

**PROPOSED DESCRIPTION  
OF THE  
PRESBYTERY OF THE PACIFIC**

**Oct, 2010**

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## 1.0 Executive Summary

### Historical Context

The EPC churches of Washington, California and Arizona have talked off and on for almost five years about the possibility of a Far West Presbytery of the EPC. Dr. Jeff Jeremiah, Stated Clerk of the EPC, contacted our churches in June 2009 asking for a statement of interest and commitment to move towards the creation of a new presbytery. The response was positive and the churches agreed to meet on October 14, 2009 at the First Presbyterian Church in Fresno, California.

Dr. Jeremiah served as Moderator of the meeting and focused our conversation around four topics:

- Doctrinal Issues
- Organizational and Practical Considerations
- Cultural Harmonization
- Financial Commitments

After an interactive and productive discussion it was agreed, through an informal straw vote, that we should proceed and take the next steps toward the formation of a new presbytery within the next two years. It was agreed that our next meeting would be held on January 20, 2010 at Fair Oaks in Sacramento. Two ruling elders from FEPC in Washington were asked to prepare a “Draft for Discussion Purposes” in preparation for this meeting. That meeting of over 35 Teaching and Ruling Elders from EPC congregations, New Wineskins congregations and observers from a PCUSA church resulted in significant modifications to this document. Opportunities to get to know each other and exchange ideas continue as we follow the plan in Section 6.0 below

### Looking Forward

The purpose for this draft document is to (1) to capture the essence of our previous discussions, (2) to develop a way forward based on those discussions and (3) to enable participants to prepare, reflect and pray about the commitments that will have to be made by their respective churches in forming a new presbytery.

This draft plan is a proposed “roadmap” to arrive at a full understanding of the process by which we will begin a Presbytery of the Pacific split off from the existing Presbytery of the West. We constructed a fifteen month implementation plan (allowing significant time for relationship-building) with achievable milestones toward getting approval from the 2011 General Assembly.

It is anticipated that 19-26 churches, consisting of well over 10,000 members, will form the initial core for the Presbytery of the Pacific. With the advent of some church planting and additional churches joining the EPC a Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest may be spun off in the future.

Initial staffing is envisioned to include the following basic positions: Moderator, Stated Clerk, Treasurer, Ministerial /Care of Candidates Committee Chair and Session Minutes Committee Chair. These positions will be part time and a combination of both volunteers and paid staff. The proposed annual budget for these positions is approximately \$120,000, including clerical support, staff expenses and travel costs. The three required meetings each year will be a combination of face-to-face and video teleconferencing. The May and October meeting will be held in the Fresno/Sacramento area, with October being preceded by a two-day leadership retreat. The February meeting will

alternate between the Pacific Northwest and the Southern California area and will be configured to be useable for those who need to video conference.

Based on a two year implementation schedule, the following are considered critical milestones to be completed prior to advancing toward the next sequential milestone:

- **Apr. 30 - May 1, 2010:** First review with the leadership of the Presbytery of the West in conjunction with their May meeting in San Ramon, California.
- **September 30, 2010:** First review with all Teaching Elders after the Presbytery of the West pastors retreat.
- **February 4, 2011:** Formal presentation and request for support to the Presbytery of the West

Successful completion of the above critical milestones will lead to approval by General Assembly in June 2011, followed by our first meeting of the Presbytery of the Pacific in October.

## 2.0 Participating Churches

It is assumed for this proposal that the following churches will become a part of this new Presbytery:

	<b>Number of Members</b>
<b>California:</b>	
Covenant (San Diego)	173
Heritage (Santa Maria)	70
Thai (Monrovia)	28
Valley (San Jacinto)	60
San Ramon	215
Clayton	325
Community (Danville)	
Sanger	153
First (Bakersfield)	900
First (Fresno)	813
Fowler (Fresno)	158
Millbrook (Fresno)	125
Fair Oaks (Sacramento)	1860
Roseville (Sacramento)	1148
Trinity (Clovis)	437
Pioneer (Winters)	49
Emmaus Road Mission (Danville)	--

**Washington:**

First (Renton)	643
Grace (Gig Harbor)	47
Community (Ephrata)	150
Community (Sequim)	700

**Oregon:**

Hope (Rogue River)	92
First (Jacksonville)	375

Other possible members within the next two years include:

First Pres. (Wenatchee, WA)	
Sierra (Nevada City, CA)	500
Fallbrook (near San Diego, CA)	339
Kenton (Portland, OR)	62
Sunset (Portland, OR)	2000
First Pres. (Honolulu, HI)	

These 28 churches comprise more than 11,000 members

**.2.1 Future Considerations**

With the advent of church planting and additional PCUSA churches joining the EPC the demographics of EPC denominations on the west coast may warrant the need to consider the formation of two Presbyteries of the Far West. The demographics of these two presbyteries may be as follows:

- Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest
  - Washington
  - Oregon
  - Idaho (West of highway US-93)
  - Alaska
- Presbytery of the Pacific
  - California
  - Nevada
  - Hawaii

### 3.0 Key Values

This Presbytery exists to:

- Enable the ministries of its particular congregations by connecting, assisting, and resourcing those congregations and their leaders
- Complement the ministries of its particular congregations by planting additional ministries among them

This will be done in alignment with values which can be summarized in three categories

#### 3.1 Confessional

Our decisions and actions will be governed by:

1. The Scriptures
2. The doctrines contained in the Westminster Standards
3. The overarching principle of the EPC; In Essentials, Unity  
In Non-essentials, Liberty  
In All Things, Charity
4. The Book of Order of the EPC

#### Relation of Essentials and Westminster Standards

The 22<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (2002) approved an “Explanatory Statement to ‘Essentials of our Faith’” (shown below) that was included in our Constitution. This document clarified the relationship of the “Essentials” and the WCF.

