standard (Romans 3:23). Sin entered the world through Adam's disobedience, and all humanity inherited a sinful nature (Romans 5:12). This original sin corrupts every aspect of our being, leaving us spiritually dead, separated from God, and unable to save ourselves (Ephesians 2:1-3). In addition to our inherited sin, we commit personal sins daily, rebelling against God's holiness and breaking His righteous commands. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and no one is righteous apart from His grace (Romans 3:10-12; 3:23). Yet, in His mercy and love, God provided a remedy for sin through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

#### 7. Salvation (Soteriology)

I believe that salvation is the work of God alone, by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9). Through the perfect life, atoning death, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, God rescues sinners from the penalty, power, and presence of sin and restores them to a right relationship with Himself (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21). In His sovereign grace, God elects, effectually calls, regenerates, and grants the gift of faith. By faith, believers are united to Christ, justified, adopted, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, who conforms them to Christ's image (Romans 8:29-30; Galatians 4:4-5). Salvation is offered to all who repent and believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. While Christ's atoning work is sufficient for all, it is effectual only for those who believe.

#### 8. Satan

I believe that Satan is a real, personal being, a fallen angel who rebelled against God and opposes His work (1 Peter 5:8; Isaiah 14:12-15). He is the deceiver, tempter, and adversary of God's people (John 8:44; Genesis 3:1-5). Satan has been defeated by Christ's atoning work on the cross (Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14). His ultimate judgment is certain (Revelation 20:10).

#### 9. Angels and Demons

I believe that angels are created, spiritual beings who serve and glorify God, minister to His people, and execute His will (Hebrews 1:14; Psalm 103:20). They are holy, powerful, and completely subject to God's sovereign authority (Colossians 1:16).

Demons are fallen angels who rebelled against God under Satan's leadership (Revelation 12:7-9).

#### 10. The Church (Ecclesiology)

I believe that the Church is the body of Christ, composed of all who are united to Him by faith (Ephesians 1:22-23). The Church is called to worship God, proclaim the Gospel, make disciples, administer the sacraments, and serve as a visible witness to His kingdom (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:42-47). The Church is both universal and local: universal as the communion of all believers in Christ, and local as the gathering of God's people for worship, fellowship, and mission.

#### 11. The Spiritual Life of the Believer

I believe that the spiritual life of the believer is rooted in union with Christ and sustained by the indwelling Holy Spirit (Galatians 2:20; John 15:4-5). Through the Spirit's work, believers are transformed into the image of Christ, growing in holiness and obedience to God (2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:22-23).

The believer's spiritual life is nurtured through regular prayer, the study of Scripture, participation in the sacraments, worship, and fellowship with other believers (Acts 2:42; Colossians 3:16).

#### 12. Future Things (Eschatology)

I believe that Jesus Christ will return bodily and gloriously at the end of the age to judge the living and the dead and to consummate His kingdom (Acts 1:11; Matthew 25: 31-46). All believers, elected by God, will be resurrected to eternal life and joy in the presence of God. Until that day, believers are called to live in hope, faithfulness, and readiness, sharing the Gospel and glorifying God in all things (Titus 2:11-13; Matthew 24:44).

#### 13. Evangelism

I believe that evangelism is the joyful responsibility of every believer to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, calling all people to repentance and faith in Him (Matthew 28: 19-20; Acts 1:8). Rooted in God's sovereign grace, evangelism is the means by which He calls His elect to salvation through the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 10:14-17).

The ultimate goal of evangelism is the glory of God and the expansion of His kingdom (Psalm 96:3; Revelation 7:9-10).

#### 14. Spiritual Gifts

I believe that spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to every believer to build up the Church and glorify God (1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 1 Peter 4:10-11). These gifts are diverse, but each is important for the health and mission of the body of Christ.

Spiritual gifts should be used in love and humility, according to God's Word, for the encouragement and growth of others (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

Answer the following integration questions:

**1. State your view of the Scriptures and the place the Scriptures will have in your ministry.**

I believe that the Scriptures are the inspired, inerrant, infallible, and authoritative Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21). They are the ultimate standard for faith and life, sufficient for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.

In my ministry, the Scriptures will hold a central and foundational place. They will guide my preaching, teaching, counseling, and disciple-making. I will seek to faithfully proclaim the whole counsel of God, grounding every aspect of ministry in His Word (Acts 20:27). The Scriptures will shape my leadership, equip others for ministry, and serve as the lens through which I discern God's will and direction for His Church.

In addition to guiding my preaching and leadership, I believe Scripture transforms hearts and lives through the Holy Spirit's work, renewing minds and equipping believers to glorify God in all things (Romans 12:2).

**2. What distinctions of the Reformed faith appeal to you?**

The Reformed teaching on salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, appeals to me because it exalts God's initiative and mercy in saving sinners (Ephesians 2:8-9). It highlights that I am fully dependent on His grace, which humbles me and brings Him the glory He deserves. This doctrine not only emphasizes our dependence on His grace but also leads to the ultimate goal of salvation: to glorify God in all things (Soli Deo Gloria). This truth challenges and inspires me. Whether in worship, daily life, or ministry, this principle reminds me that every aspect of my life is an act of worship, and I can trust God to work through even the smallest details for His purposes (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Grounded in God's grace and for His glory, the Reformed commitment to the authority, sufficiency, and clarity of Scripture resonates deeply with me. God's Word shapes every aspect of worship, ministry, and discipleship, compelling me to proclaim the whole counsel of God and rely on His Word to guide both my life and the Church (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

**3. What/Who is the Holy Spirit and how important is His ministry?**

I believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, fully God, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son. He is not merely a force but a personal being who actively works in creation, redemption, and the life of believers. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is essential to God's work in the world and in the Church. The Spirit empowers believers to grow in holiness, equips them with spiritual gifts for service, and strengthens them to bear witness to the gospel (Galatians 5:22-23; Acts 1:8).

