

# PROPOSED DOCKET



Sixteenth Meeting of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest  
January 27-28, 2023  
Covenant Presbyterian Church  
1855 N Orange Olive Road, Orange, CA 92865  
714-998-6650

*Please note: The Presbytery proceedings today are being recorded.*

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2023

8:00 am	Breakfast	
9:00	<b>Call to Order and Opening Prayer</b>	TE Lana Roberts, Moderator
	<b>Declaration of Quorum</b>	RE Mark Eshoff, Stated Clerk
9:10	<b>Welcome</b>	TE Scott Larson
	<b>Introduction of Guests</b>	Moderator Roberts
9:20	<b>Worship</b>	
	<b>Call to Worship</b>	Moderator Roberts
	<b>Worship in Music</b>	Covenant Worship Team
	<b>Sermon</b>	Ryan Pearce
	The sermon will be given by Ryan Pearce, who has been called as Associate Pastor for Care Ministries at Community Presbyterian Church, Danville, CA. He will be preaching on Luke 5:1-11, a passage assigned to him by the Ministerial Committee.	
9:40	<b>Moderator's Time of Prayer</b>	Moderator Roberts
10:00	<b>Stated Clerk's Report</b>	Stated Clerk Eshoff
	Presbytery Voting Guidelines Absences without Excuse (October 21-22, 2022) TE Annual Reports Discovery Workshop – February 11, 2023 Changes to the Proposed Docket	
	<b>Approval of the Docket</b>	
10:10	<b>2023 Parity List</b>	Stated Clerk Eshoff
	The EPC Book of Order establishes the ratio of ruling elders to teaching elders at 2:1 for Presbytery meetings, commissions, and certain committees. Several criteria are used to determine the number of ruling elder commissioners to the Presbytery from each church. ( <i>Attachment 1 - pg. A2</i> )	
	<b>MOTION: <u>To approve the 2023 POPS Parity List</u></b>	

**Examination of Ryan Pearce**

Ryan Pearce is being called as Associate Pastor for Care Ministries at Community Presbyterian Church, Danville, CA by the congregation of the church and is seeking ordination in the EPC. He has signed his Ministerial Obligation Form and Ethical Affirmation Form and will participate in an upcoming Discovery Workshop. He has been examined by the members of the Ministerial Committee and his current Terms of Call have been reviewed and approved by the Committee. He is recommended to the Presbytery for approval.

Ryan's examination began with a sermon on a passage assigned by the Ministerial Committee. The Presbytery is to examine him on his knowledge of theology and sacraments, his faith in Christ, his calling to the ministry and the nature of the office of a minister of the Word, polity, the Reformed tradition, the Bible, and his spiritual journey. Ryan has one exception to the Westminster Standards. (*Attachment 2 - pgs. A3-A20*)

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

- Knowledge of Theology, Sacraments, English Bible
- Knowledge of the Book of Order, history of the Church and the Reformed tradition
- Christian experience, progress in spiritual growth, and the nature of the office of Teaching Elder
- Exception to the Westminster Standards

**Representatives speaking on behalf of Ryan Pearce**

**MOTION:** To approve the examination of Ryan Pearce, including his exception to the Westminster Standards, and receive him into full membership in the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest, contingent on the finalization of his call from the Community Presbyterian Church, Danville, CA congregation on February 5, 2023.

**MOTION:** To approve the Administrative Commission of TE's Tyler Scott and Cathy Burkholder from Community Presbyterian Church, Danville, CA, and RE's Jim Birkenseer, Bill Pearce, and Geoff LaTendresse from Community Presbyterian Church, Danville, CA and Steph Sawyer and Don Busboom from San Ramon Presbyterian Church, San Ramon, CA to ordain and install Ryan Pearce as Associate Pastor for Care Ministries at Community Presbyterian Church, Danville, CA on February 19, 2023 at 10:45 am.

10:55 Break

11:15 **Special Presentation – Church Planting** TE Tom Ricks, National Director of Church Planting  
Tom Ricks will encourage and assist us in discerning how God might be calling us to grow His kingdom through church planting, and identifying the necessary steps to pursue that call.

12:15 pm Lunch / Clerk of Session Training

1:15 **Special Presentation – Church Planting** (continued)

- 2:15      **Regional Group Meetings**  
The Presbytery will break up into geographic groups to discuss opportunities and challenges regarding working together on church planting.
- 3:25      Break
- 3:45      **Session Review Committee** RE Janet Goodman, Chair  
RE Goodman will report on the reviews from the October 2022 meeting and update the Presbytery on how to improve the effectiveness of Session Minutes.
- Scheduled reviews for January 2023:
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Centerpoint Community Church, Roseville  | Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church               |
| Centerville Presbyterian Church, Fremont | Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento     |
| Christ Church East Bay, Berkeley         | Hope Presbyterian Church, Folsom            |
| Covenant Community Church, Vacaville     | Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church           |
| Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno       | Sierra Presbyterian Church, Nevada City, CA |
- 3:55      **Treasurer's Report** RE Connie Badgley, Treasurer
- 2022 Year-end POPS YTD Financials (*Attachment 3 – pgs. A21-A24*)
  - 2022 Year-end POPS Askings Report (*Attachment 4 – pg. A25*)
  - 2022 Year-end Financial Review (*Available at the Handout Table*)
- 4:05      **Ministry Update – Heritage EPC, Santa Maria, CA** TE Mark Wright
- 4:20      **Care of Candidates Committee Report** TE Jay Hull, Chair
- Examination of Ryan Bogert**
- Ryan is ready to come under the care of this Presbytery. He is currently under care of the Session of Centerville Presbyterian Church, Fremont, CA. The Session has recommended him to the Presbytery as a Candidate Under Care and he has met with the POPS Care of Candidates Committee.
- The Candidate 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 in the EPC
  - The candidate's call to the Ministry
- Representative speaking on behalf of Candidate**
- MOTION:** To approve Ryan Bogert to come under care of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest and approve TE (TBD) as advisor to Candidate Bogert.

(continued)

## Constitutional Questions to the Candidate

Moderator Roberts

- 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

5:00      **Church Health Report**      TE Mike Griffin, Church Health Coordinator

5:15      **Old Business - Ascending Overture from Covenant Presbyterian Church, Orange, CA**  
In May 2022, the Session of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Orange, CA presented an overture for endorsement by our Presbytery to potentially be forwarded to the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly in June 2023. The overture was made available to the Presbytery at the May 2022 POPS meeting for reading only. The motion was on the docket for the October 2022 meeting and a motion was made to postpone the action to this meeting. A representative from the church will speak to the motion. The Overture and the input from the Parliamentarian are attached. (*Attachment 6 – pgs. A27-A28*)

**MOTION:** To endorse the Ascending Overture from the Session of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Orange, CA regarding changing the wording in the Westminster Confession, Chapter 29 - The Lord's Supper.

