

PROVISIONAL MINUTES



26th Stated Meeting of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest

May 14-15, 2026

Covenant Presbyterian Church
6695 Mae Anne Avenue, Reno, NV 89523

26-1 Call to Order and Opening Prayer

After a breakfast served by the Covenant Presbyterian Church volunteers, Moderator RE TE Dave Constance called the 26th stated meeting of the Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest (POPS) to order at 1:00 pm, opened the meeting with prayer, and welcomed the members and commissioners.

26-2 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	Excused
TE Rachel Dorsey	Present
TE Jeff Hooker	Excused

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Ann Janzen

Centerville Presbyterian Church – Fremont, CA

TE Sam Knottnerus	Present
TE Ryan Bogert	Excused

Christ Church, Berkeley, CA

TE Jonathan St. Clair	Present
TE Andrew Ong	Excused

Christ Community Church – Carmichael, CA

Ryan Balbi	Present
Dustin DeVriend	Present

Alex Johnson, Ken Shepherd, Ryan Vaughn

Clayton Community Church – Clayton, CA

TE Shawn Robinson	Present
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Community Presbyterian Church – Danville, CA

TE Tyler Scott	Excused
TE Bill Haslim	Present
TE Ryan Pearce	Unexcused

Cornerstone Woodlake Presbyterian Church – Woodlake, CA

RE Rick Dorr,	Present
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Commissioned Pastor

Covenant Community Church – Vacaville, CA

TE Nancy Duff	Present
TE Steve Gold	Present

Barbara Cantrell, Candy Clemmons, Rebecca Duvall,

Covenant Presbyterian Church – Orange, CA

TE Scott Larson	Unexcused
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Covenant Presbyterian Church – Reno, NV

TE James (Jay) Hull	Present
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Diane Billharz, Patti Hemsley, Steve Marsh, Chris Rhodes

Covenant Presbyterian Church – San Diego, CA		
TE Patrick King	Present	
TE Kennerly King	Present	
TE Will Carreras	Excused	
Easton Presbyterian Church – Fresno, CA		
TE David Abdo	Present	
Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church – Fair Oaks, CA		
TE Donny Butkus	Present	Andrew Hatfield, Yvonne Robertson
First Armenian Church – Fresno, CA		
TE Greg Haroutunian	Excused	
TE Chris Bower	Excused	
First Presbyterian Church – Bakersfield, CA		
TE Marcos Ortega	Excused	Jim Conners
TE David Constance	Moderator	
First Presbyterian Church – Fresno, CA		
TE Jeremy Vaccaro	Present	Stuart Conrad, Cliff Klein
TE Meagan Kroeker	Excused	
First Presbyterian Church – Hanford, CA		
TE Noel Anderson	Excused	Annette Rajskup
Fowler Presbyterian Church – Fowler, CA		
TE Erik Buhl	Unexcused	
Fremont Presbyterian Church – Sacramento, CA		
TE David Pack	Excused	Chris Jaime
TE Matthew McCleary	Present	
Heritage EPC – Santa Maria, CA		
TE Mark Wright	Present	
Hope Presbyterian Church – Folsom, CA		
Vacant		
Kingman Presbyterian Church – Kingman, AZ		
Vacant		
Millbrook Presbyterian Church – Fresno, CA		
Vacant		
Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church – Moraga, CA		
TE Brandon Morrow	Present	Matt McCormick, David Sylvester
New Life Community Church – Covelo, CA		
Vacant		
San Ramon Presbyterian Church – San Ramon, CA		
Ken Ferguson	Present	Steve Hackett
Sierra Presbyterian Church – Nevada City, CA		
TE Michael Griffin	Present	
TE Greg Flagg	Present	

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

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 Dave Constance, Moderator Present
RE Mark Eshoff, Stated Clerk Present

