

# PROVISIONAL MINUTES



**22<sup>nd</sup> Stated Meeting of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest**  
**January 24-25, 2025**  
**Centerpoint Community Church**  
**515 Sunrise Avenue, Roseville, CA 95661**

## 22-1 Call to Order and Opening Prayer

After a breakfast served by the Centerpoint Community Church (CCC) volunteers, Moderator RE Brian Wyatt called the 22<sup>nd</sup> stated meeting of the Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest (POPS) to order at 9:02 am, opened the meeting with prayer, and welcomed the members and commissioners.

## 22-2 Declaration of Quorum

Stated Clerk, RE Mark Eshoff, declared a quorum was present as evidenced by the following record of attendance:

### TE MEMBERS

Centerpoint Community Church – Roseville, CA

TE Bryan Yeo Present

TE Rachel Dorsey Present

TE Jeff Hooker Present

Centerville Presbyterian Church – Fremont, CA

TE Sam Knottnerus Present

TE Ryan Bogert Unexcused

Christ Church, Berkeley, CA

TE Jonathan St. Clair Present

TE Andrew Ong Present

Christ Community Church – Carmichael, CA

Dustin DeVriend Present

Clayton Community Church – Clayton, CA

TE Shawn Robinson Present

Community Presbyterian Church – Danville, CA

TE Tyler Scott Present

TE Cathy Burkholder Present

TE Bill Haslim Present

TE Ryan Pearce Present

Cornerstone Woodlake Presbyterian Church – Woodlake, CA

RE Rick Dorr, Present

Commissioned Pastor

Covenant Community Church – Vacaville, CA

TE Nancy Duff Present

Covenant Presbyterian Church – Orange, CA

TE Scott Larson Present

TE Matt Young Present

Covenant Presbyterian Church – Reno, NV

TE James (Jay) Hull Present

### RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Tom Pool, John Sprague, Sharon Wurst

Marilyn Khalaji, Patricia Lum

Ron Lee, Steve Rogers

Jeff Seaward

Candance Clemmons, Rebecca Duvall

Stephen Morris

Dianne Billharz, Stephen Marsh, Patrick McNeely,  
Chris Rhodes

Covenant Presbyterian Church – San Diego, CA		
TE Patrick King	Excused	
TE Kennerly King	Unexcused	
Easton Presbyterian Church – Fresno, CA		
TE David Abdo	Present	
Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church – Fair Oaks, CA		
TE Donny Butkus	Present	
First Armenian Church – Fresno, CA		
TE Greg Haroutunian	Present	
First Presbyterian Church – Bakersfield, CA		
TE Marcos Ortega	Present	Jim Conners, Lisa Elliott, JB Hay, Tracie Monroe
TE David Constance	Present	
First Presbyterian Church – Fresno, CA		
TE Jeremy Vaccaro	Present	Chester Goodale, Scott Mozier
TE Meagan Kroeker	Present	
First Presbyterian Church – Hanford, CA		
TE Tim Brown	Unexcused	Annette Rajskup
Fowler Presbyterian Church – Fowler, CA		
TE Erik Buhl	Unexcused	
TE Paul Irwin	Unexcused	
Fremont Presbyterian Church – Sacramento, CA		
TE David Pack	Present	Lynn Jordan, David Flores, Alan Foster, Melissa Hightower
TE Matthew McCleary	Present	
Heritage EPC – Santa Maria, CA		
TE Mark Wright	Present	
Hope Presbyterian Church – Folsom, CA		
TE David Huusko	Present	Reid Klatt, Gordon Pipkin
Kingman Presbyterian Church – Kingman, AZ		
TE Joe Tolin	Present	Marc Taquino
Millbrook Presbyterian Church – Fresno, CA		
Vacant		
Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church – Moraga, CA		
TE Brandon Morrow	Present	
TE David Ricketts	Present	
New Life Community Church – Covelo, CA		
Vacant		
Sanger Community Church – Sanger, CA		
Vacant		
San Ramon Presbyterian Church – San Ramon, CA		
Ken Ferguson	Present	
Sierra Presbyterian Church – Nevada City, CA		
TE Michael Griffin	Present	Diana Haines, Kirk Leavy
TE Greg Flagg	Present	