5:30      Meeting Recess and Dinner

7:00      **Presbytery Worship Service** (in the Sanctuary)  
The POPS Worship Service will be led by TE Scott Larson and the staff and leaders from Covenant Presbyterian Church. Communion will be served and an offering will be received for the POPS New Church Development Fund.

# PROPOSED DOCKET



## Sixteenth Meeting of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest January 27-28, 2023

*Please note: The Presbytery proceedings today are being recorded.*

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2023

8:00 am Breakfast

9:00 **Call to Order and Opening Prayer** TE Lana Roberts, Moderator  
**Appreciation to the Volunteers and Staff of the Host Church**

9:10 **Worship and Prayer**

**Call to Worship** Moderator Roberts

**Worship in Music** Covenant Worship Team

**Sermon** Brandon Morrow

The sermon this morning will be given by Brandon Morrow, candidate for Pastor at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, Moraga, CA. He will be preaching on 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, a passage assigned to him by the Ministerial Committee.

**Moderator's Time of Prayer** Moderator Roberts

9:45 **Ministerial Committee Report** (continued)

#### **Examination of Brandon Morrow**

Brandon Morrow has been called as Pastor by the congregation of Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. He is ordained in the Reformed Church in America (RCA) and is seeking to transfer his ordination from the East Sioux Classis of the RCA to the EPC. Brandon has signed his Ministerial Obligation Form and Ethical Affirmation Form and will participate in an upcoming Discovery Workshop. He has been examined by the members of the Ministerial Committee and his current Terms of Call have been reviewed and approved by the Committee. He is recommended to the Presbytery for approval.

Brandon's examination began with a sermon on a passage assigned by the Ministerial Committee. The Presbytery is to examine him on his views of theology and sacraments, his faith in Christ, his calling to the ministry and the nature of the office of a minister of the Word, polity, the Reformed tradition, the Bible, and his spiritual journey. Brandon has no exceptions to the Westminster Standards.  
(Attachment 7 – pgs. A29-A46)

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

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

**Representatives speaking on behalf of Brandon Morrow**

**MOTION:** To approve the examination of Brandon Morrow and receive him into full membership in the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest.

**MOTION:** To approve the Administrative Commission consisting of TE's David Ricketts from Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church and Scott Farmer (Retired), and RE's Julie Lekki, Woody Tausend and Jim Wiley from Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church and Grace Babayan from Clayton Community Church, Clayton, CA, to install Brandon Morrow as Pastor at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, Moraga, CA on March 5, 2023 at 9:30 am.

10:25 Break

10:45 **Mission Committee Report** TE Dave Fenska, EPC World Outreach Liaison  
TE Sam Knottnerus, POPS E2025 Home Team Chair  
TE's Fenska and Knottnerus will update the Presbytery on the ministry to the Pashtuns and TE Melaku Mekuria will share about his ministry to Ethiopians.

11:05 **Ministry Update – Rural Compassion** TE Scott Downing

11:20 **Care of Candidates Committee Report** (continued) TE Jay Hull, Chair

**Examination of Rachel Dorsey**

Rachel is ready to come under the care of this Presbytery. She is currently under care of the Session of Centerpoint Community Church, Roseville, CA. The Session has recommended her to the Presbytery as a Candidate Under Care and she has met with the POPS Care of Candidates Committee.

The Candidate 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 in the EPC
- The candidate's call to the Ministry

**Representative speaking on behalf of Candidate**

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

**Constitutional Questions to the Candidate**

Moderator Roberts

**Prayer for the Candidate**

**Charge given to the Candidate**

12:00 pm **Omnibus Motion**

1. That the Minutes of the Fifteenth Stated Meeting of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest, October 21-22, 2022, be approved as posted (these minutes are available on the website).
2. That the Administrative Commission to install Matt Young as Assistant Pastor of Outreach for Covenant Presbyterian Church, Orange, CA be dismissed with appreciation for their service to the Presbytery, to the pastor, and to the congregation. The commission's minutes are on file with the Stated Clerk.
3. That the Administrative Commission to install Matthew McCleary as Assistant Pastor for Congregational Life at Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento, CA be dismissed with appreciation for their service to the Presbytery, to the pastor, and to the congregation. The commission's minutes are on file with the Stated Clerk.
4. That the Administrative Commission to install Nancy Duff as Pastor of Covenant Community Church, Vacaville, CA be dismissed with appreciation for their service to the Presbytery, to the pastor, and to the congregation. The commission's minutes are on file with the Stated Clerk.
5. That the Administrative Commission to install Bryan Yeo as Pastor of Centerpoint Community Church, Roseville, CA be dismissed with appreciation for their service to the Presbytery, to the pastor, and to the congregation. The commission's minutes are on file with the Stated Clerk.
6. That the Installation Service for Greg Flagg as Associate Pastor for Discipleship at Sierra Presbyterian Church, Nevada City, CA be changed to January 29, 2023 at 6:00 pm due to health reasons.
7. To accept the report of the Ministerial Committee to approve TE Greg Alderman as Interim Supply at Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church.

**MOTION: To approve the Omnibus actions**

12:05

**Important Upcoming Dates**

February 11, 2023	Discovery Workshop Sanger Community Church, Sanger, CA
May 18-19, 2023	Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest Meeting (#17) First Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA
June 20-23, 2023	EPC General Assembly Cherry Hills Community Church, Highlands Ranch, CO
October 10-12, 2023	POPS Pastor's Retreat Mission Springs Conference Center, Scotts Valley, CA
October 13-14, 2023	Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest Meeting (#18) Covenant Community Church, Vacaville, CA
January 26-27, 2024	Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest Meeting (#19) Location TBA

**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.

We are looking for churches to host **Discovery Workshops** in 2023. Contact the Stated Clerk if you are interested in offering an invitation.

12:15

**Adjournment and Closing Prayer**

Moderator Roberts





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

**Presbytery Meeting Docket**  
**January 27-28, 2023**

**ATTACHMENTS**

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2. Personal Information and Statement of Faith – Ryan Pearce	A3-A20
3. 2022 POPS Year-End Financial Statements	A21-A24
4. 2022 POPS Year-End Per Member Asking Report	A25
5. 2022 POPS Year-end Financial Review – Available at Handout Table	
6. Ascending Overture	A27-A28
7. Personal Information and Statement of Faith – Brandon Morrow	A29-A46

