



**Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest**  
5770 Carlson Drive  
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## **PRESBYTERY UPDATE**

July 19, 2018

Included in the July Update are the following:

- Information and Registration link for the 2018 Pastor's Retreat
- Upcoming Presbytery and General Assembly meeting dates and locations
- Churches scheduled for Session Minutes Review at the October 2018 Presbytery Meeting
- Engage 2025 – a Message from George Carey
- Thoughts from a Presbytery Host Church

### **2018 POPS Pastor's Retreat**

Every pastor needs time away for worship, teaching, community-building and relaxation. To be able to do so with brothers and sisters in Christ in a beautiful and refreshing environment is a special treat. Mt.



Hermon Christian Conference Center is located in the Santa Cruz Mountains in a quiet and peaceful setting amidst old-growth redwoods. We are pleased that our speaker will be **Rufus Smith, Pastor of Hope Evangelical Presbyterian Church** in the Memphis, Tennessee area. Hope Church is the largest church in the EPC and was the host church for the 2018 General Assembly. Beginning with dinner on Tuesday evening, October 9<sup>th</sup> and ending at noon on Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, the Retreat precedes the Fall Presbytery Meeting, which will be held

this year at Centerville Presbyterian Church in Fremont, CA. We encourage all teaching elders to plan to be there for this unique time together. Registration for the Retreat is now open through the following link:



<https://epcpops.wufoo.com/forms/sy8ba3o06vwkct/>

Payment is by check only, payable to *Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest*. Please send checks to Connie Badgley, POPS Treasurer (address below).

### **Upcoming Presbytery Meeting Dates**

October 12-13, 2018	Centerville Presbyterian Church, Fremont, CA
January 25-26, 2019	Easton Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA
May 17-18, 2019	First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield, CA
October 11-12, 2019	Covenant Community Church, Vacaville, CA

If your church is able to host one of the 2020 meetings, please contact Mark Eshoff, Stated Clerk ([mark@epcpops.org](mailto:mark@epcpops.org)).





## The Simple Joys of Hosting

*We have just concluded our turn at hosting our Presbytery, first time ever in the EPC, and I thought it might be helpful to share with the rest of our POPS family why it was such a blessing for us here at Covenant, Reno.*

*One might assume that Presbytery hosting is one of those nasty, pay-your-dues sorts of responsibilities that we connectional-church types sign up for when we join a denomination. One might suggest that this is a task that comes carrying a blow that larger churches are equipped to absorb but one that will leave smaller churches gasping and staggering. One might argue that using local church people's time, talents and treasures to support the business, fellowship, edification and worship of the regional church body is essentially an energy-sapping burden, which is why everybody ought to take their fair share of costly turns for the good of others in this hosting job. Our experience here at Covenant would argue otherwise.*

*Hosting Presbytery is an opportunity each of us, no matter our size, location or present circumstances, does not want to miss. It is a great blessing. I am certainly not saying that hosting Presbytery is easy. Not at all. It takes a lot of preparation and a lot of work on the part of many people (with great support, direction and wisdom from our POPS staff); however, it also comes with some significant and joyful blessings.*



*Hosting Presbytery brought us together as a church family. So many of our church members and friends stepped up and offered their gifts and talents to make it happen. We saw our part of Christ's body work side-by-side in a healthy way for a good purpose. After the weekend we were tired, but we affirmed it was worth the effort. High requirement. High reward. We were blessed.*

*Hosting Presbytery made our connection to our sister EPC POPS churches more real. Suddenly Presbytery wasn't just some meeting a few of our leader types go off to every once in a while: It was extremely loud and incredibly close. For a couple days, we were all a vital part of our denominational doings. We experienced the truth that the authentic church, and the theological community that helps define and encourage our identity, extends well beyond our local property and our local concerns. We shared tangibly and sacrificially in ways that mattered in that broader expression of Christ's Church that is our EPC POPS. And that felt good. That was good. We were a blessing. And we were blessed.*

*Hosting the Presbytery gave so many of our Covenant, Reno folks an opportunity to see for themselves why we are so happy and blessed to be part of this EPC denomination, to hear the good and authoritative teaching from God's Word, to bow in prayer again and again, to shake hands and rub shoulders with brothers and sisters in Christ whose lives and ministries give clear and ample testimony to the goodness, greatness and graciousness of our God, to see a group of pastors, elders and observers do their business by day and then, for the most part, bring their tired minds and bodies back into the Lord's House for the essential activity of worship at night... We were blessed.*

*Thanks, POPS family, for giving us this opportunity to serve and to be blessed. When can we do it again?*

**Pastor Jay Hull**

for the people of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, Nevada



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## **POPS Treasurer's Office**

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