### *Explanatory Statement to “Essentials of Our Faith”<sup>1</sup>*

The Westminster Confession of Faith is a confessional statement of orthodox Presbyterianism. The Westminster Confession of Faith is our standard of doctrine as found in Scripture. It is a positive statement of the Reformed Faith. The Westminster Confession of Faith constitutes a system of biblical truth that an officer of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church is required to believe, acknowledging that each individual court has the freedom to allow exceptions which do not infringe upon the system of the doctrine in the Westminster Confession of Faith.

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<sup>1</sup> Ratified by the 22<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, June 2002.

“Essentials of Our Faith” is an irenic statement of historic evangelicalism. The purpose of “Essentials of Our Faith” is to define core beliefs of the Christian Faith. It expresses historic Christian beliefs common to all true believers and churches throughout the world. “Essentials of Our Faith” is not intended to be the exclusive test of orthodoxy for ordination. It is not intended to be used as an explicit standard for minimal core beliefs for candidates, ordination or ministerial examinations. It is not to be construed as a substitute for the Westminster Confession of Faith.

Both the Westminster Confession of Faith and “Essentials of Our Faith” are important documents in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Westminster Confession of Faith and “Essentials of Our Faith” are not alternative statements of truth, nor are they competitive statements of truth. They each serve important and harmonious purposes within the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Westminster Confession of Faith preserves

**Other Confessional values include;**

- Our greatest strength – united in Prayer

**3.2 Connectional**

- A connectional fellowship that is highly relational and low in bureaucracy
- Accountability that is biblical and pastoral
- Consistent training and nurture of Teaching and Ruling elders
- The voluntary sharing of resources – whether it be creative ideas, materials, curriculum, money, or teaching
- The larger serving the smaller
- Everyone is in with both feet – no spectators

**3.3 Missional**

- Partnerships that actively and consistently carry out acts of mercy and compassion to the poor, broken, and oppressed
- Aggressive development of “new works” (e.g., church planting, recruitment at evangelical seminaries)
- Aligned with the EPC’s description of “missional” (Appendix C)

## **4.0 Presbytery Duties and Structure**

### **4.1 A Duties (from the EPC Book of Order)**

**The Presbytery: In maintaining the spiritual supervision of the churches within its bounds, the Presbytery has the following duties and powers:**

- A.** To examine Ministers and Candidates, to receive and dismiss Ministers and Candidates,
- B.** To retire and to place on Inactive Status member Ministers, and to take disciplinary action according to the Book of Discipline. It shall have power to ordain and install, to dissolve pastoral relationships, to approve calls and to grant permission to labor outside the bounds of Presbytery. All this shall be in accord with the Book of Government.
- B.** To decide judicial cases brought before it in accordance with the Book of Discipline.
- C.** To assume review and control of Church Sessions through an annual review of minutes, to remand what may be contrary to the Constitution, and to see that all lawful injunctions are followed.
- D.** To oversee the peace and unity within particular congregations, to inquire into the effectiveness of ministry, and when necessary, dissolve the active relationship of Ruling Elders and Deacons as well as the pastoral relationship, when proper procedures have been followed.
- E.** To establish, dissolve, divide, unite, receive and dismiss churches. In addition, to control the location or relocation of churches, and to take under its supervision churches without Pastors.
- F.** To encourage evangelism and renewal within its bounds as a first priority.
- G.** To encourage particular churches in their ministry of compassion, and provide opportunity for a broader ministry at the Presbytery level.
- H.** To work with other Presbyteries and the General Assembly to create agencies for education, the orphaned, the aged, and other suitable activities.
- I.** To overture the General Assembly on those matters it believes vital or helpful to the whole Church, and to observe and carry out the injunctions and instructions of the higher court.
- J.** To organize itself as it deems best for the propagation of the Gospel, the advancement

of the Kingdom, and the edification of the people. It shall have a Ministerial Committee in accordance with Section **16-27.A**.

**K.** To provide services to the particular churches within its bounds, to offer encouragement, training, and other helps in conjunction with the General Assembly that the particular congregations may be effective in such areas as evangelism, education, stewardship, officer training, member instruction, and other facets of an effective Christian life and ministry.

**L.** To establish a Ministerial Obligation record to which all Ministers must subscribe before being received into membership. This obligation shall consist of the ordination vows for Ministers to which shall be added a subscription as follows: "I do receive and adopt the above vows as a true statement of my faith, commitment, and obligation and I resolve and promise to exercise my calling to the Gospel Ministry in obedience to those vows."

**The Ministerial Committee:** Each Presbytery shall have a Ministerial Committee consisting only of Ministers and Ruling Elders. It shall have at least six members and be established and maintained in such a way as to insure that the differences between the number of Ministers and Ruling Elders on the Committee shall never be greater than one. Its quorum for action shall be a simple majority of membership, to include at least one Ruling Elder and one Teaching Elder. Eligibility to succeed will be determined by the appointing court. Its duties are as follows:

- 1.** It shall report annually on the work of the Ministers of the Word to the Presbytery, along with any recommendations it might have. This includes an annual report from those Ministers of the Word approved for labor outside the bounds of Presbytery.
- 2.** It shall work with particular churches in securing Pastor(s). Calls shall always be placed in the hands of this Committee who shall then make its recommendation to the Presbytery.
- 3.** It shall review each request for dissolution of a pastoral relationship, and make a recommendation to Presbytery.
- 4.** It shall counsel with congregations seeking a Pastor or other pastoral staff, shall recommend to the Presbytery a Minister to serve as Moderator of the Church

Session, and shall work with a congregation in securing pulpit supply.