In ministry, the Holy Spirit is central. He guides the Church in truth, illuminates the Scriptures, unites the body of Christ, and empowers its mission. His work is indispensable for the life and growth of believers, the health of the Church, and the advancement of God's kingdom.

**4. What is your position on women in leadership roles in the church?**

Even if it is not an essential of our faith, I hold an egalitarian view of church leadership. While I recognize that not all believers share this view, I hold that God calls both men and women to serve based on gifting and character, as seen throughout Scripture (Romans 16:1-7), and that

God calls both men and women to serve in leadership roles within the Church, including as elders and pastors.

I believe that God's call to leadership is based on gifting, character, and calling, not gender. Women, like men, can faithfully shepherd, teach, and lead the Church under the authority of Christ, who is the head of the Church (Ephesians 4:11-13).

**5. What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of the Presbyterian form of government?**

The Presbyterian form of government is rooted in Scripture, with its emphasis on shared leadership and accountability. The structure of elders leading the Church mirrors the leadership model seen in the New Testament, such as in Acts 14:23 and Titus 1:5. Presbyterian polity provides clear processes for decision-making, conflict resolution, and discipline. This commitment to orderly governance reflects 1 Corinthians 14:40: "Let all things be done decently and in order." However, our procedural complexity and potential for disconnection require careful attention to ensure that our system remains mission-focused and responsive to local needs.

Ultimately, the strength of the Presbyterian polity lies in its commitment to reflect Christ's headship over the Church while equipping every member to serve faithfully.

**6. Explain your philosophy of ministry.**

My philosophy of ministry is centered on glorifying God by faithfully proclaiming the Gospel, equipping the saints, and advancing His kingdom. I believe ministry is rooted in Scripture, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and focused on making disciples who love God and serve others (Matthew 28:19-20; Ephesians 4:11-13). I view ministry as relational, with a commitment to shepherding God's people with humility, love, and compassion. This involves walking alongside individuals in their spiritual journeys, providing encouragement, and equipping them to grow in their faith and the world.

use their gifts for the building up of the body of Christ. Mission is also central to ministry. I believe the Church is called to be a light in the world, sharing the Gospel in both word and deed. This includes caring for the poor, seeking justice, and engaging the community with the hope of Christ (Matthew 5:14-16; Micah 6:8). Ultimately, my ministry is about pointing people to Christ, who is the head of the Church and the source of life. Through His Spirit, I seek to lead others to glorify God, live out their faith, and participate in His redemptive mission for Describe your approach to evangelism, both personally and as a pastor in a local church. I see evangelism as both proclaiming the gospel and embodying its truth through love and service.

As a pastor, I see evangelism as a central mission of the church. My role is to equip and inspire people to share their faith and live as witnesses to the Gospel.

Evangelism is the joyful response to the grace we have received in Christ.

**7. As you reflect on your life, explain your sense of call to ministry.**

I see God's hand guiding me toward ministry through a combination of personal experiences, the influence of others, and the inner conviction of the Holy Spirit. From a young age, I was exposed to the truth of Scripture and the importance of faith, but it was through a series of pivotal moments that I began to sense a deeper call to serve God in a full-time capacity.

God used my experiences in the church, personal challenges, and the encouragement of mentors to stir in me a passion for His Word and His people. Over time, I realized a growing desire to proclaim the gospel, shepherd others, and help the Church fulfill its mission to make disciples.

Through prayer and reflection on Scripture, I came to understand that ministry is not just a personal choice but a response to God's sovereign calling. Passages such as Isaiah 6:8 ("Here am I. Send me!") resonated deeply with me, challenging me to live a life fully devoted to His service. I see ministry not as a task but as a joyful calling to glorify God.

I am committed to answering this call with humility, faithfulness, and reliance on God's grace.

**8. Elaborate on your convictions about personal accountability in your life and in the lives of Christians to whom you might minister.**

I believe that personal accountability is a vital aspect of the Christian life, rooted in Scripture and essential for spiritual growth, integrity, and faithful ministry. As believers, we are accountable first and foremost to God, who has called us to live holy lives for His glory (Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10). This accountability is expressed in our relationships with Him, with one another, and within the context of the Church.

I am deeply convicted that Christians are called to live in accountable relationships within the Church. This begins with the recognition that each believer is accountable to God for their actions, words, and stewardship of the gifts He has entrusted to them (Romans 14:12). I believe accountability within the Church is a means of God's grace, enabling believers to encourage one another, grow in holiness, and persevere in faith (Hebrews 10:24-25). Encouraging personal accountability is an essential part of discipleship.

**Julien De Leiris Part 3: Narrative**

**Life Story: In one page, describe your life's journey. Include key incidents (such as how you came to faith in Christ) that were significant in your formation as a person and your call to ministry.**

Born in France and raised in Grenoble, in the Alps, my early years were marked by a blend of traditional upbringing and unexpected twists. Though my family was not Christian, they made the decision to baptize me as an infant and later encouraged my sister and me to attend Bible school, every week, from the age of seven.

The divorce of my parents at age nine disrupted what could have been a traditional family life. But even before this age, I never felt that my family life was healthy.

However, this challenge led me to find solace and a sense of belonging in the Protestant Church of Grenoble. This church, a Reformed Church became my extended family and a place where I encountered the Good News and a nurturing community.

Throughout high school, I made a dedicated effort to attend Sunday services, often traveling 45 minutes each way by bus, because the church offered comfort and support that my home did not. After eight years in Sunday school and youth group, I chose to reaffirm my faith at the age

of fifteen, a significant milestone in my spiritual journey. I was able to share my faith that Sunday morning and feel that I was definitely part of God's family.

During my final years of high school, I was entrusted with a project that took me to Romania, just after the fall of the Berlin Wall, to assist a Christian community there. This experience was pivotal, as it ignited my commitment to serve God and deepened my sense of purpose.

