

MINUTES 20<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting  
Presbytery of the Southeast  
October 6-7, 2023  
Community Evangelistic Church, Knoxville, Tennessee

Moderator	RE Gary Buchanan	Stated Clerk	TE Bill Dudley
Moderator-Elect	TE Margaret Ferguson	Asst to the Stated Clerk & Treasurer	RE Diane Mizell
Parliamentarian	TE Jeff Chadwick	Past Moderator/Chairman of Council	TE Jeff Chadwick

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"A Family of Churches"

VISION and MISSION

*The vision of the Presbytery of the Southeast is to extend God's Kingdom to the world. The Presbytery's mission is to establish relationships that effectively connect and enhance achievement of the vision within Presbytery and the local churches.*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023

120-01 CALL TO ORDER and OPENING WORSHIP

The Presbytery was called to order by Moderator RE Gary Buchanan at 3:00 PM. After welcoming commissioners to Presbytery, he introduced to the Presbytery TE Bill Kelly who would be examined by the court for Pastor at Farner Church. TE Kelly shared a devotional from John 21 and led the Presbytery in opening prayer.

120-02 PARITY

For the correction of Disparity in 2023 for Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders, all Presbytery churches from All Souls Fellowship, Decatur, GA, to Wooten EPC, Wooten, KY have been given one additional Ruling Elder commissioner for each Presbytery meeting. This action was approved October 1, 2022.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM – The Moderator confirmed with the Stated Clerk a quorum was present to constitute the meeting.

The attendance record for this meeting was given by the Stated Clerk as follows: There were 40 Teaching Elders, 44 Ruling Elders, 40 Observers and Candidates in attendance. The Attendance record for this meeting was given by the Stated Clerk as follows:

CHURCHTEACHING ELDERRULING ELDERS PRESENT

No designation by a name indicates the person was "Present"

All Souls Fellowship  
Decatur, GA

Steven Good  
Mike St. Denis

Bethany Church  
Kingsport, TN

Daniel Cheevers  
Lesley Cheevers

Brainerd Church  
Chattanooga, TN

Buck Hill Church  
Newland, NC

Jim Hoilman                      Unexcused

Cedar Springs Church  
Knoxville, TN

Jonathan Bromhead              Unexcused  
Alan Edick                              Unexcused  
Mike Ford                                Excused  
James Forsyth                        Unexcused  
Clay Harrington  
Andrew Keasling  
Mark Steimer

John Ferguson  
Geo Hall

Central Church  
Hyden, KY

Merle Caudill, CP  
Linda Cornett  
Dana Tennill

ChristChurch  
Dalton, GA

Eric Geil  
Matt Christian

Mitchell Snyder

Church of Redeemer  
Maryville, TN

David Strunk  
Ben Ruyack

Ken Bell

Community Evangelistic  
Knoxville, TN

Thomas Goode  
Michael Hurston  
Deborah Porter  
Reginald Strong, CP

Cornerstone Church  
Franklin, NC

Tommy Jordan

Crosswalk Church  
Knoxville, TN

Ryan Randolph

Becky Baker  
Carolyn Carson  
Jim Odle

Eastminster Church  
Knoxville, TN

Sean White

Mark Hastings  
Bob Winter

Faith Church  
McDonough, GA

John Cleveland

Farner Church  
Farner, TN

Keith Gallagher, Interim

Jim Parmer  
Leroy Taylor  
Keith Williamson

First Church Rome, GA	Bill Pardue Ken Chivers Jonathan Schwartz Jimmy Latham	Excused Excused	Sandy Hosea Eddie Johnston
First Church Stanton, KY	Lucas Waters		
First Church Thomasville, GA	Tim Filston Tyler Wilson	Unexcused	Ben Lindquist Harry Vann
Grace Church Franklin, NC	Toby Pope		Don Dewhurst
Greenbriar Church Manchester, KY			
Hope Fellowship Chickamauga, GA			Matthew Everhart, CP
Lookout Valley Church Chattanooga, TN	Tim Rogers, Interim		Keith Thompson
Mars Hill Church Acworth, GA	Bryant Harris	Excused	
Murphy Church Murphy, NC			Jonathan Hodges, CP
New Beginning Spring City, TN			Nancy Hood CP Wayne Hood CP Robert Smith
New Hope Church Kingsport, TN			Scott Glover
New Life Gathering Knoxville, TN	Scott Jackson		Bob Bird Jim Bondurant
Parkway Church Cumming, GA	Jay Miller		
Plumtree Church Plumtree, NC			Ryan Bridgeo CP
Providence Church Hazelwood, NC	Edward Brouwer		Sam Mitchell
Resurrection Church Chattanooga, TN	Ryan Van Horn		
Signal Mountain Church Signal Mountain, TN	Scott Bowen Andy Cornett Paul Manuel Joey Sherrard	Excused Excused Excused	Bob Marshall Diane Mizell

Trinity Grace Church Loganville, GA	Tully Hunter	Unexcused	Steve Rowe
Trion Church Trion, GA	Bill Flannagan	Excused	
Valleybrook Church Hixson, TN	Tracy Edwards		Gary Buchanan Ron Bunger Art Johnson
Water Stone Smyrna, GA	Matt Koehn		
Wilson Station Church Englewood, TN			Alan Hawkins CP
Wooton Presbyterian EPC Wooton, KY			Kent Colwell

### EVANGELISTS

JOHNSON, Will	Excused
MACERE, John	Unexcused
MANLEY, Chris	Present

### ACTIVE – WITHOUT CALL

ARAUJO, Aparecido	Unexcused
HODGE, Robert	Unexcused
HOLMES, Rick	Unexcused
LOONEY, Charles	Unexcused
WILSON, Kevin	Unexcused

### ACTIVE -- OUTSIDE BOUNDS

DAVIDSON, Grady	Present
KILGORE, Jim	Unexcused
FERGUSON, Margaret	Present
LAWRY, Scott	Unexcused
PINCKNEY, Dan	Present
REESE, Julian	Present
ROBINSON, Chris	Unexcused
THALOS, Adel – Transitional	Unexcused

### ACTIVE – RETIRED

CHADWICK, Jeff	Excused
DUDLEY, William, Stated Clerk	Present
GALLAGHER, Keith	Present
GARTRELL, Gordon	Excused
SEXTON, Buddy	Present
WARREN, Thomas	Present