## 2023 Parity List

	CHURCH	CITY	STATE	A MEMBERS	B TE's	C ELDERS (# members)	D ELDERS (# TE's)	E ADD'L ELDERS	F FINAL AMOUNT
1	Centerpoint Community Church	Roseville	CA	763	1	<u>3</u>	2	1	4
2	Centerville Presbyterian Church	Fremont	CA	296	1	2	<u>2</u>	1	3
3	Christ Church East Bay	Berkeley	CA	138	2	2	<u>4</u>	1	5
4	Christ Community Church	Carmichael	CA	1,000	1	<u>3</u>	2	2	5
5	Clayton Community Church	Clayton	CA	122	2	2	<u>4</u>	1	5
6	Community Presbyterian Church of Danville	Danville	CA	1,741	5	6	<u>10</u>	1	11
7	Covenant Community Church of Vacaville	Vacaville	CA	130	1	<u>2</u>	2	1	3
8	Covenant Presbyterian Church of Orange	Orange	CA	212	2	2	<u>4</u>	1	5
9	Covenant Presbyterian Church of Reno	Reno	NV	181	1	2	<u>2</u>	1	3
10	Covenant Presbyterian Church of San Diego	San Diego	CA	103	2	2	<u>4</u>	1	5
11	Easton Presbyterian Church	Fresno	CA	200	1	2	<u>2</u>	1	3
12	Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church	Fair Oaks	CA	800	1	<u>3</u>	2	2	5
13	First Armenian Presbyterian Church	Fresno	CA	168	1	2	<u>2</u>	2	4
14	First Presbyterian Church	Bakersfield	CA	452	3	2	<u>6</u>	2	8
15	First Presbyterian Church	Fresno	CA	562	2	2	<u>4</u>	2	6
16	First Presbyterian Church	Hanford	CA	96	0	<u>2</u>	0	2	4
17	Fowler Presbyterian Church	Fowler	CA	149	2	2	<u>2</u>	2	4
18	Fremont Presbyterian Church	Sacramento	CA	930	3	3	<u>6</u>	2	8
19	Heritage EPC	Santa Maria	CA	33	1	2	<u>2</u>	2	4
20	Hope Presbyterian Church	Folsom	CA	100	1	2	<u>2</u>	2	4
21	Kingman Presbyterian Church	Kingman	AZ	135	1	2	<u>2</u>	2	4
22	Millbrook Presbyterian Church	Fresno	CA	16	0	2	<u>2</u>	2	2
23	Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church	Moraga	CA	691	2	3	<u>4</u>	2	6
24	New Life Community Church	Covelo	CA	13	0	<u>2</u>	0	1	3
25	San Ramon Presbyterian Church	San Ramon	CA	152	1	2	<u>2</u>	1	3
26	Sanger Community Church	Sanger	CA	45	1	2	<u>2</u>	1	3
27	Sierra Presbyterian Church	Nevada City	CA	226	2	2	<u>4</u>	1	5
28	St. John's Assyrian Presbyterian Church	Turlock	CA	184	1	2	<u>2</u>	1	3
29	The Table	San Francisco	CA	40	1	2	<u>2</u>	1	3
30	Valley Community Church	San Jacinto	CA	20	1	2	<u>2</u>	1	3
31	Wintersburg Presbyterian Church	Santa Ana	CA	554	1	2	<u>2</u>	1	3
32	Woodlake Presbyterian Church	Woodlake	CA	89	0	<u>2</u>	0	1	3
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>10,341</b>	<b>44</b>				<b>140</b>

## Additional Teaching Elders

\* No Annual Report received

Administrative Call	1
Military Chaplains	0
Institutional Chaplains	2
Outside the Bounds/Evangelists/Missionaries	8
Active-Retired	5
Without a Call	10

**TOTAL FOR PARITY CALCULATION****70**

x 2 =

**140**Associate Members (*not counted for parity*)

Serving Outside the Boundaries	1
Retired	20

Inactive Members (*not counted for parity*)

0

**TOTAL ALL TEACHING ELDERS****91**

The Parity List is intended to ensure two Elders for each Minister. Our existing churches have been allocated additional Elders in order to maintain parity as per BOG 19-2A4.

A - Number of active members reported in GA statistics for the previous year

B - Number of TE's in Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest

C - Number of RE's based on number of members (BOG 19-2A4.a)

D - Number of RE's based on number of TE's (BOG 19-2A4.a) - Minimum of 2

E - Additional number of RE's allowed to achieve a 2:1 parity (BOG 19-2A4.b) - Rotating amongst churches

F - Total RE's allowed to represent this congregation at all Presbytery and General Assembly meetings [ (F)=(E)+larger of (C) or (D) ]

## Part 2: Personal Information

(please print or type)

1. Name: Pearce Ryan Jefferson  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Preferred Address:

811 Heritage Place  
San Ramon CA 94526

Alternate Address:

Preferred Phone: 9255770414 ☒ Cell ☐ Work ☐ Home

Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Cell ☒ Work ☐ Home

Email: ryan.j.pearce@me.com

### 2. Work History:

Previous Ministry Positions	Dates
Pastor of Student Ministries   Renaissance Church, NJ	6/20-6/22
Assistant Minister/Pastoral Intern   Groomsport Presbyterian Church	9/18-7/19
Pastoral Resident   Newtown Square Presbyterian Church	9/17-6/18
Mountaineering Guide/Pastoral Counselor   Beyond Malibu Camp	2017/2018
UMin Greek Intern   University Presbyterian Church	9/15-6/16
Summer High School Intern   CPC Danville	2013/14

Present/Last Position (if you are currently not in a ministry position)	Dates
Minister of Care Ministries   CPC Danville	9/2022

Name: Ryan Pearce

### 3. Ordination Status

Ordained by (church/city/state): \_\_\_\_\_

Ordination Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If not ordained:

Church Membership (church, city, state): Community Presbyterian Church (CPC), Danville CA

Candidate Under Care of (denomination and presbytery): POPS

EPC since (date): 10/2016

### 4. Educational Background:

a. Name of Institution	Dates Attended	Degree Achieved
Princeton Theological Seminary	2016-2020	M.Div
Washington State University	2011-2015	B.S. in Neuroscience

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

Name: Ryan Pearce

c. Community and Civic Activities:

Danville Adult Softball League (Fall 2022 third place!!!)

d. Presbytery and General Assembly Activities:

None yet, but would hope to serve with Care of Candidates or MinCom!

Name: Ryan Pearce

e. Ecumenical Activity:

f. Special Interests, Hobbies:

Backpacking, Rock Climbing, Running  
Cooking, cycling, reading, fishing  
Woodworking

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

g. Languages you can speak (and level of proficiency):

h. Types of supervision/accountability you have found helpful in your ministry:

I have always appreciated when bosses have mentored me intentionally. This looks like giving me chances to experiment and verbally process what I think, allowing me to try my ideas and fail before helping me to reflect upon how it could have gone better. However, I need some direction.

I enjoy reflection and general guidelines, but I do not do well with over involved bosses OR disengaged bosses. I am under no illusions that I know it all, and I thrive when someone goes out of their way to intentionally coach me and encourage me and provide some clear feedback.

I also find a culture of spiritual engagement in fellowship with those in ministry with me to be really important. "How are you?" and "What is the Lord teaching you?" are vital questions to my ministry's health.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### 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.