**5.** It shall have the oversight of Candidates for the Gospel Ministry of the Presbytery, although the Presbytery may assign this function to some other committee.

**6.** It shall confer with each Minister desiring to become a member of the Presbytery, or Candidate desiring ordination, and conduct any examination it deems necessary in order to make a decision for its recommendation to Presbytery concerning the application. It shall also conduct the examination by the Presbytery of the applicant according to the Book of Government.

**7.** No call to a Pastor may be issued by a congregation that has not first consulted with the Committee.

**8.** The Committee shall be responsible for an annual review of remuneration of Ministers, shall consult with Church Sessions if deemed necessary concerning such remuneration, and may recommend to Presbytery minimum terms for the call of a Minister. Requests to Presbytery for a change in the terms of call shall come through this committee.

**9.88** The Committee, or a Presbytery-designated alternate committee, shall consult with particular churches receiving aid from Presbytery and shall make recommendations to the Presbytery concerning that aid.

**10.** The Committee may be appointed by Presbytery to serve as a Judicial or Administrative Commission.

**11.** Although no complaint may have been received, if in the judgment of the Committee a particular congregation may be having difficulties or appears to be failing in its mission, the Committee has the authority to investigate and to make recommendations to Presbytery.

**12.** ~~89~~ Presbytery may authorize this Committee to dissolve pastoral relationships and dismiss Ministers according to the Book of Order when both the congregation and the Pastor concur in the dissolution. Accordingly, the Presbytery may authorize the Ministerial Committee to appoint, with concurrence of the Church Session, an Interim Moderator of the Church Session as provided for in **G.16-9**.

**13.** Although no complaint may have been received, if it appears to the Committee that there is dissension between a church and a minister, the Committee has the

authority to investigate and make recommendations to Presbytery.

### **Particular Church Minutes Review Committee**

The Book of Government (Art.16-3) requires that each Session submit its Minutes annually to the Presbytery for review. The Review Committee shall determine that the Session “has faithfully and diligently fulfilled all duties and responsibilities assigned to it. It may refer matters back for reconsideration, call attention to omissions, require amendment of actions out of conformity with the Constitution, or otherwise exercise proper review and control of the Session of each particular church.”

To accomplish this the Presbytery of the Pacific will;

1. Appoint a Chair of Minutes Review who will
  - a. serve in that position for two years and who will chair the meetings of the Standing Committee of Minutes Review that will meet in conjunction with each Presbytery meeting, and
  - b. develop written material to instruct the members of the Standing Committee how to accomplish their review.
2. Through the Stated Clerk, appoint four Presbytery Commissioners to serve as the members for a single meeting of the Minutes Review Committee. This Standing Committee will ;
  - a. review the Minutes presented to them, and
  - b. prepare a report to the Presbytery to be given by the Chair of Minutes Review before the conclusion of that meeting
3. Through the Stated Clerk notify one third of the churches to bring their minutes for the past year for review to each meeting.

### **4.1B Position descriptions for Key Officers and Committees**

#### **4.1B.1 The General Council (modeled on the Bylaws of the Presbytery of the West**

**4.1B.1-1 General Powers.** The affairs of the Corporation (Presbytery) shall be managed by the General Council, consisting of both Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders.

**4.1B.1-2 Number, Tenure, and Qualifications.** The General Council shall consist of the Officers of the Presbytery, and the chairman of each of the permanent committees of the Presbytery. Each member shall hold office until his successor shall have been elected and qualified as provided in Paragraph Three of this Article.

4.1B.1-3 **Committee Chairman.** Each permanent committee of the Presbytery will annually elect its own chairman from within the current committee membership. The Chairman will automatically become a member of the General Council.

4.1B.1-4 **Vacancies.** Any vacancy occurring in the General Council will be filled from qualified members elected pursuant to Article VI. Until such elections can be held, the Moderator will make interim appointments to fill vacancies, with the approval of the majority of the General Council.

4.1B.1-5 **Duties.** The General Council is expected to discharge the following responsibilities:

1. **Advance Planning.** The Council will attempt to plan at least two years into the future. Such planning should provide advance insight into finances, trends requiring revision of the By-Laws, trends of growth or decline in the churches of the Presbytery, need for new church development, needs for assistance to declining congregations, developments at General Assembly which may impact the Presbytery and other factors deemed relevant.
2. **Coordination of Committee/Commission Actions.** The Council shall see that each permanent special committee or commission of the Presbytery is adequately informed; that each meets often enough to discharge its responsibilities; that minutes of each committee meeting are kept and that such minutes include a record of attendance; that the Nominating Committee is informed promptly of vacancies in committee membership; that committees and commissions do not engage in overlapping activities; that mandates of the Presbytery are properly discharged by the appropriate committee; and that each committee and commission is operating within its budget. The Council shall require full accountability for use of Presbytery funds and for results versus expectations when such funds are committed by committees or commissions. The Council shall evaluate the performance of the various committees/commissions of Presbytery and make any reports to Presbytery the Council feels are appropriate. When the Presbytery elects special committees, the Council, at its discretion, may invite chairmen of special committees to attend Council meetings as advisors without vote.
3. **Oversight of the Office of Stated Clerk.** The General Council shall have this responsibility.
4. **Financial.** To ensure that an audit of the Presbytery records is performed annually. An internal financial review will be conducted by the General Council to ensure that proper financial procedures are being followed. A review shall be performed whenever there is a change in the Treasurer.
5. **Budget Responsibility.** The Council shall be responsible for preparing the annual budget of the Presbytery, taking into account estimates of income and estimates of expenses provided by the permanent committees. The Presbytery Fiscal Year shall coincide with the calendar year; therefore, a proposed budget shall be presented for adoption at the October stated meeting of the Presbytery. The Council shall include all expenses expected to be incurred in the ensuing year but shall in no event present a final budget which exceeds anticipated resources. Ordinarily, the Council shall build a five percent (5%) contingency into its income budget that limits the expenditure budget to ninety-five percent (95%) of anticipated available financial resources. The Council shall be responsible for recommending apportionment of unrestricted gifts to the Presbytery between Presbytery and the General Assembly. The Council shall recommend the amount of per-member giving to be asked, such asking to include amounts requested by the General Assembly. The Council shall recommend to the Presbytery use or retention for stated purpose of any accumulated reserves.
6. **Schedule Presbytery Meetings.** To propose the date, time, and location of stated meetings of

the Presbytery.