Following high school, I pursued a degree in management and a Master's in Public Administration. Throughout my five years of college, I remained actively involved in church activities. I served as a middle school and high school youth leader, led camps, and coordinated regional youth leadership efforts. These experiences further solidified my dedication to ministry and service.

Between 1999 and 2001, I was part of a national team, alongside two pastors, tasked with creating and coordinating a significant event for youth group leaders across the country. This role affirmed my passion for leadership and ministry on a larger scale.

In the summer of 2001, I dedicated four weeks to serve my church (all my pto), including leading a summer camp in France and being part of large presbyterian event in the USA. During these missions, I was challenged by pastors who sensed a calling to pastoral ministry in me. Despite feeling unworthy and unsure of this call, I continued to serve diligently both professionally, in roles helping the most vulnerable, and as a church volunteer.

The sense of a pastoral call persisted, even as I tried to ignore it.

It wasn't until 2019, when I was temporarily sidelined by emergency back surgery and faced with unexpected free time, that I fully confronted and embraced this calling. This period of reflection and prayer clarified my sense of purpose and readiness to respond to God's call.

My family and I recently relocated to Kansas City, where my wife was born and grew up.

Then I enrolled in a Master of Divinity at Heartland Theological Seminary and joined Colonial Presbyterian Church as the Executive Director of Ministry and Programs.

### **Self-Appraisal:**

#### **Briefly describe your leadership style:**

My leadership is grounded in the principle of being a servant leader for God's Kingdom. I believe my style is a blend of the following approaches:

**Servant Leadership:** Rooted in humility, this approach emphasizes serving others and helping them find fulfillment.

**Visionary Leadership:** this style involves aligning the work of the team with a larger, shared vision.

**Transformational Leadership:** This style encourages innovation and personal development within the team. Together, these leadership principles help me guide and support my team effectively, always with a focus on fulfilling our collective mission and purpose in God's service.



**How you go about making decisions:**

I approach decision-making by first seeking God's guidance through prayer, ensuring that my choices align with divine wisdom. I begin by clearly defining the core issue, not just its symptoms, to address the real problem. I then gather input from others, considering a range of solutions rather than relying solely on my own ideas. Each potential solution is analyzed for its pros and cons, supported by data and relevant examples from our Church or similar contexts. My decisions are made based on facts and their potential to achieve our goals, rather than on emotions. Once a decision is made, I implement it and carefully evaluate its effectiveness to ensure it meets our objectives and make necessary adjustments.

**Your administrative style:**

My style is characterized by a blend of organization, collaboration, and flexibility. I prioritize clear communication and structured processes to ensure tasks are completed efficiently and effectively. By setting clear goals and deadlines, I help my team stay focused and accountable. I value collaboration and actively seek input from team members to leverage their diverse perspectives and expertise. This approach fosters a sense of ownership and encourages innovative solutions. At the same time, I remain adaptable and open to change. I understand that circumstances can evolve, and I am prepared to adjust plans as needed while keeping the team aligned with our overarching objectives.

**Talk about how you handled a recent conflict. What did you do well? What areas of conflict resolution do you need to be more effective at?**

In recent months, I faced a conflict within my team involving disagreements between members of our leadership team and another staff member of our church. The situation was tense, and I was aware that strong feelings were involved on both sides.

At the start of our meeting, after praying, I asked each team member to prioritize listening and respecting one another over their own convictions. My goal was to find a resolution where no one would be considered a winner or loser, but rather to reach an agreement that would resolve the issue and prevent future conflict.

I believe that my approach contributed to a positive resolution, fostering greater respect and understanding among the team, as reflected in feedback from my team members. Nevertheless, I recognize that there is always room for improvement in conflict management. I continue to seek God's guidance and support, trusting Him to provide wisdom and assistance in becoming more effective in resolving conflicts.

**What do you enjoy about working as part of a team? What is challenging to you?**

I greatly enjoy working as part of the executive team at Colonial Presbyterian Church with our Lead Pastor and another Executive Director focused on finance and administration, because it brings diverse perspectives and ideas together. Collaborating with others allows me to learn from their experiences and expertise.

However, I find that navigating differing opinions and resolving conflicts can be challenging. Balancing diverse viewpoints while maintaining cohesion and focus requires careful communication

and empathy. I strive to address these challenges by fostering an open and respectful dialogue, ensuring that everyone feels heard and valued while working towards consensus.

**Briefly describe your worship preferences: (*preaching style, preferred worship style [e.g., liturgical, modern, traditional, blended, etc.]*)**

I don't reject any form of worship style because I love all the styles, and I think that the opportunity to blend them is crucial.

For my preaching style, my primary goal is to share the Gospel from Scripture and to help others to be always challenged by God's Word.

**Share your sense of your call to ministry:**

My sense of call to ministry is deeply rooted in a lifelong journey of faith and service. From my early years in the Reformed Church in Grenoble, where I committed my life to Christ and found a true sense of belonging and purpose, to my extensive volunteer work and leadership roles, I have experienced a persistent and compelling call to serve God and others. This call became particularly clear through experiences such as leading mission trips and serving as a leader/volunteer. Despite initial doubts in 2001, when I struggled to understand God's call and trust that He could make me a good shepherd, and despite it taking nearly 20 years to fully say "yes" to His call, I now see how God was guiding me throughout this period. He helped me accept my call and fully surrender to His will. It was particularly during times of prayer and reflection that I gained renewed clarity and conviction to pursue pastoral ministry. This sense of calling drives me to use my gifts and experiences to contribute to the church community and make a meaningful impact in people's lives.