I was born in Cincinnati, Ohio to two New Yorkers who moved to Cincinnati for my dad to pursue a career in Marketing. We are a typical white, middle class family that grew up in the evangelical church tradition. My parents became Christians when I turned two, so my childhood was spent watching the development of their faith as they learned more about who Jesus was and, in turn, who Jesus said they were. They raised me and my two little sisters in the church, educating us as best they knew how to about what the practice of faith was and why they believed that Jesus had any specific claim over our lives. As we grew older, my father had different work opportunities around the States. As a result, I had the experience of moving every few years growing up. My itinerant childhood resulted in the church becoming my social foundation and my first community I loved as my own.

I stumbled into ministry as a senior in high school through the middle school ministry at my church. I fell in love with hanging out with my sixth-grade guys. We would play games, laugh a ton, and then talk about the Bible and Jesus. Through teaching them, I discovered a growing desire to know more about Jesus and where he fit into my life.

When I entered college, I joined a fraternity and became enamored with Greek life. I tried seeking acceptance through what my pastor called "garden variety fraternal hedonism". Yet, I never found the identity and acceptance in my fraternity as I did under the umbrella of Jesus' love and the church. A fraternity brother of mine invited me to a local church small group, and I again found the sense of identity within the lifestyle and identification as a Christian. The rest of my time in college was spent doing similar ministry as had been done to me. I loved working in ministry and, because I began taking my faith seriously during this time and leaning into the challenges of living life with Christ in a world that did not, I saw incredible growth in myself across this time.

As I neared graduation and reflected upon my time in college, my neuroscience degree and plans to pursue a career as a doctor began to feel fake and shallow. I reached the startling realization that I felt God's calling into ministry full time, not just for a summer. I applied for a year-long college ministry internship at University Presbyterian Church in Seattle, WA and did a year of full time vocational ministry before seminary. Within three weeks working there, I felt like the Lord was confirming my sense of calling into ministry.

After two years of seminary, I applied for a fully funded year long International Field Education placement in Groomsport, Northern Ireland. This year was pivotal in my understanding of pastoral ministry and personal development. I dove deeply into full time pastoral work, learned how to counsel and walk with a congregation, discipled young men in the church, and generally learned the daily rhythms of ministry.

After seminary, the Lord led me to Renaissance Church to work as the Pastor of Student Ministries. The two years spent on staff there were challenging. I was working in a culture foreign to me, ministering to students with needs that are real and deep, and the church culture was much different to what I had grown up with. I found myself stretched as a minister there. God humbled me, strengthened me, and forced me to grow in both grace and grit through my time there. And now I am back in CA!

My life has shaped my character very distinctly. I deeply desire intentional





Name: Ryan Pearce

**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.?)*

I tend to be a verbal processor, and I view others as very helpful in helping me make decisions. They are foils that allow me to talk out the different situations, and I am diligent in seeking others advice, but ultimately I will make a decision based upon what I think, feel, and pray to be true or faithful. I also tend to be decisive when I make a decision, moving forward as soon as the situation allows and I feel confident. I am not a natural administrator, and I have systems in place to help me manage this deficiency.

I am naturally a person who strives for harmony, but if something needs to be said, I will say it. I value dialogue deeply, and I desire to hear and understand another's point of view while being given the same opportunity. That said, I can be quite blunt when I need to, and I am a firm believer that honesty is better than platitudes. I think the church should be a place where we should be the most honest and most open to feedback, because our worth is not ultimately in our work, but in the Cross. But, it should always be offered in grace, not anger or frustration.

Because of my desire for conversation and clarity, I try to address conflict when I am able. It is definitely a growing edge of mine. But, I would rather talk about it than hide away from things.

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

I am an exegetical preacher who loves going through a text with the people and expand what we find, but I think exegetical preaching falls flat without a strong emphasis upon the practical. My notes are broken down into intro, "what does the text say?", and "what now?" A sermon should encourage people forward to live lives rooted in the gospel and live out the gospel during the week. If they are not hungry for Jesus on Wednesday, worship that I led didn't do its job.

I have experience in traditional worship settings, but I am drawn to a modern style. I actually quite enjoy a traditional service now, but there is something in modern worship music that allows me to connect in worship with the Lord in a powerful way. A modern service with some semblance of a liturgical structure that emphasizes scripture, the proclamation of the Word, prayer, and perhaps a hymn or two is what I would ideally love.

Perhaps uniquely, I view pastoral care as a time of worship for me. Each interaction with someone in crisis, challenge, or transition seems to include an invitation from God to "take off your shoes, for this is holy ground." I worship through service.

Name: Ryan Pearce

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

I feel drawn towards pastoral ministry with regular preaching and teaching, as well as regular interaction with the congregation through counseling, discipling, and bible studies. I have found that I am most directly drawn toward pastoral counseling, pastoral care, and preaching. I love to minister to the soul of those who I am caring for with the Word. And I deeply value being with people in their crises to be a minister of presence.

Effectiveness is measured as the intersection point of faithfulness to what God has called me to and diligence to work hard at those things. Am I doing my work well? Are people responding? Is my preaching well researched, revised, and practiced? Am I sabbathing well? Is my family my priority? Am I taking time to listen to God? Am I responding to God working in my prayer life? If I can answer yes to these questions, I would feel that I am being effective. My main goal is to be faithful to what God has placed in front of me to deal with today. Some days that is strategic planning, other days that is the people, and some days that is taking the time to rest. Effectiveness is something that is not easily defined or measured, but it is loosely summed up by the adjective "faithful".

Specifically regarding pastoral care, effectiveness looks like "holy listening" and compassionate communication. Holy listening involves listening for where a person REALLY is, and seeking to acknowledge that while pointing them toward the Lord. Compassionate communication seeks to speak to where a person is, not where they want to be with grace and truth.

### **3. Comment briefly on your views as relates to:**

#### **a. Spiritual giftedness**

We each were designed by the Lord to be an individual, with our own things to offer to the world. (Psalm 139). Paul makes it quite clear in his writing that he believes there are different roles for those in the church. It is a body, comprised of many parts (1 Cor 12). There are many roles for those in this body. Some are to step into leadership roles, some are to serve (Eph 4, Titus 1, 1 Tim 3, etc.) Some people are gifted in their sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, others are gifted in their capacity for wisdom, some to service, and others to leadership. (1 Cor 14, Romans 12). The bible goes so far as to say "use whatever gift you have received to serve others" (1 Peter 4:16). Whatever we have to serve with, I believe that God can use to glorify his kingdom and himself.

Name: Ryan Pearce

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

I have long acknowledged myself jokingly as a "presbycostal", someone who is within the Reformed tradition, but deeply impacted by the ministry of the Holy Spirit. I believe that some are gifted with the expression of the Holy Spirit in incredible ways. Some are gifted with words of prophecy, of revelation. Paul testifies to this, encourages it, and offers advice how to guard against abuse of this gift in 1 Cor 14. Other gifts are seen throughout the scriptures as well.