7. **Acting for Presbytery.** Unexpected matters which demand immediate action shall ordinarily be handled in called meetings. However, where such a called meeting is impractical or the matter considered to be minor, the Council will be authorized to speak for the Presbytery. Actions shall be reported to Presbytery (recorded in Presbytery's minutes) at its next stated meeting, along with an explanation as to why the matter was not handled at a stated Presbytery meeting.
8. **Corporate Affairs.** Any action required by civil law of the General Council, or any allowable action which may be taken at a meeting of the General Council, may be done without a meeting, if consent in writing is provided by all of the members of the General Council.

4.1B.1-6 **Meetings.** Meetings of the General Council will be scheduled by the Stated Clerk on an "as needed" basis. Members of the General Council will be notified either verbally or in writing at least one week in advance of scheduled meetings. Agenda items will also be furnished at this time.

4.1B.1-7 **Chair.** The Stated Clerk will chair the General Council meetings and in his absence, by the vote of the General Council, the current Moderator or the Moderator Elect will act as Chairman.

4.1B.1-8 **Quorum.** A majority of the General Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the General Council but if less than a majority of the members are present at said meeting, a majority of the members present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

4.1B.2 The **Moderator.** The Moderator shall preside over all meetings of the Presbytery. If the Moderator is unable to preside, the Moderator Elect or Past Moderator will preside.

4.1B.3 The **Secretary.** The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery shall be secretary of the meetings of the members. If unable to attend the Assistant Stated Clerk will be designated in his/her stead.

The **Minutes.** A careful record of the proceedings of the Presbytery meetings will be kept by the Stated Clerk, who bears responsibility for providing certified extracts when required. When the Presbytery has approved the minutes, they shall be signed by the Stated Clerk and the Moderator. The Clerk will submit minutes annually to the General Assembly.

4.1B.4 The **Stated Clerk and Assistant Stated Clerk.** The Stated Clerk and Assistant Stated Clerk shall be elected at the October meeting of the Presbytery for a term of three (3) years and may be re-elected for an indefinite number of terms. They shall take office on January 1, next succeeding. In the case of the Office of Stated Clerk becoming vacant, or when the Stated Clerk cannot serve, the Assistant Stated Clerk will assume the duties of Stated Clerk until a regularly elected Stated Clerk shall take office. The Assistant Stated Clerk will assist the Stated Clerk in all assigned duties and will represent him at any Stated Meeting when the Stated Clerk is not available.

- A. Oversight. The General Council shall have oversight of the Office of the Stated Clerk.
- B. Stipend and Expenses. The General Council shall recommend, for Presbytery approval, a

budget for the stipend and expenses of the Office of the Stated Clerk, which shall include postage, telephone, secretarial services, office supplies, reproductions of copies, and other needed items.

C. Secretary of the General Council. The Stated Clerk shall serve as secretary for the General Council, handling such communications as directed by the General Council.

D. Minutes of the Presbytery Meetings. The Stated Clerk shall preserve and reproduce the minutes of the Presbytery meetings. Ordinarily, copies of the minutes shall be made available to each member of the Presbytery and to members of Presbytery's permanent and special committees and commissions. The Stated Clerk shall send minutes to such agencies and institutions of General Assembly as requested or required. Annually a bound copy of the minutes shall be submitted for review by a designated agent of the General Assembly. Presbyterians-at-Large may request copies of Presbytery minutes as supply is available.

F Reports. The Annual Statistical Report, required by the General Assembly, will be submitted in accordance with instructions from the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly.

G Ministerial Obligation. The Stated Clerk shall retain the record of Obligations of Ministers as required by the Book of Government, (Paragraph 16-16-L of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church) and shall obtain signature of Ministers coming into the membership of the Presbytery.

H Notice of Meetings. No less than ten days prior to each stated meeting, the Stated Clerk shall mail copies of the General Council's proposed docket, committee reports and written documents as required elsewhere in these By-Laws to each Clerk of Session. In addition, such material shall be sent to chairmen of permanent and special committees as appropriate.

I Commissioners to Presbytery. The Stated Clerk shall communicate with church Sessions prior to each stated meeting to verify the selection of Ruling Elder Commissioners as provided by the Book of Government, Paragraph 16-10-0 of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church

J Attendance at Presbytery. The Stated Clerk shall record all attendance at meetings of Presbytery and shall enter this in the minutes.

K Parliamentarian. The Stated Clerk shall ordinarily serve as Parliamentarian of the Court.

L The Stated Clerk shall also be responsible for training Clerks of Session to maintain files on Ministers and churches, to maintain historical records, to uphold constitutional compliance, and to be a resource for all the permanent Presbytery committees. The Stated Clerk will be an ex-officio member of all the permanent Presbytery Committees.

