

PROPOSED DOCKET



Nineteenth Meeting of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
October 13-14, 2023
Covenant Community Church
3870 Alamo Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687
(707) 448-5234

Please note: The Presbytery proceedings today are being recorded.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023

- | | | |
|---------|---|---|
| 9:00 am | Call to Order and Opening Prayer | TE Lana Roberts, Moderator |
| | Declaration of Quorum | RE Mark Eshoff, Stated Clerk |
| 9:10 | Welcome | TE Nancy Duff |
| | Introduction of Guests | Moderator Roberts |
| 9:20 | Worship | |
| | Call to Worship | Moderator Roberts |
| | Worship in Music | CCC Worship Team |
| | Sermon | RE Brian Wyatt |
| | The sermon will be given by RE Brian Wyatt, candidate for POPS Moderator in 2024. | |
| 10:00 | Moderator's Time of Prayer | Moderator Roberts |
| 10:20 | Stated Clerk's Report | Stated Clerk Mark Eshoff |
| | Presbytery Voting Guidelines | |
| | Absences without Excuse (May 18-19, 2023) | |
| | Presbytery Meeting Hosting | |
| | Changes to the Proposed Docket | |
| | Approval of the Docket | |
| 10:30 | Break | |
| 10:50 | Q & A with Brian Wyatt | |
| | RE Brian Wyatt from Fremont Presbyterian Church in Sacramento is the candidate nominated by the POPS Council for Moderator for 2024. Brian's brief biography and ministry experience is available in <i>Attachment 1 - pg. A2</i> . | |
| 11:10 | Church Health Update | TE Mike Griffin, POPS Church Health Coordinator |
| 11:30 | Ministry Update - Fair Oaks Church | TE Donny Butkus |
| | TE Donny Butkus is the recently installed Pastor of Fair Oaks Church, having been examined and approved by the Presbytery at its August 12, 2023 called meeting. | |

- 11:40 **Session Review Committee** RE Janet Goodman, Chair
 RE Goodman will report on the reviews from the May 2023 meeting and update the Presbytery on how to improve the effectiveness of Session Minutes.
- Scheduled reviews for October 2023:
- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Covenant Presbyterian Church, Orange | Kingman Presbyterian Church |
| Covenant Presbyterian Church, San Diego | The Table |
| Easton Presbyterian Church | Valley Community Church |
| First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield | Woodlake Presbyterian Church |
| First Presbyterian Church, Hanford | Wintersburg Presbyterian Church |
| Heritage EPC, Santa Maria | |
- St. John's Assyrian Presbyterian Church (not received in May)
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 **Treasurer's Report** RE Connie Badgley, Treasurer
- 2023 Year-to-date POPS Financials (*Attachment 2 – pgs. A3-A6*)
 - 2023 Year-to-date POPS Askings Report (*Attachment 3 – pg. A7*)
- 1:10 **Approval of the 2024 POPS Budget** RE Connie Badgley
- RE Badgley will review the shift from calculating Presbytery Askings from Per Member Asking to Percentage of Income Asking (*Attachment 4 pg. A8*) and the detailed changes and 2024 Proposed Budget recommended by the Council (*Attachment 5 - pgs. A9-A11*)
- MOTION: To approve the change in calculation of Presbytery Askings from Per Member Asking to Percentage of Income Asking**
- MOTION: To approve the 2024 POPS Budget as presented, including the Percentage of Income Asking of 0.5% for each member church**
- 1:30 **Ministry Update – Fowler Presbyterian Church** TE Erik Buhl
- TE Erik Buhl will share an update on the ministry of Fowler Presbyterian Church, including the ways that the Presbytery can pray for him and the church.
- 1:50 **Report on the 43rd General Assembly (June 20-23, 2023)** TE Dean Weaver, GA Stated Clerk
- Dean Weaver will recap in a video the recent General Assembly meeting held at Cherry Hills Presbyterian Church in Highlands Ranch, CO.
- 2:00 **Special Presentation** TE Mark Ingles, GA Chaplain Endorser
- TE Mark Ingles, GA Chaplain Endorser, will share about the important work of Chaplains in our denomination.
- 2:30 **Nominating Committee Report** RE Christine Deane, Chair
- RE Deane will introduce nominees for several POPS committee, chair and Presbytery Council positions. A list of projected 2024 POPS Council and Committee members is included in *Attachment 6 - pgs. A12-A13* (pending approval). Committee positions are available for the Care of Candidates and the Mission Committees.

(continued)

Election of POPS Committee Members

MOTION: To elect the following to committee positions for the Class of 2026:

<u>Ministerial:</u>	<u>TE Scott Larson, Covenant Pres., Orange</u> <u>RE Rhea Serpan, Community Pres., Danville</u>
<u>Care of Candidates:</u>	<u>RE Ken Adams, Moraga Valley Pres., Moraga</u> <u>RE Linda Marshall, New Life Church, Covelo</u>
<u>Mission:</u>	<u>RE Laura Spongberg, First Pres., Fresno</u> <u>RE Chris Melander, Covenant Pres., Orange</u>
<u>Nominating:</u>	<u>RE Chris Rhodes, Covenant Pres., Reno</u>

MOTION: To elect the following to committee positions for the Class of 2025:

<u>Mission:</u>	<u>TE Sam Knottnerus, Centerville Pres., Fremont</u> <u>RE John Goodell, First Pres., Fresno</u>
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Election of the Care of Candidates Committee Chair

MOTION: To elect TE Matt Young from Covenant Presbyterian Church, Orange, CA as Chair of the Care of Candidates Committee for the Class of 2026 and member of the Presbytery Council

Election of the Mission Committee Chair

MOTION: To elect TE Dave Fenska as Chair of the Mission Committee for the Class of 2026 and member of the Presbytery Council

Extension of the Term of the Ministerial Committee Chair

The term of TE David Abdo, current Chair of the Ministerial Committee, will be completed at the end of 2023. This turnover in leadership is concurrent with the end of the terms of the Stated Clerk, the Treasurer, the Chair of Candidates Under Care, and the Chair of Missions. Extending the term of the Ministerial Committee Chair will reduce the number of leadership transitions at the same time in future years. In addition, the Council affirms the work that David Abdo has done in this role and desires for him to continue, if possible.

MOTION: To approve an exception to the POPS Bylaws Section 6.04 and extend the term of David Abdo, Chair of the Ministerial Committee by one year through December 31, 2024.

Election of Moderator (2024)

RE Brian Wyatt has been nominated by the Council as POPS Moderator, a one-year term that is renewable for a second year. Please see Brian's brief biography and ministry summary (*Attachment 1 pg. A2*)

MOTION: To elect RE Brian Wyatt from Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento, CA as Moderator of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest and member of the Presbytery Council for 2024

(continued)

Election of Stated Clerk (2024-2026)

RE Mark Eshoff is eligible to serve as POPS Stated Clerk for continuing terms of 3 years each. His current term is slated to end at the end of 2023.

MOTION: To re-elect RE Mark Eshoff as Stated Clerk of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest and member of the Presbytery Council for a three-year term beginning in 2024.

- 2:50 **Church Planting Update** TE Shawn Robinson, POPS Church Planting Coordinator
- 3:05 Break
- 3:15 **Regional Group Meetings**
The Presbytery will break up into geographic groups to discuss opportunities and challenges regarding working together on church planting, and other points of collaboration.
- 4:45 Return to Main Hall
- 4:55 **Mission Committee Report** TE Sam Knottnerus, POPS E2025 Home Team Chair
RE Mike Stodghill
TE Knottnerus will report on the recent UPG Leadership Conference and RE Stodghill from Christ Community Church, Carmichael, CA will report on the activities of the Sacramento POPS Afghan/Pashtun Mission Group, including the sponsorship of a local soccer team and the Sewing Gospel Seeds project.
- 5:15 **Ministry Update – Wintersburg Presbyterian Church** Ted Esaki, Interim Supply
The Ministerial Committee has approved Pastor Ted Esaki as Interim Supply for Wintersburg Presbyterian Church, Santa Ana, CA. Ted will share the progress that the church has made during the interim time, the highlights of their current ministry, and current challenges for which the Presbytery can pray.
- 5:25 **Descending Overtures from the 43rd General Assembly** Stated Clerk Eshoff
Stated Clerk Eshoff will present the overtures from the recent General Assembly meeting in June. **These overtures are provided for reading only** in anticipation of a formal vote at the January 2024 POPS Meeting. (*Attachment 7 – pgs. A14–A16*)
- 5:30 Meeting Recess and Dinner
- 7:00 **Presbytery Worship Service**
The POPS Worship Service will be led by TE Nancy Duff and the staff and leaders from Covenant Community Church, Vacaville. Communion will be served, and an offering will be received for the POPS Pastor’s Care and Support Fund.