We need to rediscover a reliance upon listening and praying for words of wisdom from God. Additionally, God gives us ways to relate to him in ways we cannot understand. I believe in tongues as an expression of intimacy, though I am uncomfortable with their expression in worship services because of the uncertainty regarding their interpretation. Again, 1 Cor 14 advises us, and we must be diligent to not slip into thinking that the Holy Spirit is something we control, but is an equal person of the Trinity with the Father and Son.

c. Women in ordained office

I am a firm believer in the ordination of women to the office of elder in the church, whether that is as a teaching or as a ruling elder. I think that the common biblical texts used to support a strict complementarian view of women in ministry (most notably 1 Corinthians 14:34-36, 1 Timothy 2:11-15, and Ephesians 5) are misconstrued and read out of context to support a traditional patriarchal expression of church life. Instead, I hold firmly that God co-equally expressed the Imago Dei through men and women, and that God has not distinguished between women and men in giving the Holy Spirit to us. I welcome the opportunity to

Name: Ryan Pearce

d. Presbyterian connectional system

To exist as a community of believers in a place means that we stand within the history of the church. As such, we should acknowledge that we stand within a community of believers both locally AND globally. The presbyterian connectional system serves to remind support churches that we do not exist alone. It serves to bring structure and accountability to the church, both of which are necessary on a micro-level and a macro-level. The elders of a church help provide the structure locally, the presbytery nationally/internationally.

However, I also believe that the church is called to locate itself within the Church, irrespective of denomination and/or association. So, as long as we connect with sister presbyterian churches as well as other local churches, I am in favor of it.

One of the ways we connect is through the minutes review of the member churches. Another is the examination of presbyterian pastors.

**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: Ryan Pearce

**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.)*

4.1: I don't believe in a literal six days of creation as put forth in young earth creationism. Seems to contradict other evidence that we have of how the world was created. Biblical references needed. (a day is like a thousand years etc)

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

☒ Yes    ☐ No (please explain briefly):



A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

## Candidates Statement of Faith

*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.*

Ryan Pearce

07/27/2022

Candidate's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. The Bible (Bibliology)

God has revealed himself to humanity throughout the ages, and God continues to speak to us today through the Holy Spirit's inspiration of Scripture (2 Tim 2:15-17). All of the Old and New Testament books are divinely inspired by God through the Holy Spirit (1 Pet 1:19-21). They are called Testaments because they testify to the work of God for humanity, which is seen in Jesus Christ, the word of God from beyond all time. The Word is still alive and active, and it continues to enable believers to discern God's voice. (Heb. 4:15). Scriptures are to be examined, interpreted, and studied in their original context and purpose within the larger narrative of salvation testified to in the larger story of the Bible.

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

God is (Ex 3:14). Before the entire world was created by him, God has existed from before all time, complete within his existence (Col 1:17). He created the world (Gen 1:1, Job 38:4-11) and as creator, God's providence reigns over all creation (Jer 10:11-3). As creator, God gives us life and purpose in him and through his story of redemption and reconciliation (Acts 17:28). God cannot be rivaled, equaled, or surpassed.

### 3. Jesus Christ (Christology)

Jesus Christ is God incarnate. He came to the world to reconcile humanity to God from their bondage to, and the death effected by, sin. The Old Testament foretold Christ and points to Christ. The New Testament reveals, testifies to, and affirms Christ's fulfillment of God's promise, desire, and heart towards humanity. Jesus is fully human and fully God, uniquely united yet completely distinct. He is without sin. Jesus lived a perfect life, gave himself up on the cross for us in death, and then rose three days later from the grave in a display of his power over sin and death. Through his death on the cross, Jesus is the atonement for our sin, and the one from whom our righteousness and salvation comes from.

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

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead who was sent to us to teach us about God, fill us with the same power that raised Jesus from the grave, draws us to God, and dwell within us when we respond to Jesus in faith. The Holy Spirit helps us to live in the freedom from sin that Jesus won for us. The Holy Spirit directs us, convicts us, and gives us power to accomplish more than we could ever ask for or imagine. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us before God and the Holy Spirit gives gifts that strengthen our faith and allow us to experience the presence of God in convincing and powerful ways. The Holy Spirit enables us to understand Scripture, experience God's presence, and is responsible for the divine authorship and inspiration of Scripture.

#### 5. Mankind (Anthropology)

Mankind was designed and created to reflect God's image and to be involved with God in fellowship. Through the Fall, humans have lived in a state of Holy distance (or, unholy distance) from God. Atonement and intercession was needed to pay for our state of sin, which was God's reason for the temple sacrificial system and for Christ. Jesus paid our penalty and redeemed us so that we might access to the Koininia between the Father and the Son through the Presence of the Spirit with us. Now, we live in between Jesus' first and second coming.

#### 6. Sin (Hamartiology)

Sin is both inherited and chosen. Inherited from Adam, chosen by me. Sin is humanity's willful choice to turn away from God. The result of sin is humanity's separation from God and the good that God has in store for us. All have sinned and chosen to rebel against God, and the just penalty of this rebellion is that we should lose any relationship with God, and we had. But because of God's love and mercy, Jesus Christ became an atoning sacrifice for sin that won victory. Sin is therefore nullified on the cross, but because our world is still fallen, we experience the sting of sin even as we know the freedom of the cross. We live in the already, but not yet Kingdom.

#### 7. Salvation (Soteriology)

Humanity was created to live in relationship with God, yet we turned away from God's glory into sin. Humanity constantly battles the sin of pride, which is a desire to be God. Because of God's great love for humanity, God the Father sent God the Son Jesus into the world so that whomever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. We can't earn this life, but we can only receive it as a gift from God through faith by confessing our sinfulness and need for the saving work of Jesus on the cross. The atonement of sin is only found in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We cannot change or atone for our separation from God ourselves, nor can we change our position before God without his sacrifice.

#### 8. Satan

God's enemy. The Liar. The Accuser stands against all that God is for. Satan tempted Jesus in the desert after his baptism and was defeated by Jesus' refutation of his lies with scripture. Satan opposes all who are for God. But, we are protected by God through his promise in Ephesians 5 that we shall be able to withstand the Enemy's attacks by his strength alone.

#### 9. Angels and Demons

They are real spiritual beings with no corporeal form. Dallas Willard calls them "purely spiritual beings". Demons are oriented towards serving Satan, Angels are God's servants. They interact with our world and lives in ways that are sometimes known, but often pass understanding.

#### 10. The Church (Ecclesiology)

The Church is God's people. God is the head of His Church, and His son Jesus gave Himself for the Church, and the Holy Spirit was sent to the Church to teach and equip the church to do God's work. The Church is to regularly gather to devote themselves to fellowship, communion, study, and prayer so that the church might be equipped to follow God and live on mission to the world. Jesus commanded the Church to go and make disciples, to baptize people and invite them into the Kingdom of God. The Church's mission is to serve the marginalized, to serve one another, to provide for those both in and outside of the Church, and to joyfully encourage one another that God is

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

We are Spiritual beings— God has created us with souls, and this means that our spiritual life is real and it matters. Worship is an incredibly powerful action because it shapes our soul. When we worship God, we are conformed to the Image of Christ, but when we worship other things, we fall into idolatry and thus become less like Christ. So, our spiritual life matters. And, not only does it matter, it is something that Satan and his demons are trying to distract, destroy, and divert humans away from worshipping God alone! So, we need to beware and be on guard with God's armor on us so that we might withstand. Yet, our lives are held in God's hand, so we need not be afraid.