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL

RE Janet Goodman Present

MILITARY CHAPLAINS ON ACTIVE DUTY

None

INSTITUTIONAL CHAPLAINS

TE Karen Bolte Present
TE Marty Carpenter Present

EVANGELISTS

TE Scott Downing Present
TE Jeffrey Kreiser Present
TE Joe Mazzela Present

MISSIONARIES

SERVING OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES

TE Eric Amundson Excused
TE Melaku Mekuria Unexcused
TE Mgrdich Melkonian Unexcused
TE Ryan Suzuki Excused

MEMBERS SERVING AS ADMINISTRATIVE MEMBERS

MEMBERS WITHOUT A CALL

TE David Burke Present
TE Joe Cole Unexcused
TE Sam Fielder Unexcused
TE Jose Figueroa Unexcused
TE Josh Hall Unexcused
TE Ron Musch Excused
TE Rob Perkins Excused
TE Fred Tanizaki Unexcused
TE Steve Tyra Unexcused
TE Quinn Vaughn Excused
TE Troy Wilson Excused
TE Tony Winterowd Unexcused
TE Jason Yum Excused

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – ACTIVE

TE Greg Alderman Excused
TE Donald Baird Present
TE Paul Bergquam Unexcused
TE David Fenska Present
TE Lana Roberts Present

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – Outside Boundaries

TE Rick Nylund	Not Present
TE Kurt Teng	Not Present

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 Cathy Burkholder	Not Present
TE Scott Dickson	Present
TE Scott Farmer	Not Present
TE Steve Frank	Not Present
TE Clifford Graves	Not Present
TE Anton Hoffmann	Not Present
TE David Huusko	Not Present
TE Paul Irwin	Not Present
TE Heidi Johnson	Not Present
TE Robin Kelley	Not Present
TE Linda Line	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

Bill Azbel	EPC World Outreach, Colorado Springs, CO
Graham Baird	Burlingame, CA
Deborah Barackman	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Philip Barackman	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Kay Blakely	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Caleb Bonifay	Community Presbyterian Church, Danville
Bev Carne	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Dan Carne	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Monty Carpenter	All Nations Gateway Church, Tejon Ranch
Cathy Cole	Presbytery of the Pacific SW, Sacramento
Laura Constance	First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield
Andrea Craddock	EPC World Outreach Mobilization
Kathy Croughan	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Matthew Croughan	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Jamie Davis	Clayton Community Church, Clayton
Mario Desilets	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Rhonda Dickson	Bakersfield, CA
Janet Downing	Rural Compassion, Sparks, NV
Cindy Duncan	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno NV
Gerry Dunlap	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Janet Dunlap	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Cheryl Eshoff	Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento
Mindy Fenska	EPC World Outreach- retired, San Diego
Mickey Gibson	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Jim Hemsley	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Patti Hemsley	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Denell Hull	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV

Dana Jaime	Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento
Jasmine Mazzela	All Nations Gateway, Tejon Ranch
Ron McHattie	First Presbyterian Church, Colusa
Sylvia Myers	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Peter Ndaita	Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento
Amy Ng	Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, Moraga
Kathy Persons	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Sharleen Phillips	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Jewell Potter	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Jeanette Prosser	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Jim Prosser	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Debbie Rattan	Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento
Rita Ringle	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Stephen Schlatter	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Reba Simpson	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
Adam Willard	Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento
Helen Yeo	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV

NUMERICAL ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

	Present	Excused	Unexcused	Total/Parity
Teaching Elders (Full Members)	27	23	14	64
Teaching Elders (Associate - Active)	3	0	1	
Teaching Elders (Associate-Retired)	1			
Ruling Elders	23			
Officers of the Presbytery	2			
Presbytery Council	1			
Commissioned Pastors	1			
Received Pending Dismissal	0			
Transitional Members	0			
Candidates/Guests/Observers 44				
TOTAL IN ATTENDANCE	102			
Associate & Retired Members (Not Present)	28			
Inactive Members (Not Present)	0			

26-3 Welcome

TE Jay Hull, Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, welcomed the Presbytery and shared a brief update on the ministry of the church.