### RETIRED

HORTON, Michael	Present
THOMAS, Michael	Present

### CANDIDATES

Trey Gardenhire	Present
Johnny Long	Present
Landon Paul	Present

## OBSERVERS

Deanne Kitson, Bethany Presbyterian  
Christopher Brown, Bethany Presbyterian  
Rachel Agner, Bethany Presbyterian  
Mark Witherspoon, Bethany Presbyterian  
Carole Baker, Brainerd Presbyterian  
Dana Hall, Cedar Springs Presbyterian  
D'nese Strong, Community Evangelistic Church  
Karen Jordan, Cornerstone Presbyterian  
Bruce White, Crosspoint PCA  
Kathy Hastings, Eastminster Presbyterian  
Tom Ricks, EPC Church Planting Director  
Sarah Cleveland, Faith Presbyterian  
Linda Taylor, Farner Presbyterian  
Debra Williamson, Farner Presbyterian  
Ray Dean, Farner Presbyterian  
Jennifer Waters, FPC Stanton KY  
Dave Bailey, FPC Donalsonville, GA  
Michael Godby, FPC Donalsonville, GA  
Amanda Everhart, Hope Fellowship  
Kevin Chase, Lake Nona Presbyterian, PCA  
Chris Dandurand, Mountain City Presbyterian, PCUSA  
Linda Moon, Mountain City Presbyterian, PCUSA  
Joan Kuhner, Mountain City Presbyterian, PCUSA  
Kevin Kuhner, Mountain City Presbyterian, PCUSA  
Shane Cole, Parkway Presbyterian  
Holly Bridgeo, Plumtree Presbyterian  
Renee Mitchell, Providence Presbyterian  
Glenda Brouwer, Providence Presbyterian Grant  
Grant Shaffer, Resurrection Chattanooga  
Michael Watson, Resurrection Presbyterian  
Scott Ferguson, Resurrection Chattanooga  
Daniel Nelson, Resurrection Chattanooga  
Larry Cash, Resurrection Chattanooga  
Lucy Long, Signal Mountain Presbyterian  
Phil Thrash, EPC World Outreach  
Annette Kelly, Upper Octorara Presbyterian, Presbytery of the East  
Bill Kelly, Upper Octorara Presbyterian, Presbytery of the East

120-03 PRESENTATION OF DOCKET with Orders of the Day  
5:30 PM Prayer Time for Elders, Pastors, and Members of Bethany Presbyterian Church, Kingsport, Tennessee in their continued contention for their church property with Holston Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church USA.  
5:45 PM Dinner  
7:00 PM Evening Worship

120-04 WELCOME to OUR GUESTS  
Among guests at this meeting was TE Tom Ricks, EPC National Director for Church Planting for our General Assembly.

120-05 WELCOME was extended to the court by the Host Church's Pastor, CP Reggie Strong

120-06 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 119<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
MOTION: To approve the minutes as presented and distributed.  
Seconded APPROVED

120-07 APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE/THANKS  
The Moderator appointed the following to serve as the Committee of Thanks for this Presbytery meeting:  
TE Sean White Eastminster Church, Knoxville  
RE Margaret Crews Eastminster Church, Knoxville

120-08 MINISTERIAL CARE COMMITTEE – TE Bill Pardue & TE Ken Chivers  
TE Pardue opened his report with prayer.

1. EXAMINATION – TRANSFER from ANOTHER EPC PRESBYTERY –  
TE William Edward Kelly, Jr. (Bill)

TE Bill Kelly from EPC Presbytery of the East was examined for reception as Pastor of Farner Church, Farner, Tennessee.

EPC Presbytery – Presbytery of the East

Present Ministry – Pastor, Upper Octorara Presbyterian Church,  
Parkesburg, PA (23 years)

Educational Credentials  
Duke University, Durham, NC  
BA degree

Seminary  
Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA  
MDiv degree

Family

Wife: Annette  
Four adopted daughters

Experience of saving grace in Jesus Christ and progress in spiritual growth was shared by Bill.

Examination (on views only)

Theology and Sacraments  
English Bible  
Book of Order  
History of Church and Reformed Tradition  
Nature of the office of Teaching Elder

Chairman Pardue presented extensive and diverse questions in each of these categories.

Questions from the floor were entertained by the Chairman.

Acceptance of Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms was expressed. Two exceptions were declared by TE Kelly and are noted in his PIF

Acceptance of *The Essentials of the EPC* was declared.

Installation Questions from the Book of Order were presented by the Moderator. These were answered in the affirmative.

TE Kelly was dismissed as the court heard the recommendation of the Ministerial Committee.

MOTION – To sustain the examination as a whole and receive TE Bill Kelly as a member of the Presbytery of the Southeast and as Pastor of Farner Church, Farner, Tennessee.

VOTE of the COURT

Seconded

APPROVED

TE Kelly and his wife returned to the court for declaration of vote and approval.

TERMS OF CALL

MOTION – To approve the terms of call as presented and agreed upon by Farner Presbyterian Church, Farner, Tennessee and the Ministerial Committee.

Seconded

APPROVED

COMMISSION TO INSTALL

MOTION – To approve the following Commission to Install TE Bill Kelly as Pastor of Farner Presbyterian Church of Farner, TN on Sunday, November 19, 2023, at 4:00 PM with the following members of the Presbytery serving:

TE Keith Gallagher, Chairman  
Retired/Active

RE Ronnie Ables  
Wilson Station Church, Englewood, TN

TE Tommy Jordan  
Cornerstone Church, Franklin, NC

RE Gary Buchanan, Moderator  
Valleybrook Church, Hixson, TN

RE Dianne Constant  
Wilson Station Church, Englewood, TN

RE Ray Dean  
Farner Church, Farner, TN

RE Billy Ray Ledford  
Farner Church, Farner, TN

RE Jim Parmer  
Farner Church, Farner, TN

RE Leroy Taylor  
Farner Church, Farner, TN

RE Keith Williamson  
Farner Church, Farner, TN

and with the request that TE Brown Caldwell from EPC Presbytery of New River be approved as a guest of the Presbytery to serve with the Commission as a non-voting member and as the Installation Preacher of the day.

Ratio 2:1 Ruling Elders to Teaching Elders from at least 3 churches. Chairman not to be from local church.

Seconded

APPROVED

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING was offered by the Moderator, RE Gary Buchanan.



CHANGE of OUT/BOUNDS CALL

MOTION – To approve change of call for Out of Bounds ministry for TE Dan Pinckney as Teaching Staff of Equipping Leaders International (ELIC), an international missions ministry

Seconded

APPROVED

2. MODERATOR APPOINTMENT

MOTION – To approve CP Merle Caudill to serve as Moderator of the Session for Wooton Church, Wooton, Kentucky.

This recommendation comes because of the serious illness of CP Greg Whitaker of the Wooton Church.

Seconded

APPROVED

3. EXCUSED ABSENCES

Scott Bowen

Jeff Chadwick

Andy Cornett

Bill Flanagan

Mike Ford

Gordon Gartrell

Bryant Harris

Jimmy Latham

Paul Manuel

Jonathan Schwartz

4. COMMISSION DISMISSED

MOTION – To receive the minutes of the Commission to Ordain Mason Leaf as Evangelist of the Presbytery of the Southeast on May 28, 2023, at Cedar Springs Church, Knoxville, TN, and to dismiss the Commission with thanks.

Seconded

APPROVED

120-09

CHURCH PLANTING & RECEIVING – TE Eric Geil

Opening prayer to the committee report was given by the chairman.

