

APPLICATION FOR TRANSITIONAL MEMBERSHIP INTO THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Churches may be received into transitional membership in the EPC starting June 25, 2007, if they meet the following criteria:

1. A majority of the congregation must vote to enter the EPC. A decision by the elders will not be sufficient. Groups that intend to enter the EPC as mission churches must also indicate a congregational decision to enter the EPC.
2. All current ruling elders and ordained ministers must affirm the EPC “Essentials of Our Faith” (see page 4) without any reservations.
3. All current ruling elders and ordained pastors must acknowledge that the Westminster Confession and Catechisms is the sole confessional standard for officers in the EPC. Signatures on pages 5-6 of this document will indicate this affirmation. When a church is ready to enter an existing EPC presbytery, its ruling elders and ordained pastors will be examined according to Chapter 13, Book of Government. The appropriate committee(s) of the existing EPC Presbytery will assist in preparing for the examination.

Presbytery Assignment

Option 1: For churches and pastors desiring membership in the New Wineskins EPC Presbytery.

The General Assembly of the EPC has established a transitional, non-geographic presbytery called the New Wineskins EPC Presbytery (NWEPC). Only churches that belong to the New Wineskins Association are eligible to enter this presbytery. This presbytery will operate under the constitution of New Wineskins until the Joint Commission of EPC and New Wineskins leaders present a plan of full integration of the two bodies and that plan is approved by both bodies. This integration will likely occur in stages over the five-year period.

Option 2: For churches and pastors desiring membership in an existing geographic EPC Presbytery

The General Assembly of the EPC has established the Transitional Commission that will serve as the facilitator for becoming members of existing geographic EPC Presbytery. Depending upon the number and distribution of applicant churches/pastors, the Transitional Commission may establish a non-geographical Transitional Presbytery to facilitate the joining & assimilation of the applicants.

The Transitional Commission will serve as the temporary governing body of the Transitional Presbytery and fulfill those Presbytery duties and responsibilities in Book of Government 16-14 through 16-19 as necessary.

All churches received into transitional membership in the EPC that are not affiliated with New Wineskins will be assigned to the appropriate EPC presbytery. Examinations and reception into membership will be completed when both the churches and the EPC presbytery are ready and able to do so.

To apply for transitional membership, please fill out the information requested on the following pages and return to the Office of the Executive Pastor / Stated Clerk, Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Name of Church _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Church website _____

Number of Current Membership Roll _____ Average worship attendance: _____

Indicate which option this church prefers (check one):

- Option 1 New Wineskins EPC Presbytery
- Option 2 Transitional Membership Assigned to EPC Presbytery

Date of Congregational Meeting to Vote on Entering the EPC _____

Total Number of Members Voting _____

Number of Members Voting to Enter the EPC _____

Name of **Pastor** _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

Current ordination credentials _____

Name of **Clerk of Session** _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

PASTORAL STAFF

List all ordained pastoral staff including email address and indicate desire of each to transfer credential to the EPC. (Attach additional pages as needed)

NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS	Transfer credentials to EPC? Y or N
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

SESSION MEMBERS (all current ruling elders, or council if not a Presbyterian church)
(Attach additional pages as needed)

NAME	MAILING ADDRESS	EMAIL

PROPERTY ISSUES

NOTE: The constitution of the EPC assigns all property to the local church. Neither a presbytery nor the General Assembly has any claim on any local property. The EPC bears no responsibility or liability in property disputes involving transitional member churches. For information only, indicate what property issues this church is currently facing as it enters the EPC. (Attach additional pages as needed)

Are there any other issues or concerns the EPC commission overseeing the transitional member churches should know about your church at this time? (Attach additional pages as needed)

Essentials of Our Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church

All Scripture is self-attesting and being Truth, requires our unreserved submission in all areas of life. The infallible Word of God, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is a complete and unified witness to God's redemptive acts culminating in the incarnation of the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible, uniquely and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, is the supreme and final authority on all matters on which it speaks. On this sure foundation we affirm these additional essentials of our faith.

1. We believe in one God, the sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To Him be all honor, glory and praise forever!
2. Jesus Christ, the living Word, became flesh through His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and His virgin birth. He who is true God became true man united in one Person forever. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. On the third day He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven where, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He now is our High Priest and Mediator.
3. The Holy Spirit has come to glorify Christ and to apply the saving work of Christ to our hearts. He convicts us of sin and draws us to the Savior, indwelling our hearts. He gives new life to us, empowers and imparts gifts to us for service. He instructs and guides us into all truth, and seals us for the day of redemption.
4. Being estranged from God and condemned by our sinfulness, our salvation is wholly dependent upon the work of God's free grace. God credits His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justifies them in His sight. Only such as are born of the Holy Spirit and receive Jesus Christ become children of God and heirs of eternal life.
5. The true Church is composed of all persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit are united together in the body of Christ. The Church finds her visible yet imperfect, expression in local congregations where the Word of God is preached in its purity and the sacraments are administered in their integrity, where scriptural discipline is practiced, and where loving fellowship is maintained. For her perfecting she awaits the return of her Lord.
6. Jesus Christ will come again to the earth personally, visibly, and bodily—to judge the living and the dead, and to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” (Rev. 22:20)
7. The Lord Jesus Christ commands all believers to proclaim the gospel throughout the world and to make disciples of all nations. Obedience to the Great Commission requires total commitment to “Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.” He calls us to a life of self-denying love and service. “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Eph. 2:10)

The Essentials are set forth in greater detail in the Westminster Confession of Faith.

Signature Page

I affirm the “Essentials of Our Faith” of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church without reservation and acknowledge that the Westminster Confession and Catechisms is the sole confessional standard for officers in Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Use additional page if necessary:

Print Name	Minister(s) Signature	Date

Print Name	Ruling Elders Signature	Date