**What type of ministry role are you called to? And what would effectiveness look like in that role?**

I sense my call to a ministry role that aligns closely with the position of an Executive Pastor. While I have enjoyed preaching, I feel my strengths and calling are best suited to a role where I can integrate strategic leadership with hands-on service. Given that French is my native language, I believe that my impact would be more significant in a context where I can leverage my organizational skills and pastoral care in a role that is less focused on weekly preaching in a large church setting. Effectiveness in this role would look like a well-functioning and cohesive church leadership team, where my administrative and strategic oversight contributes to the church's mission and growth. I would focus on developing and implementing programs that address the needs of the congregation, including outreach to those who have left the church (the "de-churched"), and providing support and mentorship to youth and young adults. By balancing executive responsibilities with active engagement in teaching and outreach, I aim to contribute to a vibrant and dynamic church community.

**What are your personal ideals and long-term goals?**

For my ministry, my personal ideals are focused on a commitment to service, integrity, and continuous growth. I will lead with compassion and humility, ensuring that my actions and decisions will be based on seeking God's guidance and reflect a deep respect for others.

In terms of long-term goals, I aspire to:

**Expand Outreach and Impact:** I am passionate about reaching those who are disconnected from the church and engaging with the “de-churched.” My goal is to develop and implement effective outreach programs that meet people where they are and invite them into a meaningful faith journey.

**Mentor and Develop Future Leaders:** I aim to invest in the next generation by mentoring and supporting youth and young adults.

**Pursue Personal and Professional Growth:** I am committed to ongoing personal and professional development, seeking opportunities for further education, training, and reflection. This commitment ensures that I remain effective and inspired in my role and continue to contribute to my fullest potential. By aligning my ideals with these long-term goals, I hope to make a lasting impact in my community and beyond, fostering a space where faith and growth are deeply intertwined.

### **What are the ways you are nurturing your relationship with God in everyday life?**

In my daily life, I nurture my relationship with God through several key practices. I commit to daily devotionals (reading the Bible and prayers), which help me start each day with focused prayer and reflection. I also strive to celebrate God's creation in every aspect of my day. Whether I'm at home, on the road, at work, or engaged in ministry, I remain mindful of God's presence and His handiwork in all things. This continuous awareness fosters a sense of gratitude and connection throughout my daily activities. Additionally, I express my gratitude to God for the blessings in my life, including my wife, our love, our children, and our extended family. Recognizing and appreciating these gifts strengthens my relationship with God and reinforces my sense of His presence in both the ordinary and extraordinary moments of life.

### **What are your character strengths?**

My character strengths include:

**Leadership:** I am skilled in guiding and inspiring others towards a common vision.

**Integrity:** I am committed to honesty and ethical behavior in all aspects of my life. This principle guides my decisions and actions, ensuring that I remain trustworthy and dependable.

**Empathy:** I have a strong ability to understand and relate to the feelings and perspectives of others. This allows me to offer meaningful support and build genuine connections, whether in personal relationships or in ministry.

These strengths contribute to my effectiveness in both personal and professional settings, helping me to serve and lead with compassion, clarity, and commitment.

### **What are five key gifts/skills/abilities you would bring to a ministry position?**

In a ministry position, I would bring the following key gifts, skills, and abilities:

**Leadership:** I possess strong leadership skills, including the ability to inspire and guide others towards a shared vision. My experience in leading teams and projects equips me to effectively manage church initiatives and foster a collaborative environment.

Ethics / Wisdom: I am deeply committed to maintaining high ethical standards in all aspects of my work. Integrity and honesty are central to my approach, ensuring that my actions and decisions are aligned with both my personal values and the church's mission.

Problem Solving: I excel in identifying and addressing challenges with practical solutions. My analytical skills and ability to think critically allow me to navigate complex situations and implement effective strategies to overcome obstacles.

Servant Hearted / serving: My approach to ministry is rooted in a genuine desire to serve others. I am dedicated to meeting the needs of the congregation and the community with compassion and humility, prioritizing the well-being and growth of those I serve.

Evangelism/Outreach: Whether through sermons, discussions, small groups, or 1:1, I am able to announce the Gospel. The New Testament teaches us that no one Christian—not even the pastor—possesses every spiritual gift, but we are meant to work together as members of Christ's one body (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12).

**What are the spiritual gifts you will need other team members to bring in order to complement your leadership and make the church effective in its ministry?**

Teaching: Given that French is my native language and English is my second language, I would benefit greatly from team members who have a strong gift for teaching.

Encouragement: Team members who possess the gift of encouragement can offer vital support and motivation to both individuals and the team as a whole.

**Views:**

**What opportunities do you see for the church to reflect the reality of Christ's Kingdom in our present context?**

In our present context, there are several significant opportunities for the church to reflect the reality of Christ's Kingdom:

Community Engagement and Outreach: The church can actively engage with its local community by addressing pressing social issues such as poverty, homelessness, the need of racial reconciliation (Kingdom Oneness and Revelation 7:9), and injustice.

Youth and Young Adult Engagement: Investing in the next generation through targeted programs and mentorship can empower youth and young adults to take active roles in the church and community.

Equipping and Sending Out: The church can focus on equipping and sending out members for mission work, both locally and internationally. Providing training for evangelism, supporting missionaries, and encouraging short-term mission trips will enable us to fulfill the Great Commission and reflect the Kingdom's call to spread the Gospel and serve others.

**What are your views on charismatic expression in worship?**

My understanding of charismatic worship is that it is both corporate and personal. Corporate worship involves coming together as a community to worship God collectively, creating an environment where the presence of the Holy Spirit can be experienced in a shared and powerful

way. It's about unity in worship, where each person contributes to a collective expression of faith and reverence. On a personal level, worship is an intimate and individual experience. It's about my personal relationship with God, where I express my love and devotion to Him. Charismatic worship emphasizes that this personal experience should be Spirit-led, allowing for a genuine and spontaneous response to God's presence. For me, worship is fundamentally about Jesus. It is always focused on Him and guided by the Holy Spirit.

### **What are your views on women in ordained office?**

Even if it is not an essential of our faith, I hold an egalitarian view of church leadership. While I recognize that not all believers share this view, I hold that God calls both men and women to serve based on gifting and character, as seen throughout Scripture (Romans 16:1-7), and that God calls both men and women to serve in leadership roles within the Church, including as elders and pastors.

