



PROPOSED DOCKET

**Seventh Meeting of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
January 24-25, 2020**

**Covenant Presbyterian Church, San Diego, CA
2930 Howard Avenue
San Diego, CA 92104
619-563-0560**

Meeting Theme: *Facilitating Effective Ministry and Leadership*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2020

Please note: The Presbytery proceedings today are being recorded.

8:00 am	Registration opens											
9:00	Call to Order and Opening Prayer Declaration of Quorum	Rev. Rob Perkins, Outgoing Moderator Mark Eshoff, Stated Clerk										
	Welcome Introduction of Guests	Rev. Patrick King Moderator Perkins										
	Installation of New Moderator We welcome RE Jim Conners from First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield, CA as our new Moderator.	Moderator Perkins										
	Recognition of Past Moderator	Stated Clerk Eshoff										
	Opening Worship											
	Worship in Song	Covenant Worship Team										
	Sermon Lana Roberts recently retired as Associate Pastor of Congregational Care at First Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA. We will celebrate her ministry later in the agenda.	TE Lana Roberts										
	Moderator's Time of Prayer	Moderator Conners										
10:05	Stated Clerk's Report Presbytery Voting Guidelines Handouts Absences without Excuse (October 10-11, 2019):	Stated Clerk Eshoff										
	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">TE Mark Almie</td> <td style="width: 50%;">TE Greg Livingstone</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TE Joe Cole</td> <td>TE Mgrdich Melkonian</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TE David Flaig</td> <td>TE Melaku Mekuria</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TE Samuel Kim</td> <td>TE Ron Musch</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TE Scott Larson</td> <td>TE Dennis Tarr</td> </tr> </table>	TE Mark Almie	TE Greg Livingstone	TE Joe Cole	TE Mgrdich Melkonian	TE David Flaig	TE Melaku Mekuria	TE Samuel Kim	TE Ron Musch	TE Scott Larson	TE Dennis Tarr	
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TE David Flaig	TE Melaku Mekuria											
TE Samuel Kim	TE Ron Musch											
TE Scott Larson	TE Dennis Tarr											
	Approval of the Docket											

Docket (continued)

10:10 **Session Minutes Review Committee** RE Janet Goodman, Chair
Chairman Goodman will review the process and request a minimum six commissioners (four ruling elders and two teaching elders) to volunteer to assist in her review today.

Scheduled Reviews for January:

Centerpoint Community Church	Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church
Centerville Presbyterian Church	Fremont Presbyterian Church
Christ Church East Bay, Berkeley	Hope Pesbyerian Church, Folsom
Covenant Community Church, Vacaville	Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church
Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno	Sierra Presbyterian Church

Reviews Outstanding from October 2019 Meeting:

The Table, San Francisco, CA
St. John’s Assyrian Presbyterian Church, Turlock, CA

10:20 **Preview of Breakout Session Options**
The Healthy Small Church
Posture vs. Position
Transformational Ministry
Creating a Positive Volunteer Culture
Officer Training in the EPC
Praying for the Pashtuns

10:50 Break

11:00 **Breakout Session #1**

12:00 **Lunch**

- Session Minutes Review Committee excused first and meets in separate room
- E2025 Home Team and the POPS Mission Committee will share a couple of tables

1:15 **Breakout Session #2**

2:15 Return to Main Meeting

2:25 **Report from the General Assembly Nominating Committee** TE Dave Ricketts

2:30 **Mission Committee Report** RE Carl Kuhn, Chair

2:45 **Ministerial Committee Report** TE David Abdo, Chair

Dissolution of Call

The congregation of Christ Church East Bay Church has agreed with TE Bart Garrett’s request to dissolve the pastoral relationship between the church and him. Bart has accepted a call as Pastor/Head of Staff at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church.

MOTION: To dissolve the pastoral relationship between Christ Church East Bay, Berkeley, CA and TE Bart Garrett effective February 23, 2020 and transfer his credentials to ECO Bluewater Presbytery.

Docket – Ministerial Committee (continued)

Dissolution of Call

The congregation of Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church and TE Sam Fielder have agreed to dissolve the pastoral relationship between the church and him.

MOTION: To dissolve the pastoral relationship between Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, Moraga, CA and TE Sam Fielder effective December 31, 2019.

Transitional Pastor Call

The Session of Centerville Presbyterian Church has called TE Dennis Tarr, a member of our Presbytery, as Transitional Pastor. This appointment is now a formal call in our polity. The Ministerial Committee has reviewed the written Covenant between the parties and has approved the Terms of Call.

MOTION: To approve the call of TE Dennis Tarr as Transitional Pastor for Centerville Presbyterian Church, Fremont, CA beginning January 1, 2020.

Pastoral Call Changes

TE Dave Brogren (Active-Retired) has been offered a part-time pastoral position at an independent church in Arroyo Grande, CA.

MOTION: To approve the Out of Bounds call of TE Dave Brogren (Active-Retired) as Associate Pastor for Harvest Church, Arroyo Grande, CA beginning January 1, 2020.

Other Changes

Joe Cole, Pastor, New Song Community Church, Carlsbad, CA (Out of Bounds)
Samuel Kim, Assoc. Pastor, Fullerton Presbyterian Church, Fullerton, CA (Out of Bounds)
Chris Popadich, Assistant Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA

Update on Searches

3:15 **Community of Churches** – Valley Community Church TE Guy Boyer

3:30 Break

3:50 **Proposed Revision to the Book of Government of the EPC** Stated Clerk Eshoff

These overtures were approved by the General Assembly in June 2019 to be sent to the EPC presbyteries for their approval. The wording of the overtures is attached (Attachment 2 pgs. 18-19). You are reminded that, while we may debate the substance of a Descending Overtures, we may not amend the Overtures in any way, but may only vote for or against their adoption. Under the requirements of our Constitution these overtures must be voted on individually and the vote must be counted and recorded.