M The Stated Clerk will also have joint responsibilities with the Director of Outreach and Development in the following areas: the Presbytery Budget and Annual Review, determining the proposed docket for the stated meetings, long range planning, visiting Pastors and Sessions, any liaison needs with the General Assembly office, any special studies as assigned by the Moderator or the Presbytery, and to build relationships and networking among the Presbytery.

N Overtures and By-Laws. The Stated Clerk will process all overtures and present to the Presbytery, or from the Presbytery to the General Assembly, and be responsible to manage any related and necessary Presbytery By-Laws changes to present to Presbytery for approval.

#### 4.2 Initial Staffing

Given the size of the proposed presbytery and a comparison with the practices of the existing presbyteries of the EPC, it appears reasonable to assume an initial staff consisting of:

Stated Clerk (40% time)	\$35 000 per year
Treasurer (5 Hrs. per week)	\$4,000
Moderator (Stipend plus Expenses)	\$1,000 plus travel
Ministerial/Care-of-Candidates Comm. Chair	\$30,000 plus travel
Session Minutes Comm. Chair (volunteer)	

All candidates for the office of Stated Clerk and Chair of the Ministerial Committee will be reviewed by the Nominating Committee of the Presbytery of the West. The proposed nominees will be selected by an ad hoc Committee drawn from the leadership of the Presbytery of the West and selected Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders of the proposed Presbytery of the West. It is intended to identify the first candidates for these positions by Aug. of 2010 so that these people can serve as assistants to those currently serving in these positions in the Presbytery of the West between Oct of 2010 and June of 2011. This "internship" will be further enhanced by their participation in the annual Training Seminars given by the EPC each Fall.

#### 4.2 Budget

Staff Compensation (above)	\$70,000 per year
Staff Clerical Support (50%)	\$15,000
Staff Expenses (Communications, etc.)	\$15,000
Travel Costs for Staff and Committees	<u>\$30,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$130,000</b>

#### 4.3 Funding

The failure of a previously established "Presbytery of the Far West" was due, in part, to insufficient funds. It is therefore recommended that a minimum of \$65,000 is pledged by the churches prior to February 4, 2011. This will be collected by June 1, 2011 and will form the initial funding for the 2011 operation of the new presbytery during the second half of 2011.

By action taken in Feb, 2010 the Presbytery of the West has established a Designated Fund to receive these contributions from churches and individuals in the proposed Presbytery of the Pacific area. Such contributions will be over and above the churches normal giving to the Presbytery of the West. By action taken in Oct. 2010 the Presbytery of the West pledged \$30,000 to this fund as well.

## 4.5 Church Planting

The careful but vigorous planting of new churches must be a key strategy for the growth of the Body of Christ throughout this proposed Presbytery of the Pacific. This must be a key consideration in all future budgeting

## 5.0 Meetings

### 5.1 Presbytery

The proposal contained here and in 6.0 (Implementation Schedule) is based on two key understandings. The first, from the Position Statement on Presbytery Development, is component number 3)

**“Commitment:** Leadership and resources are of little value if the solid commitment of Teaching and Ruling elders of each church to the connectional form of government is absent”. The second, from several books on organizational structure is the observation that “Mergers fail when the embedded cultures fail to assimilate. The key to assimilation is a heavy investment in face-to-face discussion time by all stakeholders”.

Therefore the model for all meetings will include:

A requirement that all reports from staff members, standing committees, and ad hoc committees or commissions will be written and available to all potential attendees at least one week before the meeting.

1. Meetings will be configured to “compact” the business portion into an early evening or Saturday morning time slot when those who can not travel to the site can participate by teleconference or videoconference system.
2. Meetings will be configured to encourage a significant amount of time for informal discussion on selected topics designed to develop mutual understanding of strongly held positions or beliefs.
3. Face-to-face meetings will be configured to allow adequate time for examinations of new candidates for ordination and transferring Teaching elders. PIF’s for these people will be available to all participants at least one week ahead of time.
4. Discipline discussions will be held during face-to-face meetings whenever possible.

The Presbytery should hold three regular meetings each year.

1. The May meeting will be held in the Fresno/Sacramento/San Francisco area and will run from Friday noon to Saturday noon. It will include a worship service on Friday evening.
2. The October meeting will normally be held in the Fresno/Sacramento/San Francisco area. It will be preceded by a Leadership Retreat from 6:00 PM on Thursday to 11:00 AM on Friday. The regular meeting will run from Friday noon to Saturday noon. It will include a worship service on Friday evening and informal networking time after the service.
3. The February meeting will alternate between the Pacific Northwest and the Southern California area and will be held on Friday from noon to 10 PM. The meeting will be arranged so that it will be

effective using video conference capability for those who cannot afford the travel cost or time. Business will all be conducted during the afternoon session.

## **5.2 Ministerial/Care of Candidates Committee**

This Committee will be organized into regional subcommittees – and possibly also divided into Ministerial and Care-of-Candidates subcommittees if the workload requires. These subcommittees will do most of the face-to-face interviews with incoming Teaching Elders and Candidates. They will then report their recommendations at monthly teleconferences of the entire Committee. The entire Committee will usually meet face-to-face before each presbytery meeting.

## **6.0 Implementation Schedule**

With a view toward getting approval for this new presbytery from the 2011 General Assembly with the strong support of the existing Presbytery of the West – and a strong commitment from all of the participating churches, the following development schedule is proposed.