St. John's Assyrian Presbyterian Church – Turlock, CA  
TE Edward Eissabake                      Unexcused

The Table – San Francisco, CA  
TE Troy Wilson                              Present

Valley Community Church – San Jacinto, CA  
TE Guy Boyer                                Excused

Wintersburg Presbyterian Church, Santa Ana, CA  
TE Justin Kim                                Excused  
TE Ryan Teramoto                          Excused

OFFICERS OF THE PRESBYTERY  
TE Lana Roberts, Past Moderator                      Present  
RE Brian Wyatt, Moderator                              Present  
RE Mark Eshoff, Stated Clerk                              Present

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL  
TE David Fenska                              Present  
RE David Sylvester                              Present

MILITARY CHAPLAINS ON ACTIVE DUTY  
None

INSTITUTIONAL CHAPLAINS  
TE Karen Bolte                                Present  
TE Marty Carpenter                              Excused

EVANGELISTS  
TE Scott Downing                              Present  
TE Jose Figueroa                              Unexcused

#### MISSIONARIES

SERVING OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES  
TE Eric Amundson                              Excused  
TE Joe Cole                                      Unexcused  
TE Greg Ehlert                                  Excused  
TE Melaku Mekuria                              Unexcused  
TE Mgrdich Melkonian                              Unexcused  
TE Rick Nylund                                  Unexcused  
TE Ryan Suzuki                                  Present  
TE Fred Tanizaki                                  Excused  
TE Tony Winterowd                              Unexcused

#### MEMBERS SERVING AS ADMINISTRATIVE MEMBERS

MEMBERS WITHOUT A CALL  
TE Greg Alderman                              Present  
TE David Burke                                  Present  
TE Sam Fielder                                  Unexcused  
TE Josh Hall                                      Unexcused  
Ralph "Joe" Mazzela                              Present  
TE Ron Musch                                    Excused  
TE Rob Perkins                                  Excused  
TE Steve Tyra                                    Unexcused  
TE Patrick Vaughn                                  Excused  
TE Quinn Vaughn                                  Excused  
TE Jason Yum                                    Excused

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – ACTIVE

TE Donald Baird	Excused
TE Paul Bergquam	Unexcused

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – Outside Boundaries

TE Kurt Teng	Not Present
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#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – Retired

TE Samuel Adamson	Not Present
TE Jerry Autry	Not Present
TE Robert (Bob) Badgley	Not Present
TE Jim Barstow	Not Present
TE Ed Blake	Not Present
TE Kirk Bottomly	Not Present
TE Scott Dickson	Not Present
TE Scott Farmer	Not Present
TE Steve Frank	Not Present
TE Clifford Graves	Present
TE Anton Hoffmann	Not Present
TE Heidi Johnson	Not Present
TE Robin Kelley	Not Present
TE Linda Line	Not Present
TE Greg Livingstone	Not Present
TE Tom Naylor	Not Present
TE Ron Owens	Not Present
TE Penny Proschold	Not Present
TE Greg Roth	Not Present
TE Marsha Roth	Not Present
TE Chaluay Ruangchan	Not Present
TE Richard Sanner	Not Present
TE Jerry Voss	Not Present
TE Mark Wollan	Not Present

#### GUESTS/OBSERVERS/CANDIDATES/MINISTERS TO BE EXAMINED

Kate Balbi	Christ Community Church, Carmichael
Kevin Balbi	Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, Fair Oaks
Lauri Balbi	Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, Fair Oaks
Ryan Balbi	Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, Fair Oaks
Bob Balzhiser	Christ Community Church, Carmichael
Gabe Becker	Christ Community Church, Carmichael
Paul Bianchi	Community Presbyterian Church, Danville
Rob Burkholder	Community Presbyterian Church, Danville
Cathy Cole	Presbytery of the Pacific SW, Sacramento
Andrea Craddock	EPC World Outreach
Brylie DeVriend	Christ Community Church, Carmichael
Janet Downing	Rural Compassion, Sparks, NV
Cynthia Duncan	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Gerry Dunlap	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Janet Dunlap	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
David Eichinger	Christ Community Church, Carmichael
Lisa Eichinger	Christ Community Church, Carmichael
Cheryl Eshoff	Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento
Mindy Fenska	EPC World Outreach, San Diego
Steve Gold	Covenant Community Church, Vacaville
Cynthia Groom	Christ Community Church, Carmichael
Gwen Guest	Hope Presbyterian Church, Folsom
Amy Holland	Christ Community Church, Danville
David Holland	Christ Community Church, Danville
Denell Hull	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno
Alexis Johnson	Christ Community Church, Carmichael
Evie Knottnerus	Centerville Presbyterian Church, Fremont