Descending Overture 19-A

To amend *Book of Government* 11-2C which addresses the examination of candidates for ordination.

MOTION: To approve Descending Overture 19-A

Docket – Descending Overtures (continued)

Descending Overture 19-B

To amend *Book of Government* 9-5 that would make explicit that the office of “co-pastor” is not constitutional.

MOTION: To approve Descending Overture 19-B

- 4:10 **Presbytery Review Committee Responses** Stated Clerk Eshoff
The Presbytery Minutes are submitted to the General Assembly Presbytery Review Committee annually. Once reviewed, the Stated Clerk’s response to their Exceptions and to their Notations Requiring Response must be approved by the Presbytery (see Attachment 6 pgs. 27-30).

MOTION: To approve the letter of response to the General Assembly regarding Exceptions to the 2019 POPS Meeting Minutes and the letter of response regarding Notations Requiring Response.

- 4:20 **Care of Candidates Committee Report** TE Jay Hull, Chair
Note on examination of candidates to come under care of the Presbytery:
Candidates will briefly share their spiritual journey, their sense of call and why they have chosen the EPC. The Presbytery may then examine the Candidate on the following:

- Christian experience and growth
- The motive for seeking ordination
- The candidate’s call to the Ministry.

Examination of Jarrod Puffenbarger

Jarrold is ready to come under the care of this Presbytery. He is currently under care of the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield, CA. The Session has recommended him to the Presbytery as a Candidate Under Care.

Representative speaking on behalf of candidate

MOTION: To approve Jarrod Puffenbarger to come under care of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest and approve TE (TBD) as advisor to Candidate Puffenbarger.

Constitutional Questions to the Candidate

- As you understand God’s working in your heart and life, do you continue to believe yourself called to the office of Teaching Elder?
- Do you now submit yourself to the care and supervision of this Presbytery as you prepare yourself for this office?
- Do you renew your commitment as a Christian, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, to live as becomes a follower of Jesus?

Prayer for the Candidate

Charge given to the Candidate

Docket – Care of Candidates (continued)

Examination of Yung Feng Huang

Yung Feng Huang is ready to come under the care of this Presbytery. He is currently under care of the Session of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Orange, CA. The Session has recommended him to the Presbytery as a Candidate Under Care.

Representative speaking on behalf of candidate

MOTION: To approve Yung Feng Huang to come under care of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest and approve TE (TBD) as advisor to Candidate Huang.

Constitutional Questions to Candidate

Prayer for the Candidate

Charge given to the Candidate

5:05 **Nominating Committee Report** RE Bill Myers, Chair
Several positions on POPS Care of Candidates Committee and Nominating Committee are presented for Presbytery approval.

MOTION: To approve RE Marty Brown from Hope Presbyterian Church, Folsom, CA as a member of the Care of Candidates Committee (Class of 2022).

MOTION: To approve TE Jason Yum, as a member of the Nominating Committee (Class of 2020).

Committee Members

Committee positions are still available on several Presbytery committees for the Class of 2020, 2021 and 2022. Please let the Nominating Committee Chair or respective Committee Chair know of your willingness to serve or of your recommendations of elders from your church to be considered.

5:15 **Treasurer’s Report** RE Connie Badgley, Treasurer

- 2019 Year-end POPS YTD Financials (Attachment 3 pgs. 20-23)
- 2019 Year-end POPS Askings Report (Attachment 4 pgs. 24)
- 2019 Financial Review (Attachment 5 pgs. 25-26)

5:25 **Meeting Recess and Prayer** Moderator Conners

5:30 **Dinner** Advance reservations required

7:00 pm **Worship Service**
Rev. Patrick King, Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church, San Diego, CA will be presenting the evening message. The service will also include the celebration of Communion and an offering to support the *Educational Assistance Fund*.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2020

Please note: The Presbytery proceedings today are being recorded.

8:00 am **Breakfast and Registration**

9:00 **Meeting reconvenes**

Opening Prayer

RE Jim Conners, Moderator

Declaration of a Quorum

RE Mark Eshoff, Stated Clerk

Introduction of Additional Guests

Appreciations to the Host Church

Moderator Conners

Morning Worship

Worship in Song

Covenant Worship Team

Sermon

Jim Brown is a Ruling Elder at Heritage EPC in Santa Maria, CA. He is preaching this morning as part of his examination to be a Commissioned Pastor. He is preaching on John 21:15-19, a passage assigned by the Ministerial Committee.

Moderator's Time of Prayer

Moderator Conners

9:50 **Ministerial Committee Report (continued)**

TE David Abdo, Chair

Commissioned Pastor Call

Note on examinations of candidates for Commissioned Pastor:

We will conduct the examination using the structure below, inviting two-three questions from each category in order. Please refrain from moving to suspend examination until we cover all these categories of questions.

- Theology, sacraments, English Bible
- Book of Order, history of the Church and the Reformed tradition
- Christian experience, progress in spiritual growth, and nature of the office of Teaching Elder
- (Any) stated exceptions to the Westminster Confession of Faith
- (Additional questions from any category as time permits)

Examination of Jim Brown

Jim Brown has been called as Commissioned Pastor by the Session of Heritage Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Santa Maria, CA for a term of one year. The Session has approved a one year call with duties specified as preaching the word, moderating the Session, and administering the Sacraments. Jim has signed his Ministerial Obligation Form and his Terms of Call have been reviewed and approved by the Ministerial Committee. He has completed the Discovery Workshop and has been examined by the members of the Ministerial Committee. He is recommended to the floor of the Presbytery for approval.