### **2010**

**Jan. 20:** Face-to-face review of this proposal in Sacramento on Jan 20 from noon to 5 PM

**Feb.4:** A “having slept on it” sharing of reactions and possible modifications by all potential participants during the Presbytery of the West meeting in Denver

**Apr. 30 - May 1:** First review with the leadership of the Presbytery of the West in conjunction with their May meeting in San Ramon, CA. **Jun :** Review of details and listening to concerns by all participants during a lunch-hour meeting during the GA in Denver

**Sep. 30:** First review with all TEs at the Presbytery of the West pastors’ retreat in Estes Park, CO Approval of the Stated Clerk-in-training and the Ministerial Comm. Chair-in-training will be requested at this meeting. This was done and the Presbytery on the following day elected RE Ron Bengelink as Assistant Stated Clerk and TE David Brogren as Assistant Min. Comm. Chair effective Nov. 1, 2010

### **2011**

**Feb. 4:** Formal presentation and request for support to the Presbytery of the West meeting in Fresno, CA. At a meeting prior to the presbytery the future Presbytery of the Pacific will meet to select a Nominating Committee

**Apr. 15:** Submit the proposal to the GA leadership for inclusion in the 2011 General Assembly

**May 6&7:** A meeting of the future Presbytery of the Pacific will select the first Moderator and organize and select the Chairs of all other committees. (Ministerial Committee chair having been already selected.)

**Jun. 23 -25, 2011:** Approval by the General Assembly meeting in Memphis (??)

**Sep 30:** First meeting of the Presbytery of the Pacific – possibly starting as a combined meeting with the Presbytery of the West

## **6.1 Critical Milestones**

The following are critical milestones that must be successfully completed prior to advancing toward the next sequential milestone:

- 1. Apr.30 - May 1, 2010.** First Review with the leadership of the Presbytery of the West in conjunction with their May meeting –successfully completed
- 2. September 30, 2010:** First review with all TEs after the Presbytery of the West pastors retreat – successfully completed
- 3. February 4, 2011:** Formal presentation and request for support to the Presbytery of the West , followed by the passage of a motion to the 31<sup>st</sup> General Assembly to implement this Presbytery
- 4. June 23-25, 2011:** Approval of the motion to implement the Presbytery of the Pacific

## APPENDIX A

### Contact Information

Al Campbell:	<a href="mailto:andcampbell@scbglobal.net">andcampbell@scbglobal.net</a>
Jeff Chandler	<a href="mailto:jeff@fpweb.org">jeff@fpweb.org</a>
Scott Koenigsaecker	<a href="mailto:Scott@Sequimcommunitychurch.org">Scott@Sequimcommunitychurch.org</a>
Bill McIntosh:	<a href="mailto:tanglewood97@yahoo.com">tanglewood97@yahoo.com</a>
Bob Badgley:	<a href="mailto:rbadgley@cwnet.com">rbadgley@cwnet.com</a>
Chris Larsen:	<a href="mailto:christian.larsen@scbglobal.net">christian.larsen@scbglobal.net</a>
Chuck Shillito (via Secretary Cathy Ross):	<a href="mailto:cathyross@trinitypress.com">cathyross@trinitypress.com</a>
Cliff Graves:	<a href="mailto:cgraves@fopc.org">cgraves@fopc.org</a>
David Abdo:	<a href="mailto:dabdo@fpcfresno.org">dabdo@fpcfresno.org</a>
Dave Bogren:	<a href="mailto:djbogren@yahoo.com">djbogren@yahoo.com</a>
Dave Fenska:	<a href="mailto:davefenska@yahoo.com">davefenska@yahoo.com</a>
Don Sytsma:	<a href="mailto:donsytsma@gmail.com">donsytsma@gmail.com</a>
Jerry Voss:	<a href="mailto:longhorn49@sbcglobal.net">longhorn49@sbcglobal.net</a>
Jim Barstow:	<a href="mailto:jbarstow@fpcroseville.org">jbarstow@fpcroseville.org</a>
Kirk Bottomly:	<a href="mailto:jbottomly@fopc.org">jbottomly@fopc.org</a>
Lana Roberts:	<a href="mailto:lroberts@fpcfresno.org">lroberts@fpcfresno.org</a>
Larry Carlson:	<a href="mailto:rotsapic@centurytel.net">rotsapic@centurytel.net</a>
Linda Line:	<a href="mailto:LLine714@sbcglobal.net">LLine714@sbcglobal.net</a>
Nancy Duff:	<a href="mailto:nduff@fpcroseville.org">nduff@fpcroseville.org</a>
Tony Stiff:	<a href="mailto:astiff@fpcroseville.org">astiff@fpcroseville.org</a>
Paul Irwin:	<a href="mailto:irwinpr@hotmail.com">irwinpr@hotmail.com</a>
Rob Hock:	<a href="mailto:roberthock@genext.net">roberthock@genext.net</a>

Guy Boyer: [biggboyer@yahoo.com](mailto:biggboyer@yahoo.com)

Ron Bengelink: [rbengelink@comcast.net](mailto:rbengelink@comcast.net)

Scott Dickson: [scott@sierrapres.com](mailto:scott@sierrapres.com)

Scott Downing: [scott@srpc.org](mailto:scott@srpc.org)

Shawn Robinson: [srobinson@claytoncc.com](mailto:srobinson@claytoncc.com)

Tommy Allen: [tallen@fepc.org](mailto:tallen@fepc.org)

Scott Farmer: [scott@cpcdanville.org](mailto:scott@cpcdanville.org)

Rick Nylund: [rick.nylund@claytoncc.com](mailto:rick.nylund@claytoncc.com)

Brad Briegleb: [bazbriegleb@hotmail.com](mailto:bazbriegleb@hotmail.com)

Lee Camp: [LCamp@pacbell.net](mailto:LCamp@pacbell.net)

David Schottky: [dschottky@fopc.org](mailto:dschottky@fopc.org)

Robin Kelly: [kellyview@msn.com](mailto:kellyview@msn.com)