## OBSERVERS (cont.)

Mark Kroeker	Christ Community Church, Carmichael
Carl Kuhn	Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, Fair Oaks
Harriet Kuhn	Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, Fair Oaks
Jacklin Lambert	Christ Community Church, Carmichael
Geoff LaTendresse	Community Presbyterian Church, Danville
Heidi Lockett	Centerpoint Community Church, Roseville
Susie Martin	Christ Community Church, Carmichael
Jasmine Mazzela	First Presbyterian Church, Hanford
Jerri Meier	Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, Fair Oaks
Jana Michaelsen	Christ Community Church, Carmichael
Lynne Pinkerton	Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, Fair Oaks
Eileen Randall	Christ Community Church, Carmichael
Tracy Richardson	Christ Community Church, Carmichael
Chris Schlatter	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Sierra Seaward	Cornerstone Woodlake, Woodlake
Ken Shepard	Christ Community Church, Carmichael
Deb Shuford	Sierra Presbyterian Church, Nevada City
John Shuford	Sierra Presbyterian Church, Nevada City
Debra Snyder-Diffin	Christ Community Church, Carmichael
Maggie Taquino	Kingman Presbyterian Church, Kingman, AZ
Dani Tolin	Kingman Presbyterian Church, Kingman, AZ
Christina Wagner	Christ Community Church, Carmichael
Gregory Wanee	Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, Fair Oaks
Karla Wanee	Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, Fair Oaks
Roy Warren	Christ Community Church, Carmichael

## NUMERICAL ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

	Present	Excused	Unexcused	Total/Parity
Teaching Elders (Full Members)	40	12	14	67
Teaching Elders (Associate - Active)	0	1	1	
Teaching Elders (Associate-Retired)	1			
Ruling Elders	32			
Officers of the Presbytery	3			
Presbytery Council	2			
Commissioned Pastors	1			
Received Pending Dismissal	0			
Transitional Members	0			
Candidates/Guests/Observers 52				
TOTAL IN ATTENDANCE	131			
Associate & Retired Members (Not Present)	24			
Inactive Members (Not Present)	0			

**22-3 Welcome**

TE Bryan Yeo, Pastor of Community Presbyterian Church, welcomed the Presbytery and shared a brief update on the ministry of the church.

**22-4 Introduction of New Commissioners and Guests**

Moderator Wyatt welcomed all commissioners and guests. Personal introductions were given to commissioners who were attending a Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest meeting for the first time.

**22-5 Worship**

Moderator Wyatt led the Presbytery in a Call to Worship from Hebrews 4:14-16. The Worship Team from CCC led the Presbytery in musical worship. The sermon on Hebrews 1:1-4 was given by Ryan Balbi, candidate for Pastor at Christ Community Church, Carmichael, CA.

**22-6 Moderator's Time of Prayer**

Moderator Wyatt then led a time of prayer focused on 1 Corinthians 16:13-14. Members, commissioners, and guests prayed the scripture in small groups.

**22-7 Stated Clerk's Report**

Stated Clerk Eshoff reviewed the protocol for participation and voting for the meeting. He also noted attendance expectations, the voting guidelines for the Presbytery, and those Teaching Elders that were absent without excuse at the previous Presbytery Meeting held October 11-12, 2024. He reminded the Presbytery about the need for churches to host future meetings, the importance of returning Church Annual Reports and Teaching Elder Annual Reports on a timely basis, the upcoming Discovery Workshop at Cornerstone Woodlake Church, the upcoming EPC Next Gen Summit, and noted the resources available from the General Assembly office, including the update on EPC Gospel Priorities that was included in the Meeting Packet.

