

**Working MINUTES  
of the  
43rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
  
TUESDAY**

**First Session  
June 20, 2023**

**43-01 OPENING WORSHIP**

Worship began at 9:00 a.m. with leadership from the Cherry Hills Praise Team. The court continued in worship as noted below:

**ORDER OF WORSHIP  
Tuesday morning, June 20, 2023  
9:00 am**

Today's Music

Let It Rise

Myron El, Praise Team Director, welcomed the General Assembly and offered Scripture from Isaiah 6

Open The Eyes of My Heart  
Holy, Holy, Holy  
In Christ Alone

Scripture John 17: 24-26 & Ephesians 1: 7-10

Sermon Love on the Go Rev. Shelly Kral

My Jesus Cherry Hills Worship Trio

The Assembly was dismissed after worship

## **43-02 CONVENING OF THE 43rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The 43rd General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by Moderator, RE Rosemary Lukens (Pacific Northwest). The constituting prayer was offered by TE Michael Davis (Central South).

Almighty God, we thank you and we praise you this day for the opportunity to serve you as commissioners and guests of the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly and Gospel Priorities Summit of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

We are grateful for your kindness to us...your love for us...and the calling that you have placed on all of our lives.

Most importantly, Lord, we thank you that while we were yet sinners, your son Jesus Christ died for us. I pray that during this General Assembly we may become more aware of your amazing grace and more fully equipped to share your grace with the world that you love so much.

Forgive us, Lord, for the fits and starts of our obedience, our lukewarm faith, and our fear in sharing the gospel. Create in us, this week, in Jesus' name, a dynamic enthusiasm for serving you and opportunities to do your will in a way that will glorify and magnify your name.

At this General Assembly, we lift up to you particularly our Stated Clerk Dean Weaver and his supporting staff. Lord, encourage the hearts and minds of your people, so we will build up the church and glorify your name.

We pray this day, Lord, for President Biden and Vice-President Harris. We pray that their work will be fruitful and fulfill your purposes for our country and the world.

We ask that you give your grace and wisdom to our president, his advisors and all elected officials. Grant that the decisions they make will bless the nation and the world and add to the flourishing of all humanity.

We pray also for our military personnel and their families—especially those who are deployed and in harm's way. We are thankful for the sacrifices they make to ensure the freedoms we enjoy. We pray for their safety, their courage, and their well-being, not only while they are serving, but also when their service has concluded, and they need to be served by us.

We pray for Governor Jared Polis of the Great State of Colorado, and we ask that you guide his hand and encourage him in work that is pleasing to you.

We thank you Lord for the hospitality shown to us by the coalition of volunteers serving this year's assembly at Cherry Hills Community Church—we thank you for Pastor Curt Taylor and his staff team and we ask for your blessings on all our volunteers, church leaders and the congregations they serve. Guide us now, as we seek your wisdom and discernment, we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

## **43-03 INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. For ALL who wish to speak: Please prepare by reading all the information related to the motion.
- b. Step to one of the microphones on the floor.
  1. When you are acknowledged, state your name and your presbytery before making your remarks.
  2. You have 3 minutes to speak; you may not speak a second time until all others have had a chance to speak.
  3. If you intend to propose an amendment (or a substitute) to a motion, please prepare it as an email to [brian.smith@epc.org](mailto:brian.smith@epc.org) before you present it. This gives Brian time to make your amendment available on the screen to everyone.
- c. When a motion is considered, to ensure fairness, both speakers in favor of the motion and those not in favor of the motion will be chosen to speak in alternating order to the Assembly.
- d. Debate on a motion will not exceed 15 minutes; debate may be extended in 5 minute segments.
- e. The chair of the committee making the report may make the final statement as the debate ends.
- f. When debate ends, the motion will be presented and the opportunity to vote in favor of or not in favor of the motion. Ordinarily we will vote by voice or the raising of hands.

## **43-04 ADOPTION OF DOCKET**

The Stated Clerk recommended the Adoption of the Docket.

**ON MOTION** The docket was adopted as follows:

### **43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly – Session 1**

- 1.1 Business Convenes – Moderator RE Rosemary Lukens
- 1.2 Constituting Prayer—TE Michael Davis
- 1.3 Instructions for Participating from the floor—TE Dean Weaver
- 1.4 Approval of the Docket and Announcements—TE Dean Weaver
- 1.5 Local Arrangements/Announcements (if needed)—Cherry Hills
- 1.6 Election: Recording Clerks/Minutes Readers – Moderator RE Rosemary Lukens
- 1.7 Opening Items – TE Dean Weaver
  - a. Call for the quorum

