

Endorsement Policy Evangelical Presbyterian Church

In addition to 1) approved documents (e.g., Position Papers, Advisory Letters, versions of the Confession and Catechisms) that express the mind of the Assembly, 2) Fraternal Relationships (Acts of the Assembly 84-06), 3) Cooperative Mission agencies, and 4) Approved Missions Agencies (Acts of the Assembly 87-02), the Assembly and its permanent committees may deem it wise to recommend other resources to its churches as valuable aids for their ministries. All permanent committee recommendations shall be reported to the Committee on Administration, which has the right to overrule. In making such recommendations the Assembly and its permanent committees shall use the following categories and criteria:

Approved Resource Organizations: Permanent Assembly committees may recommend resource organizations for approval by the General Assembly. Such organizations shall meet the following criteria:

1. An explicit statement of faith compatible with EPC confessional standards
2. Exhibits both evangelical and reformed theology.
3. Ministry objectives compatible with the vision, purpose and goals of the recommending committee and the General Assembly
4. Financial credibility as measured by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability or by comparable standards

Approved agencies will be listed in the EPC Directory and web site. The Office of the General Assembly and permanent Assembly committees may explore and implement areas of cooperative ministry with approved agencies, subject to the operational policies of the General Assembly.

Committee Endorsed Resources: Permanent Assembly committees may endorse resources, e.g., print, audio/visual or curriculum. An endorsed resource shall meet the following criteria:

1. An explicit statement of faith compatible with EPC confessional standards and/or demonstrates both evangelical and reformed theology
2. Compatible with the vision, purpose and goals of the endorsing committee and the General Assembly.
3. Provides excellent ministry resources for EPC congregations

Permanent committees may add annotations to their endorsements. Endorsed resources may be included, with their annotations, on the denominational web site, in other communications or kept in inventory for sale to member churches.

Committee Commended Resources: Permanent Assembly committees may commend resources, e.g., agencies, print, audio/visual, curriculum. Commended resources shall meet the following criteria:

1. A statement of faith consistent with the EPC *Essentials of Our Faith* and/or demonstrates evangelical theology.
2. Not necessarily reformed in its theology
3. Compatible with the vision, purpose and goals of the recommending committee and the General Assembly
4. Provides effective ministry resources for EPC congregations

Permanent committees may add annotations to their commendations. Commended resources may be included, with their annotations, on the denominational web site, in other communications or kept in inventory for sale to member churches. Prior to implementing cooperative ministries with commended agencies the Committee must secure the approval of the Committee on Administration.

Permanent committees will establish procedures to periodically review agencies and resources they have recommended, endorsed or commended to ensure that they continue to meet the criteria above.

In cases in which permanent Assembly committees find that reviewed resources do not meet the criteria for approval, endorsement or commendation, they shall report their findings in their minutes using the following categories and criteria:

No Recommendation: The reviewed resource does not meet the criteria for approval, endorsement or commendation. It has no serious shortcomings and may contain useful material.

Not Recommended: The reviewed resource does not meet the criteria for approval, endorsement or commendation and has serious shortcomings in theology and/or methodology. Specific shortcomings may be noted in committee minutes.

Adopted, 22nd General Assembly (2002)