**22-8 Approval of the Docket**

Stated Clerk Eshoff presented changes to the proposed docket and recommended the revised docket to the Presbytery for approval.

**Motion was sustained to adopt the docket as modified.**

**22-9 2025 Parity List**

Stated Clerk Eshoff presented the proposed 2025 Parity List to the Presbytery which was designed to ensure a ratio of 2 Ruling Elder to 1 Teaching elder representation at Presbytery meetings.

**Motion was sustained to approve the 2025 Parity List**

**22-10 Ministerial Committee Report**

TE David Abdo opened in prayer and introduced Ryan Balbi, candidate for Pastor at Christ Community Church, Carmichael, CA.

**Examination of Ryan Balbi**

Ryan had been called as Pastor by the congregation of Christ Community Church, Carmichael, CA. He had signed his Ministerial Obligation Form and Ethical Affirmation Form. He was examined by the members of the Ministerial Committee and his current Terms of Call were reviewed and approved by the Committee. He was recommended to the Presbytery for approval.

Ryan's examination began with a sermon on a passage assigned by the Ministerial Committee. The Presbytery examined him on his knowledge of theology and sacraments, his faith in Christ, his calling to the ministry, the nature of the office of a minister of the Word, polity, the Reformed tradition, the Bible, and his spiritual journey. Ryan had no exceptions to the Westminster Standards.

**Motion was sustained to arrest the examination.**

Ryan and his family were invited to leave the room during the Presbytery discussion. RE's Alexis Johnson and TE Dustin DeVriend from Christ Community Church spoke in support of Ryan.

**Motion was sustained to approve the examination of Ryan Balbi and receive him into full membership in the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest.**

**Motion was sustained to approve the Administrative Commission of TE's Dustin DeVriend from Christ Community Church and Bryan Yeo from Centerpoint Community Church, Roseville, CA, and RE's Mike Stodghill, David Crichton and Alexis Johnson from Christ Community Church and Andrew Hatfield from Fair Oaks Church, Fair Oaks, CA to ordain and install Ryan Balbi as Pastor of Christ Community Church on Sunday, February 2, 2025 at 5:00 pm.**

Ryan was invited back into the main session and was greeted with a standing ovation. TE Greg Alderman prayed for Ryan and the church.

**22-11 Dissolution of Call**

The congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Hanford, CA had voted to request that the Presbytery dissolve their relationship with TE Tim Brown effective December 1, 2024.

**Motion was sustained to approve the dissolution of the relationship between TE Tim Brown and First Presbyterian Church, Hanford, CA effective December 1, 2024, and change his status to Without a Call.**

TE Lana Roberts prayed for Tim and the church.

**22-12 Sanger Community Church**

TE Abdo reported that the Session and congregation of Sanger Community Church were in a period of discernment about a possible request to be dismissed as a local church in the Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest. TE Abdo prayed for the church.

**22-13 Session Minutes Review**

TE Lana Roberts opened in prayer and read the report of the Session Minutes Review Committee, on behalf of Chair RE Janet Goodman. She reported that the reviews from the October 2024 meeting were nearly completed.

Churches scheduled for Session Minutes Reviews at the January 2025 meeting were:

Centerpoint Community Church, Roseville	Fair Oaks Church, Fair Oaks
Centerville Presbyterian Church, Fremont	Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento
Christ Church East Bay, Berkeley	Hope Presbyterian Church, Folsom
Christ Community Church, Carmichael	Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, Moraga
Covenant Community Church, Vacaville	Sierra Presbyterian Church, Nevada City
Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV	St. John's Assyrian PC, Turlock (2023 and 2024)

## **22-14 Retirement Recognition – TE Cathy Burkholder**

Cathy became a Christian in middle school and began to sense God's call to ministry while attending college at UC Berkeley. Knowing that she was being called by God to full time professional ministry, she pursued her education which led her to Fuller Seminary, Pasadena, CA. Cathy has served on the pastoral staff of four different congregations for over forty years of ministry including Menlo Church (1 year), Trinity Presbyterian Church, San Carlos (13 years), Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church (10 years) and Community Presbyterian Church, Danville. She has served as the Executive Pastor at CPC and been part of the pastoral staff for the last 18 years. Cathy has been passionate about helping people dive deeper into God's word, discover their greater purpose, and make a difference. These past several years have been incredibly fruitful, challenging and humbling. Whether preaching, teaching or leading teams, Cathy's deepest desire is to know Christ and to make Him known through the power of God's spirit.