26-4 Introduction of New Commissioners and Guests

Moderator Constance 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.

26-5 Worship

TE Jay Hull and the worship leaders from Covenant Presbyterian Church led the Presbytery in worship. TE Hull preached the Sermon on the Mount by memory (Matthew 5:2 – 7:29). An offering was received for the POPS Pastor Support and Care Fund and Communion was served.

26-6 Moderator's Time of Prayer

Moderator Constance led a time of prayer focused on Colossians 3:12-17. Members, commissioners, and guests prayed the scripture in small groups.

26-7 Prayer for Noel Anderson and FPC Hanford

TE Mike Griffin prayed for TE Noel Anderson, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Hanford, who had recently experienced significant health challenges, and for the church, which had experienced an unusual amount of trauma over recent years.

26-8 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 January 23-24, 2026. He noted that the Presbytery was the first in the denomination to have all the churches submit Annual Church Reports. He reminded TE's that the TE Annual Reports were past due for those not yet submitting them. He presented the current POPS Committee List (attached) that listed all members of the 2026 POPS Council and Committees. He then reminded the Presbytery of the 2026 Pastors Retreat and noted that registration would be open in July.

26-9 Approval of the Docket

There were a number of corrections to the original Proposed Docket. Stated Clerk Eshoff presented the revised docket for approval.

Motion was sustained to adopt the docket as presented.

26-10 Prayer for the Family of TE Dave Ricketts

TE Brandon Morrow prayed for the family of TE David Ricketts, a former member of POPS, who died unexpectedly while on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

26-11 Special Report: *The State of Our Pastors*

TE David Burke, POPS Chaplain, shared his perspective and concerns regarding the general health of POPS pastors, including the results of a recent anonymous survey he conducted. He also shared information on the well-being of pastors nationwide, and recommended steps to ensure greater health and vitality of those in pastoral roles.

26-12 Ministry Update – Centerville Presbyterian Church

TE Sam Kottnerus shared an update on the ministry of Centerville Presbyterian Church, including joys, challenges, and ways the Presbytery could pray for him and the church. TE Shawn Robinson prayed for Sam and the church.

26-13 Mission Committee Report

TE Dave Fenska, Chair of POPS Mission Committee opened in prayer and introduced members of the Mission Committee and then introduced Bill Azbell, World Outreach Liaison, and Andrea Craddock who both shared about opportunities to engage in both local mission and worldwide mission. He also introduced Jewel Potter, an upcoming World Outreach missionary, who would be speaking at the Mission Lunch on Friday. Dave closed the report in prayer.

26-14 Church Health Report

TE Mike Griffin, POPS Church Health Coordinator, updated the Presbytery on current revitalization efforts in POPS.

26-15 Meeting Recess

The meeting was recessed until 9:00 the next morning.

26-16 Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Following breakfast served by the Covenant Presbyterian Church volunteers, Moderator Constance called the meeting back to order at 9:05 am and opened in prayer.

26-17 Appreciation to the Volunteers and Staff of the Host Church

Moderator Constance expressed deep appreciation to Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV, their pastor and staff, and the volunteers that served the Presbytery in hosting the meeting. The volunteers were given a standing ovation.

26-18 Worship

Moderator Constance led the Presbytery in a Call to Worship from Psalm 9. The Worship Team from CPC led the Presbytery in musical worship. TE Bill Haslim, Associate Pastor of Family Life at Community Presbyterian Church, Danville, CA, preached a sermon on Matthew 25:14-30 and Mark 4:26-29.

26-19 Moderator's Time of Prayer

Following worship, Moderator Constance led a time of prayer focused on Matthew 9:35-38. Members, commissioners, and guests prayed the scripture in small groups.