I believe that God's call to leadership is based on gifting, character, and calling, not gender. Women, like men, can faithfully shepherd, teach, and lead the Church under the authority of Christ, who is the head of the Church (Ephesians 4: 11-13)

At the same time, I respect and support the Evangelical Presbyterian Church's (EPC) approach, which allows each presbytery to make decisions regarding the ordination of women.

### **What are your views on human sexuality and gender?**

I fully align with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church's (EPC) position paper on human sexuality, which upholds a biblically grounded understanding of sexual ethics and behavior. According to this position, human sexuality is to be expressed within the confines of a committed, heterosexual marriage, reflecting God's design for relationships and human flourishing.

Regarding gender, my view is that it is clearly defined by God's creation. Scripture teaches that God created humanity as male and female, and this binary understanding of gender reflects His intentional design. I believe that this divine creation should be respected and upheld, recognizing that no one is called to alter or redefine what God has established.

### **Part 4: Denominational Alignment**

Do you affirm the "Essentials of Our Faith" without exception? **YES**

Do you agree with, and can you submit to the system of government of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church? **YES**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms* of this Church as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures? **YES**

Do you take any exceptions to the *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms*? **NO**


Do you willingly offer the sacrament of infant baptism to Christian parents? **YES**


**GPP Financial Report as of 12/31/24**

Treasurer, RE Geri McFall opened her report with prayer

- E. The General Account balance for all funds as of
  - a. 1/1/2024 was \$166,166
  - b. 12/31/2024 was \$163,800
- F. Checking Account balance as of
  - a. 1/1/2024 was \$55,095
  - b. 12/31/2024 was \$55,602
- G. Hispanic Church Plant Fund balance as of
  - a. 1/1/2024 was \$47,291
  - b. 12/31/2024 was \$67,483
- H. Macedonia Fund balance as of
  - a. 1/1/2024 was \$41,133
  - b. 12/31/2024 was \$24,000
- E. Church Planting/Re-planting Fund balance as of
  - c. 1/1/2024 was \$15,715
  - d. 12/31/2024 was \$16,715

Financial Statistical Report: January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024

Great Plains Presbytery  EPC		Actual	Actual	Variance
Balance Sheet		12/31/2023	12/30/2024	
<b>Assets</b>				
1000	Checking Account	\$ 55,580	\$ 55,602	\$ 22
1010	GPO - Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
1011	Hispanic Curch Plant Fund	\$ 47,291	\$ 67,483	\$ 20,192
1016	GPO - Macedonia Fund	\$ 47,579	\$ 24,000	\$ (23,579)
1020	GPO - Church Planting Replanting Fund	\$ 15,715	\$ 16,715	\$ 1,000
1050	Presbytery Registrations - Passthrough			
	Total Account Balances	\$ 166,166	\$ 163,800	\$ (2,365)
1080	Receivables		\$ -	
1090	Other Assets		\$ -	
	<b>Total Assets</b>	\$ 166,166	\$ 163,800	\$ (2,365)
<b>Liabilities</b>				
2000	Payables	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2010	GPO - Fund - (Allocated)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2011	Hispanic Church Plant Fund - (Designated)	\$ 47,291	\$ 67,483	\$ 20,192
2016	GPO - Macedonia Fund - (Designated)	\$ 41,133	\$ 24,000	\$ (17,133)
2020	Church Planting and Replanting Fund - (Designated)	\$ 30,250	\$ 16,715	\$ (13,535)
2060				
2090	Other Liabilities		\$ -	\$ -
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	\$ 118,674	\$ 108,199	\$ (10,475)
3000	Unallocated Funds	\$ 55,580	\$ 55,602	\$ 22
	<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Unallocated</b>	\$ 174,254	\$ 163,800	\$ (10,453)

Great Plains Presbytery 		Budget	Actual	Variance
		12/31/2024	12/30/2024	
<b>Receipts</b>				
4000	Church Giving	\$ 140,720	\$ 110,952	\$ 29,768
4010	Presbytery Registrations	\$ -	\$ 7,983	\$ (7,983)
4090	Other Receipts, Gifts, and Grants/Pass through	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ (15,000)
Total Receipts		\$ 140,720	\$ 133,935	\$ 6,785
4900	Previous Year Unallocated	\$ (16,452)	\$ 93,432	\$ (109,884)
Total Funds Available		\$ 124,268	\$ 227,367	\$ 103,099
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>Ministerial Committee</b>				
5200	Chair Stipend	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ -
5205	Chair Travel	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ (1,000)
5206	Committee Travel	\$ 500	\$ 100	\$ (400)
5210	Chaplain Stipend	\$ 6,960	\$ 6,960	\$ -
5211	Chaplain Travel	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ (3,000)
5215	Printing and Supplies	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ (250)
5220	Education, Conferences, GA	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,046	\$ (954)
5225	Pastor's Retreat	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,579	\$ (171)
5290	Other Expense	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ (250)
Total Ministerial Committee		\$ 33,710	\$ 27,685	\$ (6,025)
<b>Moderator</b>				
5300	Stipend	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5305	Travel	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ (2,000)
5390	Other Expense	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ (500)
Total Moderator		\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ (2,500)
<b>Presbytery Meetings</b>				
5400	Host Church Support	\$ 2,000	\$ 671	\$ (1,329)
5470	Speakers, Instructors	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	\$ (1,000)
5490	Other Expense	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,717	\$ (283)
Total Presbytery Meeting		\$ 6,000	\$ 3,388	\$ (2,612)
<b>Stated Clerk's Office</b>				
5500	Stipend	\$ 38,208	\$ 38,204	\$ (4)
5501	Asst. Stated Clerk	\$ 10,200	\$ 9,350	\$ (850)
5505	Travel	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,428	\$ 1,428
5515	Printing and Supplies	\$ 600	\$ 65	\$ (535)
5520	Website and Computing	\$ 300	\$ 1,020	\$ 720
5525	Education, Conferences, GA	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,088	\$ (1,412)
5590	Other Expense	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ (250)
Total Stated Clerk's Expense		\$ 56,058	\$ 55,156	\$ (902)
<b>Treasurer's Office</b>				
5600	Stipend	\$ 5,400	\$ 5,400	\$ -
5605	Travel	\$ 300	\$ 38	\$ (262)
5615	Printing and Supplies	\$ 200	\$ 93	\$ (107)
5625	Education, Conferences, GA	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,883	\$ (117)
5630	O & D and Workman's Comp Insurance	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,202	\$ (398)
5665	Financial Review	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -
5690	Other Expense	\$ 200	\$ 94	\$ (106)
Total Treasurer's Office		\$ 11,200	\$ 10,209	\$ (991)
<b>Great Plains Outreach</b>				
5705	Travel	\$ 750	\$ -	\$ (750)
5751	Mission Giving	\$ 10,000	\$ 7,700	\$ (2,300)
5790	Other Expense	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ (250)
Total World Outreach		\$ 11,000	\$ 7,700	\$ (3,300)
<b>Other Expense</b>				
5950	Administrative Commission	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ (500)
5951	Executive Council Expense	\$ 800	\$ -	\$ (800)
5955	GA Committee Members Travel	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ (2,000)
5980	Pass Through Payments	\$ -	\$ 23,310	\$ 23,310
5990	Other Expense	\$ 500	\$ 2,400	\$ 1,900
Total Other Expense		\$ 3,800	\$ 25,710	\$ 21,910
Total Expenses		\$ 124,268	\$ 129,847	\$ 5,579