1. PRESENTATION FOR EXAMINATION – RECEPTION

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DONALSONVILLE, GEORGIA

MOTION – To receive First Presbyterian Church of Donalsonville, Georgia as a particular church of the EPC from Flint River Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church USA.

Seconded

APPROVED

PRESENTATION OF SESSION and QUESTIONS

Ruling Elders of the Session were introduced to the court.

MOTION – To receive these Ruling Elders as the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Donalsonville, Georgia.

Seconded

APPROVED

PRAYER was led by the chairman for the Donalsonville Church and their Session and congregation.

2. OTHER PRESENTATIONS

Chairman Geil detailed the present process of First Presbyterian Church in Bainbridge, Georgia for dismissal from Flint River Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church USA.

He also introduced to the Presbytery members of the Session and congregation of Mountain City Presbyterian Church, Mountain City, TN.

3. ASCENDING OVERTURE on PRESBYTERY BOUNDARIES

TE Geil provided the background information of this overture related to Presbytery boundaries.

ADDENDUM 1  
Page 280

The newly-worded ascending overture was presented as stated in the Addendum.

ADDENDUM 1  
Pages 281-283

MOTION – To endorse the said ascending overture to the General Assembly.

Discussion was opened with comments and questions from the floor.

Seconded      APPROVED without dissent

120-10

PROJECT 2028 – TE David Strunk and TE Tom Ricks, General Assembly staff  
PRAYER was led by TE Strunk.

1. REPORT – Project 2028 Updates

The chairman, David Strunk, highlighted three of the church plants of the Presbytery: Resurrection Chattanooga (who plans to become a localized congregation in February 2024); the work of TE Chris Manley in Chattanooga, and TE Matt Koehn of Water Stone church plant in Smyrna, Georgia.

2. REPORT– Regional Updates: Network of the South

TE Tom Ricks, General Assembly staff, spoke of church plants throughout the south and highlighted Church Plant Sunday on November 23, 2023, as the first of an annual event in the EPC.

3. REPORT – National Updates

TE Ricks gave inspirational and encouraging words about the desire within the EPC to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He led in prayer for the health and well-being of all church plants within the denomination.

120-11

REVIEW OF SESSION MINUTES COMMITTEE – TE Keith Gallagher  
Chairman Gallagher led in prayer as he began his report.

1. MOTION – To approve the final report of all churches responding to review of 2022 Session Minutes.

<u>Church</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
1. All Souls Fellowship PC	Approved with Comments
2. Bethany PC	Approved with Comments
3. Brainerd PC	Approved with Comments
4. Buck Hill PC	Approved with Notations
5. Cedar Springs PC	Approved with Notations
6. Central PC	Approved with Comments
7. Christ Church PC	Approved with Comments
8. Church of the Redeemer	Approved with Notations
9. Community Evangelistic, EPC	Approved with Comments
10. Cornerstone PC	Approved with Comments
11. Crosswalk Community Church	Approved with Notations
12. Eastminster PC	Approved with Comments
13. Faith PC, EPC	Approved with Notations
14. Farner PC	Approved with Notations
15. First PC, Rome GA	Approved with Comments
16. First PC, Stanton KY	Approved with Notations
17. First PC, Thomasville, GA	Approved with Comments
18. Grace PC	Approved with Comments
19. Greenbriar PC, EPC	Approved with Comments
20. Hope Fellowship, EPC	Approved with Comments
21. Lookout Valley PC	Approved with Comments
22. Mars Hill PC	Approved with Comments
23. Murphy PC	Approved with Comments
24. New Beginning PC	Approved with Notations
25. New Hope PC	Approved with Notations
26. New Life Gathering	Approved with Comments
27. Parkway Presbyterian, EPC	Approved with Comments
28. Plumtree PC	Approved with Notations
29. Providence Church	Approved with Notations
30. Signal Mountain PC	Approved with Comments
31. Trinity Grace Evangelical PC	Approved with Comments
32. Trion PC	Approved with Comments
33. Valleybrook PC	Approved with Comments
34. Wilson Station PC	Approved with Comments
35. Wooton PC	Approved with Notations

120-12

CHURCH HEALTH & GROWTH COMMITTEE – TE Lucas Waters  
PRAYER by the chairman opened his report.

1. REPORT – RE Palmer Griffin continues to coordinate the Presbytery

effort for the rebuilding of homes destroyed by the floods last year in Kentucky. \$43,600 has been allocated for rebuilding leaving a balance of \$104,400.

2. CONGREGATIONAL GRANTS – Congregations were reminded there are grants available through the Church Health & Growth Committee for growth projects in your church. Members of this committee are assigned to each congregation. If your church would like to apply for a CH&G grant, contact the committee member assigned to your church.
3. PRAYER TIME for Bethany Presbyterian as they continue the legal process of retaining their property.

120-13

REPORT OF TREASURER – RE Diane Mizell  
The Treasurer opened her report with prayer.

ADDENDUM 2  
PAGES 284-285

1. MOTION – To accept the following financial report:

Presbytery has four bank accounts and two designated funds.  
August 31, 2023, balances are:

Operating Checking balance	131,555.38
Operating Savings	200,033.73
Designated Funds	
CH&G	-10,972.19
Church Courts Attending Scholarships	- 7,421.75
Engage 2025	- 500.00
Special – Kentucky Flood Relief	<u>-120,159.16</u>
TOTAL OPERATING	192,536.01
Project 2028 Account	76,134.74
Project 2028 Savings	<u>50,011.64</u>
TOTAL PROJECT 2028	126,146.38
TOTAL ASSETS	318,682.39

Seconded

APPROVED

2. PRESBYTERY PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET  
MOTION – To accept this first reading of the 2024 Budget.

Seconded

APPROVED  
ADDENDUM 2  
Page 286

4. MOTION – To change the computation of giving from the previous POA (Percentage of Asking) to POI (Percentage of Income) as recommended by the General Assembly

BACKGROUND – Our General Assembly has moved to a yearly, 1% of Operating Budget,

asking from each of our churches. To keep in line with this new model, our Presbytery Council studied how this could impact our Presbytery budget. To retain a workable budget going forward, the Presbytery Council proposes a 0.8% of Operating Budget, from each of our Presbytery churches for 2024, to be increased to 0.9% in 2025, and, if necessary, 1% in 2026. This will allow churches time to adjust their giving in stages and allow the Presbytery time needed to determine viability of needed funds for operations.

Seconded

APPROVED

120-14

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL – RE Gary Buchanan

The Moderator prayed as he began the report in the absence of the Council Chairman, TE Jeff Chadwick, who was ill.

1. COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

MOTION - That Presbytery approve the following chairmen for 2024:

Evangelism & Outreach	RE Johnny Long; TE Jeff Chadwick
Church Health & Growth	TE Lucas Waters
Church Planting & Receiving	TE Eric Geil
Review of Session Minutes	TE Keith Gallagher
Ministerial Care	TE Bill Pardue; TE Ken Chivers
Candidates	TE Joey Sherrard
Commissioned Pastors	TE Daniel Cheevers

Seconded

APPROVED

2. TRUSTEE

MOTION – That Presbytery approve the following Trustee for 2026:

RE John Graham

Nominations from the floor were provided; there were none.