Jim's examination began with a sermon on a passage assigned by the Ministerial Committee. Following his sermon, the Presbytery is to examine him on his knowledge of theology and sacraments, his faith in Christ, his calling to the ministry, polity, the Reformed tradition, the Bible, and his spiritual journey. Jim has one exception to the Westminster Standards. (Attachment 1 pgs. 2-17)

Docket Ministerial Committee (continued)

Examination

Two to three questions in each category in the following order:

- Theology, sacraments, English Bible
- Book of Order, history of the Church and the Reformed tradition
- Christian experience, progress in spiritual growth, and nature of the office of Teaching Elder

Representatives speaking on behalf of Jim Brown

RE Michelle VanderMuelen
TE Dave Brogren

MOTION: To approve the examination of Jim Brown as Commissioned Pastor for a term of one year.

MOTION: To approve the Administrative Commission consisting of TE Dave Brogren (Active-Retired), RE Michelle VanderMuelen and RE Jason Walker from Heritage Presbyterian Church, Santa Maria, CA and TE _____ (TBD) and RE _____ (TBD) to install Jim Brown as Commissioned Pastor at Heritage Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Santa Maria, CA on February 16, 2020 at 10:00 am.

10:35 Break

10:55 **Community of Churches – Kingman Presbyterian Church** TE George Carey

11:10 **Report of the Session Minutes Review Committee** RE Janet Goodman, Chair

11:20 **Report of the Ministerial Committee (continued)** TE David Abdo, Chair

Retirement of Lana Roberts

Lana has lived her whole life in California's Central Valley, growing up in Hanford and moving to Fresno to attend Cal State University, Fresno. She and her husband, Brian, started attending First Presbyterian Church, Fresno in 1981, where each of them served in multiple ministry areas over many years. She started seminary in 1999 not knowing where she would end up, but graduated from Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary in 2006. She was ordained and joined the Pastoral Staff of FPC Fresno. She has since served there as Associate Pastor for Congregational Care.

MOTION: To approve the change in status of TE Lana Roberts from Active Member to Associate–Retired, with grateful appreciation for her service to First Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA, the Presbytery and the Body of Christ effective December 31, 2019.

Docket – Ministerial Committee (continued)

Retirement of Greg and Marsha Roth

Greg and Marsha served at Centerville Presbyterian Church, Fremont, CA for 19 years - Greg as Pastor/Head of Staff and Marsha as Associate Pastor. They both previously served at Glendale Presbyterian Church. Greg received an MDiv. and DMin. from Fuller Seminary and serves on numerous mission boards. Marsha received her MDiv. from Fuller and a DMin. from San Francisco Theological Seminary. They have been frequent Marriage Enrichment speakers, and have shared a deep heart for mission in their community and around the world. They will continue to serve in the mission field.

MOTION: To approve the change in status of TE Marsha Roth from Active Member to Associate–Retired, with grateful appreciation for her service to Centerville Presbyterian Church, Fremont, CA, the Presbytery and the Body of Christ, effective December 1, 2019.

MOTION: To approve the change in status of TE Greg Roth from Active Member to Associate–Retired, with grateful appreciation for his service to Centerville Presbyterian Church, Fremont, CA, the Presbytery and the Body of Christ, effective December 1, 2019.

11:50 **Omnibus/Consent Motion**

1. That the Minutes of the Sixth Stated Meeting of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest, October 10-11, 2019 be approved as posted (these minutes are available on the website).
3. Accept the report of the Ministerial Committee acting as an Administrative Commission to approve the appointment of TE Jonathan St. Clair as Acting Moderator of Christ Church East Bay, Berkeley, CA, effective February 23, 2020.
4. Renew the call of TE Jerry Voss as Stated Supply Pastor of the Millbrook Presbyterian Church for one year effective January 1, 2020, with the same terms of call and with the authority to preach the Word, administer the Sacraments, and moderate the Session.
5. Approve those Teaching Elders Ministering Out of Bounds to continue their ministry for the year 2020: TE Greg Ehlert (Campus Pastor/InterVarsity Staff, San Diego, CA); TE David Flaig (Pastor, Sun Grove Church, Elk Grove, CA); TE Melaku Mekuria (Pastor, Maranatha Ethiopian Christian Fellowship, San Diego, CA); TE Mgrdich Melkonian (Pastor to Pastors, Armenian Missionary Association of America); TE Rick Nylund (Pastor, Neighborhood Church, Pleasant Hill, CA); TE Kurt Teng (Pastor, Chinese Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA – Mandarin).

MOTION: To approve the Omnibus/Consent Motion

Docket (continued)

11:55

New Business

Moderator Conners

Important Upcoming Dates

May 14-15, 2020	Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest Meeting (#8) Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, Fair Oaks, CA
June 23-26, 2020	EPC General Assembly Hope Presbyterian Church Cordova, TN (Memphis area)
October 6-8, 2020	Pastor's Retreat at Mt. Hermon Conference Center Santa Cruz, CA
October 9-10, 2020	Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest Meeting (#9) Christ Church East Bay, Berkeley, CA
January 22-23, 2021	Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest Meeting (#10) First Armenian Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA
May 13-14, 2021 (tent.)	Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest Meeting (#11) Sierra Presbyterian Church, Nevada City, CA

Hosting Opportunities

Member churches are reminded that opportunity is available to host the Presbytery at its future meetings. Contact the Stated Clerk if you are interested in offering an invitation.

Opportunities are also available to host **Discovery Workshops** in 2020. Contact the Stated Clerk if you are interested in offering an invitation.

