

# PROPOSED DOCKET



Called Meeting of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest  
July 13, 2024 at 9:00 am  
Via Zoom

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

## SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024

9:00 am	<b>Welcome, Call to Order and Opening Prayer</b>	RE Brian Wyatt, Moderator
	<b>Declaration of Quorum</b>	RE Mark Eshoff, Stated Clerk
9:10	<b>Stated Clerk's Report</b> Participation Guidelines	Stated Clerk Eshoff
	<b>Approval of the Docket</b>	
9:15	<b>Ministerial Committee Report</b>	TE David Abdo, Chair

### **Examination of TE Marcos Ortega**

Marcos Ortega has been called as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield, CA by the congregation of the church. He is currently a member of the EPC Presbytery of the East and is seeking to transfer his membership to the Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest. 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.

Marcos will be preaching on Hebrews 4:12-13, a passage assigned to him 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. Marcos has two exceptions to the Westminster Standards. *(See Attachment)*

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

- Views on Theology, Sacraments, English Bible
- Views on 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
- Exceptions to the Westminster Standards

### **Representatives speaking on behalf of Marcos Ortega**

**MOTION:** To approve the examination of TE Marcos Ortega, including his exceptions to the Westminster Standards, and receive him into full membership in the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest from the EPC Presbytery of the East, pending their approval of his transfer.

**MOTION:** To approve the Administrative Commission of TE's Davis Constance from First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield, CA and David Abdo from Easton Presbyterian Church and RE's RE Tyson Witcher, Tracie Monroe, and Sally Herald from First Presbyterian Church of Bakersfield, (TBD) to install Marcos Ortega as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Bakerfield, CA on Sunday, October 6, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

**Change of Status – TE Matthew McCleary**

The congregation of Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento, CA has called TE Matthew McCleary as Associate Pastor of Congregational Life. He currently serves there as Assistant Pastor of Congregational Life. This change has been reviewed by the Ministerial Committee and is recommended to the Presbytery for approval.

**MOTION:** To approve the change in status of TE Matthew McCleary from Assistant Pastor of Congregational Life to Associate Pastor for Congregational Life at Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento, CA effective July 13, 2024.

**MOTION:** To approve the Administrative Commission consisting of TE's David Pack from Fremont Presbyterian, Sacramento, CA and (TBD) and RE's Patsy Conner from Fair Oaks Church, Fair Oaks, CA and Bart Mehlhop, Adele Ohs and Paul Wyatt from Fremont Presbyterian, Sacramento, CA to install TE Matthew McCleary as Associate Pastor of Congregational Life at Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento, CA on August 18, 2024 at 12:00 pm.

10:15

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Moderator Wyatt



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

Presbytery Meeting Docket  
July 13, 2024

**ATTACHMENT**

1. Personal Information and Statement of Faith for Marcos Ortega

Name:

**Part 2: Personal Information**

**1. Name:**

(Last)

(First)

(Middle)

Preferred Address:

Preferred Phone:

Cell  Work  Home

Alternate Phone:

Cell  Work  Home

Email:

**2. Work History:**

Current and Previous Positions (ministry or otherwise)

Dates

Name:

**3. Volunteer Experience** (applicable to a pastoral role)

Dates

**4. 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):

Name:

**5. Educational Background:**

a. Name of Institution	Dates Attended	Degree
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b. Continuing Education/Professional Development	Dates
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**6. Other Experience:**

a. Types of professional supervision and personal accountability you have found helpful in your life and ministry:

Name:

b. Community and Civic Activities:

c. Presbytery and General Assembly Activities:

d. Ecumenical Activities:

e. Special Interests, Hobbies:

f. Languages (other than English) you can speak, and level of proficiency:

Name:

### **Part 3: Narrative**

- 1. Life Story:** In one page, describe your life's journey. Include key incidents (such as how you came to faith in Christ) that were significant in your formation as a person and your call to ministry.



Name:

**2. Self-Appraisal:**

a. Briefly describe your leadership style:

- How you go about making decisions:

- Your administrative style:

b. Talk about how you handled a recent conflict. What did you do well? What areas of conflict resolution do you need to be more effective at?

c. What do you enjoy about working as part of a team? What is challenging to you?

Name:

d. Briefly describe your worship preferences: (*preaching style, preferred worship style [e.g., liturgical, modern, traditional, blended, etc.]*)

e. Share your sense of your call to ministry:

- What type of ministry role are you called to? And what would effectiveness look like in that role?

- What are your personal ideals and long-term goals?

Name:

- f. What are the ways you are nurturing your relationship with God in everyday life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- g. What are your character strengths?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- h. What are five key gifts/skills/abilities you would bring to a ministry position?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- i. The New Testament teaches us that no one Christian—not even the pastor—possesses every spiritual gift, but we are meant to work together as members of Christ’s one body (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12). What are the spiritual gifts you will need other team members to bring in order to complement your leadership and make the church effective in its ministry?

Name:

**3. Views:**

a. What opportunities do you see for the church to reflect the reality of Christ's Kingdom in our present context?

b. What are your views on charismatic expression in worship?

c. What are your views on women in ordained office?

d. What are your views on human sexuality and gender?

Name:

#### Part 4: Denominational Alignment

1. Do you affirm the “Essentials of Our Faith” without exception?  Yes  No

If “No” please briefly explain:

2. Do you agree with and can you submit to the system of government of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church?  Yes  No

If “No” please briefly explain:

3. 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

If “No” please briefly explain:

4. Do you take any exceptions to the *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms*?  Yes  No

If “Yes,” identify the topic with chapter, paragraph, or question number you take your exception with. State your alternate view with biblical support. Include additional page if necessary.

*(An “exception” means that you disagree with a statement in the Westminster Confession, believe it to be wrong, have Scriptural support to justify your belief, and have Scriptural support of an alternative view.)*

5. Do you willingly offer the sacrament of infant baptism to Christian parents?  Yes  No

If “No” please briefly explain:



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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.