26-20 Session Minutes Review

RE Janet Goodman opened in prayer, reminded the Presbytery about the Minutes Checklist, and reported that the following reviews from the January 2026 cycle were completed and all reviews were up to date:

Clayton Community Church, Clayton, CA
Community Pres. Church, Danville, CA
First Armenian Pres. Church, Fresno, CA
First Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA
Fowler Presbyterian Church, Fowler, CA
Millbrook Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA
New Life Community Church, Covelo, CA
Saint John's Assyrian Presbyterian Church, Turlock, CA
San Ramon Presbyterian Church, San Ramon, CA

Reviewers:

TE Rick Dorr, Cornerstone Woodlake
TE Marcos Ortega, FPC Bakersfield
TE Greg Roth (retired)
TE Ryan Teramoto, Wintersburg
TE Mark Wright, Heritage EPC
RE Ken Adams, Covenant Orange PC
RE Christine Deane, Moraga Valley PC
RE Patty Howard, Fremont PC
RE Marilyn Khalaji, Centerville PC Fremont
RE Debra Revious, FPC Hanford
RE Christopher Rhodes, Covenant PC Reno

RE Goodman closed her report in prayer.

26-21 Special Presentation: *"Considering Artificial Intelligence (AI) in a Church Ministry Context"*

TE Matthew McCleary shared timely information and perspective on artificial intelligence in a ministry context. The rapid adoption and ubiquity of AI deserve our thoughtful attention as teaching and ruling elders. He shared what it means to think theologically about artificial

intelligence, what it means to pastor people in an increasingly AI-saturated world, and what, if any, faithful use of AI in church ministry might look like.

26-22 Lunch

The Presbytery was served lunch by the staff and volunteers from CPC Reno. The Mission Committee sponsored a breakout lunch where Jewel Potter shared more about her sense of call to overseas missions. The Presbytery also provided a Clerk of Session lunch and training for all Clerks in the Presbytery.

26-23 Ministry Update – Easton Presbyterian Church

TE David Abdo shared an update on the ministry of Easton Presbyterian Church, including joys, challenges and ways the Presbytery can pray for him and the church. TE Lana Roberts prayed for David and the church.

26-24 Ministerial Committee Report

TE David Abdo opened in prayer and shared a number of requested actions.

Extension of RE Rick Dorr – Commissioned Pastor

The Session of Cornerstone Woodlake Church had requested that the Presbytery renew the call of RE Rick Dorr as Commissioned Pastor of Cornerstone Woodlake Church.

Motion was sustained to renew the call of RE Rick Dorr as Commissioned Pastor for Cornerstone Woodlake Church through June 1, 2027

Change of Status for Teaching Elders Without a Call

The EPC Book of Order (19-2B.1.A.) requires that teaching elders who have been Without a Call for two years be automatically transferred to Associate Member status.

Motion was sustained to affirm the change in status from Without a Call to Associate Member per Book of Order 19-2B.1.A for the following POPS teaching elders: Joe Cole, Jose Figueroa, Josh Hall, Ron Musch, Rob Perkins, Steven Tyra, and Jason Yum

TE Dave Constance prayed for Rick and the Pastors without a call

26-25 Report from the EPC Next Gen Summit

Debbie Rattan and Peter Ndaita from Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento, CA presented a report from the EPC Next Gen Summit held April 21-23, 2026 in Memphis Tennessee. Five Next Gen workers received POPS scholarships to attend the Summit with a total of eighteen representatives from POPS participating in the event. RE Chris Schlatter prayed for Next Gen workers in the Presbytery and denomination.

26-26 Treasurer's Report

RE David Sylvester opened in prayer and briefed the Presbytery on the 2025 Year-to-Date POPS Financials and Askings Report (attached). He also offered pro-bono support to any POPS church seeking to maximize the use of their available funds. David closed his report in prayer.

26-27 Church Planting Team Update

TE Shawn Robinson, POPS Church Planting Coordinator, opened in prayer and reported on the successful West Coast Church Planters Retreat held in March 2026. He reminded the Presbytery

why we need to plant churches. He introduced Joe Mazzela, Evangelist, who is heading up the new church plant in Tejon Ranch, CA.