She's been married to her husband, Rod, for 37 years and their favorite activities include spending time with their family enjoying the outdoors. Lately, Cathy has spent some of her favorite times twirling on the dance floor with their two granddaughters, Clara and Ellery.

TE Tyler Scott recounted the impact that Cathy had on the ministry of CPC Danville. Stated Clerk Eshoff presented Cathy with a gift of appreciation for her many years of service to the Church and RE Geoff LaTendresse prayed for Cathy in this new season.

**Motion was sustained to change the status of TE Cathy Burkholder from Associate Pastor for Administration at Community Presbyterian Church, Danville, CA to Associate-Retired effective April 9, 2025, with deep appreciation for her service to Christ's Church.**

Lunch was then served by the volunteers from Centerpoint Community Church.

## **22-15 Ministry Update – Christ Church Easy Bay, Berkeley, CA**

TE's Jonathan St. Clair and Andrew Ong shared an exciting new partnership with Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO) to establish a campus ministry at UC Berkeley. They hope to fill a niche for ministry to Asian students that has not been covered by other local churches. TE Matt Young prayed for them and for the church's ministry.

## **22-16 Church Health Mini-Workshop**

TE Mike Griffin, POPS Church Health Coordinator, led a workshop entitled *Growing Through Experiences of Grief and Loss as a Church*. Focused on reflecting on the life cycles of the church and dynamics of Incline, Recline, and Decline that our churches face, the workshop imparted practical tools which would enable churches to process experiences of grief and loss in healthy ways in order to grow into a new season of church incline and vitality.

## **22-17 Care of Candidates Committee Report**

TE Matt Young, Chair of the Care of Candidates Committee, opened in prayer and introduced John Shuford, who was ready to come under care of the Presbytery as a Candidate for Ministry.

### **Examination of John Shuford**

John was currently under care of the Session of Sierra Presbyterian Church, Nevada City, CA. The Session had recommended him to the Presbytery as a Candidate Under Care and he met with the POPS Care of Candidates Committee who recommended him for approval.



The Candidate briefly shared their spiritual journey, their sense of call and why they had chosen the EPC. The Presbytery then examined the candidate on their Christian experience and growth, motive for seeking ordination in the EPC, and their call to the ministry.

**Motion was sustained to arrest the examination.**

The candidate was invited to leave the room during discussion.

TE Mike Griffin from Sierra Presbyterian Church spoke on behalf of the candidate.

**Motion was sustained to approve John Shuford to come under care of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest and approve TE Erik Buhl as advisor to Candidate Shuford.**

Candidate Shuford was invited back into the main session and was greeted with a standing ovation. Moderator Wyatt then asked him the Constitutional Questions to which the candidate replied affirmatively. RE Linda Marshall prayed for Candidate Shuford and RE Stephen Morris gave him a charge from Romans 15:13.

**22-18 Treasurer's Report**

RE David Sylvester, POPS Treasurer, opened in prayer and shared the POPS year-end financials (*attached*). He noted that Percentage of Income giving was below the expectations in the budget and was likely affected by the significant increased insurance expenses that many California churches were facing. He distributed a brief survey to inquire of POPS churches what kind of assistance the Presbytery might provide in navigating financial challenges. RE Sylvester closed his report in prayer.

**22-19 2025 POPS Budget**

The POPS Council recommended the attached 2025 Budget for approval by the Presbytery

**Motion was sustained to approve the 2025 POPS Budget**

**22-20 Mission Committee Report**

TE Dave Fenska, Chair, opened in prayer and introduced World Outreach worker Andrea Craddock who presented an exciting report on her work with Mission Cohorts. TE Sam Knottnerus updated the Presbytery on the ministry to the Pashtuns and closed in prayer.