PROPOSED DOCKET



Nineteenth Meeting of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest October 13-14, 2023

Please note: The Presbytery proceedings today are being recorded.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 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 CCC Worship Team

Sermon Jeff Hooker

The sermon this morning will be given by Jeff Hooker, Candidate for Assistant Pastor for Spiritual Formation at Centerpoint Community Church, Roseville, CA.

Moderator's Time of Prayer Moderator Roberts

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

Examination of Jeff Hooker

Jeff Hooker has been called by the Session of Centerpoint Community Church, Roseville, CA as Assistant Pastor for Spiritual Formation, and is seeking ordination in the EPC. He has signed his Ministerial Obligation Form and Ethical Affirmation Form and will participate in the next 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.

Jeff's examination begins with a sermon on Isaiah 55:6-11 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. Jeff has no exceptions to the Westminster Standards. (*Attachment 8 - pgs. A17-A34*)

Representatives speaking on behalf of Jeff Hooker

MOTION: To approve the examination of Jeff Hooker and receive him into full membership in the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest.

(continued)

MOTION: To approve the Administrative Commission of TE's Bryan Yeo from Centerpoint Community Church, Roseville, CA and Jim Barstow (Associate-Retired) and RE's Marlena Sprague, Cyndi Parks, and Joe Watkins from Centerpoint Community Church and (TBD) to ordain and install Jeff Hooker as Assistant Pastor of Spiritual Formation for Centerpoint Community Church, Roseville, CA on October 15, 2023 at 4:00 pm for a term of 3 years.

10:30 Break

10:50 **Ministerial Committee Report**

TE David Abdo, Chair

Examination of Ryan Bogert

Ryan Bogert has been called as Associate Pastor of Family Life for Centerville Presbyterian Church, Fremont, 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 the next 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 begins with a sermon on Romans 3:22-24, 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 1 exception to the Westminster Standards. (*Attachment 9 - pgs. A35-A52*)

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 Bogert

MOTION: To approve the examination of Ryan Bogert, including his exception to the Westminster Standards, and receive him into full membership in the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest

MOTION: To approve the Administrative Commission of TE's Sam Knottnerus from Centerville Presbyterian Church, Fremont, CA and Mark Wollan from San Ramon Presbyterian Church, San Ramon, CA, and RE's Cydne Holte, Marilyn Khalaji, and Tammy Sawyer from Centerville Presbyterian Church, and Janet Goodman from Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV, to ordain and install Ryan Bogert as Associate Pastor of Family Life for Centerville Presbyterian Church, Fremont, CA on October 29, 2023 at 4:00 pm

11:40

Omnibus Motion

Moderator Roberts

1. That the Minutes of the Seventeenth Stated Meeting of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest, May 18-19, 2023, be approved as posted (these minutes are available on the POPS website)
2. That the minutes of the Called Meeting of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest, August 12, 2023, be approved as posted (these minutes are available on the POPS website)
3. That the Administrative Commission to install Tim Brown as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Hanford, 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. To accept the report of the Ministerial Committee to dissolve the relationship between TE Jeff Chandler and First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield, CA effective July 1, 2023
5. To accept the report of the Ministerial Committee to transfer TE Jeff Chandler to the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest, where he has been approved and received
6. To accept the report of the Ministerial Committee to transfer TE George Carey to the EPC Presbytery of the Central South, where he has been approved and received
7. To accept the report of the Ministerial Committee to appoint Ted Esaki as Interim Supply for Wintersburg Presbyterian Church, Santa Ana, CA, to preach, lead the staff and administer the sacraments, and appoint TE Ryan Teramoto as Moderator of the Session effective August 23, 2023
8. To accept the report of the Ministerial Committee to appoint TE Dick Gates from EPC Presbytery of the West as Interim Supply and Moderator of the Session of Kingman Presbyterian Church, Kingman, AZ effective October 1, 2023
9. To accept the report of the Ministerial Committee to extend the call of TE Cliff Graves as Associate Pastor of Congregational Care at Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church through June 30, 2024

MOTION: To approve the Omnibus actions

11:50

Important Upcoming Dates

January 26-27, 2024	Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest Meeting (#20) Location: Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, Moraga, CA
May 16-17, 2024	Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest Meeting (#21) Location: Fair Oaks Church, Fair Oaks, CA
June 18-20, 2024	44 th EPC General Assembly Location: Hope Church, Memphis, TN
October 8-10, 2024	POPS Pastors Retreat Location: TBD
October 11-12, 2024	Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest Meeting (#22) Location: TBD

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 2024. Contact the Stated Clerk if you are interested in offering an invitation.

12:00 pm **Adjournment and Closing Prayer**

Moderator Roberts



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

Presbytery Meeting Docket
October 13-14, 2023

ATTACHMENTS

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2. 2023 POPS Year-to-Date Financial Statements	A3-A6
3. 2023 POPS Year-to-Date Per Member Asking Report	A7
4. 2024 Projected Percentage of Income Askings	A8
5. 2024 Proposed Budget	A9-A11
6. 43 rd GA Descending Overtures (reading only)	A12-A14
7. 2024 POPS Council/Committee List (pending approval)	A15-A16
8. Personal Information and Statement of Faith – Jeff Hooker	A17-A34
9. Personal Information and Statement of Faith – Ryan Bogert	A35-A52

BRIAN WYATT
Candidate for Moderator-Elect
Ministry Summary

FREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(PCUSA → EPC)
Sacramento, CA

Ruling Elder

GA Permanent Judicial Commission (2022-)
Presbytery Commissioner (Various Times)
Three Terms on Session (2008-10, 2013-15, 2018-20)
Staff Personnel Team, Member (2018-) & Chair (2019-20)
Adult Education Team, Chair (2013-21)
Student Ministries Team, Chair (2008-10)

Volunteer

Adult Sunday School Teacher (2013-21)
High School Ministry (2007-08)
Children's Ministry (1989-91)

Paid Staff

High School Intern (Summers 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997 & 1998)
Churchwide Intern (Summer 1995)
Children's Ministry Assistant (Summers 1991 & 1992)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(PCUSA)
Berkeley, CA

Volunteer

Mentor to 10 Students (1997-2002)

Junior High Intern

Co-Coordinated Ministry (School Year, 1995-96)

Employment: Owner/Attorney, Law Office of Brian D. Wyatt, PC, Sacramento, CA (2006-)
Sr. Associate Attorney, Covington & Burling, LLP, San Francisco, CA (2000-06)
Judicial Clerk, U.S. Court of Appeals (9th Circuit), San Francisco, CA (1999-2000)

CA Residences: Berkeley, Folsom, Oakland, Sacramento (Current), Walnut Creek, Westwood

Born/Raised: Sacramento, CA
Fremont Presbyterian Church (Baptized as Infant, Joined in 1988)

Education: UC Berkeley School of Law, Juris Doctor (1999)
UCLA, B.A. Economics (1995)

Family: Wife – Jennifer
Children – Lilyanne (12), Sophia (11), and Benjamin (11)

Spiritual Gifts: Prophecy, Teaching, Leadership

MTBI: ENTJ

Extracurriculars: UCP of Sacramento & Northern California, Board Member (2017-) & Chair (2021-)
Foundation for UCP of Sacramento & Northern California, Trustee (2011-20)
Judge Pro Tem, El Dorado County Superior Court (2011-13)
Walking/Running, Public Speaking, Reading Fiction to My Family

EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
Income and Expenses (as of August 31, 2023)