Mark Ford: [fsharp4d@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fsharp4d@sbcglobal.net)

Lee Ault: [leeault@comcast.net](mailto:leeault@comcast.net)

Cliff Graves: [cgraves@fopc.org](mailto:cgraves@fopc.org)

Chris Rivett: [conchrisrivett@sure.west.net](mailto:conchrisrivett@sure.west.net)

Linda Gantenbein: [lgantenbein@comcast.net](mailto:lgantenbein@comcast.net)

Tom Naylor: [tomnaylor@comcast.net](mailto:tomnaylor@comcast.net)

Suzi Kneedler: [rescuemon@gmail.com](mailto:rescuemon@gmail.com)

Larry Jung: [larry@jvillepres.org](mailto:larry@jvillepres.org)

Cathy Burkholder: [cathy@cpcdanville.org](mailto:cathy@cpcdanville.org)

Bill Haslim: [bill@cpcdanville.org](mailto:bill@cpcdanville.org)

Paul Bergquam: [pbergquam@aol.com](mailto:pbergquam@aol.com)

Ron Owens: [rcowens@eastonpres.com](mailto:rcowens@eastonpres.com)

Selma Wright: [selmaw@sbcglobal.com](mailto:selmaw@sbcglobal.com)

## Appendix B

### EPC POSITION STATEMENT ON PRESBYTERY DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of this position statement is to be a guide to the General Assembly in making decisions concerning the establishment of new presbyteries or the realignment of current boundaries.

The church as the body of Christ is composed of all those persons who profess Jesus as their Lord and Savior, together with their children. The church on earth is not limited to particular forms of government or denominational structures; nevertheless, the government of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall be Presbyterian in form. Such is government by Elders meeting in church courts in regular gradation. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church believes the perfecting of the visible church is best established where the scriptural doctrine of government by Elders gathered in church courts is practiced.

The courts of the church shall be the Session, the Presbytery, and the General Assembly. Presbytery shall be composed of all Ministers belonging to it, and two Ruling Elders for each Minister drawn from the particular churches within its bounds. The Presbytery has jurisdiction over all that belongs to the worship and ministry of a group of churches within the designated bounds. In its spiritual oversight, the mission of the Presbytery shall be:

1. The nurture and care of persons called to the office of Minister, and oversight of all transactions pursuant to call.
2. The provision of spiritual discipline according to the *Book of Discipline*.
3. The oversight of church Sessions through annual review.
4. The maintenance of peace and unity within the congregations.
5. The establishment and development of churches.
6. The encouragement of evangelism, renewal, and ministries of compassion within the congregations and Presbytery.
7. The active participation in the life of the General Assembly.
8. The organization of the Presbytery for maximum advancement of the Gospel and the Kingdom.
9. The provision of resources to member congregations promoting effective evangelism, education, stewardship, officer training, and the like.

In pursuit of its mission the question naturally arises as to what constitutes a viable Presbytery. Viability may be defined as “the ability with maximum efficiency to achieve a stated mission.” The basic components of a viable Presbytery within the Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall be understood as the following:

1. **LEADERSHIP:** A Presbytery must have adequate personnel resources to support the local church as well as Presbytery’s committees and commissions.
2. **FINANCIAL RESOURCES:** Sufficient resources must be available to support the mission and life of a Presbytery.
3. **COMMITMENT:** Leadership and resources are of little value if the solid commitment of Teaching and Ruling Elders of each church to the connectional form of government is absent.

## Appendix C

### The Missional Church

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church wants to clarify for its member churches who we are and what we do as the United States and many other nations become mission fields that are larger, more spiritually diverse and more antagonistic to the Gospel than ever before.

The term “missional” has become common and therefore highly nuanced. We desire to define missional in a simple and specific way so that each EPC church can commit to a unified, obedient pursuit of the expansion of the Kingdom of God.

1. A missional church grasps that God is a missionary God and that “it is not so much God that has a mission for his church in the world, but that God has a Church for His mission in the world.”
2. A missional church believes that the mission of God is rooted unalterably in the Bible, God’s infallible Word. Therefore a missional church believes that the essence of God’s mission is to extend the reign of God and is summed up in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
3. A missional church is a visible community of authentic disciples of Jesus Christ **who** gathers for celebration, prayer and teaching and then disperse locally and globally as His missionaries to love and serve people. In so doing a missional church both pursues and welcomes sinners as they are drawn into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. The greater purpose in all this is that the earth will be filled with the worship of God.
4. A missional church believes it is more than just a collection of individuals, but that it is a community called together by God both to love Him and to serve Him.
5. A missional church is concerned with more than maintaining programs for existing members; it is called to mobilize its people both individually and as a community to daily self-sacrifice for the hurting world around them. A missional church is both inwardly strong and outwardly focused.
6. A missional church perceives that the essence of these things is the essence of its existence. Therefore, a missional church will constantly seek to reevaluate itself as to whether or not its emphasis, organization and activity effectively positions the church to partner with God in His mission.
7. A missional denomination:
  - a) Believes ministry begins with the local church
  - b) Is made up of local congregations committed to being missional
  - c) Believes that the Presbyteries and General Assembly, being expressions of the larger church, have an important role to play in identifying , equipping and supporting leaders and churches. They are a key link in the principle of mutual accountability toward missional ministry and Biblical standards.
  - d) Constantly examines whether its polity, structures and programs are supporting or inhibiting that missional commitment.

EPC General Assembly, June 2009

## Appendix D

### Benefits of Being Connected in the EPC

In today's world many people question the value of denominations and the Biblical basis of denominations. In the eyes of many they are often arcane, bureaucratically enmeshed, and ineffective. The blunt truth is that in many instances the criticisms are more than fair.