Churches	City	St	Members* 12/31/22	2024 Per Member Ask	Budget 2024	Actual 2024	Variance	% of Budget
Avery Presbyterian Church	Bellevue	NE	190	\$ 20.00	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 3,800.00	\$ -	100%
Bathgate Presbyterian Church	Bathgate	ND	75	\$ 20.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,595.00	\$ 95.00	106%
Colonial Presbyterian Church	Kansas City	MO	1,660	\$ 20.00	\$ 33,200.00	\$ 31,368.75	\$ (1,831.25)	94%
Cornerstone Presbyterian	Leawood	KS	288	\$ 20.00	\$ 5,760.00	\$ 6,059.67	\$ 299.67	105%
Covenant Presbyterian Church	Omaha	NE	469	\$ 20.00	\$ 9,380.00	\$ 6,120.00	\$ (3,260.00)	65%
Eastminster Presbyterian Church	Wichita	KS	1,431	\$ 20.00	\$ 28,620.00	\$ 22,500.00	\$ (6,120.00)	79%
Faith United Church	Brandon	SD	192	\$ 20.00	\$ 3,840.00	\$ 2,685.00	\$ (1,155.00)	70%
First Presbyterian Church, Clay Center	Clay Center	KS	135	\$ 20.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 2,126.63	\$ (573.37)	79%
First Presbyterian Church	Siloam Springs	AR	113	\$ 20.00	\$ 2,260.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 240.00	111%
Skiatook Presbyterian Church	Skiatook	OK	33	\$ 20.00	\$ 660.00	\$ -	\$ (660.00)	0%
Freeman Presbyterian Church	Freeman	MO	24	\$ 20.00	\$ 480.00	\$ 252.25	\$ (227.75)	53%
GlenHaven Church	Kansas City	MO	80	\$ 20.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ -	100%
Grace Community Fellowship	Ottawa	KS	118	\$ 20.00	\$ 2,360.00	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 1,390.00	159%
Hillsdale Presbyterian Church	Hillsdale	KS	193	\$ 20.00	\$ 3,860.00	\$ 2,232.00	\$ (1,628.00)	58%
Idana Presbyterian Church	Idana	Ks	62	\$ 20.00	\$ 1,240.00	\$ 1,160.00	\$ (80.00)	94%
Kirk Crossing	Jenks	OK	336	\$ 20.00	\$ 6,720.00	\$ 1,177.50	\$ (5,542.50)	18%
Kirk of the Hills	Tulsa	OK	1,009	\$ 20.00	\$ 20,180.00	\$ 9,300.00	\$ (10,880.00)	46%
Lighthouse Presbyterian Church	Paola	KS	352	\$ 20.00	\$ 7,040.00	\$ 5,520.00	\$ (1,520.00)	78%
Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church	Abilene	KS	30	\$ 20.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 400.00	\$ (200.00)	67%
New Covenant Presbyterian Church	Hutchinson	KS	66	\$ 20.00	\$ 1,320.00	\$ 2,780.00	\$ 1,460.00	211%
New Hope Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Blue Rapids	KS	45	\$ 20.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 960.00	\$ 60.00	107%
Simple Church	Overland Park	KS	12	\$ 20.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 240.00	\$ -	100%
St. Luke Church	Newton	KS	30	\$ 20.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 525.00	\$ (75.00)	88%
three timbers Church	Bennington	NE	110	\$ 20.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ -	\$ (2,200.00)	0%
Turner County Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Davis	SD	62	\$ 20.00	\$ 1,240.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 60.00	105%
Westminster Presbyterian Church	Enid	OK	90	\$ 20.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (800.00)	56%
<b>Total Giving</b>			<b>7,205</b>		<b>144,100</b>	<b>110,952</b>	<b>(33,148)</b>	<b>77%</b>