	<u>Y-T-D Actual</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Total Y-T-D</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
INCOME					
POP Church Support	\$101,757.06	\$10,326.80	\$112,083.86	\$143,000.00	
Other Income -	<u>\$6,000.39</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$6,000.39</u>	<u>\$6,000.00</u>	
Total Income	\$107,757.45	\$10,326.80	\$118,084.25	\$149,000.00	
EXPENSES					
Care of Candidates Committee					
Chairman Salary	\$2,916.69	\$416.67	\$3,333.36	\$5,000	\$1,666.64
Travel-Chairman	\$503.89	\$0.00	\$503.89	\$1,200	\$696.11
Travel-Committee	\$840.42	\$0.00	\$840.42	\$1,500	\$659.58
Candidate Subsidy	<u>\$400.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$400.00</u>	<u>\$800</u>	<u>\$400.00</u>
Total Care of Candidates Expenses	\$4,261.00	\$416.67	\$5,077.67	\$8,500	\$3,422.33
Church Planting Network					
Focal Stipend	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000	\$1,000.00
Assessments	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$200</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>
Total Church Planting Network Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,200	\$1,200.00
Church Health					
Focal - Stipend	\$3,500.00	\$500.00	\$4,000.00	\$6,000	\$2,000.00
Travel	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Church Health Expenses	\$3,500.00	\$500.00	\$4,000.00	\$6,000	\$2,000.00

EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
Income and Expenses (as of August 31, 2023)

Ministerial Committee

Chairman Salary	\$17,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$20,000.00	\$30,000	\$10,000.00
Travel-Chairman	\$1,062.46	\$1,073.00	\$2,135.46	\$5,000	\$2,864.54
Travel-Committee	<u>\$574.58</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$574.58</u>	<u>\$500</u>	<u>(\$74.58)</u>
Total Ministerial Committee Expenses	\$19,137.04	\$3,573.00	\$22,710.04	\$35,500	\$12,789.96

Mission Committee

Program	\$2,625.00	\$0.00	\$2,625.00	\$7,000	\$4,375.00
Travel- Chair/Committee	<u>\$393.80</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$393.80</u>	<u>\$500</u>	<u>\$106.20</u>
Total Mission Expenses	\$3,018.80	\$0.00	\$3,018.80	\$7,500.00	\$4,481.20

Moderator

Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300	\$300.00
Stipend	\$1,166.69	\$166.67	\$1,333.36	\$2,000	\$666.64
Travel	<u>\$571.85</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$571.85</u>	<u>\$3,000</u>	<u>\$2,428.15</u>
Total Moderator Expenses	\$1,738.54	\$166.67	\$1,905.21	\$5,300	\$3,394.79

Other Expenses

Leadership Training/Discovery Workshop	\$491.16	\$0.00	\$491.16	\$500	\$8.84
Nominating Committee/Chair Travel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500	\$500.00
Session Minutes Review Committee	\$137.99	\$0.00	\$137.99	\$500	\$362.01
Pastors' Retreat Subsidy	<u>\$675.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$675.00</u>	<u>\$2,300</u>	<u>\$1,625.00</u>
Total Other Expenses	\$1,304.15	\$0.00	\$1,304.15	\$3,800	\$2,495.85

Presbytery Expenses

Meals and Expense Subsidy	\$4,812.75	\$0.00	\$4,812.75	\$7,500	\$2,687.25
Resource/Teaching Honorariums	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$3,000</u>	<u>\$2,500.00</u>
Total Presbytery Meeting Expenses	\$5,312.75	\$0.00	\$5,312.75	\$10,500	\$5,187.25

EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
Income and Expenses (as of August 31, 2023)

Stated Clerk's Office Expenses

Administrator's Salary	\$5,833.31	\$833.33	\$6,666.64	\$10,000	\$3,333.36
Clerk's Salary	\$21,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$36,000	\$12,000.00
Communications	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$450.00	\$900	\$450.00
Conference Service	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Supplies	\$1,454.83	\$46.15	\$1,500.98	\$1,000	-\$500.98
TE Background Checks	\$250.90	\$0.00	\$250.90	\$300	\$49.10
Website and Computer Support	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200	\$200.00
Travel- Clerk and Assistant	\$2,963.65	\$1,989.37	\$4,953.02	\$8,000	\$3,046.98
Commissions/Other Travel	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	\$200	<u>\$200.00</u>
Total Stated Clerk's Office	\$31,952.69	\$5,868.85	\$37,821.54	\$56,600	\$18,778.46

Treasurer's Expenses

Review of Financial Records	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$600	\$0.00
Office Supplies	\$348.00	\$0.00	\$348.00	\$450	\$102.00
Officers and Directors Insurance	\$2,148.00	\$0.00	\$2,148.00	\$2,190	\$42.00
Professional Support	\$560.00	\$80.00	\$640.00	\$960	\$320.00
Stipend Salary	\$2,041.69	\$291.67	\$2,333.36	\$3,500	\$1,166.64
Travel	\$1,771.01	\$0.00	\$1,771.01	\$1,900	\$128.99
Payroll Expenses	<u>\$2,789.05</u>	<u>\$398.45</u>	<u>\$3,187.50</u>	<u>\$4,500</u>	<u>\$1,312.50</u>
Total Treasurer's Expenses	\$10,257.75	\$770.12	\$11,027.87	\$14,100	\$3,072.13

Total All Expenses	\$80,482.72	\$11,295.31	\$92,178.03	\$149,000.00	\$56,821.97
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**EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
Fund Summary (as of August 31, 2023)**



Description	Prior Month Balance	Current Month Inflow	Current Month Outflow	Month-End Balance	
Assets					
Cash	\$140,385.03	\$12,411.80	\$14,843.78	\$137,953.05	
Other Assets	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Total Assets	\$140,385.03	\$12,411.80	\$14,843.78	\$137,953.05	Checkbook Balance
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Chaplain's Travel Fund	\$1,310.01	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,310.01	
Church Health Resourcing	\$6,165.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,165.30	
Church Health TP Training	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$945.62	(\$345.62)	
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	\$2,538.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,538.35	
Pastor's Care & Support	\$5,153.32	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,153.32	
Pastor's Retreat	\$713.26	\$1,260.00	\$0.00	\$1,973.26	
Women's Ministries	\$3,454.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,454.52	
WO Engage 2025	\$5,621.46	\$225.00	\$2,602.85	\$3,243.61	
Total Designated Funds	\$27,798.22	\$2,085.00	\$3,548.47	\$26,334.75	
Reserve/Undesignated	\$84,064.32	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$84,064.32	
Current Income (Loss)	\$28,595.60	\$10,326.80	\$11,295.31	\$27,627.09	
Total Bank Balance	\$140,385.03	\$12,411.80	\$14,843.78	\$137,953.05	

**Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
Per Member Askings 2023**

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Church	Members	Requested	Actual	% of
2			PMA	Giving	Total
3	Centerpoint	763	\$11,445	\$11,835	103%
4	Centerville	296	\$4,440	\$3,330	75%
5	Christ Community Church	1000	\$15,000	\$9,035	60%
6	Christ Church East Bay	138	\$2,070	\$1,920	93%
7	Clayton Community	122	\$1,830	\$6,600	360%
8	CPC Danville	1741	\$26,115	\$17,744	68%
9	Covenant Pres Orange	212	\$3,180	\$776	24%
10	Covenant Pres Reno	181	\$2,715	\$1,650	61%
11	Covenant Pres San Diego	103	\$1,545	\$1,283	83%
12	Covenant Community Vacaville	130	\$1,950	\$1,300	67%
13	Easton	200	\$3,000	\$3,000	100%
14	Fair Oaks Pres	800	\$12,000		
15	First Armenian	168	\$2,520	\$1,943	77%
16	First Pres Bakersfield	452	\$6,780	\$4,502	66%
17	First Pres Fresno	562	\$8,430	\$8,775	104%
18	First Pres Hanford	96	\$1,440	\$932	65%
19	Fowler	149	\$2,235		
20	Fremont *	930	\$11,550	\$8,000	69%
21	Heritage	33	\$495	\$188	38%
22	Hope	100	\$1,500	\$750	50%
23	Kingman	135	\$2,025	\$1,260	62%
24	Millbrook	16	\$240		
25	Moraga Valley	691	\$10,365	\$5,569	54%
26	New Life, Covelo	13	\$195	\$180	92%
27	San Ramon	152	\$2,280	\$1,950	86%
28	Sanger	45	\$675	\$750	111%
29	Sierra Presbyterian	226	\$3,390	\$2,222	66%
30	St. John's Assyrian	184	\$2,760	\$2,760	100%
31	The Table	40	\$600	\$600	100%
32	Valley Community	20	\$300		
33	Wintersburg	329	\$4,935	\$13,245	268%
34	<u>Woodlake</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>\$1,335</u>	<u>\$1,335</u>	<u>100%</u>
35	Total	10,116	\$149,340	\$113,433	76%
36					
37					
38	* Presbytery Office -				



Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
2024 Percentage of Income Askings
as of January 1, 2024

CHURCH	REPORTED 2022 INCOME	GA	POPS		
		REQUESTED POI (1.0%)	REQUESTED POI (0.5%)	ACTUAL GIVING	% of TOTAL
Centerpoint, Roseville	\$2,495,179	\$24,952	\$12,476	\$0	0%
Centerville PC, Fremont	1,504,686	15,047	7,523	0	0%
Christ Church East Bay	1,483,879	14,839	7,419	0	0%
Christ Community Church	2,586,263	25,863	12,931	0	0%
Clayton Community Church	703,198	7,032	3,516	0	0%
Community PC Danville	6,193,415	61,934	30,967	0	0%
Cornerstone Woodlake	138,061	1,381	690	0	0%
Covenant Community Vacaville	471,556	4,716	2,358	0	0%
Covenant PC Reno	421,358	4,214	2,107	0	0%
Covenant PC of Orange	659,485	6,595	3,297	0	0%
Covenant PC of San Diego	504,929	5,049	2,525	0	0%
Easton PC	232,000	2,320	1,160	0	0%
Fair Oaks Church	2,642,304	26,423	13,212	0	0%
First Armenian	623,434	6,234	3,117	0	0%
First Pres Fresno	1,438,643	14,386	7,193	0	0%
First Pres Hanford	227,875	2,279	1,139	0	0%
First Pres of Bakersfield	1,428,390	14,284	7,142	0	0%
Fowler	394,677	3,947	1,973	0	0%
Fremont*	2,175,527	21,755	8,478	0	0%
Heritage, Santa Maria	65,222	652	326	0	0%
Hope PC, Folsom	318,705	3,187	1,594	0	0%
Kingman PC	195,781	1,958	979	0	0%
Millbrook PC, Fresno	87,353	874	437	0	0%
Moraga Valley PC	2,042,000	20,420	10,210	0	0%
New Life, Covelo	20,096	201	100	0	0%
San Ramon PC	880,627	8,806	4,403	0	0%
Sanger Community	207,000	2,070	1,035	0	0%
Sierra PC, Nevada City	561,967	5,620	2,810	0	0%
St. John's Assyrian, Turlock	112,851	1,129	564	0	0%
The Table, San Francisco	138,112	1,381	691	0	0%
Valley Community, San Jacinto	111,004	1,110	555	0	0%
Wintersburg PC, Santa Ana	1,691,770	16,918	8,459	0	0%
TOTAL	\$32,757,347	\$327,573	\$161,387	\$0	0%

* Presbytery Office Offset: \$2,400

2024 Budget Recommendations

Included below are individual recommendations that are included in the Proposed 2024 POPS Budget.

General

- Shift day-to-day accounting responsibilities of Treasurer to Presbytery Assistant (PA)
- Move the Treasurer's Office functions to the Presbytery Office
- Identify an RE or TE Treasurer to oversee the activities of the PA and report to the Presbytery
- Add a POPS Chaplain at 8 hours per week to work in concert with the Ministerial Committee to support, encourage and care for POPS teaching elders
- Ramp up the Church Planting Coordinator to take advantage of the full GA Church Planting subsidy
- Double the hours of the Church Health Coordinator (use full GA Church Health subsidy)
- Shift from *Per Member Asking* to *Percentage of Income Asking*

Revenue

- Set the POPS Percentage of Income Asking to 0.5% of total prior year income as reported to the GA
- Projected Income based on POI is over \$161,000
- Budget Actual POI Askings for 2024 at \$152,000
- Include full year of GA Church Health Subsidy (\$12,000)
- Add full year of GA Church Planting Subsidy (\$3,000)

Expenses

- Increase Presbytery Assistant wages (\$2,000) to cover financial responsibilities
- Add \$12,000 for POPS Chaplain
- Eliminate Treasurer Salary
- Add \$5,000 for Church Planting Coordinator (\$3,000 covered by GA subsidy)
- Add \$500 for Church Planting Coordinator Travel
- Add full year of Church Health Coordinator Salary (increase of \$6,000; all funded by subsidy)

Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
2024 Proposed Budget



DESCRIPTION	2023 BUDGET		2023	2023	2024	2024
	TOTAL	YTD ²	ACTUAL ²	%	ESTIMATED	PROPOSED
REVENUE						
Percentage of Income Asking (0.5%)	\$143,000	\$ 95,333	\$112,084	118%	\$ 145,000	\$ 152,000
GA Subsidy - Church Health	6,000	4,000	6,000	150%	8,000	12,000
GA Subsidy - Church Planting	0	-	0	0%	2,000	3,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$149,000	\$ 99,333	\$118,084		\$ 153,000	\$ 167,000
EXPENSES						
Presbytery Office¹						
Salary - Stated Clerk	\$ 36,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	100%	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000
Salary - Presbytery Assistant	10,000	6,667	6,667	100%	10,000	12,000
Travel - Clerk and Assistant	8,000	5,333	4,953	93%	7,000	8,000
Travel - Other	200	133	0	0%	0	200
Information Tech./Website	200	133	0	0%	0	0
Office Supplies/Postage/Copies	1,000	667	1,501	225%	1,500	1,500
Communications	900	600	450	75%	900	900
Background Checks	300	200	251	125%	300	300
Ministerial Committee						
Salary - Chair	30,000	20,000	20,000	100%	30,000	30,000
Salary - Proposed Chaplain	0	-	0	0%	0	12,000
Travel - Chair	5,000	3,333	2,135	64%	4,000	5,000
Travel - Committee	500	333	574	172%	575	500
Resources/Supplies	0	-	0	0%	0	0
Care of Candidates Committee						
Salary - Chair	5,000	3,333	3,333	100%	5,000	5,000
Travel - Chair	1,200	800	504	63%	800	1,200
Candidate Subsidy	800	533	400	0%	600	800
Committee/Candidate Travel	1,500	1,000	840	84%	1,300	1,500
Mission Committee						
Program	7,000	4,667	2,625	56%	7,000	7,000
Travel - Chair/Committee	500	333	394	0%	500	500
Session Minutes Review Committee						
Travel - Chair/Committee	500	333	138	0%	400	500
Nominating Committee						
Travel - Chair/Committee	500	333	0	0%	250	500

Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
2024 Proposed Budget



DESCRIPTION	2023 BUDGET		2023	2023	2024	2024
	TOTAL	YTD ²	ACTUAL ²	%	ESTIMATED	PROPOSED
Moderator						
Stipend	2,000	1,333	1,333	100%	2,000	2,000
Travel	3,000	2,000	572	29%	1,000	2,000
Other Expenses	300	200	0	0%	0	200
Treasurer's Office						
Salary	3,500	2,333	2,333	100%	3,500	0
Travel	1,900	1,267	1,771	140%	2,000	500
Officer's & Director's Insurance	2,190	1,460	2,148	147%	2,148	2,200
Office Supplies	450	300	348	116%	450	0
Annual Financial Review	600	400	600	150%	600	200
Consulting Support	960	640	640	100%	960	0
Payroll/Accounting Service	0	0	0	0%	0	1,200
Payroll Taxes	4,500	3,000	3,188	106%	4,300	4,300
Church Planting						
Stipend - Liaison	1,000	667	0	0%	2,000	6,000
Travel	0	-	0	0%	0	500
Assessments	200	133	0	0%	0	200
Church Health						
Coordinator Salary	6,000	4,000	4,000	100%	8,000	12,000
Travel	0	0	0	0%	0	0
Presbytery Meetings						
Meals and Expense Subsidy	7,500	5,000	4,813	96%	7,300	7,500
Resource/Teaching Honorariums	3,000	2,000	500	25%	1,000	2,000
Discovery Workshops	500	333	491	147%	490	500
Pastor's Retreat Subsidy	2,300	1,533	675	44%	2,300	2,300
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$149,000	\$ 99,333	\$ 92,177		\$ 144,173	\$ 167,000
NET INCOME/LOSS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,907		\$ 8,827	\$ -