## 12. Future Things (Eschatology)

Jesus will return one day to call sinners to account for their lives. The dead who believed in Him will be raised and humanity will be judged. Those elected by Jesus will live eternally with him in the new kingdom. Those who are not elected by God are subjected to the just punishment of God. If I am honest, I find myself struggling with God's eternal rejection of some in eternal conscious torment. However, I also know that I am limited, and my knowledge and capacity to understand God is small, so I willingly submit to the discernment of the church taught through the confessions of our church. And I look forward to the end of time when the new Kingdom will have no curses, death, mourning, or pain, and all of God's promises and plan for creation will be fulfilled, thus bringing him glory.

## 13. Evangelism

Christians are called to share their faith. Christ taught that his disciples are to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Evangelism is going out to invite others into the new life that Christ has given to us! It begins with an invitation, but it extends to discipleship, teaching, and training those who come join the family of faith.

## 14. Spiritual Gifts

We each are designed by the Lord to be unique individuals, with our own things to offer to the world. (Psalm 139). Paul makes it quite clear in his writing that he believes there are different roles for those in the church. It is a body, comprised of many parts (1 Cor 12). There are many roles for those in this body. Some are to step into leadership roles, some are to serve (Eph 4, Titus 1, 1 Tim 3, etc.) Some people are gifted in their sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, others are gifted in their capacity for wisdom, some to service, and others to leadership. (1 Cor 14, Romans 12). The Bible goes so far as to say "use whatever gift you have received to serve others" (1 Peter 4:16). Whatever we have to serve with, I believe that God can use to glorify his kingdom and himself.

Answer the following integration questions:

15. State your view of the Scriptures and the place the Scriptures will have in your ministry. I believe that the scriptures are infallible. They never fail to do what God intends for them to do— testify, teach, and convict the people God created about his his story of salvation. They are useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training up in righteousness. Calvin’s comment on what constitutes a church resonates with me— a church is the place where “the sacraments are rightly administered and the Word is rightly preached.”

I strive to give God’s word its proper place and position in the life and ministry of the church— at the center of all that I do. It informs counsel, direction, and the ministry God has called me to.

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

I love the reformed traditions emphasis on God’s sovereignty and the clear sighted view of humanity’s sinfulness. I hold the encouragement of Karl Barth closely: “Ecclesia semper reformanda est...” which is translated something like “a church [once] reformed, is always reforming.” This must be always according to the Word of God, never culture. If we as leaders fail to reconsider our own theological commitments in light of what God reveals in his Word to us, how can we ever ask those who are under our spiritual care to follow us? In this spirit, I firmly am committed to listening for God’s voice amidst my thoughts and intellectual leanings in order to faithfully respond to where He is calling me deeper and higher into His presence. At the end of the day, my thoughts are not God’s thoughts, and I trust that God himself will bring all things to completion and perfection when He returns. I like that the Reformed faith emphasizes that.

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

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead who was sent to us to teach us about God, fill us with the same power that raised Jesus from the grave, and dwell within us when we respond to Jesus in faith. The Holy Spirit helps us to live in the freedom from sin that Jesus won for us through bringing us into the communion that is experienced between the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit directs us, convicts us, and gives us power to accomplish more than we could ever ask for or imagine. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us before God and the Holy Spirit gives gifts that strengthen our faith and allow us to experience the presence of God in convincing and powerful ways. The Holy Spirit enables us to understand Scripture, experience God’s presence, and is responsible for the divine authorship and inspiration of Scripture.

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

I am all for it! God created men and women to steward the earth, together. It is only after the fall that God instituted any sort of hierarchy. When Christ came and “broke down the dividing wall of hostility”, the Holy Spirit returned both men and women back into the Father’s presence and, by proxy, to their co-equal leadership roles. In colloquial terms, “there is no male holy spirit”. Throughout Paul’s letters, we see various women serving in leadership roles. That fact helps me hold tension with the examples we have from his pastoral epistles that are negative imperatives concerning women in leadership. I find it likely that he was addressing a specific concern instead of a blanket statement.

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

One of the great strengths of the Presbyterian form of government is the diversification of power in the body. No one person is able to dominate. In this way, it is remarkable to me how elevating this form of government can be. People are honored as unique vessels of the Holy Spirit, irrespective of their class, socio-economic status, or education levels. It seems that it holds space for God’s spirit to move and be discerned by the multitudes. My appreciation is also my hesitation however, because God’s Spirit seems to be a dynamic operator, and at times the way that decisions are made can seem onerous and too slow. I worry that the Spirit is perhaps not given its full space to operate in the dynamic way seen in scripture and less structured forms of ecclesial government.

20. Explain your philosophy of ministry.

My philosophy of ministry is rooted around one word: shepherd. I believe that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, but Jesus has given us pastors his task to love and lead the church. In a way, we could think of ourselves as sheepdogs—we are to protect the church, love her, lead her where the master leads us, and follow the master! We go find the lost sheep, and we proclaim that God has never lost them, but has always found them! (Or, in canine parlance, “woof woof woofity woof!!” ... Something like that.)

I strive to shepherd those God has given me in my flock, whether that is customers at the running store I worked at in seminary, my youth group as a youth pastor, my young adult community group, or elderly shut-ins in Northern Ireland. I seek to minister with my presence, and each interaction with someone for me seems to involve “taking off my shoes, for this is holy ground.” I minister from the Shepherd’s directions back toward the Shepherd. I am not the shepherd, merely his agent in the world.



A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

21. Describe your approach to evangelism, both personally and as a pastor in a local church. I love evangelism! I believe that the truest things about each person is that God loves them and they will forever be restless without knowing God's love. This means that God is always seeking them. So, I try to partner with God in this way. Sometimes, it looks like stopping someone on the street with a random question "hey, are you looking for something? I felt like I was supposed to talk to you.." Other times, it looks like being a person of peace in times of turmoil. And sometimes it looks like offering to pray for someone when things are hard/. But, my approach is to always be watching for the people God has for me to minister and evangelize to. I am not perfect, but I do feel strongly that evangelism is incredibly important. And, evangelism is not just a one time conversation. Barth once said that "we do not go on and on in our faith, we begin again and again." I like that!

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

I began sensing a call to ministry as a child, but misinterpreted it as a desire to become a doctor to care for people. Through college, I interned at my home church, Community Presbyterian Church in Danville, and began seeing that I felt called to minister to people's soul needs, not just bodily needs. And they confirmed this call— they invited me to become a candidate.