**22-21 Descending Overture from the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

Stated Clerk Eshoff presented the descending overture from the recent 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in June 2024. This overture was approved by the General Assembly to be sent to the EPC presbyteries for their approval.

**Descending Overture 24-A**

To clarify the guidelines for temporary pastoral relationships.

**Motion was sustained by a vote of 62-Yes and 0-No to approve Descending Overture 24-A: That the Book of Government 10-7 and 9-5 be amended.**

**22-22 Ministry Update – New Life Community Church, Covelo CA**

RE Linda Marshall provided an update on New Life Community Church, Covelo, CA, including the completion of their new sanctuary and the joys, challenges and prayer requests for the church. Stated Clerk Eshoff prayed for her and the church.

**22-23 Nominating Committee Report**

RE Chris Rhodes, member, recommended nominees for several POPS committees.

**Motion was sustained to elect RE Stephen Morris from Covenant Presbyterian Church, Orange, CA to the Care of Candidates Committee (Class of 2027).**

**Motion was sustained to elect TE Ken Ferguson from San Ramon Presbyterian Church, and RE's Patti Hemsley and Chris Rhodes from Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV to the Mission Committee – Class of 2027.**

**22-24 Meeting Recess and Dinner**

The meeting was recessed until the following morning at 9:00 am. Dinner was served by the CCC volunteers.

**22-25 Presbytery Worship Service**

The POPS Worship Service was led by TE's Bryan Yeo, Jeff Hooker and Rachel Dorsey, all who preached on the attributes of God. Communion was served and an offering was received for the POPS Church Planting Fund.

**22-26 Call to Order and Opening Prayer**

Following a breakfast served by CCC volunteers, Moderator Wyatt called the meeting back to order at 9:00 am on Saturday, January 26, 2025, and opened in prayer.

**22-27 Appreciation to the Volunteers and Staff of the Host Church**

Moderator Wyatt expressed deep appreciation to Centerpoint Community Church, their pastors and staff, and the volunteers that served the Presbytery in hosting the meeting. The volunteers were given a standing ovation.

**22-28 Worship**

Moderator Wyatt led the Presbytery in a Call to Worship from Psalm 95:6. The Worship Team from CCC led the Presbytery in musical worship. TE Joe Mazzela, candidate for Evangelist for the Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest, gave a sermon on Romans 10:13-15, a passage assigned by the Ministerial Committee.

**22-29 Moderator's Time of Prayer**

Moderator Wyatt led a time of prayer focused on Ephesians 4:22-32. Members, commissioners, and guests prayed the scripture in small groups.

**22-30 Church Planting Report**

TE Nancy Duff opened the report in prayer. TE Shawn Robinson, POPS Church Planting Coordinator, and the POPS Church Planting Team shared an exciting opportunity to plant a church in Tejon Ranch, CA. The Church Planting Team shared the history, background, assessment process for the possible planter, and reasoning behind the recommendation. TE Joe Mazzela and his wife, Jasmine, shared their sense of call to the church plant.

**Motion was sustained to approve the formation of the Tejon Ranch Church Plant as a mission of the Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest.**

**Motion was sustained to approve fund-raising within and outside of POPS to fund the preparation and establishment of the Tejon Ranch Church Plant.**

**Motion was sustained after amendment to call all POPS churches to participate as either a partner, patron or prayer support for the Tejon Ranch Church Plant.**

TE Robinson then encouraged the Presbytery to participate in providing donations to fund the effort. Members of the Church Planting Team closed the report in prayer.

**22-31 Ministerial Committee Report (continued)**

**Change of Status – TE Joe Mazzela**

TE David Abdo, Chair explained the process of examining TE Joe Mazzela for a call as Evangelist. Joe had been identified by the POPS Church Planting Team as a candidate for Evangelist for the EPC church plant in Tejon Ranch, CA. He had attended the Church Planting Assessment Workshop sponsored by the EPC and had been provisionally approved as a church planter. He had been examined and approved by the members of the Ministerial Committee and was recommended to the Presbytery for approval.