Meeting Evaluation (to be emailed to registered commissioners)

Nametag Removal Ceremony

12:00

Closing Prayer and Adjournment



Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
5770 Carlson Drive
Sacramento, CA 95819
(916) 452-7132

Presbytery Meeting Docket
January 24-25, 2020

ATTACHMENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
1. Jim Brown – Personal Information Form and Statements of Faith	2-17
2. Descending Overtures from the 39 th General Assembly	18-19
3. POPS 2019 Year-end Financial Statements	20-23
4. POPS 2019 Year-end Per Member Asking Report	24
5. 2019 Financial Review	25-26
6. Letters of Response to GA	27-30

Part 2: Personal Information

(please print or type)

1. Name: Brown James Charles
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Preferred Address:

134 Crescent Avenue
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Alternate Address:

Preferred Phone: 805-938-1640 Cell Work Home

Alternate Phone: _____ Cell Work Home

Email: senorbrown@yahoo.com

2. Work History:

Previous Ministry Positions	Dates
Lay missionary in Spain	1979-1982
	1984-1989

Present/Last Position (if you are currently not in a ministry position)	Dates
Public School teacher (recently retired)	1996-2019

Name: James Brown

3. Ordination Status

Ordained by (church/city/state): Heritage EPC, Santa Maria, CA as ruling elder

Ordination Date: 2002

If not ordained:

Church Membership (church, city, state): _____

Candidate Under Care of (denomination and presbytery): _____

_____ since (date): _____

4. Educational Background:

a. Name of Institution	Dates Attended	Degree Achieved
Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, IL	1973-1976	Diploma - Bible
Houghton College, Houghton, NY	1978-1978	B.S. - Bible
Westminster (West) TS, Escondido, CA	1982-1984	M.A. Religion

b. Continuing Education/Professional Development (please include dates):

Fresno State University, Fresno, CA CA Clear Teaching Credential - Spanish

c. Community and Civic Activities:

Nothing to speak of. Ocassional participation on community clean up days.

Name: James Brown

d. Presbytery and General Assembly Activities:
I've attended a time or two. That's about it.

e. Ecumenical Activity:
None

f. Special Interests, Hobbies:
Fishing, Hiking, Chess, Table tennis, Reading

g. Languages you can speak (and level of proficiency):
English - fluent
Spanish - fluent

h. Types of supervision/accountability you have found helpful in your ministry:
I like having a close friend or two to confide in. I often use my wife as a sounding board about my sermons and our role in the church.
In my current role at Heritage our session supervises me and has authorized my preaching.
More supervision by peers would be nice, but intimidating. That was something I was lacking in my years in ministry in Spain.

Name: James Brown

Part 3: Narrative

1. Life Story: In one page, describe your life's journey. Include key incidents that were significant in your formation as a person and your call to ministry. State your personal ideals and goals.

My Dad was a pastor in the UPCUSA (later changing to EV Free) during my formative years but his heart was always in missions. When I was 16 we moved to Spain where Dad started a mobile lending library of Christian literature and bibles and eventually took over pastoral responsibilities for a small church he was instrumental in establishing in Cabra, Spain.

I finished high school in Spain and returned to the U.S. for college. I had given some serious consideration to the medical profession but my Dad insisted that I finish the three year course of study at Moody Bible Institute. After finishing at Moody I transferred to Houghton College and enrolled in the pre-med program but did not finish, opting instead for the Bible/Religion degree.

I met my wife Ruth at Houghton and we were married the summer after graduation. We settled in Mammoth Lakes, CA where I continued with my summer job of driving a tow truck. I was pretty directionless at that point.

My Dad and Mom were still in Spain at the time and several months after Ruth and I were married, they called us asking if we would be willing to come to Spain for a year to get a taste of their life and ministry. We took them up on the offer and that trial year turned into nearly ten. The adjustment of those first few years in Spain was hard, especially for Ruth. During the first year she was learning a language and we were living with my parents. When we moved to Cabra and began to takeover some of my Dad's responsibilities, Ruth suffered two miscarriages which frightened and pained us.

In spite of the challenges I loved the Spanish culture, we had good friends, and my ministry was, well, comfortable. In retrospect I wish I had been more committed to the work of the kingdom and less concerned with fitting in. The Lord blessed our ministry in spite of my shallowness and lack of pursuit of Him.

Our time in Spain was put on hold so that I could attend seminary. My time at Westminster West was eye opening. It was my first exposure to a clear and cogent presentation of Reformed theology, covenantal hermeneutics, and presuppositional apologetics. I embraced them wholeheartedly. I love the unifying principle of covenant and for me, it opened the Scriptures.

Ruth and I and our first child returned to Spain following seminary and renewed our relationship with the church in Cabra. I have many fond memories of those years.

Facing challenges in our marriage relationship and feeling unsure about my call to ministry, Ruth and I returned to the U.S., Fresno, CA, got counseling, and headed in a new direction. Driving a tow truck paid the bills and allowed me the opportunity to return to school and earn my California Clear Teaching Credential (Spanish, BCLAD). When we got an offer to work in Santa Maria, we were convinced it was where God was leading, and we have been here now for 23 years. He has blessed us. I will be retiring in a couple of weeks and the time seems right to accept some responsibility at our church. May His will be done.

Name: James Brown

2. Please describe briefly (confine your answers to space allotted):

- a. My leadership style: *(How you include others in decision-making, administrative style, ways you deal with conflict, etc.?)*

Laissez-faire. I'm more interested in principle than policy. I would want / expect decisions to be made in light of the Church's mandate to worship, edify and evangelize; that Scripture alone, Grace alone, and Faith alone would guide our interaction with God, with the body, and with the world.

I'm a decent mediator, good at seeing the bigger picture, not taking sides without cause, suggesting compromise when possible.

- b. My worship emphases: *(preaching style, preferred worship emphases and style, etc.)*

I would like to see worship be more corporate; more people would share favorite passages from the Scripture, more would share encouraging words of wisdom, more would share testimony to the power and glory of God, more would sing heartily. Worship can be guided by leaders; a pastor, a musician, a teacher, but should not be driven by them. Spontaneity should be encouraged.

I'm a bit leery of technology being used to enhance our worship experience.

I'm a teacher at heart. I like developing a passage from the Scripture clearly and cogently while challenging listeners with its relevance.