Yet, I was pretty afraid to commit to a life of ministry. It took a random phone call from a friend offering me a chance to apply for a ministry job of a life time post-graduation that confirmed my sense that I was called to ministry. Seminary followed and I loved my pastoral and practical theology classes. I came alive during pastoral work, and so I have continued to follow this path that God has so clearly led me down. Even when ministry

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

Personal accountability is immensely important to me as a minister of Christ. We are not perfect people, but I believe that those who are pastors are held to a standard that befits the level of exposure that we have in our work. Therefore, I welcome hard conversations about my action. I pray for God to shape my character. I pray with my wife for our marriage, and I prioritize her over all else save my own walk with Jesus.

I am someone who prioritizes very clear boundaries within my ministry--sharing with my wife when I have had a one-on-one meeting with a woman, having open dialogues with male friends about online activity, and meeting monthly with my spiritual director. These don't prevent "moral failings", but they do ensure that my life has as many touch points with others in open dialogue in view of God's grace to allow me time to repent, confess, and believe in God's grace anew each day.

**EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest**  
**Income and Expenses (as of December 31, 2022)**



CATEGORY	Y-T-D Actual	December	Total Y-T-D	Annual Budget	Variance
<b>INCOME</b>					
POP Church Support	\$114,127.05	\$10,520.85	\$124,647.90	\$147,000.00	(\$22,352.10)
Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$114,127.05</b>	<b>\$10,520.85</b>	<b>\$124,647.90</b>	<b>\$147,000.00</b>	<b>(\$22,352.10)</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Care of Candidates Committee</b>					
Chairman Salary	\$4,583.37	\$416.63	\$5,000.00	\$5,000	0.00
Travel-Chairman	1,205.63	0.00	1,205.63	1,200.00	(5.63)
Travel-Committee	1,567.48	0.00	1,567.48	1,000.00	(567.48)
Candidate Subsidy	200.00	0.00	200.00	1,000.00	800.00
<b>Total Care of Candidates Expenses</b>	<b>7,556.48</b>	<b>416.63</b>	<b>7,973.11</b>	<b>8,200.00</b>	<b>226.89</b>
<b>Church Planting Network</b>					
Liaison Stipend	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Assessments	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
<b>Total Church Planting Network Expenses</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>
<b>Church Revitalization</b>					
Liaison - Stipend	499.98	0.00	499.98	1,000.00	500.02
Travel	0.00	109.58	109.58	600.00	490.42
<b>Total Church Revitalization Expenses</b>	<b>499.98</b>	<b>109.58</b>	<b>609.56</b>	<b>1,600.00</b>	<b>990.44</b>

**EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest**  
**Income and Expenses (as of December 31, 2022)**

**Ministerial Committee**

Chairman Salary	27,500.00	2,500.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00
Travel-Chairman	7,033.00	0.00	7,033.00	5,000.00	(2,033.00)
Travel-Committee	421.87	0.00	421.87	500.00	78.13
<b>Total Ministerial Committee Expenses</b>	<b>34,954.87</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>37,454.87</b>	<b>35,500.00</b>	<b>(1,954.87)</b>

**Mission Committee**

Program	4,123.53	3,812.50	7,936.03	7,000.00	(936.03)
Travel- Chair/Committee	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
<b>Total Mission Expenses</b>	<b>4,123.53</b>	<b>3,812.50</b>	<b>7,936.03</b>	<b>7,500.00</b>	<b>(436.03)</b>

**Moderator**

Other Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
Stipend	1,833.37	166.63	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Travel	1,066.14	801.70	1,867.84	5,000.00	3,132.16
<b>Total Moderator Expenses</b>	<b>2,899.51</b>	<b>968.33</b>	<b>3,867.84</b>	<b>7,300.00</b>	<b>3,432.16</b>

**Other Expenses**

Leadership Training/Discovery Workshop	172.40	0.00	172.40	500.00	327.60
Nominating Committee/Chair Travel	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
Session Minutes Review Committee	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Pastors' Retreat Subsidy	2,221.39	0.00	2,221.39	2,300.00	78.61
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>2,893.79</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,893.79</b>	<b>3,800.00</b>	<b>906.21</b>

**Presbytery Expenses**

Meals and Expense Subsidy	4,915.89	2,244.20	7,160.09	7,500.00	339.91
Resource/Teaching Honorariums	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
<b>Total Presbytery Meeting Expenses</b>	<b>4,915.89</b>	<b>2,244.20</b>	<b>7,160.09</b>	<b>10,500.00</b>	<b>3,339.91</b>

**EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest**  
**Income and Expenses (as of December 31, 2022)**

**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	729.14	225.00	954.14	900.00	(54.14)
Conference Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Supplies	1,297.49	56.96	1,354.45	700.00	(654.45)
TE Background Checks	229.95	0.00	229.95	300.00	70.05
Website and Computer Support	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
Travel- Clerk and Assistant	5,287.93	244.35	5,532.28	9,500.00	3,967.72
Commissions/Other Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
<b>Total Stated Clerk's Office</b>	<b>49,711.14</b>	<b>4,359.68</b>	<b>54,070.82</b>	<b>57,800.00</b>	<b>3,729.18</b>

**Treasurer's Expenses**

Review of Financial Records	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
Office Supplies	385.24	0.00	385.24	500.00	114.76
Officers and Directors Insurance	2,148.00	0.00	2,148.00	2,200.00	52.00
Professional Support	880.00	80.00	960.00	900.00	(60.00)
Stipend Salary	3,208.37	291.63	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00
Travel	1,727.67	0.00	1,727.67	1,500.00	(227.67)
Payroll Expenses	4,191.57	398.43	4,590.00	4,500.00	(90.00)
<b>Total Treasurer's Expenses</b>	<b>13,040.85</b>	<b>770.06</b>	<b>13,810.91</b>	<b>13,600.00</b>	<b>(210.91)</b>

<b>Total All Expenses</b>	<b>\$120,596.04</b>	<b>\$15,180.98</b>	<b>\$135,777.02</b>	<b>\$147,000.00</b>	<b>\$11,222.98</b>
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<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>(\$6,468.99)</b>	<b>(\$4,660.13)</b>	<b>(\$11,129.12)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>(\$11,129.12)</b>
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**EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest**  
**Fund Summary (as of December 31, 2022)**