Seconded

APPROVED

3. PRESBYTERY MODERATOR-ELECT for 2024:

MOTION – That Presbytery approve the following as 2024 Moderator-Elect:

RE Tony Pemerton of First Presbyterian Church, Rome, Georgia

INFORMATION – Recent Moderators of the court have been as follows:

2017 – TE Bill Pardue – Associate/Large Church

2018 – TE Tommy Jordan – Small Church

2019 - RE Palmer Griffin – Large Church

2020 – TE Bryant Harris – Mid-size Church

2021 – RE Bruce Novkov – Large Church

2022 – TE Jeff Chadwick – Retired-Active

2023 – RE Gary Buchanan – Small Church

2024 – TE Margaret Ferguson – Out/Bounds

The acting chairman asked for nominations from the floor; there were none.

Seconded

APPROVED

4. **RATIO CORRECTION FOR TE/RE FOR 2024**  
**MOTION** – For the correction of disparity in 2024 of Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders, that all churches in the Presbytery, from All Souls Fellowship, Decatur, GA, to Wooten EPC, Wooten, KY, be given one additional Ruling Elder commissioner for each Presbytery meeting.  
 Approved: October 7, 2023, GA Review of Presbytery Minutes requires inclusion of this statement in the docket of all 2024 stated meetings.  
 Seconded APPROVED

5. **ANNUAL REVIEW PRESBYTERY STATED CLERK** – Moderator RE Gary Buchanan  
 The Moderator requested the Stated Clerk to leave the meeting during the presentation of his review.
- MOTION** – Following the positive annual Stated Clerk Performance review, the Presbytery Council requests a 2024 fiscal year 4% pay increase for Stated Clerk Bill Dudley and Assistant to the Stated Clerk/Treasurer Diane Mizell.  
APPROVED

120-15 **COMMISSIONED PASTORS** – TE Daniel Cheevers  
 Chairman, TE Cheevers, opened his report with prayer.

1. **Prayer for our Commissioned Pastors**  
 Daniel extended affirmation for the outstanding ministry given in our Presbytery by our Commissioned Pastors. He named them and offered prayer for them:

Ryan Bridgeo	Plumtree Church, Plumtree, NC
Merle Caudill	Central Church, Hyden, KY
Matthew Everhart	Hope Fellowship, Chickamauga, GA
Scott Glover	New Hope Church, Kingsport, TN
Alan Hawkins	Wilson Station Church, Englewood, TN
Jonathan Hodges	Murphy Church, Murphy, NC
Nancy Hood	New Beginning, Spring City, TN
Wayne Hood	New Beginning, Spring City, TN
Greg Whitaker	Wooton Church, Wooton, KY

120-16 **REPORT OF STATED CLERK** – TE Bill Dudley  
 The Clerk opened his remarks with prayer.

6. **General Assembly Presbytery Review Committee**  
**INFORMATION** – The following “exceptions” were noted in our 2022 Presbytery Minutes:
- a. Terms of Call for Assistant Pastor did not specify the period of time.  
 REFER to Ministerial Care Committee for correction.
  - b. Length and boundaries of call for CPs Hawkins and Hodges are not listed.  
 REFER to Ministerial Care Committee for correction.

Items requiring response by the Stated Clerk:

- c. Minutes fail to state an Advisor for Candidate Barnett  
REFER to Ministerial Care Committee for correction.
- d. Length of Out of Bounds call for TE Ferguson is not indicated.  
REFER to Ministerial Care Committee for correction.

COMMENDATION – Minutes of the Presbytery of the Southeast are well done.  
I particularly appreciated the attachments being included in the minutes. (The Reviewer)

MOTION – To note these corrections and to refer them to those related to remarks and to make correction and amendment to those requiring response.

Seconded

APPROVED

120-17 ORDER OF THE DAY: DINNER

120-18 ORDER OF THE DAY: EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE  
7:00 PM PREACHER – Commissioned Pastor Reginald Strong  
Community Evangelistic Church - Knoxville

COMMUNION – CP Strong and Elders of Community Evangelistic Church

EVENING OFFERING was designated for the congregation of Bethany Church in Kingsport, Tennessee in their continued court expenses contending for their Church property from Holston Presbytery of the PCUSA.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023

120-19 CALL TO ORDER – Moderator Gary Buchanan  
Moderator Gary Buchanan called the Presbytery to order for the Saturday session.

The offering from Friday’s Evening Service totaled \$1,136.

SCRIPTURE AND OPENING PRAYER was led by Moderator Buchanan

120-20 PRESBYTERY COUNCIL – RE Gary Buchanan  
RE Buchanan prayed as he resumed the report of Presbytery Council.

1 ELECTION OF 2024 PRESBYTERY MODERATOR  
MOTION – To elect Moderator-Elect TE Margaret Ferguson as the 2024 Moderator and that she be installed effective January 1, 2024.  
Secinded APPROVED

Installation Service was conducted by Moderator RE Gary Buchanan for TE Margaret Ferguson as Moderator.

2. CHURCH HEALTH COORDINATOR  
BACKGROUND of Presbytery action was highlighted from the 116<sup>th</sup> Presbytery Minutes – 116-08-11. The following motion was approved at that meeting: To approve the Presbytery participating in the General Assembly Church Health mission, including the identifying of a Church Health Coordinator for Presbytery of the Southeast. Presbytery’s Council was assigned the recruitment of the Church Health Coordinator.

The Presbytery Coordinator position is funded partially by the General Assembly in the amount of \$12,000 annually for two years.

Church Health coaches will be recruited to work with local congregations. The ministry is focused in three areas: evangelism, church health, and Transitional Pastors.

MOTION – That TE Timothy Filston, lead pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Thomasville, Georgia be approved as our Church Health Coordinator for one year with option to renew.

Secinded APPROVED

MOTION – That the 2024 budget be amended to include an amount of \$8,000 for this ministry.

Secinded APPROVED

TE Tim Filston spoke to Presbytery with an energizing message and Invitation for churches and pastors to become engaged with the goals and vision of this ministry.



3. STUDY COMMITTEE FOR SEXUAL ABUSE POLICY

The Moderator presented the work of the study committee.

BACKGROUND – 117<sup>th</sup> Presbytery Minutes – 117-19-8

To develop guidelines for such a policy with the study committee to include 2 Trustees and be appointed by Council.

Council appointed three Presbytery Trustees for this study committee:  
RE Celeste Creswell (Chairman), RE Jim Bethel, RE John Graham

REPORT of the committee is found at ADDENDUM 4  
Pages 287-288

MOTION – To receive the work of the study committee and docket discussion and consideration at the February meeting.