- c. My call to ministry: *(What type of ministry role are you called to? What would effectiveness look like in that role?)*

I am most gifted at teaching.

One of my measures of effectiveness is the number of requests for clarification I get about what I have been covering. Good questions suggest significant internalization.

Ultimately I look for a Biblical world and life view to be broadly applied to life; that people ask themselves constantly, "what does the Bible have to say about this?", or, "What worldly assumptions may be clouding my judgement about this issue?".

I am drawn to the idea of nurturing peacemakers, people who humbly accept the Word planted in them.

Name: James Brown

3. Comment briefly on your views as relates to:

a. Spiritual giftedness

Ideally a person's gifts define their role in the local church. The implication is that everyone contributes since all have the Spirit.

I broadly categorize spiritual gifts into speaking or serving, but the distinction is more a matter of emphasis and is not intended to limit opportunities to minister.

Any individual claim to a particular gift would be evaluated by the fruit of their ministry in that area.

b. Charismatic expression in worship (manifestation of spiritual gifts)

There is a place for what have been called "sign" gifts in today's church. I struggle with defining that place. While too much authority or influence is often attributed to "words of knowledge" or "prophecies" it is well established in Scripture that God speaks through men occasionally to a specific situation to provide guidance, encouragement or reproof. That said, I tend to err on the side of being skeptical of all such utterances.

c. Women in ordained office

I am uncomfortable with the ordination of women, especially as teaching elders. I would probably not be a member of a church with a woman pastor. However Paul's restrictions in I Timothy are taken, some limitation of authority seems in order.

We have women ruling elders in our church and they have been godly part of our church leadership since its inception.

I am amenable to working with women who are teaching elders and honoring their call.

d. Presbyterian connectional system

Presbyterianism has an sound biblical basis and I like the term "connectional". In terms of accountability, guidance, encouragement and resourcing the benefits are many. Still, it seems impractical on a large scale. Frequent travel is time consuming and expensive. Legislative and beaucroatic processes can be slow.

These concerns arise out of my experience, not at church presbyteries, but at public school councils and committee meetings, which are quite another animal.

4. Do you agree with the system of government of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church?

Yes No (please explain briefly):

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

Yes No (please explain as part of your answer to #6 below)

Name: James Brown

6. Do you take any exceptions to the *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms*?

Yes No

If yes, please identify the topic with the specific chapter, paragraph, or question number with which you take your exception. (*Note: you will need to submit a written statement of these exceptions to the Ministerial Committee and presbytery during the examination process.*)

The Sabbatarian guidelines seem too restrictive. I feel free to pick up a good novel, take a hike, or even watch MacGuyver reruns on a Sunday afternoon. I do appreciate the standard the Catechisms sets for honoring the Lord's day.

7. Do you willingly offer the sacrament of infant baptism to Christian parents?

Yes No (please explain briefly):



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Candidates Statement of Faith (Part 1)

Provide a brief statement for each item in your own words of your own beliefs.

Candidate's Name _____ Date _____

1. The Bible (Bibliology)

2. God the Father (Theology proper)

3. Jesus Christ (Christology)



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4. The Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)

5. Mankind (Anthropology)

6. Sin (Hamartiology)

7. Salvation (Soteriology)



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8. Satan

9. Angels and Demons

10. The Church (Ecclesiology)

11. The Spiritual Life of the Believer



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12. Future Things (Eschatology)

13. Evangelism

14. Spiritual Gifts



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Candidates Statement of Faith (Part 2)

Provide a brief statement in your own words for each item. Return to the Chair of the Candidates or Ministerial Committee before you are scheduled for your oral ordination exam.

Candidate's Name _____ Date _____

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

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



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

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



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

6. Explain your philosophy of ministry.



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

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



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

**Descending Overture from the 39th General Assembly
Evangelical Presbyterian Church**

Descending Overture 19-A

To amend *Book of Government* 11-2C which addresses the examination of candidates for ordination.

Current <i>Book of Government</i> 11-2C	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 11-2C amendment. Additions in <i>bold italics</i>
The Presbytery shall make public examination of the Candidate as to Christian experience and growth, the motive for seeking ordination, and a statement regarding the person’s call to the Ministry.	The Presbytery shall make public examination of the Candidate as to Christian experience and growth, the motive for seeking ordination <i>by a Presbytery of the EPC</i> , and a statement regarding the person’s call to the Ministry.

Whereas a Candidate for ordination is expected to experience both an “inward call” to the ministry per se as well as an external call to a specific church or agency [BoG 10-1], and

Whereas there are many Christian churches and agencies with a wide range of theology and polity who offer such calls, and

Whereas some who come seeking ordination in the EPC have been previously ordained in non-reformed bodies or unaffiliated churches, and

Whereas even within the bodies of churches and agencies that call themselves Presbyterian and reformed there are significant differences of belief and practice;

Therefore, it is necessary that the presbytery, when considering a candidate to come under its care to prepare for ministry in a church or agency of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, carefully consider the candidate’s motivation to not only be an ordained Teaching Elder, but also to be a part of the EPC.

Descending Overture 19-B

To amend *Book of Government* 9-5 that would make explicit that the office of “co-pastor” is not constitutional.