1. Office space provided by Fremont Presbyterian Church
in lieu of a portion of Per Member Asking

2. Through August 2023

EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
Council, Committee Members and Officers
2024 (projected)



<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Number</u>
Stated Clerk¹	RE Mark Eshoff	2026	Three years	Unlimited
Moderator¹	RE Brian Wyatt	2024 (1 st)	One year	Two
Past Moderator¹	TE Lana Roberts	2025	Two years	One
Moderator-Elect¹			One year	One
Treasurer¹	_____	2026	Three years	Unlimited

Ministerial Committee

Chair ¹	TE David Abdo	2024 ²	Three years	Two
Class of 2024	TE Guy Boyer - Valley Community Church, San Jacinto, CA RE Chris Larsen, Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, Fair Oaks, CA			
Class of 2025	RE (VACANT)			
Class of 2026	TE Scott Larson – Covenant Presbyterian Church of Orange, CA RE Rhea Serpan – Community Presbyterian Church, Danville, CA			

Care of Candidates Committee

Chair ¹	TE Matt Young	2026 (1 st)	Three years	Two
Class of 2024	TE Jason Yum RE Stephen Morris – Covenant Presbyterian Church, Orange, CA RE (VACANT)			
Class of 2025	TE Bryan Yeo – Centerpoint Community Church, Roseville, CA RE (VACANT) RE Marty Brown – Fair Oaks Church, Fair Oaks, CA			
Class of 2026	RE Ken Adams – Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, Moraga, CA RE Linda Marshall – New Life Church, Covelo, CA			

Nominating Committee

Chair ¹	RE Christine Deane – Moraga Valley PC	2025 (2 nd)	Three years	Two
Class of 2024	TE (VACANT)			
Class of 2026	RE Chris Rhodes – Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV			

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Number</u>
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Mission Committee

Chair ¹	TE Dave Fenska	2026 (1 st)	Three years	Two
Class of 2024	TE Greg Haroutunian - First Armenian Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA RE John McCormick – First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield, CA			
Class of 2025	TE Sam Knottnerus, Centerville Presbyterian Church, Fremont, CA RE Stephen Morris – Covenant Presbyterian Church, Orange, CA RE John Goodell – First Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA			
Class of 2026	RE Laura Spongberg – First Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA RE Chris Melander – Covenant Presbyterian Church, Orange, CA			

Session Minutes Review Standing Committee

Chair ¹	RE Janet Goodman – Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV	2025 (2 nd)	Three years	Two
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Officers of the Corporation

All members must be elected to this position by the
Presbytery Council each year per CA State law

President: RE Brian Wyatt

Secretary: RE Mark Eshoff

Treasurer: RE _____

Church Health Coordinator

TE Mike Griffin, Sierra Presbyterian Church, Nevada City, CA

Church Planting Coordinator

TE Shawn Robinson, Clayton Community Church, Clayton, CA

1. Member of the General Council of the Presbytery
2. Extension of term for one year

Descending Overtures from the 43rd General Assembly Evangelical Presbyterian Church

DESCENDING OVERTURE 43-A

That the *Book of Government* 17-5 be deleted, with the following sections renumbered, and the *Book of Government* 6-8D and 18-3H be amended. [Rationale: This amendment clarifies the authority of the Session alone over all financial matters of the Local Church and eliminates outdated, ambiguous, or confusing references to financial responsibility of the Board of Deacons.]

Current <i>Book of Government</i> 17-5	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 17-5 <i>Amendments in bold italics</i>
<p>BOG 17-5 Treasurer</p> <p>A. Where the responsibility for the finances of the local church falls to the Board, it shall appoint a Treasurer to handle the financial matters of the congregation. This person may or may not be a Deacon.</p> <p>B. Where the Session retains responsibility for financial matters, it shall follow this stipulation: the Treasurer shall report to the appointing body at each stated meeting, keeping a careful record of financial matters. The appointing body shall be responsible for an annual audit of the finances of the church.</p> <p>BOG 17-6 Meetings</p> <p>A. Frequency The Board shall meet at least quarterly unless otherwise provided for by the Session. It shall meet at the call of the Moderator, or when ordered to convene by the Session. When requested in writing by one-fourth of the Board, the Chairman shall call a meeting. The purpose shall be clearly stated. No business other than that stated in the call may be transacted.</p>	<p>BOG 17-5 Meetings</p> <p>A. Frequency The Board shall meet at least quarterly unless otherwise provided for by the Session. It shall meet at the call of the Moderator, or when ordered to convene by the Session. When requested in writing by one-fourth of the Board, the Chairman shall call a meeting. The purpose shall be clearly stated. No business other than that stated in the call may be transacted.</p> <p><i>[Subsequent sections to be renumbered]</i></p>

Current <i>Book of Government</i> 6-8 D	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 6-8 D <i>Amendments in bold italics</i>
D. If a local church does not elect Trustees (or if Deacons have not been given the responsibility of property), the Session, or a designated portion of the court, shall serve as the Trustees of the local church.	D. If a local church does not elect Trustees (or if Deacons have not been given the responsibility of property) , the Session, or a designated portion of the court, shall serve as the Trustees of the local church.

Current <i>Book of Government</i> 18-3H	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 18-3H <i>Amendments in bold italics</i>
H. To determine the budget of the church and the benevolence objectives of the congregation.	H. To determine <i>and oversee the finances of the local church including the budget</i> and the benevolence objectives of the congregation.

DESCENDING OVERTURE 43-B

That the *Book of Discipline* be amended by adding the following statement to the end of *Book of Discipline* 1-1. [Rationale: Church Discipline is not designed to deal with criminal acts apart from the authority of the civil magistrates. (Westminster Chapter 23-4). This preface to our practice of Ecclesiastical Discipline does not replace our responsibility to obey civil authorities and to protect the victims of abuse.

Current <i>Book of Discipline</i> 1-1	Proposed <i>Book of Discipline</i> 1-1 <i>Amendments in bold italics</i>
<p>1-1 Definition of Church Discipline</p> <p>There are two kinds of authority vested in the church; the responsibility of order and the authority of jurisdiction.¹⁹⁶ Both kinds of authority are given the church by the Lord Jesus Christ to instruct and guide her members and to promote her purity and welfare. Discipline is the exercise of the responsibility of order, particularly in regard to the reproving of the erring.¹⁹⁷ As the exercise of such authority may adversely affect the membership rights of an individual who has been accused of an offense, the authority requires the use of ecclesiastical judicial procedures.</p> <p>The word “discipline,” when used in the <i>Book of Discipline</i>, chapters 1-11, shall therefore refer to the use of ecclesiastical judicial procedures.</p>	<p>1-1 Definition of Church Discipline</p> <p>There are two kinds of authority vested in the church; the responsibility of order and the authority of jurisdiction.¹⁹⁶ Both kinds of authority are given the church by the Lord Jesus Christ to instruct and guide her members and to promote her purity and welfare. Discipline is the exercise of the responsibility of order, particularly in regard to the reproving of the erring.¹⁹⁷ As the exercise of such authority may adversely affect the membership rights of an individual who has been accused of an offense, the authority requires the use of ecclesiastical judicial procedures.</p> <p>The word “discipline,” when used in the <i>Book of Discipline</i>, chapters 1-11, shall therefore refer to the use of ecclesiastical judicial procedures.</p> <p><i>Church discipline does not supersede or negate the legal responsibility to report cases of suspected abuse to civil authorities according to local and state requirements.</i></p>

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?



EPC

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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.



EPC

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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.