Seconded APPROVED

4. GENERAL ASSEMBLY DESCENDING OVERTURES – TE Joey Sherrard

Overture 43-A – amending Book of Government 17-5

Overture 43-B – amending Book of Discipline 1-1

First Reading is provided at this Presbytery meeting with the Second Reading to be provided at the Presbytery meeting of February 2-3, 2024, with digest of each proposed overture and standing vote to be taken.

ADDENDUM 5  
Pages 289-292

120-21

CANDIDATES COMMITTEE – TE Joey Sherrard  
TE Sherrard opened with prayer.

1. EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATE UNDER CARE: John Barber

Home Church Cedar Springs Church, Knoxville, TN  
Membership for more than six months – Yes

Endorsement of Session - Received

Educational Credentials  
Ouachita Baptist University BA – English

Seminary  
Dallas Theological Seminary Masters – Biblical Studies

Experience of Saving Grace in Jesus Christ and progress

in spiritual growth (G.12-2B) was shared by Mr. Barber.

Motive for seeking Ordination and Call to Ministry

Questions for Candidate – The Moderator presented the questions for Candidates from the Book of Order to Mr. Barber with all questions being answered in the affirmative.

MOTION – To approve the examination of and reception of John Barber as a Candidate for Ministry of the Presbytery of the Southeast EPC

Seconded

APPROVED

Prayer of Thanksgiving was led by TE Andrew Keasling.

Charge from Exodus 4 (Moses' call) was given by TE Ben Ruyack.

Advisor appointed by John Barber was TE Ben Ruyack.

2. Ordination and Installation of Candidate Esme Teel from our Presbytery as Associate Pastor at Memorial Park Church EPC in Allsion Park, PA

120-22

EVANGELISM and OUTREACH COMMITTEE – RE Johnny Long  
RE Long led in prayer.

1. POSE ENGAGE 2025 – Indonesia  
The chairman reflected on “Daniel” with whom our Presbytery has become yoked and the encouraging results of Christian radio programming in this totally Muslim country.
2. PROJECT DONATIONS  
Presbytery has committed \$15,000 and is planning another trip there in the Fall of 2024.
3. PRAYER TIME FOR INDONESIA  
Lucy Long prayed for Engage 2025 efforts and Phil Thrash led in prayer for the work in Indonesia.
4. MISSION HIGHLIGHT  
Katherine Jonas was highlighted via video for her new mission assignment in Germany with “Teach Beyond”. This is a co-op ministry between Teach Beyond and the EPC. Katherine began her mission work this past summer and is a member of Signal Mountain Church.
5. MISSION HIGHLIGHT  
TE Grady Davidson began early summer mission work with Timothy 2 Project. He spoke before the Presbytery about recent experiences with his new call.

120-23 OLD BUSINESS  
There was no Old Business.

120-24 NEW BUSINESS  
No New Business was offered.

120-25 COMMITTEE ON THANKS  
TE Sean White Eastminster Church, Knoxville  
RE Margaret Crews Eastminster Church, Knoxville  
RE Crews presented their report of thanks.

1. MOTION – To adopt the Resolution on Thanks  
Seconded APPROVED

120-26 ADJOURNMENT

1. MOTION – To adjourn the meeting  
Seconded APPROVED

CLOSING PRAYER

Moderator-Elect TE Margaret Ferguson led in closing prayer at 10:15 AM.

NEXT MEETINGS ChristChurch Presbyterian – Dalton, Georgia  
121<sup>st</sup> Presbytery Meeting  
February 2-3, 2024

Bethany Presbyterian Church  
New Hope Presbyterian Church – Kingsport, Tennessee  
122<sup>nd</sup> Presbytery Meeting  
May 3-4, 2024

44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
Tuesday, June 18 – Thursday PM, June 20, 2024  
Hope Church – Cordova, TN



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Williams Dudley, State Clerk



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Gary Buchanan, Moderator



**CHURCH HEALTH & GROWTH  
CLASS/2023**

RE Mike Jones (2)  
First Church, Thomasville, GA

(6 members in 3 classes with 4 RE and 2 TE)  
CLASS/2024

TE Alan Edick (2)  
Cedar Springs, Knoxville, TN

RE Alan Hawkins (2)  
Faith Church, McDonough, GA

RE Jarrell Reeves (1)  
Signal Mountain Church, TN

CLASS/2025

TE Lucas Waters (2)\*\*  
First Church, Stanton, KY

RE Bob McEuen (2)  
Brainerd Church, Chattanooga, TN

**CHURCH PLANTING-RECEIVING  
CLASS/2023**

TE Bryant Harris (1)  
Mars Hill Church, Acworth, GA

RE

(6 members in 3 classes with 4 RE and 2 TE)  
CLASS/2024

TE Eric Geil (2)\*\*  
ChristChurch, Dalton, GA

RE Steve Rowe (2)  
Trinity Grace, Loganville, GA

CLASS/2025

RE

RE Powell Jones (1)  
First Church, Thomasville, GA

**RECORDS & SESSION MINUTES  
CLASS/2022**

TE Keith Gallagher (2)\*\*  
Retired Active

RE Thomas Goode (1)  
Community Evang, Knoxville, TN

RE Debbie Goodman (1)  
First Church, Thomasville, GA

(6 members in 2 classes – no term restriction; out of parity)  
CLASS/2023

TE Tommy Jordan (2)  
Cornerstone Church, Franklin, NC

TE Toby Pope (1)  
Grace Church, Franklin, NC

RE Susan Fryar (2)  
Lookout Valley Church, Chattanooga, TN

**TRUSTEES (with Moderator, Stated Clerk, and Treasurer)  
CLASS/2023**

RE John Graham  
First Church, Rome, GA

CLASS/2024

RE Jim Bethel  
ChristChurch, Dalton, GA

CLASS/2025

RE Powell Jones  
First Church, Thomasville, GA

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION – Project 2028

TE Andy Cornett	Signal Mountain Church, Signal Mountain, TN
TE Will Johnson	Evangelist – without call
TE Dave Strunk**	Church of the Redeemer, Maryville, TN
TE Ryan Van Horn	Resurrection Church, Chattanooga, TN
RE Ken Bell	Church of the Redeemer, Maryville, TN
RE Bob Bethel	ChristChurch, Dalton, GA
RE Bob Berry	Signal Mountain Church, Signal Mountain, TN
RE	First Church, Rome, GA
RE	First Church, Thomasville, GA
RE Matthew Everhart	from any church in Presbytery – Hope Fellowship, Chickamauga, GA
RE	from any church in Presbytery
RE Diane Mizell	Presbytery Treasurer, Ex Officio

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## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION – Resurrection Chattanooga Church Plant

RE	
TE Matt Christian	ChristChurch, Dalton, GA
TE Andy Cornett	Signal Mountain Church, Signal Mountain, TN
RE Scott Ferguson	Signal Mountain Church, Signal Mountain, TN
RE Chet Burge**	All Souls Fellowship, Decatur, GA
RE Piers van der Merwe	Cedar Springs Church, Knoxville, TN

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MODERATOR	RE Gary Buchanan
MODERATOR-ELECT	TE Margaret Ferguson
PAST MODERATOR COUNCIL CHAIRMAN	TE Jeff Chadwick

## ADDENDUM 1

### BACKGROUND - GENERAL ASSEMBLY ASCENDING OVERTURE on Presbytery Boundaries

From Presbytery of Southeast Minutes – 119<sup>th</sup> Meeting – May 6, 2023 Section 119-11

The Ascending Overture approved by the court at a previous meeting and approved jointly by the Presbytery of Central Carolina regarding two churches from the Presbytery of the Southeast desiring to be received into the Presbytery of Central Carolina has been removed from consideration at the General Assembly in June 2023.