Current <i>Book of Government</i> 9-5A.1	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 9-5A.1 amendment. Additions in <i>bold italics</i>
<p>Within the office of Teaching Elder there are a variety of callings that require ordination. God distributes to each gifts according to the common needs of the Church. These include:</p> <p>A. Pastor</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1. Titles</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A Teaching Elder may be called by a congregation to be a Pastor or Associate Pastor. Sessions may call a Teaching Elder as Assistant Pastor, Transitional Pastor, or invite a Teaching Elder as Stated Supply Pastor, or Occasional Supply Pastor. Presbytery must approve all such positions. These are the only recognized callings for Teaching Elders in a congregational setting.</p>	<p>Within the office of Teaching Elder there are a variety of callings that require ordination. God distributes to each gifts according to the common needs of the Church. These include:</p> <p>A. Pastor</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1. Titles</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A Teaching Elder may be called by a congregation to be a Pastor or Associate Pastor. Sessions may call a Teaching Elder as Assistant Pastor, Transitional Pastor, or invite a Teaching Elder as Stated Supply Pastor, or Occasional Supply Pastor. Presbytery must approve all such positions. These are the only recognized callings for Teaching Elders in a congregational setting. <i>The office of the ‘co-pastor’ is not a constitutionally recognized calling in a local church. Except as otherwise provided in the Book of Government, the Pastor of the church shall be the Moderator of Session.</i></p>

Rationale:

The Fifth General Assembly (1985) “sustained the Permanent Judicial Commission’s opinion regarding the office of the office of co-pastor as being non-existent. Relationships between Teaching Elders and EPC congregations sanctioned by the *Book of Government* are those of Pastor, Associate Pastor and Assistant Pastor” (**Minutes, 5-40**). The position of the EPC since this 1985 action has remained unchanged.

The reason for the proposed amendment to the *Book of Government* is that churches that have come to the EPC recently have questioned the constitutionality of the prohibition. It has been argued that its “not explicit in the *Book of Government* that co-pastor is prohibited.” This amendment would explicitly declare in the *Book of Government* the position of the EPC since 1985.

Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
2019 Income and Expenses

(as of December 31, 2019)



	YTD Actual (11/30/19)	December Activity	Total Year to Date	Annual Budget	Variance
INCOME					
POP Church Support	\$123,038.00	\$15,217.75	\$138,255.75	\$145,000.00	(\$6,744.25)
Total Income	\$123,038.00	\$15,217.75	\$138,255.75	\$145,000.00	(\$6,744.25)
EXPENSES					
Care of Candidates Committee					
Chairman Salary	\$4,125.00	\$375.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500	0.00
Travel- Chairman	1,348.47	0.00	1,348.47	1,000.00	(348.47)
Travel - Committee	1,123.17	337.61	1,460.78	3,000.00	1,539.22
Total Care Of Candidates Expenses	6,596.64	712.61	7,309.25	8,500.00	1,190.75
Church Planting Network					
Focal Stipend	916.63	83.37	1,000.00	1,000.00	(0.00)
Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	800.00
Assessments	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Total Church Planting Expenses	916.63	83.37	1,000.00	2,300.00	1,300.00
Church Revitalization					
Stipend- Liaison	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Other Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Total Church Revitalization Expenses	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	1,000.00
Ministerial Committee					
Chairman Salary	27,500.00	2,500.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00
Travel - Chairman*	6,022.71	0.00	6,022.71	5,000.00	(1,022.71)
Travel - Committee Members	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Total Ministerial Committee Expenses*	33,522.71	2,500.00	36,022.71	36,500.00	477.29

Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
2019 Income and Expenses

(as of December 31, 2019)



	YTD Actual (11/30/19)	December Activity	Total Year to Date	Annual Budget	Variance
Moderator					
Other Expenses	75.96	0.00	75.96	300.00	224.04
Stipend	1,375.00	125.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
Travel Expenses	488.00	0.00	488.00	3,000.00	2,512.00
Total Moderator Expenses	1,938.96	125.00	2,063.96	4,800.00	2,736.04
Other Expenses					
Leadership Training	1,252.52	0.00	1,252.52	600.00	(652.52)
Mission Committee	4,393.65	1,312.50	5,706.15	7,000.00	1,293.85
Pastors' Retreat Subsidy	2,550.44	0.00	2,550.44	1,500.00	(1,050.44)
Total Other Expenses	8,196.61	1,312.50	9,509.11	9,100.00	(409.11)
Presbytery Meetings					
Meals and Expense Subsidy	5,015.96	0.00	5,015.96	7,500.00	2,484.04
Resource/Teaching Honorariums	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	2,000.00	500.00
Total Presbytery Meeting Expenses	6,515.96	0.00	6,515.96	9,500.00	2,984.04
Stated Clerk's Office Expenses					
Administrator's Salary	9,166.63	833.37	10,000.00	10,000.00	(0.00)
Clerk's Salary	33,000.00	3,000.00	36,000.00	36,000.00	0.00
Communications	675.00	225.00	900.00	1,200.00	300.00
Conference Service	0.00	300.00	300.00	400.00	100.00
Misc. Supplies	1,044.65	52.16	1,096.81	500.00	(596.81)
TE Background Checks	246.85	0.00	246.85	500.00	253.15
Website and Computer Support	52.14	0.00	52.14	2,500.00	2,447.86
Travel - Clerk and Assistant	7,609.65	1,306.53	8,916.18	7,200.00	(1,716.18)
Commissions/Other Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Total Stated Clerk's Office	51,794.92	5,717.06	57,511.98	58,800.00	1,288.02

Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
2019 Income and Expenses

(as of December 31, 2019)



	YTD Actual (11/30/19)	December Activity	Total Year to Date	Annual Budget	Variance
Treasurer's Expenses					
Review of Financial Records	500.00	0.00	500.00	600.00	100.00
Office Supplies	488.52	0.00	488.52	500.00	11.48
Officers and Directors Insurance	2,030.00	0.00	2,030.00	2,000.00	(30.00)
Professional Support	330.00	30.00	360.00	400.00	40.00
Stipend Salary	3,208.37	291.63	3,500.00	3,500.00	(0.00)
Travel	2,079.38	(96.60)	1,982.78	1,500.00	(482.78)
Payroll Expenses	4,038.56	360.19	4,398.75	5,000.00	601.25
Total Treasurer's Expenses	12,674.83	585.22	13,260.05	13,500.00	239.95
Total Expenses	\$123,157.26	\$11,035.76	\$134,193.02	\$145,000.00	\$10,806.98
NET INCOME (LOSS)	(\$119.26)	\$4,181.99	\$4,062.73	\$0.00	\$4,062.73

Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
2019 Fund Summary
 (as of December 31, 2019)



Funds	Prior Month Balance	Income / Transfers	Expenses	Balance
DESIGNATED FUNDS				
Chaplain's Travel Fund	\$1,910.01	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,910.01
Disaster Relief Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Educational Assistance Fund	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00
New Church Development	1,905.00	0.00	0.00	1,905.00
Pastor's Care & Support	4,628.00	5,600.00	5,600.00	4,628.00
Pastor's Retreat	606.09	0.00	744.00	(137.91)
Women's Ministries	112.90	0.00	24.52	88.38
World Outreach Engage 2025	6,996.46	100.00	0.00	7,096.46
Total Designated Funds	\$17,358.46	\$5,700.00	\$6,368.52	\$16,689.94
RESERVE FUND (undesignated)	\$54,008.82	\$13,783.85	\$11,393.57	\$56,399.10
TOTAL BANK BALANCE	\$71,367.28	\$19,483.85	\$17,762.09	\$73,089.04

Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
2019 Year-End Giving (Per Member Asking)



CHURCH	MEMBERS (2017)	REQUESTED PMA	ACTUAL GIVING	% of TOTAL
Centerpoint Community	995	\$14,925	\$10,000	67%
Centerville Presbyterian - Fremont	384	5,760	6,501	113%
Christ Church East Bay	198	2,970	0	0%
Clayton Community	169	2,535	3,000	118%
Community Presbyterian - Danville	1,682	25,230	31,311	124%
Covenant Community - Vacaville	211	3,165	3,165	100%
Covenant Presbyterian - Orange	340	5,100	4,800	94%
Covenant Presbyterian - Reno	172	2,580	5,000	194%
Covenant Presbyterian - San Diego	126	1,890	1,350	71%
Easton Presbyterian	191	2,865	2,940	103%
Fair Oaks Presbyterian	985	14,775	9,375	63%
First Armenian Presbyterian - Fresno	178	2,670	2,670	100%
First Presbyterian - Bakersfield	605	9,075	9,000	100%
First Presbyterian - Fresno	558	8,370	8,670	103%
First Presbyterian - Hanford	117	1,755	1,421	81%
Fowler Presbyterian	165	2,475	0	0%
Fremont Presbyterian - Sacramento	955	11,925 *	13,000	91%
Heritage EPC - Santa Maria	38	570	435	76%
Hope Presbyterian - Folsom	133	1,995	0	0%
Kingman Presbyterian	126	1,890	2,438	129%
Millbrook Presbyterian - Fresno	31	465	0	0%
Moraga Valley Presbyterian	830	12,450	10,380	83%
New Life Community - Covelo	17	255	270	106%
San Ramon Presbyterian	190	2,850	3,180	111%
Sanger Community	95	1,425	1,500	105%
Sierra Presbyterian	314	4,710	6,000	127%
St. John's Assyrian Presb. - Turlock	182	2,730	0	0%
The Table - San Francisco	40	600	0	0%
Valley Community - San Jacinto	52	780	0	0%
Woodlake Presbyterian	79	1,185	1,350	114%
Total	10,158	\$149,970	\$137,756	90%

* Amount reduced in recognition of office space provided to POPS by the church (\$2,400)

**EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
Financial Review for 2019**

Financial Review Date January 14, 2020

Wells Fargo - Checking		
Ending Bank Balance December 31, 2019		\$ 73,089.04
Outstanding Checks	Check Numbers	Amount
Robert K Perkins	1097	\$ 115.44
First Presbyterian Church	2147	\$ 300.00
Stephen Morris	1248	\$ 337.61
First Presbyterian Church	1249	\$ 3,500.00
Tony or Sherei Winter	1252	\$ 1,000.00
Katherine's Bookkeeping Service	1251	\$ 30.00
Robert K Perkins	2660	\$ 115.44
First Presbyterian Church	1253	\$ 800.00
Total Outstanding Checks		\$ 6,198.49
Outstanding Deposits		
Total Outstanding Deposits		\$ 2,472.00
Ending Checkbook as of December 31, 2019		\$ 69,362.55

All of the accounts were compared to Bank records for balances carried forward from 2018, receipts and expenditures reported for 2018 and closing balances for 2019. All figures were found to be correct.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Hartwell

Katherine Hartwell
Katherine's Bookkeeping Service
600 Railroad Avenue Suite B
Winters CA 95694
Phone: (530) 795-4254
Fax: (530) 795-4567

**EPC Presbytery of Pacific Southwest
2019**

Beginning Bank Balance	63,980.30
Cleared Deposits	163,278.19
Cleared Checks	154,169.45
Ending Bank Balance	73,089.04
Uncleared Deposits - 2019	2,472.00
Uncleared Checks - 2019	6,198.49
Beginning 2019 Check Register	60,461.68
Deposits for 2019	165,450.19
Checks - 2019	156,549.32
Ending 2019 Check Register	69,362.55



Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
5770 Carlson Drive
Sacramento, CA 95819
(916) 452-7132

January 25, 2020

Dr. Jeff Jeremiah, Stated Clerk
EPC Office of the General Assembly
5850 TG Lee Blvd., Suite 510
Orlando, FL 32822

Dear Jeff,

Included below is the response to the exceptions to the 2018 EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest minutes taken by the 39th General Assembly at Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church. Thank you for the careful review that the Presbytery Review Committee made of our actions and minutes, and for the recommended corrections to the process.

The Stated Clerk acknowledges the misread of Book of Order G. 21-1-C-2-b (p.54) where administrative commissions must be made up of RE's from two different churches (not TE's and RE's from two different churches). This error was corrected in all actions subsequent to the inaugural meeting of the Presbytery. All future administrative commissions did and will include RE's from at least two different churches in the Presbytery.