DESCRIPTION	PRIOR MONTH BALANCE	CURRENT MONTH INFLOW	CURRENT MONTH OUTFLOW	MONTH-END BALANCE
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash	\$128,494.42	\$13,630.85	\$18,963.20	\$123,162.07
Other Assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$128,494.42</b>	<b>\$13,630.85</b>	<b>\$18,963.20</b>	<b>\$123,162.07</b>
				Checkbook Balance
<b>FUNDS</b>				
<b>Designated Funds</b>				
Chaplain's Travel Fund	\$1,310.01	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,310.01
Church Health Stipend	500.00	1,500.00	500.02	1,499.98
Church Health Support	4,000.00	1,500.00	0.00	5,500.00
Disaster Relief Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Educational Assistance Fund	2,842.00	0.00	0.00	2,842.00
New Church Development	2,053.00	0.00	0.00	2,053.00
Pastor's Care & Support	10,935.52	0.00	3,282.20	7,653.32
Pastor's Retreat	193.26	0.00	0.00	193.26
Women's Ministries	3,439.72	10.00	0.00	3,449.72
WO Engage 2025	14,496.46	100.00	0.00	14,596.46
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>39,769.97</b>	<b>3,110.00</b>	<b>3,782.22</b>	<b>39,097.75</b>
<b>Reserve/Undesignated</b>	<b>95,193.44</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>95,193.44</b>
<b>Current Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(6,468.99)</b>	<b>10,520.85</b>	<b>15,180.98</b>	<b>(11,129.12)</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$128,494.42</b>	<b>\$13,630.85</b>	<b>\$18,963.20</b>	<b>\$123,162.07</b>





**Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest  
Per Member Askings 2022**

CHURCH	MEMBERS 2020	REQUESTED PMA	ACTUAL GIVING	% of TOTAL
Centerpoint	789	\$11,835	\$11,835	100%
Centerville	321	4,815	4,770	99%
Christ Community Church *	1,000	8,750	3,267	37%
Christ Church East Bay	163	2,445	2,070	85%
Clayton Community	140	2,100	0	0%
CPC Danville	1,681	25,215	26,112	104%
Covenant Pres Orange	246	3,690	2,501	68%
Covenant Pres Reno	181	2,715	2,906	107%
Covenant Pres San Diego	120	1,800	1,665	93%
Covenant Community Vacaville	134	2,010	1,815	90%
Easton	200	3,000	2,955	99%
Fair Oaks Pres	962	14,430	5,200	36%
First Armenian	178	2,670	2,893	108%
First Pres Bakersfield	473	7,095	6,752	95%
First Pres Fresno	585	8,775	8,775	100%
First Pres Hanford	95	1,425	1,567	110%
Fowler	162	2,430	2,475	102%
Fremont **	900	13,500	13,000	96%
Heritage	33	495	476	96%
Hope	106	1,590	1,864	117%
Kingman	112	1,680	1,680	100%
Millbrook	16	240	0	0%
Moraga Valley	753	11,295	8,066	71%
New Life, Covelo	13	195	345	177%
San Ramon	167	2,505	2,280	91%
Sanger	93	1,395	1,200	86%
Sierra	268	4,020	3,000	75%
St. John's Assyrian	157	2,355	2,730	116%
The Table	35	525	600	114%
Valley Community	52	780	500	64%
Wintersburg	554	8,310	0	0%
Woodlake	89	1,335	1,350	101%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,778</b>	<b>\$155,420</b>	<b>\$124,648</b>	<b>80%</b>

\*\*Presbytery Office

\*Prorated

2022 POPS Financial Review - to be added

**Ascending Overture XXX**

To Amend the *Constitution: Volume 2 Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms*, Chapter 29 “The Lord’s Supper”

Current Constitution: Volume 2 Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms (2014):	Proposed Amendment:
Chapter 29 The Lord’s Supper 3. In the administration of the Lord’s supper Jesus has directed his ministers to declare to the congregation his words instituting this sacrament, to pray, and to bless the bread and wine, which are thus set apart from the ordinary use and put to holy use. His ministers are to take and break the bread, to take the cup, and (communicating themselves, too) to give both to the communicants – but not to anyone else not present at that time in the congregation.	Chapter 29 The Lord’s Supper 3. In the administration of the Lord’s supper Jesus has directed his ministers to declare to the congregation his words instituting this sacrament, to pray, and to bless the bread and wine, which are thus set apart from the ordinary use and put to holy use. His ministers are to take and break the bread, to take the cup, and (communicating themselves, too) to give both to the communicants – but <b>ordinarily</b> not to anyone else not present at that time in the congregation.
4. Practices contrary to the nature of this sacrament and to the institution of it by Christ are private masses or receiving the sacrament alone from a priest or anyone else; denying the cup to the congregation; and worshiping the bread and wine themselves by lifting them up or carrying them around for adoration or reserving them for any counterfeit religious use.	4. Practices contrary to the nature of this sacrament and to the institution of it by Christ are private masses or, <b>ordinarily</b> , receiving the sacrament alone from a priest or anyone else; denying the cup to the congregation; and worshiping the bread and wine themselves by lifting them up or carrying them around for adoration or reserving them for any counterfeit religious use.

EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest  
*Overture to the General Assembly*  
*Recommended by Covenant Presbyterian Church, Orange, CA*  
**Input/Letter from the General Assembly Parliamentarian**

September 8, 2022

Mark,

I'm unclear as to the intent of the overture. What practical opportunities will open if this overture were adopted?

Here's the reason for the Book of Worship clarifying the Confession. Westminster 29-3 sounds a bit cryptic in saying that the sacrament is to be served to all present but not to anyone not present. The intent of that statement is elaborated in 29-4 where the practice of private masses (and other exclusive individual communion) is condemned.

Since taking communion to the sick is not a private service or exclusive observance, the Book of Worship 3-G-2 clarifies that it is an acceptable practice with Session oversight. It is seen as an extension of the corporate worship service necessitated by illness, not by nobility or a desire for exclusive communion.

The addition of the word "ordinarily" to the confession is not necessary and brings unintended problems. It is a vague enough statement to allow for at-home communion for live streaming services, a practice which was authorized by the GA during COVID lockdown, but expired when churches re-opened.

The Presbytery may submit any Overture it deems helpful and appropriate, but I don't see it as getting much traction at GA because the Assembly has been historically resistant to amending the Confession.

This response is in no way intended to block the overture, but just to point out the obstacles such an overture is likely to face.

In His service,

Bob

*Bob Garment*

Chief Parliamentarian  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church



## Part 2: Personal Information

*(please print or type)*

**1. Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Preferred Address:

Alternate Address:

Preferred Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Cell ☐ Work ☐ Home

Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Cell ☐ Work ☐ Home

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Work History:

Previous Ministry Positions

Dates

Present/Last Position (if you are currently not in a ministry position)

Dates

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Ordination Status

Ordained by (church/city/state): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ordination Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

c. Community and Civic Activities:

d. Presbytery and General Assembly Activities:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

e. Ecumenical Activity:

f. Special Interests, Hobbies:



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

g. Languages you can speak (and level of proficiency):

h. Types of supervision/accountability you have found helpful in your ministry:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**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.)*

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**3. Comment briefly on your views as relates to:**

- a. Spiritual giftedness

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

c. Women in ordained office

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

d. Presbyterian connectional system

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

**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.)*

**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**

*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. 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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Answer the following integration questions:

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

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

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



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

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

20. Explain your philosophy of ministry.



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

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

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