The two presbyteries worked closely with one another in framing the overture with the guidance and influence of General Assembly leadership. When the overture was received and presented to the Permanent Judicial Commission for consideration at the 2023 Assembly, the PJC determined the overture was in direct conflict with the Book of Order on the drawing of Presbytery boundaries.

Our Stated Clerk, TE Bill Dudley, met with PJC leadership on the matter of the overture three times and consented for our Presbytery to withdraw the overture due to the PJC ruling. This way the Assembly would not hear the request, and another overture in 2024 could be presented.

Additionally, as the PJC was looking into the matter, General Assembly leadership realized that the boundaries of the newly-formed Presbytery of Central Carolina are incorrectly identified and must be corrected before our particular overture can be considered. They also determined that the newly-formed Presbytery of New River must be included in any of these conversations.

The conclusion is that the overture is withdrawn and is not to be considered in its present form.

MOTION – To withdraw the overture as previously presented

Seconded            APPROVED

## ADDENDUM 1

### 2024 Overture to General Assembly on Presbytery Boundaries

From        Presbytery of the Central Carolinas  
              Presbytery of the Southeast  
              Presbytery of the New River

We rejoice and give thanks to God for the growth of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, specifically in the area of the former Presbytery of Mid-Atlantic, which has been realigned into three presbyteries: the Presbytery of the Central Carolinas, the Presbytery of the Coastal Mid-Atlantic, and the Presbytery of the New River.

Two churches in Western North Carolina which closely identify geographically and missionally with the Presbytery of Central Carolinas are located just within the boundaries of the Presbytery of the Southeast.

Plumtree Presbyterian Church, Plumtree, North Carolina  
Buck Hill Presbyterian Church, Newland, North Carolina

In accordance with the provisions of Acts of Assembly 12-05 it has been determined by the Presbytery of the Southeast that the inclusion of those two churches in the Presbytery of Central Carolinas would not cause an adverse effect on total membership, financial resources, or any other measure enumerated in that act. The inclusion of those churches into the boundaries of the Presbytery of Central Carolinas would benefit the cost and mode of travel in both presbyteries.

Further, when mapping the congregations of the Presbytery of the New River within Western North Carolina, it was discovered that one of them is actually located just below the original southern boundary of that presbytery and is in the northern area of the Presbytery of the Central Carolinas. The two presbyteries agree that this church is actually a member of the Presbytery of the New River.

Adjusting the boundary between the presbyteries of Southeast and Central Carolinas along with correcting the boundary between Central Carolinas and New River would clarify the ministry area of these three presbyteries.

*Therefore, the Presbytery of Central Carolinas, the Presbytery of the Southeast, and the Presbytery of The New River overture the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to realign the boundaries of the Presbyteries of the Southeast, Central Carolinas, and New River within the state of North Carolina as follows:*

*Within the state of North Carolina, the eastern boundary of Southeast Presbytery will run along the eastern boundary of Haywood County and the western boundary of Transylvania County.*

*The Northern boundary of Central Carolinas Presbytery will run from the North Carolina-Tennessee border along the eastern boundary of Avery County, the western Boundary of Caldwell County, until it joins US 321 South to I-40 East. It will continue east on I-40 through Iredell County to the SW corner of Davie County. It will then follow the western boundary of Davie County and part of the western boundary of Davidson County to where it intersects I-85 North. It will continue along I-85 North to where it intersects the northern boundary of Randolph County. From there it will follow the northern boundaries of Randolph, Chatham, and Wake Counties to the western Boundary of Coastal Mid-Atlantic Presbytery.*



Moderator – Presbytery of Southeast

RE Gary Buchanan

Stated Clerk – Presbytery of Southeast

William Dudley

Moderator – Presbytery of Central Carolinas

TE Jim Braswell

Stated Clerk- Presbytery of Central Carolinas

Robert Howard

Moderator- Presbytery of New River

TE Ed Pettus

Stated Clerk – Presbytery of New River

Rufus Burton

## ADDENDUM 1



The eastern boundary of Southeast Presbytery within North Carolina will run along the eastern boundary of Haywood County and the western boundary Transylvania Counties.

The Northern boundary of Central Carolinas Presbytery will run from the North Carolina-Tennessee border along the eastern boundary of Avery County, the western Boundary of Caldwell County, until it joins US 321 South to I-40 East. It will continue east on I-40 through Iredell County to the SW corner of Davie County where it will follow the western boundary of Davie County and part of the western boundary of Davidson County to where it intersects I-85 North. It will continue along I-85 North to where it intersects the northern boundary of Randolph County. From there it will follow the northern boundaries of Randolph, Chatham, and Wake Counties to the western Boundary of Coastal Mid-Atlantic Presbytery.

POSE balances August 31, 2023

ADDENDUM 2

Presbytery of Southeast	2023 Oper. Y1	Proj 2023 Y1	2023 Faith Comm/ bene	Project 2023
<b>RECEIPTS 2023</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>			
All Souls				
Project 2023				
Bethany Pres				
Project 2023				
Brainerd Pres	1,518.00			
Project 2023				
Buck Hill Pres				
Project 2023				
Center Springs	11,966.89		20,000.00	
Project 2023				35,000.00
Central Pres, Hydrex KY	720.00		680.00	
Project 2023				300.00
Christ Church (CCP)	5,600.00		5,600.00	
Project 2023		1,300.00		5,000.00
Church of the Redeemer	1,300.00		1,800.00	
Project 2023		4,000.00		5,000.00
Community Evangelistic				
Project 2023			1,000.00	300.00
Cornerstone	375.00		300.00	
Project 2023				
Crosswalk Community Chu				
Project 2023				
Eastminster	2,400.00		2,400.00	
Project 2023				
Faith Pres, McDonough GA				
Project 2023		1,200.00		
Farmer				
Project 2023				
First Pres (Rome)	30,320.00			
Project 2023				
First Pres (Stanton)				
Project 2023				
First Pres (Thomsville)	7,904.87		31,540.00	
Project 2023				
Grace Pres (Franklin)	581.21		1,000.00	
Project 2023				
Greenbrier	576.00			
Project 2023				
Hope Fellowship	360.00		700.00	
Project 2023				1,000.00
Lookout Valley	700.00		1,400.00	
Project 2023				
Mars Hill	1,920.00		1,880.00	
Project 2023		1,840.00		2,760.00
Murphy	480.00		480.00	
Project 2023				
New Beginning	460.00			
Project 2023				
New Hope	1,400.00			
Project 2023		300.00		700.00
New Life Gathering	2,000.00		2,000.00	
Project 2023				
Parkway				
Project 2023				
Plumtree	1,200.00		1,200.00	
Project 2023				
Providence	500.00			
Project 2023				
Resurrection Chattanooga				
Project 2023				
Signal Mountain	21,000.00			
Project 2023		1,500.00		55,000.00
Stony Creek	820.00		800.00	
Project 2023				
Titan	800.00			
Project 2023				
Valleybrook	670.00		1,000.00	
Project 2023				
Wilson Station				
Project 2023				
Watson Presbyterian				
Project 2023				300.00
Other				
Project 2023				
Individual Offerings				
Other receipts, transfers, etc	35,906.87			
FF Fixed Ret of pastor	130,158.16			
<b>TOT</b>	<b>97,067.84</b>	<b>18,300.00</b>	<b>63,020.00</b>	<b>46,960.00</b>
<b>Designated Funds</b>				
Court Attendance	7,421.75			
Church Health & Growth	30,972.19			
Engage 2025	500.00			
Special Fund	130,158.16			
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>139,052.10</b>			