**Great Plains Presbytery**

Macedonia Church Plant Fund									
Date	Chk #	Chk To:	Chk Amount	Description	Dep Date	Deposit From	Dep Amount	Balance	
					<b>Beginning Balance</b>			<b>\$ 47,579.12</b>	
1/16/2024	59	World Reach for Herbert Handel	\$ 1,500.00	Support for student sponsorship	1/12/2024	Freeman Pres	\$ 75.00	\$ 46,154.12	
1/17/2024	60	Modern Day Missions for Freddie Javier	\$ 3,000.00	Donation for rent (3 mos) and other expenses	1/22/2024	New Hope EPC	\$ 300.00	\$ 43,454.12	
5/8/2024		Kermit Opprecht	\$ 279.19	Reimb for Wheaton's hotel at Brandon, SD	2/15/2024	Bathgate	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 44,324.93	
11/6/2024		EPC World Outreach	\$ 6,000.00	Gretchen Massiello launch fund	3/16/2024	New Hope EPC	\$ 100.00	\$ 38,424.93	
11/6/2024		Modern Day Missions for Freddie Javier	\$ 6,000.00	Lead Center Building Enhancements	3/19/2024	Faith United	\$ 250.00	\$ 32,674.93	
11/6/2024		World Reach for Herbert Handel	\$ 6,000.00	Cover Deficit in Advance Center Rent	4/3/2024	New Hope EPC	\$ 200.00	\$ 26,874.93	
11/6/2024		Radstock for Gregor Menga	\$ 6,000.00	Production costs for his play "St John of God"	4/25/2024	New Hope EPC	\$ 200.00	\$ 21,074.93	
11/7/2024		EPC World Outreach	\$ 6,000.00	For Wheatons' ministry	6/5/2024	Colonial Pres Church	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 19,874.93	
11/7/2024		EPC World Outreach	\$ 3,000.00	For Parliers' ministry	6/5/2024	New Hope EPC	\$ 100.00	\$ 16,974.93	
					6/28/2024	Faith United	\$ 250.00	\$ 17,224.93	
					6/28/2024	New Hope EPC	\$ 100.00	\$ 17,324.93	
					7/25/2024	Freeman Pres	\$ 75.00	\$ 17,399.93	
					7/25/2024	New Hope EPC	\$ 200.00	\$ 17,599.93	
					7/31/2024	Hillsdale	\$ 500.00	\$ 18,099.93	
					8/1/2024	Eastminster	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 21,699.93	
					9/2/2024	Idana	\$ 500.00	\$ 22,199.93	
					9/2/2024	New Hope EPC	\$ 200.00	\$ 22,399.93	
					10/7/2024	Faith United	\$ 250.00	\$ 22,649.93	
					10/7/2024	New Hope EPC	\$ 200.00	\$ 22,849.93	
					10/31/2024	New Hope EPC	\$ 200.00	\$ 23,049.93	
					12/2/2024	New Hope EPC	\$ 350.00	\$ 23,399.93	
					12/2/2024	Faith United	\$ 250.00	\$ 23,649.93	
					12/30/2024	New Hope EPC	\$ 100.00	\$ 23,749.93	
					12/30/2024	tod & Melinda Christi	\$ 250.00	\$ 23,999.93	

Hispanic Church Plant Fund									
Date	Chk #	Chk To:	Chk Amount	Description	Dep Date	Deposit From	Dep Amount	Balance	
					<b>Beginning Balance</b>			<b>\$ 47,291.17</b>	
1/9/2024	ACH	ACH Health Equity	\$ 3.95		1/12/2024	Freeman Pres	\$ 75.00	\$ 47,362.22	
1/31/2024	ACH	Nebraska Dept Rev	\$ 154.00		1/22/2024	New Hope EPC	\$ 300.00	\$ 47,508.22	
9/5/2024		Kirk of the Hills	\$ 3,000.00	Spanish Alpha Course	2/5/2022	Avery	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 49,508.22	
					2/15/2024	Bathgate	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 50,908.22	
					3/16/2024	New Hope EPC	\$ 100.00	\$ 51,008.22	
					3/19/2024	Glenhaven	\$ 500.00	\$ 51,508.22	
					3/19/2024	Faith United	\$ 250.00	\$ 51,758.22	
					3/19/2024	Covenant	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 53,008.22	

4/3/2024	New Hope EPC	\$	200.00	\$	53,208.22
4/25/2024	Avery	\$	5,000.00	\$	58,208.22
4/25/2024	New Hope EPC	\$	200.00	\$	58,408.22
6/5/2024	Colonial Pres Church	\$	3,600.00	\$	62,008.22
6/5/2024	New Hope EPC	\$	200.00	\$	62,208.22
6/28/2024	Glenhaven	\$	500.00	\$	62,708.22
6/28/2024	New Hope EPC	\$	300.00	\$	63,008.22
6/28/2024	Faith United	\$	250.00	\$	63,258.22
7/25/2024	Freeman Pres	\$	75.00	\$	63,333.22
7/25/2024	New Hope EPC	\$	300.00	\$	63,633.22
7/31/2024	Hillsdale	\$	500.00	\$	64,133.22
9/2/2024	New Hope EPC	\$	200.00	\$	64,333.22
10/7/2024	New Hope EPC	\$	200.00	\$	64,533.22
10/7/2024	Glenhaven	\$	500.00	\$	65,033.22
10/7/2024	Faith United	\$	250.00	\$	65,283.22
10/31/2024	New Hope EPC	\$	300.00	\$	65,583.22
11/16/2024	Turner County	\$	500.00	\$	66,083.22
12/2/2024	New Hope EPC	\$	300.00	\$	66,383.22
12/2/2024	Faith United	\$	250.00	\$	66,633.22
12/27/2024	Glenhaven	\$	500.00	\$	67,133.22
12/30/2024	God & Melinda Christi	\$	250.00	\$	67,383.22
12/30/2024	New Hope EPC	\$	100.00	\$	67,483.22