Part 2: Personal Information

(please print or type)

1. Name: Bogert Ryan William
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Preferred Address:

40543 Blacow Road, Fremont, CA 94538

Alternate Address:

4360 Central Avenue, Fremont, CA 94536 - (Church Address)

Preferred Phone: 408-838-1965 ☒ Cell ☐ Work ☐ Home

Alternate Phone: _____ ☐ Cell ☐ Work ☐ Home

Email: ryan@cpcfremont.org

2. Work History:

Previous Ministry Positions	Dates
Pastor of Student Ministries - New Life Community Church, Artesia, CA	July 2019-Oct. 2021
Director of High School and Jr. High Ministry - Bethany Church, West Covina, CA	June 2016-July 2019
Youth Ministry Intern - Foothill Vineyard Church, San Dimas, CA	Jan. 2014-May 2015
Young Adult Ministry Summer Intern - Christ Community Church, Milpitas, CA	May 2015-Sep. 2015

Present/Last Position (if you are currently not in a ministry position)	Dates
Congregational Life Director - Centerville Presbyterian Church, Fremont, CA	Dec. 2022-Present

Name: Ryan Bogert

3. Ordination Status

Ordained by (church/city/state): N/A

Ordination Date: N/A

If not ordained:

Church Membership (church, city, state): Centerville Presbyterian Church, Fremont, CA

Candidate Under Care of (denomination and presbytery): EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest

since (date): January 2023

4. Educational Background:

a. Name of Institution	Dates Attended	Degree Achieved
Fuller Theological Seminary	9/16-12/19	Master of Divinity
Azusa Pacific University	8/13-5/16	B.A. in Christian Ministry

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

My ongoing professional development includes learning through reading books and by attending occasional conferences to better equip me as a pastor for ministry. I have attended conferences such as Catalyst in the past, and gone to some online seminars for groups such as ThinkOrange. I also have signed up for programs in the EPC such as the Pastoral Health and Effectiveness program with Doug Resler because I want to continue growing in emotional and spiritual health, as well as skills in organizational structure, administration, and leadership. I also reached out to Cron Gibson about being involved in a trauma-ministry group he mentioned he may be launching at GA.

Name: Ryan Bogert

c. Community and Civic Activities:

I am very involved in my community through my leadership position at my church, and have been in the past as well. I also previously offered free after-school tutoring for middle school students. I also took my youth group at my former church to serve at the LA DreamCenter a couple of times before COVID hit. COVID definitely limited my rhythm of community activities.

d. Presbytery and General Assembly Activities:

I am currently under care as of January 2023 at the Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest in the EPC. Since then I have attended 2 POPS meetings and I just attended General Assembly in Colorado. I thoroughly have enjoyed all of these meetings and am excited to be in a denomination as healthy and on fire for Jesus and spreading the Gospel as the EPC.

Name: Ryan Bogert

e. Ecumenical Activity:

My ecumenical activity is and has always been connected through the ministry of the churches in which I have served as a pastor or leader. I grew up at a PCUSA church that is now in ECO. That church brought me to the National Gathering for ECO in 2016, and I got to experience that denomination firsthand. I really loved what I saw, both in the health of ECO and in the accountability and unity that came with their Presbyterian system. I just attended GA with the EPC in Colorado, and it felt very much like that same air of unity, healthiness as a denomination, and accountability in the connectional system of Presbyterianism.

My 6+ years as a youth pastor were at 2 churches, a non-denominational church with Baptist roots, and a RCA church that just left the RCA in 2022 and is now non-denominational. The first church was very unhealthy, apathetic, and in decline, and the RCA church was healthy in some ways such as growth, but organizationally was very staff-driven and does not have a good system of accountability. I fear that the spiritual health of that church could go downhill with the wrong leadership, if the senior pastor were to leave or retire.

I really value the Presbyterian structure and connectionalism because of these experiences which help prevent abuse and neglect in the church. While I did not know as much directly about the EPC as ECO until this last year or two, I am really excited about the vision that was presented this year at GA and this is very much the type of denomination I want to be a part of.

f. Special Interests, Hobbies:

I am a huge sports fan and I love to watch sports and root for the hometown teams of my childhood - go 49ers, Giants, and Warriors! I also love to play sports actively as well as the opportunity arises. I also do my best to go to the gym 3-4 times a week, with my wife Sarah. Sarah and I also love going on hikes and walks together. No kids at this time!

I listen regularly to the Bible Project podcast, which is very enriching for me spiritually and professionally, and helps me gain new insights on Scripture. I also am a big fan of personality assessments such as Myers-Briggs or the Enneagram, because I believe they are tools that can be used to grow in emotional intelligence and that can be a great catalyst in our spiritual walks as Christians.

Name: Ryan Bogert

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

English

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

My relationship with my supervisor, Sam Knottnerus, has been a huge blessing and help to my ministry. He has been incredibly encouraging as a supervisor while sharing his knowledge and experience serving in many different churches. His passion for Jesus is tangible to everyone around him and inspires me to love Jesus more in my own everyday life. He has done a great job of creating a very open culture where I feel very safe being vulnerable with him about the struggles I am going through in my own life. That has helped us to have a relationship where we can hold each other accountable in how we are leading and caring for people as pastors.

Name: Ryan Bogert

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 San Jose, California and grew up there until I was 18. I grew up going to a Presbyterian (now ECO) church, Christ Community Church of Milpitas. When I was 9 I started struggling with severe depression, and through most of my adolescence and teenage years I regularly had suicidal thoughts. During these struggles, despite my regular church attendance, I decided I no longer believed God was real. When I was 17 I went on a mission trip with my youth group to Costa Rica the day after a breakup with my high school girlfriend of three years. On this trip, I experienced the supernatural healing power of Jesus in a miraculous way as I felt my depression wash away, and God healed me and permanently took away my desire to end my own life. Since then, while I still have struggled with depression at times, I have never had a single suicidal thought, which was a regular part of my adolescent years for most of a decade. God became real to me on this trip, and I accepted Jesus Christ into my heart as my personal Lord and Savior.

One year later, I was in college at UC Santa Cruz, and I did not know what to do with my life. At this time, I began to realize God had bigger plans for me than I could imagine. I had tried out lots of different classes to try to find my major, but God had planted a seed in my heart through my former youth pastor telling me that God may be calling me to be a pastor. Through multiple powerful moments and continual prayer, I knew God was calling me to the life of a pastor serving him, and God was telling me to transfer to Azusa Pacific University as a Christian Ministries major.

My educational experience at both APU and Fuller Theological Seminary working on my M.Div were instrumental in making me the pastor I am today. These schools challenged how I thought about Scripture and rebuilt my understanding of who God is from the ground up. My time there helped me grow immensely in my biblical knowledge and how to practically lead and disciple others in their spiritual walks as a pastor. I also went to counseling at APU which helped me to process my own childhood trauma and struggles that caused my depression, and I grew deeply in self-awareness and emotional intelligence.

Since graduating from APU, I worked as a part-time Youth Director at Bethany Church in West Covina, CA, and as a full-time Student Ministries Pastor at New Life Community Church in Artesia, CA. School was an incredible growing experience for me, but there is nothing that can replace the real-world experience I received pastoring at these churches. The thing that drives me in ministry is deep, authentic relationships with the people under my care, and seeing them grow in their own spiritual walks. I always want to know that God is using me to make a difference, and when I see how God is using me is when I am the most filled and energized as a pastor. Now I am at CPC working as the Congregational Life Director, and God has affirmed every step of the way that this is exactly where I am supposed to be.

Name: Ryan Bogert

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.?)*

My leadership style is very collaborative and relational. I like to bring others into the decision-making process and to consider all other views and perspectives besides my own before making a decision. I think it is important to include volunteers and lay leaders in the planning process because it creates a sense of ownership that empowers volunteers to completely buy-in to their ministry and see it as their own. I also think it is important as a leader to call out the gifts of the people I am leading and encourage them to exercise these gifts for the kingdom of God.

I believe conflict needs to be met head-on and addressed directly. Unresolved conflict and hurt feelings can be poison to a church community and cause dysfunction in a staff or leadership team. Therefore, anytime I have conflict with someone, I always strive to seek them out and address the issue in a gentle and grace-filled manner to bring about reconciliation and restoration.