Operating Savings	200,033.73
Operating Checking	131,555.38
Project 2028 Savings	50,011.67
Project 2028 Checking	76,134.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>457,735.52</b>

2023 Operating Expenses	YTD TOTAL	2023 Budget
EPC Gen Assembly & Benevolence	10,000.00	10,000.00
Special Projects	-	3,000.00
<b>OFFICERS</b>		
St. Clerk Travel	14.00	6,000.00
Asst. Stated Clerk travel	1,970.94	3,000.00
Moderator Travel	13.52	1,000.00
Commissions	-	1,000.00
Gen Oper	2,722.70	6,000.00
Webmaster	525.00	1,500.00
Web Maintenance	220.00	800.00
Leadership	-	1,000.00
St Clerk Salary	35,623.44	53,435.16
Asst. SC /Tres. salary	15,420.99	26,436.00
PSE Tax Liability	7,904.15	8,615.64
Other (Audit etc.)	4,941.00	3,900.00
Project 2028 transfer		
<b>Ministerial Care</b>		
Travel	5,099.00	1,500.00
Backgr cks	-	150.00
Administrator	615.00	2,000.00
<b>Church Planting/Receiving</b>		
Travel	-	1,500.00
Misc	-	300.00
<b>Evangelism/Outreach</b>		
Travel & meals	-	500.00
Mission Partner	4,000.00	12,000.00
Miscellaneous	-	100.00
<b>Church Health/Growth</b>		
Travel	-	1,500.00
Sustentation	-	12,000.00
Misc.	-	500.00
<b>Records and Minutes Review</b>		
Office	-	75.00
Travel	-	100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89,069.74</b>	<b>157,911.80</b>

Proposed 2024 Budget

ADDENDUM 3

	2023 Budget	Pr'd 2024 Budget
EPC Gen Assembly & Benev	10,000.00	10,000.00
Special Projects	3,000.00	2,000.00
<b>OFFICERS</b>		
St. Clerk Travel	6,000.00	6,000.00
Asst. Stated Clerk travel	3,000.00	3,000.00
Moderator Travel	1,000.00	800.00
Commissions	1,000.00	1,000.00
Gen Oper	6,000.00	6,000.00
Webmaster	1,500.00	1,200.00
Web Maintenance	800.00	600.00
Leadershp	1,000.00	1,000.00
St Clerk Salary	53,435.16	53,435.16
Asst. SC /Tres. salary	26,436.00	26,436.00
PSE Tax Liability	8,615.64	8,615.64
Other (Audit etc.)	3,900.00	3,900.00
Project 2020 transfer		
<b>Ministerial Care</b>		
Travel & sub Cmte expense	1,500.00	1,500.00
Backgr cks	150.00	150.00
Administrator	2,000.00	2,000.00
<b>Church Planting/Receiving</b>		
Travel	1,500.00	3,000.00
Misc	300.00	300.00
<b>Evangelism/Outreach</b>		
Travel & meals	500.00	500.00
Mission Partner	12,000.00	10,000.00
Indonesia/Engage 2025	5,000.00	5,000.00
Evangelism Three Cirdles	1,000.00	1,000.00
Church Engagement & Promo materials	1,500.00	1,500.00
Miscellaneous	100.00	100.00
<b>Church Health/Growth</b>		
Travel	1,500.00	1,500.00
Sustentation	12,000.00	12,000.00
Misc.	500.00	500.00
<b>Records and Minutes Review</b>		
Office	75.00	75.00
Travel	100.00	100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>165,411.80</b>	<b>163,211.80</b>

## ADDENDUM 4

### POSE POLICY ON CHURCH PROTECTION

To: Presbytery Council of the Presbytery of the Southeast  
From: Special Committee Tasked with Study of Policies to Prevent Sexual Abuse and Harassment and to Protect Children  
Committee: Presbytery Trustees: Celeste Creswell, Jim Bethel, and John Graham  
Date: August 30, 2023  
Re: Policy recommendations

Having studied the assigned matter, the Special Committee reports and recommends that the POSE publish the following statement and policy on the Resources page of the POSE website (<https://epcsoutheast.org/resources/>), under Presbytery Documents & Forms, as “Policy on Church Protection.” The Special Committee notes it has adopted the same approach as the EPC Office of the General Assembly, given the variance in state laws throughout POSE, particularly relating to child abuse and reporting, and the importance of each Local Church tailoring its policies to adhere to local laws and address its facilities, programs, and insurance policies. POSE POLICY ON CHURCH PROTECTION The EPC Office of the General Assembly provides Church Protection resources, including links to best practices and specific state statutes regarding child safety, which may be accessed on its website at <https://epc.org/churchprotection/>. POSE commends these materials to you, as your Local Church is responsible for compliance with applicable laws and because God has called us to create a safe haven for all persons in our care, to empower them through faith and trust, and to protect the powerless. Please note these resources are provided as guidelines, and your policies should be reviewed by an attorney in your jurisdiction who is knowledgeable in this area of the law. You should also consider whether your policies accommodate your insurance carrier’s recommendations.

The following Church Protection Policy applies to POSE’s Presbytery Council; Stated Clerk; Moderator; Treasurer; members; employees; staff; and guests and non-member attendees of Presbytery meetings, Presbytery Committee, Commission, and Council meetings, and other Presbytery functions and facilities (as used herein, “Presbyter”): It is the policy of POSE to promote an atmosphere free of sexual harassment, in any form, for Presbyters and Local Churches. Nothing in this policy is intended or should be construed as supplanting any policy of the Local Church covering the same subject matter or as assuming any obligation of the Local Church regarding the subject matter of this policy.