Yet, while bad denominations are a bad idea, we also believe that there is such a thing as a Biblical, effective, and relevant denomination. In short, we think that in God's economy we have the ability—as local churches and leaders—to make each other better as we work together. Indeed, we think that many instinctively grasp the value of being a part of a dynamic, well grounded, goal-oriented, and forward-looking organization. At the heart of it, we think many intuitively grasp this because God has called us to be a part of a body larger than ourselves. Indeed, this is our Biblical conviction.

Below is a basic statement of our convictions about the value, importance, and imperative of being an active part of a Biblical denomination such as the EPC. We believe:

**1. *Working together to fill the Great Commission matters:***

There are moments in ministry, such as foreign and domestic missions, or national disaster, when linking together with other churches across a national spectrum allows us to take on still larger challenges. Historically, the EPC has done this through Argentine outreach, church planting, establishing institutions for training leaders such as the Jumper Center in Brazil, Muslim missions, and national disaster such as Katrina Relief.

**2. *Denominational standards for professionally trained, regionally ordained and nationally recognized ministers matter:***

In today's world many do little more than ordain themselves, or are ordained by the immediate group of people whom they lead. While we affirm personal calling and the importance of a local body affirming that calling, we view the office of a Presbyterian Teaching Elder as a profession, as well as a calling, and hold to the historic Presbyterian value of an educated ministry.

By ordaining through the Presbytery and upholding standards of ordination nationally through the General Assembly, our Teaching Elders can legitimately claim that they are professionally trained, regionally ordained, and nationally recognized. We believe that challenges of ministry in our culture demand no less than this and the Pastors are more fully positioned to carry out their office when the wider church ordains them.

**3. *Real networking, training, and equipping with like-minded churches and leaders matters:***

We affirm the value of many of the equipping organizations of which local EPC may be members. That said, we believe there is a unique benefit in networking and learning with (and from) those churches who share our particular beliefs and philosophy of ministry. We seem to have a unique potential to learn and grow with those churches and leaders with whom we are already connected and who share our most basic convictions.

While we are grateful for the increasing emphasis on training and networking within the EPC, we believe that EPC should set as a goal becoming a first-class equipping and training organization, unique in that we do this as a denomination.

4. ***Real accountability matters:***

The history of the church makes it clear that accountability—doctrinal, ethical, and ministry practice as expressed through evangelism and discipleship—matters. In too many situations pastors, leaders, or churches are able to evade the responsibilities of their office or calling as a community by being accountable only to those whom they lead or to themselves. Others claim an accountability which has no real basis in vows or authoritative structure. We believe that this accountability is vital to the church's integrity and witness to the world.

5. ***Real relationships outside your local church matter:***

We believe that a Scriptural commitment to the unity of the church necessarily places us in relationships beyond our local church. Some of this we've covered above, in the commitment to real accountability and ordination standards. Some of it we've covered above in our beliefs about networking and learning both together and from one another.

Our conviction is that unless we formally commit to these things, the press of ministry and life is such that we are increasingly likely to isolate from other churches and leaders. This isolation leaves us building only on our own ideas, resources, and prayers. It is a prescription not for ministry strength, but rather ministry weakness.

We are Presbyterians because of Scriptural conviction, believing that God Himself has called us into community. We believe that in structured community there is great strength and that ultimately to "submit to one another" is integral to the authentic community God calls us to.

## Appendix E

### Ministers Laboring Out-of-Bounds to probably be included in this Presbytery

#### California

Rev. David Flaig	Shepherd of the Hills Church, Simi Valley
Dr. Gil Odendaal	Saddleback Church, Lake Forrest
Rev. Stan Van Den Berg	Covenant Pres, Church, Orange

#### Idaho

Rev. Ehud Garcia	Lewiston
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#### Washington

Rev. James Rosenquist	Calvary Community Church, Port Townsend
Rev. Mark Gronholz	Boulevard Park Pres. Church, Seattle
Rev. Steven Haas	World Vision, Federal Way
Rev. Torrey Olson	World Vision, Federal Way

#### Retired Ministers located in this Presbytery

Rev. Jerry Autry	San Francisco, CA
Rev. Bruce Ferry	Tehachapi, CA
Rev. Paul Johnson	Renton, WA
Rev. Ed Randal	Redmond, WA
Rev. Dean Wolf	San Diego, CA
Chaplain Bradley Yorton	Oak Harbor, WA

**Appendix F**

**Other EPC Presbytery Budgets**

**(2009 – Administrative Costs only)**

<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>MidAtlant.</b>	<b>So.East</b>	<b>Florida</b>	<b>Midwest</b>	<b>Mid Am.</b>	<b>Cent. So.</b>	<b>West</b>
<b>Category</b>								
Members	6,200	9,300	8,500	2,000	11,900	6,100	14,900	14,700
<b>Expenses</b>								
Moderator	0	0	0		0		\$700	\$600
Stated Clerk	0	\$8,900	\$42,000		\$5,200		\$15,000	\$43,000
Treasurer	\$3,500	\$10,600	\$4,800		\$4,500		\$19,000	\$4,300
Ministerial Comm	\$2,000	\$4,200	\$2,500		\$5,500		\$12,000	\$5,500
Session Review.	0	0	0		\$1,200		0	0
Pres.Mtg	\$500	\$1,200	0		0		0	\$4,000
Travel	\$5,000	\$2,200	\$10,000		\$5,000		\$10,700	\$10,000
Office Support	0	\$22,000	\$3,000		\$16,500		0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,000</b>	<b>\$129,200</b>	<b>\$62,300</b>		<b>\$37,900</b>		<b>\$57,400</b>	<b>\$72,800</b>