Church Planting and Replanting Fund								
Date	Chk #	Chk To:	Chk Amount	Description	Dep Date	Deposit From	Dep Amount	Balance
					<b>Beginning Balance</b>			<b>\$ 15,715.47</b>
10/26/2024		Ian Johnston	\$ 500.00	Reimb for CP Assess deposit	1/19/2024	Eastminster	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 16,215.47
10/26/2024		EPC Church Planting Network	\$ 10,000.00	2024 Commitment paid	2/16/2024	Eastminster	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 7,215.47
					3/14/2024	Eastminster	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 8,215.47
					3/19/2024	Glenhaven	\$ 250.00	\$ 8,465.47
					4/9/2024	Avery	\$ 500.00	\$ 8,965.47
					4/18/2024	Eastminster	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 9,965.47
					5/3/2024	Eastminster	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 10,965.47
					6/28/2024	Glenhaven	\$ 250.00	\$ 11,215.47
					6/13/2024	Eastminster	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 12,215.47
					9/4/2024	Eastminster	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 13,215.47
					10/7/2024	Glenhaven	\$ 250.00	\$ 13,465.47
					10/17/2024	Eastminster	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 14,465.47
					11/7/2024	Eastminster	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 15,465.47
					12/27/2024	Glenhaven	\$ 250.00	\$ 15,715.47
					12/5/2024	Eastminster	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 16,715.47

**Descending Overtures from the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church**

**DESCENDING OVERTURE 44-A**

That the *Book of Government* 10-7 and 9.5C.3 be amended. [**Rational:** Temporary Pastoral Relationships are by invitation for a specified time and therefore do not require examination for presbytery membership, only interviewing for suitability to the task. Those pursuing transfer into the Evangelical Presbyterian Church as a Transitional Pastor would be examined for presbytery membership while those serving from outside the Evangelical Presbyterian Church could serve by temporary invitation in the same manner as a Stated Supply.]

[**Rational:** Teaching Elders from outside the Evangelical Presbyterian Church called as Transitional Pastors must be examined for transfer according to G. 10-7 a.1.d. Teaching Elders from outside the Evangelical Presbyterian Church who are not seeking transfer will still be able to serve as Transitional Pastors by invitation of a Session in the same manner as Stated Supply Pastors G. 10-7 A.1.e]

Current <i>Book of Government</i> 10-7	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 10-7 <b><i>Amendments in bold italics</i></b>
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<p><b>10-7 Temporary Pastoral Relationships</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> Temporary Pastoral Relationships may be established with lawfully ordained Ministers or Commissioned Pastors when a church is without a pastor.</p> <p>1. Transitional Pastor</p> <p>a. A Transitional Pastor is called by the Session to serve during the period a congregation is seeking a Pastor. The Transitional Pastor intentionally leads the congregation toward greater health and readiness for their next pastor and will ordinarily be appointed by the Presbytery to moderate the Session during the time of service.</p> <p>b. Due to the temporary nature of the call, Transitional Pastors called from another Presbytery in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church will ordinarily maintain membership in their home presbytery.</p> <p>c. Upon approval of the Ministerial</p>	<p><b>10-7 Temporary Pastoral Relationships</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> Temporary Pastoral Relationships may be established with lawfully ordained Ministers or Commissioned Pastors when a church is without a pastor.</p> <p>1. Transitional Pastor</p> <p>a. Transitional Pastor is called by the Session to serve during the period a congregation is seeking a Pastor. The Transitional Pastor intentionally leads the congregation toward greater health and readiness for their next pastor and will ordinarily be appointed by the Presbytery to moderate the Session during the time of service.</p> <p>b. Due to the temporary nature of the call, Transitional Pastors called from another Presbytery in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church will ordinarily maintain membership in their home presbytery.</p> <p>c. Upon approval of the Ministerial Committee, Transitional Pastors are</p>
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<p>Committee, Transitional Pastors are introduced to the receiving presbytery</p>	<p>introduced to the receiving presbytery</p>
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<p>and enrolled as corresponding members (voice but not vote).</p> <p>If a Transitional Pastor is called from outside the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the presbytery shall examine and transfer the pastor according to applicable provisions of this <i>Book of Government</i>.</p>	<p>and enrolled as corresponding members (voice but not vote).</p> <p>d. If a Transitional Pastor is called from outside the Evangelical Presbyterian Church <b><i>and seeks to transfer ordination</i></b>, the presbytery shall examine and transfer the pastor according to applicable provisions of this Book of Government.</p> <p><b><i>e. If a Transitional Pastor from outside the Evangelical Presbyterian Church is not seeking to transfer ordination, the Session may extend an invitation in the same manner as a Stated Supply Pastor except that the invitation will remain in effect during the period the congregation is seeking a Pastor.</i></b></p>
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Current <i>Book of Government</i> 9-5	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 9-5 <b><i>Amendments in bold italics</i></b>
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**9-5 The office of Teaching Elder**

A. Pastor

1. Titles

A Teaching Elder may be called by a congregation to be a Pastor or Associate Pastor. Sessions may call a Teaching Elder as Assistant Pastor, Transitional Pastor, or invite a Teaching Elder as Stated Supply Pastor, or Occasional Supply Pastor. Presbytery must approve all such positions. These are the only recognized callings for Teaching Elders in a congregational setting.<sup>54</sup> The office of the “co-pastor” is not a constitutionally recognized calling in a local church. Except as otherwise provided in the Book of Government, the Pastor of the church shall be the Moderator of Session.

**9-5 The office of Teaching Elder**

B. Pastor

1. Titles

A Teaching Elder may be called by a congregation to be a Pastor or Associate Pastor. Sessions may call a Teaching Elder as Assistant Pastor, Transitional Pastor, or invite a Teaching Elder as **Transitional Pastor**, Stated Supply Pastor, or Occasional Supply Pastor. Presbytery must approve all such positions. These are the only recognized callings for Teaching Elders in a congregational setting.<sup>54</sup> The office of the “co-pastor” is not a constitutionally recognized calling in a local church. Except as otherwise provided in the Book of Government, the Pastor of the church shall be the Moderator of Session.