Sexual harassment is a sin against God, the person who has been victimized, and the community of faith. It may range from covert and subtle harassment to overt use of physical force or intimidation and includes physical contact, verbal behavior, use of social media, and other

electronic and written communication. Sexual harassment is unlawful under federal and some state laws. It is prohibited for any Presbyter to sexually harass another Presbyter or a third-party; provided, however, that nothing in this policy is intended or should be interpreted to prohibit interactions between 2 Presbyters who are married to each other. Retaliation against an individual who has complained about sexual harassment and retaliation against individuals for cooperating with an investigation of a sexual harassment complaint are also prohibited. Sexual harassment is generally defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, especially where:

- Submission to or rejection of such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of any individual's employment or as a basis for employment decisions; or
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

Other sexually oriented conduct, whether intended or not, that is unwelcome and has the effect of creating a work environment that is hostile, offensive, intimidating, or humiliating to workers may also constitute sexual harassment. While it is not possible to list all those additional circumstances that may constitute sexual harassment, the following are some examples of conduct that, if unwelcome, may constitute sexual harassment depending on the totality of the circumstances, including the severity of the conduct and its pervasiveness:

- Unwanted sexual advances, whether they involve physical touching or not;
- Sexual epithets, jokes, written or oral references to sexual conduct, gossip regarding one's sex life, comments about an individual's body, comments about an individual's sexual activity, deficiencies, or prowess;
- Displaying sexually suggestive objects, pictures, or cartoons;
- Unwelcome leering, whistling, brushing up against the body, sexual gestures, or suggestive or insulting comments;
- Inquiries into one's sexual experiences; and
- Discussion of one's sexual activities.

Sexual harassment can occur between individuals of the opposite sex or the same sex and will not be tolerated. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including discharge from employment or dismissal from POSE. No adverse action will be taken against a Presbyter who, in good faith, reports violations of this policy or participates in the investigation of such violations. Any Presbyter or individual who feels that she or he is a victim of sexual harassment or retaliation prohibited by this policy, or is aware of a violation of this policy by another Presbyter, should immediately report such violation to the Stated Clerk. If you prefer not to discuss the matter with the Stated Clerk, you may report it to the Chair of the Ministerial Care Committee or any other member of the Presbytery Council. Each report will be promptly and thoroughly investigated as confidentially as possible.

Descending Overtures from the 43rd General Assembly  
 Evangelical Presbyterian Church

**DESCENDING OVERTURE 43-A**

That the *Book of Government* 17-5 be deleted, with the following sections renumbered, and the *Book of Government* 6-8D and 18-3H be amended. [Rationale: This amendment clarifies the authority of the Session alone over all financial matters of the Local Church and eliminates outdated, ambiguous, or confusing references to financial responsibility of the Board of Deacons.]

Current <i>Book of Government</i> 17-5	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 17-5 <i>Amendments in bold italics</i>
<p><del>BOG 17-5 Treasurer</del></p> <p><del>A. Where the responsibility for the finances of the local church falls to the Board, it shall appoint a Treasurer to handle the financial matters of the congregation. This person may or may not be a Deacon.</del></p> <p><del>B. Where the Session retains responsibility for financial matters, it shall follow this stipulation: the Treasurer shall report to the appointing body at each stated meeting, keeping a careful record of financial matters. The appointing body shall be responsible for an annual audit of the finances of the church.</del></p>	<p>BOG 17-5 Meetings</p> <p>A. Frequency</p> <p>The Board shall meet at least quarterly unless otherwise provided for by the Session. It shall meet at the call of the Moderator, or when ordered to convene by the Session. When requested in writing by one-fourth of the Board, the Chairman shall call a meeting. The purpose shall be clearly stated. No business other than that stated in the call may be transacted.</p> <p><i>[Subsequent sections to be renumbered]</i></p>



<p><b>BOG 17-6 Meetings</b></p> <p><b>A. Frequency</b>  The Board shall meet at least quarterly unless otherwise provided for by the Session. It shall meet at the call of the Moderator, or when ordered to convene by the Session. When requested in writing by one-fourth of the Board, the Chairman shall call a meeting. The purpose shall be clearly stated. No business other than that stated in the call may be transacted.</p>	
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<i>Current Book of Government 6-8 D</i>	<i>Proposed Book of Government 6-8 D Amendments in bold italics</i>
<p><b>D.</b> If a local church does not elect Trustees (or if Deacons have not been given the responsibility of property), the Session, or a designated portion of the court, shall serve as the Trustees of the local church.</p>	<p><b>D.</b> If a local church does not elect Trustees <del>(or if Deacons have not been given the responsibility of property)</del>, the Session, or a designated portion of the court, shall serve as the Trustees of the local church.</p>

<i>Current Book of Government 18-3H</i>	<i>Proposed Book of Government 18-3H Amendments in bold italics</i>
<p><b>H.</b> To determine the budget of the church and the benevolence objectives of the congregation.</p>	<p><b>H.</b> To determine <i>and oversee the finances of the local church including the budget and the benevolence objectives of the congregation.</i></p>

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**DESCENDING OVERTURE 43-B**

That the *Book of Discipline* be amended by adding the following statement to the end of *Book of Discipline* 1-1. [Rationale: Church Discipline is not designed to deal with criminal acts apart from the authority of the civil magistrates. (Westminster Chapter 23-4). This preface to our practice of Ecclesiastical Discipline does not replace our responsibility to obey civil authorities and to protect the victims of abuse.

Current <i>Book of Discipline</i> 1-1	Proposed <i>Book of Discipline</i> 1-1 <i>Amendments in bold italics</i>
<p><b>1-1 Definition of Church Discipline</b></p> <p>There are two kinds of authority vested in the church; the responsibility of order and the authority of jurisdiction.<sup>196</sup> Both kinds of authority are given the church by the Lord Jesus Christ to instruct and guide her members and to promote her purity and welfare. Discipline is the exercise of the responsibility of order, particularly in regard to the reproofing of the erring.<sup>197</sup> As the exercise of such authority may adversely affect the membership rights of an individual who has been accused of an offense, the authority requires the use of ecclesiastical judicial procedures.</p> <p>The word “discipline,” when used in the <i>Book of Discipline</i>, chapters 1-11, shall therefore refer to the use of ecclesiastical judicial procedures.</p>	<p><b>1-1 Definition of Church Discipline</b></p> <p>There are two kinds of authority vested in the church; the responsibility of order and the authority of jurisdiction.<sup>196</sup> Both kinds of authority are given the church by the Lord Jesus Christ to instruct and guide her members and to promote her purity and welfare. Discipline is the exercise of the responsibility of order, particularly in regard to the reproofing of the erring.<sup>197</sup> As the exercise of such authority may adversely affect the membership rights of an individual who has been accused of an offense, the authority requires the use of ecclesiastical judicial procedures.</p> <p>The word “discipline,” when used in the <i>Book of Discipline</i>, chapters 1-11, shall therefore refer to the use of ecclesiastical judicial procedures.</p> <p><b><i>Church discipline does not supersede or negate the legal responsibility to report cases of suspected abuse to civil authorities according to local and state requirements.</i></b></p>