Joe's examination began with a sermon on a passage assigned by the Ministerial Committee. The Presbytery had the opportunity to examine him on his call as an Evangelist and church planter in Tejon Ranch, and to dialogue with him on the opportunities and challenges that this call presented.

**Motion was sustained to arrest the examination**

Joe and his family were invited to leave the room during the Presbytery discussion. Members of the Church Planting Team responded to questions from the Presbytery.

**Motion was sustained to approve the Change in Status of TE Joe Mazzela from Without a Call to Evangelist for the Tejon Ranch Church Plant.**

Joe was invited back into the main session and was greeted with a standing ovation. Members of the Church Planting Team prayed for Joe and Jasmine.

**22-32 Care of Candidates Committee Report (continued)**

TE Matt Young, Chair, opened in prayer and introduced Chris Schlatter, who was currently under care of the Session of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV. The Session had recommended him to the Presbytery as a Candidate Under Care and he met with the POPS Care of Candidates Committee who recommended him for approval.

The Candidate briefly shared their spiritual journey, their sense of call and why they had chosen the EPC. The Presbytery then examined the candidate on their Christian experience and growth, motive for seeking ordination in the EPC, and their call to the ministry.

**Motion was sustained to arrest the examination.**

The candidate was excused from the room during discussion.

TE Jay Hull from Covenant Presbyterian Church spoke on behalf of the candidate.

**Motion was sustained to approve Chris Schlatter to come under care of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest and approve TE Dustin DeVriend as advisor to Candidate Schlatter.**

Candidate Schlatter was invited back into the main session and was greeted with a standing ovation. Moderator Wyatt then asked him the Constitutional Questions to which the candidate replied affirmatively. TE Dustin DeVriend prayed for Candidate Schlatter and TE Bryan Yeo gave him a charge from Matthew 22:16-22.

## 22-33 Omnibus Motion

Moderator Wyatt introduced the Omnibus Motion which included the following:

1. That the Minutes of the Twenty First Stated Meeting of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest on October 8-10, 2024, be approved as posted (these minutes are available on the POPS website).
2. To receive the report of the Ministerial Committee that TE Greg Ehlert was received from the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest by the Reformed Church in America City Classis effective October 17, 2024, which completes his transfer.
3. To receive the report of the Ministerial Committee to approve the transfer of TE Patrick Vaughn to the PCUSA North Central California Presbytery.
4. That the Administrative Commission to install Will Carreras as Assistant Pastor of Mission and Mercy Ministry at Covenant Presbyterian Church, San Diego, 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 Jeff Hooker as Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation at 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 Administrative Commission to install Ken Ferguson as Pastor of San Ramon Presbyterian Church 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.
7. To accept the report of the Ministerial Committee to approve the Change in Status of TE Rick Nylund (Out of Bounds – Neighborhood Community Church, Pleasant Hill, CA) to Associate Member – Out of Bounds.

**Motion was sustained to approve the Omnibus actions.**

## 22-34 Important Upcoming Dates

Moderator Wyatt reminded the Presbytery of the following dates:

May 15-16, 2025	Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest Meeting (#23) Location: Christ Community Church, Carmichael, CA
June 17-19, 2025	EPC General Assembly Location: Ward Church, Northville, MI
October 7-9, 2025	POPS Pastors Retreat Del Oro Conference Center, Nevada City, CA
October 10-11, 2025	Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest Meeting (#24) Location: (TBD)
January 23-24, 2026	Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest Meeting (#25) Location: First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield, CA

## Hosting Opportunities

Moderator Wyatt reminded the member churches that opportunities were available to host the Presbytery at its 2025 and 2026 meetings and to host Discovery Workshops as well.

**22-35 Church Planting Matching Grant**

TE Robinson announced the receipt of a matching grant of \$5,000 and encouraged POPS churches to donate soon to have their contributions doubled.

**22-36 Adjournment and Closing Prayer**

**Motion was sustained to adjourn the meeting.**

Moderator Wyatt closed the 22<sup>nd</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest at 11:50 am and led the Presbytery in prayer.