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

My former boss and mentor at Bethany Church and dear friend Brandon Penn once described my preaching style as provocative. To me, this means that I am called to teach as Jesus did: in a way that often makes people uncomfortable. I believe that in American Christianity, we as pastors have sometimes become too safe or "vanilla" in their preaching, and sometimes we underplay the cost of discipleship. I believe preaching should move people to make changes in their walks with Jesus, so when I preach I prayerfully consider how God wants to use me to move the hearts of the people listening. This leads me to often say things that are provocative, meaning it fights against spiritual complacency and challenges people to make serious changes in their lives. Jesus' call to pick up your cross daily and follow me is not an easy call, and His teaching style rarely made people comfortable - and I try to emulate these messages of Jesus in how I teach.

I am also generally a very analytical person and a Bible nerd, so I love deep exegesis into Scripture. However, it is very important to me that after exegesis, the sermon brings it into the everyday lives we face as people living in the 21st century, with practical application to how we live for Jesus in a modern world.

I do not have a strong preferred worship style. There are elements of many different worship styles that can be valuable in the right context, therefore we should hold this sort of thing loosely. I do not believe there is any one worship style that is the silver bullet for ministry, and we should adapt our worship style to be as effective as possible in our current context (similar to Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23).

Name: Ryan Bogert

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

I believe God has called me to a pastoral role wherever I go. In my current role, that includes discipleship/groups ministry, deacon ministry, preaching, and more. I believe the most important part of my calling is to build deep relationships with those under my care and to pursue heart transformation, challenging people to live as disciples of Jesus in their everyday lives. Ultimately I do not believe that effectiveness can be measured solely with a metric like attendance, but is truly measured based on the fruit of the people we are leading and how they are representing Christ and sharing the Gospel with others in their life.

3. Comment briefly on your views as relates to:

a. Spiritual giftedness

I believe God has given gifts to each and every believer to use for the kingdom of God. It is very important in our spiritual walks to identify the gifts God has given us and how He is calling us to use these gifts in our regular lives. I believe that there are many different spiritual gifts, and that the lists of spiritual gifts in Scripture (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4) are examples of such gifts, but are not meant to be exclusive lists of all spiritual gifts. Everyone has different gifts according to God's design making up the full body of Christ with our own uniqueness (1 Corinthians 12:12-26).

Name: Ryan Bogert

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

I am not charismatic, and have never spoken in tongues or prophesied over anyone, although I do not think it is impossible that God can work through people who use these gifts. I do not try to put limits on what God can or cannot do through people/spiritual gifts. However, if someone were to speak in tongues or prophesy at my church, I believe the appropriate response is to have some skepticism while striving to discern if this spirit is from God (1 John 4) by examining it within the church community against the truth found in Scripture. I believe that a lot of Christians in the world tend to say that God told them to do something, when in reality it is something that really aligns with their own will. Therefore I tend to be skeptical unless God makes His will incredibly clear.

c. Women in ordained office

I am fully egalitarian and completely believe that women can lead everyone and hold any role that a man can hold. Jesus invited women to follow him and serve alongside him in a way that was culturally inappropriate and foreign to the Jews at that time (Luke 8:1-3). The Bible in general counter-culturally affirmed and empowered women when compared against the cultures and religious texts of the Ancient Near East. I believe that biblical examples of women in leadership such as Deborah, Lydia, Phoebe, Priscilla, Anna, and more are examples of how God can use women as spiritual leaders. Simply put, if it was a sin for women to lead men spiritually, then Deborah would not be in Scripture! Therefore, I believe it is biblical to say women can be pastors, elders, deacons, and serve in any role that a man can serve in.

Name: Ryan Bogert

d. Presbyterian connectional system

I believe that church accountability to a larger body is essential for church health, and I love how the connectionalism of the EPC offers relational accountability. Without a denomination, there is very little structure to deal with problems or conflicts as they arise, and this can be very dangerous. Therefore the Presbyterian denominational model offers great security that helps protect both pastors and elders/congregants. I also believe that we as the body of Christ are stronger when we have strong relationships with our sister churches locally and in the denomination, and work together for the glory of God.

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 Bogert

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.)*

Chapter 21.7: I disagree that Scripture dictates that Sabbath must be practiced on the first day of the week (Sunday). This is a legalistic approach and also does not align with how Sabbath was originally practiced by Jews on Saturdays from sundown to sundown. While the Sabbath is to be taken seriously, we do not need to be this legalistic. As Jesus said, Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath (Mark 2).

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

☒ Yes ☐ No (please explain briefly):



EPC

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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 Ryan Bogert Date Updated 9/27/23 

1. The Bible (Bibliology)

The Bible is the infallible Word of God written by people who were uniquely inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Bible is the ultimate authority on all matters on which it speaks, and as Christians we must submit all areas of our lives unequivocally to God through the truth that is found in Scripture.

2. God the Father (Theology proper)

God exists as the Trinity which is three persons having one substance. They are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The knowledge and will of the Trinity is perfectly infallible and they are infinite as Three in One. God the Father so loved the world that He sent His one and only Son to Earth to die on the cross in order to pay the price for our sins, because He desired reconciliation and relationship with us humans as His Creation. Ultimately part of the nature of the Trinity is a mystery, and we as humans can never have full comprehension and understanding of the complete nature of the Trinity until we go to heaven to be with Him.

3. Jesus Christ (Christology)

Jesus Christ is the second person of the Trinity, God the Son. He has existed since the beginning, eternally, He is both fully human and fully God, and He was with the Father and The Holy Spirit in the beginning. Jesus is the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1), as the clearest picture of the heart and will of God that we have ever witnessed, and can continue to witness through the testimony of Scripture. Jesus loved us so much that he sacrificed Himself for us, not wanting any to perish, but for all to come to know Him to receive eternal life.

4. The Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the same substance of and in perfect unity with God the Father and God the Son. We see the Holy Spirit in the Creation account in Genesis 1:2. After Jesus' ascension, He sent the Holy Spirit to Earth and followers of Jesus were baptized with the Holy Spirit in Acts 2. Through this, the Holy Spirit has come to Earth to reside in the hearts of believers, making us temples of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the source of all good thoughts and pure desires in us as humans.

5. Mankind (Anthropology)

We as humanity were created in the image of God, beginning with Adam and Eve. All people are made in God's image. However, Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, and through this they, and all humanity, were completely corrupted by the influence of sin. Every single aspect of our lives is now tainted with sin. Because of this corruption, we are all guilty of sin and our human nature is totally depraved, inclining us towards choosing evil. We therefore stand guilty before God, and the punishment for this is eternal death.

6. Sin (Hamartiology)

Sin entered humanity through Adam and Eve, and has polluted all faculties of our human existence. Sin breaks the righteous law of God and condemns all of us as guilty before Him. We see the effects of sin in the abject brokenness of our world. We by our own strength can do nothing to make ourselves righteous, as we are stuck in the brokenness of our sin. The only remedy from sin is the irresistible grace of God, through the gift of Jesus on the cross, and when God draws someone to Himself, they are freed from the bondage and condemnation of sin.

7. Salvation (Soteriology)

Salvation is only possible through the free gift of grace that is Jesus' death on the cross for us, as He took our place as a substitute, atoning for our sins. God predestined since the formation of the world the elect who would receive salvation as a free gift of grace from God. Through this, God pardons us of our sin and looks on us as if we were perfectly holy and righteous and without blemish, as Jesus lived. There is nothing a person can do to achieve salvation: it only and completely comes from God as a free gift of grace to us (Ephesians 2). Jesus' death on the cross brought salvation to the world that is sufficient for all, but only is efficient for the elect.

8. Satan

Satan is the ultimate temptor of humanity. Satan rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven. Satan led Adam and Eve astray in the Garden of Eden, and continues to tempt humanity away from God's perfect desires for us. In the day of final judgment, Satan will be completely defeated and eternally punished by God.

9. Angels and Demons

Angels are spiritual beings created by God and exist with God in heaven. Angels are at times sent as God's ambassador or messenger to Earth to perform missions or deliver messages on God's behalf. Angels, like humans, were predestined to either serve God or to rebel against Him and fall from heaven.