Our Presbytery is off to a great start in building community together, supporting one another, resourcing our churches, and protecting the Gospel of Christ. Would it be unreasonable to expect a perfect report next year after review of our 2019 minutes? I'm hoping for it!

Grace and peace,

Mark Eshoff, Stated Clerk
EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest

CC: Jerry Iamurri, GA Assistant Stated Clerk
Presbytery Review Committee



Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
5770 Carlson Drive
Sacramento, CA 95819
(916) 452-7132

January 25, 2020

Dr. Jeff Jeremiah, Stated Clerk
EPC Office of the General Assembly
5850 TG Lee Blvd., Suite 510
Orlando, FL 32822

Dear Jeff,

Included below are our responses to the *notations requiring responses* and *notations* identified by the Presbytery Review Committee regarding the 2018 EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest minutes. Thank you for the careful review that the Presbytery Review Committee made of our actions and minutes, and for the recommended corrections to the process.

NOTATIONS REQUIRING RESPONSES:

3a. The action of the Presbytery to approve a Housing Allowance for TE Karen Bolte.

TE Bolte is a chaplain serving in a secular institution that does not take any action to review or approve housing allowance amounts. In the absence of such an approving ecclesiastical body, the Presbytery took this action on her behalf. The action was not to approve her terms of call (ref. Acts of Assembly 05-08.5), but to simply approve the amount eligible for housing allowance. The action was reviewed in detail by the Presbytery Ministerial Committee, which recommended the action to the floor of the Presbytery for approval.

3b. Financial reports are not included in the narrative or as an addendum to the minutes for all meetings.

Financial reports for each of the three stated meetings are attached and will be included in all future minutes.

3c. The minutes state that Candidate for Ordination, Bryan Yeo, was examined on his “views” of the subjects listed in G.12-2C.

This was a mistake in terminology in the minutes. Candidate Yeo was examined on his “knowledge” of the subjects listed in G. 12-2C. A notation will be added to the approved minutes to reflect this.

This is the same for Candidate Scott Larson.

TE Scott Larson transferred into the Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest, having already been ordained and serving in the EPC Presbytery of the Midwest. Therefore, the examination focusing on his “views” was proper.

3d. The action of the Ministerial Committee to change the status from “Associate Retired” to “Active Retired” for TE’s Baird and Farmer do not provide enough information if this meets constitutional requirements (ref. G19B.1.d.).

G19-2B.1.d does not address the status of those Teaching Elders who are retired but seek to continue in service to the Presbytery. G15-2 addresses the status of retired teaching elders and states “...*the Retired Teaching Elder may request Presbytery to be restored to Active Status. The Presbytery shall make the determination based on the Teaching Elder’s participation in the meetings of the Presbytery and need not require a specific call to be restored to Active Status.*” Both TE Baird and TE Farmer meet this criterion. I assume that the constitutional language and reference does not need to be repeated in the minutes for each action of this nature.

3e. Motions to approve candidates for ordination should read “Motion was sustained to approve the examination for ordination,” and not “sustained to ordain...”

Future actions will reflect the recommended language for motions regarding ordination. However, should there not be language somewhere where the ordination is actually approved? Please respond when able.

3f. The Presbytery shall assign a Teaching Elder in the Presbytery that is ordinarily not the Candidate’s Pastor.

Our Presbytery acknowledges the desire to select advisors to Candidates Under Care that are not from the same church, and in most cases, seeks to do so. However, a technical reading of the Book of Order language would allow the assignment of an Associate or Assistant Pastor. It uses the phrase “Candidate’s Pastor,” not the phrase “pastor or Teaching Elder from the same church.” In the case of Candidate Ryan Suzuki, TE Bill Haslim is not Pastor of Community Presbyterian Church, but an Associate Pastor. The same is true in regard to Candidate Beth Paz. TE Lana Roberts is an Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA, not the Pastor. Both Candidate Harrell and Candidate Kim were assigned advisors who were Pastors of the churches in which they were under care. Both were extraordinary circumstances due to large geographical distances between the Candidates’ place of residence and other churches. Both Candidate Harrell and Candidate Kim have since withdrawn as Candidates Under Care.

- 3g. **There is no mention of Terms of Call for Joshua Hall as required in the Acts of Assembly 12-11 p. 204. This is also true for Tommy Branagh and TE David Abdo.**

The Terms of Call for all three of these TE's were reviewed and approved by the Ministerial Committee as part of their recommendation to the Presbytery. Reference to this approval was included in the minutes for TE Tommy Branagh (1-26). Future minutes will state this and not assume that normal protocol is followed.

NOTATIONS

- 4a. **The Administrative Commissions to ordain and/or install did not provide a written report to be inserted in the minutes.**

In the Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest, an administrative commission must always provide minutes of its meetings to the Stated Clerk in order to be dismissed. The Presbytery meeting minutes state, "the minutes of the Administrative Commission have been received by the Stated Clerk." If it is currently required by the OGA that all Administrative Commission minutes be included in the Presbytery meeting minutes, please advise.

- 4b. **The term "installation commission" should not be used in place of "Administrative Commission to perform the duties of ordaining and/or installing a teaching elder."**

Future commissions will be entitled correctly.

- 4c. **The minutes are not numbered sequentially; pages should be numbered, as well as paragraphs, for all meetings (ref. Acts of Assembly 16-25.2).**

Minutes will now include page numbers as well as paragraph numbers. However, the Acts of Assembly 16-25.2 does not stipulate that paragraphs should be numbered, only that pages should be numbered. Is there additional guidance for which I should be made aware?

Let me know if these responses are satisfactory. Thank you for your input.

Grace and peace,

Mark Eshoff, Stated Clerk
EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest

CC: Jerry Iamurri, GA Assistant Stated Clerk
Presbytery Review Committee