26-28 Care of Candidates Committee Report

TE Jay Hull, Care of Candidates Committee Chair, opened in prayer and noted the important role that candidate advisors have in the preparation of candidates for ordination.

Examination of Caleb Bonifay

TE Hull presented Caleb Bonifay as a candidate ready to come under care of the Presbytery and prayed for him. Caleb was currently under the care of the Session of Community Presbyterian Church, Danville, CA. The Session recommended him to the Presbytery as a Candidate Under Care and he had met with and been approved by the POPS Care of Candidates Committee. The Committee also recommended that he be referred to the Ministerial Vocation Committee as a CEEP candidate.

Caleb briefly shared his spiritual journey, his sense of call, and why he had chosen the EPC. The Presbytery then examined him on his Christian experience and growth, his call to the ministry, and his motive for seeking ordination in the EPC.

Motion was sustained to arrest the examination.

The candidate was invited to leave the room during discussion.

TE Bill Haslim from Community Presbyterian Church spoke on behalf of the candidate.

Motion was sustained to approve Caleb Bonifay to come under care of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest and approve TE Brandon Morrow as advisor to Candidate Bonifay.

Motion was sustained to approve the recommendation of the Care of Candidates Committee to refer Candidate Caleb Bonifay to the EPC Ministerial Vocation Committee for a recommended course of action, including continuing education and reading requirements, as a CEEP candidate.

Caleb was invited back into the main session and was greeted with a standing ovation. Moderator Constance then asked him the Constitutional Questions to which he replied affirmatively. TE Matthew McCleary gave him a charge from John 15:4-5 and then prayed for Candidate Bonifay.

26-29 Nominating Committee Report

RE Chris Rhodes, Chair

RE Chris Rhodes, Nominating Committee Chair, opened in prayer and presented a candidate for a position on a POPS committee.

Motion was sustained to approve TE Matthew McCleary as a member of the Care of Candidates Committee (Class of 2027).

RE Rhodes closed his report in prayer.

26-30 Omnibus Motion

1. That the Minutes of the Twenty Fifth Stated Meeting of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest on January 24-25, 2026 be approved as posted (these minutes are available on the POPS website).
2. That the Administrative Commission to install Noel Anderson 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.

3. That the Administrative Commission to install Steve Gold as Assistant Pastor for Next Generation Ministries at Covenant Community Church, Vacaville, CA be dismissed with appreciation for their service to the Presbytery, to the pastor, and to the congregation. The commission's minutes are on file with the Stated Clerk.
4. To receive the report of the Ministerial Committee to transfer TE Quinn Vaughn to the PCUSA North Central California Presbytery.
5. To receive the report of the Ministerial Committee that the transfer of TE Matt Young to the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest has been approved by that Presbytery, which completes our action.
6. To receive the report of the Ministerial Committee to approve the request from the Session and congregation of Covenant Community Church to renew the call of TE Nancy Duff after age 70 for one year.

Motion was sustained to approve the Omnibus actions.

26-31 Important Upcoming Dates

Moderator Constance reminded the Presbytery of the following dates:

June 16-18, 2026	46 th EPC General Assembly Location: Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church, Denver, CO
October 6-8, 2026	POPS Pastors Retreat Del Oro Conference Center, Nevada City, CA
October 9-10, 2026	Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest Meeting (#27) Location: Sierra Presbyterian Church, Nevada City, CA
January 22-23, 2027	Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest Meeting (#28) Location: Covenant Presbyterian Church, Orange, CA
May 13-14, 2027	Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest Meeting (#29) Location: TBD

Hosting Opportunities

Moderator Constance reminded the member churches that opportunities were still available to host the Presbytery in 2027 and to host Discovery Workshops as well.

26-32 Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Motion was sustained to adjourn the meeting

Moderator Constance closed the 26th meeting of the Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest in prayer at 3:40 pm.