Demons are fallen angels who rebelled against God in allegiance with Satan. Demons try to accomplish Satan's purposes by leading humans to sin and by spreading evil in the world. Demons also have the ability to possess humans or animals spiritually, although their power is limited, as God demonstrated his authority over demons through the ministry of Jesus.

10. The Church (Ecclesiology)

The Church is the chosen people of God, predestined by God since the beginning of time. The Church exists as the bride of Christ and Christ is the head of the Church, and it is composed of everyone who, through God's grace, have submitted themselves to His Lordship. Nobody outside of God's Church may experience salvation. The Church exists to be God's light in the world and is used by God to bring people to know who God is and believe in Him for themselves. Christ has commissioned His Church to go into the world to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

11. The Spiritual Life of the Believer

As believers, we have been justified by God through God's irresistible grace drawing us to Himself. We are therefore adopted by God as His children and receive the Holy Spirit which indwells within us. Through the Spirit we are made as a new creation, and sin no longer has power and authority over the believer. The Spirit works to sanctify us, weakening the sinful desires of our human nature, but we are never perfectly sanctified in this life, as our sinful human nature works in opposition to the Spirit.

12. Future Things (Eschatology)

God has chosen a day in the future where He will fully judge the world, and all people will be called to give an account of their thoughts and actions. On this day, the mercy and grace of God will be demonstrated through the salvation of the elect, who will receive eternal life. His justice will be demonstrated through the condemnation of those not chosen by God, who are totally corrupted by sin and will be judged to eternal punishment. At this time there will be a new Heaven and new Earth where every tear will be wiped away and there will be no more death or pain (Revelation 21:1-4).

13. Evangelism

Evangelism is part of the calling of every believer, to go and proclaim the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations. Evangelism calls every human to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, believing He has died for our sins, and through this we may have eternal life. Evangelism is one of the great missions of the church, to plant new churches in new places so that the Gospel may be proclaimed to those who have not heard or fully understood it before. Every single one of us as Christians are called to evangelize to those in our lives and communities who have not yet repented of their sin and accepted Jesus Christ as Lord.

14. Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts are given by God to the believer to equip the saints for good works so that the body of Christ, His Church, may be built up. Many spiritual gifts are listed out in various places in Scripture. We are not called to boast in our gifts as Christians, as we recognize these gifts are not from ourselves but from God - therefore we are to boast in God alone. We are to use our gifts not for our own selfish purposes, but for God's purposes to further His Kingdom.



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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.

The Bible is the infallible Word of God written by people who were uniquely inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Bible is the ultimate authority on all matters on which it speaks, and as Christians we must submit all areas of our lives unequivocally to God through the truth that is found in Scripture.

The truth of Scripture must be central to any teaching and instruction that occurs in God's Church, and in my own personal ministry. I believe it is essential for us as Christians to spend regular time in God's word so that the Holy Spirit can speak to us through the words of Scripture, and I strive to practice this in my own life. I encourage all believers to recognize that God's Word is the ultimate source of truth, and all other beliefs, opinions, and worldviews cannot be judged based on a vague sense of personality morality (as is common today), but must be scrutinized in light of the words and truth of Scripture.

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

There are many distinctions of Reformed Theology that appeal to me. First, I highly value the recognition of our total brokenness as humans. I believe that in a vacuum, we are always inclined towards sin and selfishness in our very human nature, which we see very early on in some of the first words said by most children: "MINE!"

I also value the recognition of God's election of believers and that His salvation is only possible through His irresistible grace. Salvation is always a gift of God, and we can only be saved when He draws us to Himself. I experienced that personally after many years of growing up in the church but rejecting God. I experienced supernatural healing from God, and realized that I could not deny His existence anymore. He left the 99 to chase me down, despite my rebellion and wandering away from Him.

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

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the same substance of and in perfect unity with God the Father and God the Son. The Holy Spirit has come to Earth to reside in the hearts of believers, making us temples of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the source of all good thoughts and pure desires in humans.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is essential. Through this ministry people were inspired to write Scripture. Through this ministry, people are convicted of their sin and moved to repentance, as through the work of the Spirit God irresistibly draws us to Himself. The ministry of the Holy Spirit continues working after conversion by working to sanctify the believer to more resemble the attitudes and behaviors of Jesus Christ.

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

I am fully egalitarian and completely believe that women can lead everyone and hold any role that a man can hold. Jesus invited women to follow him and serve alongside him in a way that was culturally inappropriate and foreign to the Jews at that time (Luke 8:1-3). The Bible in general counter-culturally affirmed and empowered women when compared against the cultures and religious texts of the Ancient Near East. I believe that biblical examples of women in leadership such as Deborah, Lydia, Phoebe, Priscilla, Anna, and more are examples of how God can use women as spiritual leaders. Therefore, I believe it is biblical to say women can be pastors, elders, deacons, and any other leadership role in a church.

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

All forms of government have strengths and weaknesses, but I really value the benefits of the Presbyterian form of government. This form of government offers great accountability, as having strong structures in place prevent a rogue pastor or elder from abusing authority in a way that could damage or destroy a church, and the denomination can help a church when a situation like this occurs. I also think that having a board of Elders as a governing body is good because it invites many different people into leadership, encouraging the priesthood of all believers, rather than having a superhero pastor run the entire show. This invites collaboration in leadership, and this collaboration of many different voices can often encourage discussion and wisdom, often leading to better decisions and results than any one person could make individually. There are drawbacks, such as having a lot of structure and bureaucracy can result in slow decision-making and inefficiency, but it is far better to risk occasional inefficiency rather than having no accountability, where a crazy pastor could do incredible damage to a church.

20. Explain your philosophy of ministry.

I believe God has called me to ministry as a pastor in His Church. I believe the most important part of my calling is to build deep relationships with those under my care and to pursue heart transformation, challenging people to live as disciples of Jesus in their everyday lives. This is done through the teaching of the Word, through community and discipleship, through actively living out faith through service, mission and evangelism, and more. Ultimately I do not believe that effectiveness in ministry can be measured solely with a metric like attendance, but is truly measured based on the fruit of the people we are leading and how they are representing Christ and sharing the Gospel with others in their life.

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

I believe that evangelism is best done relationally. People usually don't care what you know until they know that you care. I strive to get to know the unchurched in my community, starting with the people in my neighborhood. I desire to get to know them so I can build deep relationships with them, and they can see the love of Jesus through how I strive to love them. I do my best to stay prayerfully attuned to the voice of the Holy Spirit, and to listen to when the Spirit prompts me to inject a spiritual question or thought into a discussion. And ultimately I listen to the Spirit to try and find the right moment to tell someone about who Jesus is: that He loves them deeply, that He died for their sins, and that he wants to be in a relationship with them as their Lord and Savior.

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

My calling to ministry started when God healed me from suicidal thoughts I had struggled with for about 7 years. From that moment on, I knew that God had said to me: "You are mine." Later in life, God told me to transfer to a Christian university as a Christian Ministries major because I was to give my life back to Him as a pastor to serve His church. I believe that as a pastor, my calling is to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to Earth by representing and sharing the unconditional love and forgiveness of Jesus wherever I go. Through this, I believe we are called to challenge people to reciprocate that love by accepting Him as Lord of their life, meaning we must submit every single area and decision of our life to Jesus as best we can. In doing this, we bring heaven to Earth by shining the light of Jesus to everyone around us, so people can know we are followers of Jesus by our love.

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

I am strongly convicted that accountability is essential in the life of a Christian, and even more so for me as a pastor and teacher, as teachers are judged on a higher standard (James 3:1). Because of this, I strive to have friends who are pastors outside of my current church in my own life. In these relationships I can be honest about the stress, challenges, and struggles of pastoral ministry with someone who has experienced these same challenges. I can be vulnerable about the sin that I am struggling with, and they can be vulnerable with me as well.

I also strive to practice and encourage accountability in my own church. I think it is very important for Christians who are struggling to find spiritual mentors in the church who are more mature than they are, and can lovingly and gently hold them accountable in their sin and to live as God desires. Correction must always be done in love, and not in a way that reinforces guilt or shame, as we are no longer in bondage to sin. I think this is an area where we as leaders must tread carefully, as spiritual abuse can often happen if accountability is practiced in an unhealthy, unbiblical way.