- b. Enroll corresponding members –Dr. Samuel Sesay (EPC of Sierra Leone),  
Dr. Guillermo Mac Kenzie (St. Andrews Presbytery, Buenos Aires, Argentina),  
Rev. Nate Dreesmann (Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians),  
Rev. Dr. Davi Gomes (Presbyterian Church of Brazil)
- 1.8 Outgoing Moderator’s Remarks – Moderator Rosemary Lukens
- 1.9 Presentation to Outgoing Moderator – TE Dean Weaver
- 1.10 Nominating Committee (I) partial report – TE Wayne Hardy
  - a. Election of Moderator of the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly
    - (1) **Recommendation 43-01** – Introduction and Nomination of Moderator of the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly
    - (2) Nominating speech – TE Michael Davis
    - (3) Election of the Moderator – Moderator RE Rosemary Lukens
    - (4) Investiture of the Moderator – Moderator RE Rosemary Lukens
    - (5) Prayer for the Moderator – TE Jerry Iamurri
    - (6) Remarks by Incoming Moderator – Moderator TE Joe Kim
  - b. Election of Moderator-Elect of the 43<sup>rd</sup> GA
    - (1) **Recommendation 43-02** -Introduction and Nomination of Moderator-elect of the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly
    - (2) Nominating Speech - TE Mike Allen
    - (3) Election of the Moderator-elect - Moderator TE Joe Kim
    - (4) Investiture of the Moderator-elect - Moderator TE Joe Kim
    - (5) Prayer for the Moderator-elect - RE John Adamson
    - (6) Remarks by Incoming Moderator-elect RE Victor Jones
- 1.11 Reminder of Deadline for New Business *-noon Wednesday* - TE Dean Weaver
- 1.12 Song of Thanksgiving
- 1.13 Report of the National Leadership Team - Partial report – TE Brad Strait
  - a. **Recommendation 43-03** - Interim Committee updating our Pastoral Letter on Domestic Abuse
  - b. **Recommendation 43- 04** - Creating a Permanent Committee on Disaster Relief
- 1.14 Ad-Interim Committee: Pastoral Letter of Racial Lament & Hope – TE Gerrit Dawson
- 1.15 Revelation 7:9 Task Force – TEs Rufus Smith / Andrew Smith
- 1.16 Closing Prayer and Great Commission Share – TE Joe Stroup (Alleghenies)
- 1.17 Assembly Adjourns

Announcements and welcome from Cherry Hills Church were brought by TE Curt Taylor (West).

## **43-05 ELECTION OF RECORDING CLERKS AND MINUTES READERS**

Stated Clerk, TE Dean Weaver presented the following motions to elect Recording Clerks and Minutes Readers of the Assembly.

**ON MOTION** Elected RE Dexter Kuhlman (Mid-America) and TE Kermit Oppriecht (Great Plains) to serve as Recording Clerks for the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly. Elected RE Ron Bengelink

(Pacific Northwest) and TE Zach Hopkins (Rivers and Lakes) as Minutes Readers for the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly as provided for in *Rules for Assembly* §9-13.

## **43-06 DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND ASSEMBLY ENROLLMENT**

Stated Clerk, Rev. Dean Weaver, declared a quorum to be present (with 606 Commissioners and 4 Corresponding Members) with registration in excess of the required quorum (G.16-24, “at least five Ministers and five Ruling Elders representing at least three Presbyteries”). The roll of the Assembly follows:

[Insert enrollment]

## **43-07 ENROLLMENT OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

**ON MOTION** Seated the following as Corresponding Members: TE David Gomes (Presbyterian Church of Brazil); Nate Dreesmann (Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians); TE Guillermo Mac Kenzie (St. Andrews Presbytery of Argentina); and TE Samuel Sesay (EPC of Sierra Leone).

## **43-08 OUTGOING MODERATOR’S REMARKS**

[Insert remarks]

## **43-09 PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING MODERATOR**

Stated Clerk, TE Dean Weaver shared words of appreciation and presented the retiring Moderator with tokens of her office to celebrate her year of service.

## **43-10 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT (Partial)**

TE Wayne Hardy (Great Plains) opened the report with prayer and on behalf of the Nominating Committee, nominated TE Joe Kim (East) to serve as Moderator of the 43<sup>rd</sup> EPC General Assembly.

Recommendation 43-01: That the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly elect TE Joe Kim as Moderator of the 43<sup>rd</sup> EPC General Assembly.

TE Michael Davis (Central South) brought the nominating speech.

**ON MOTION** Nominations were closed with the required two thirds of the Assembly voting in favor.

**ON MOTION** TE Joe Kim was elected as Moderator of the 43rd General Assembly.

RE Rosemary Lukens prayer for TE Kim and asked the constitutional investiture questions of TE Kim and the Assembly which were all answered in the affirmative. She then passed Joe the Gavel and Moderator's Cross, symbols of the office of Moderator, after which TE Jerry Iamurri (East) asked all past Moderators present to lay hands on TE Kim as he offered prayer for the incoming Moderator.

The newly elected Moderator offered remarks that challenged the Assembly to action for the coming year.

TE Wayne Hardy on behalf of the Nominating Committee, nominated RE Victor Jones (Gulf South) to serve as Moderator-Elect of the 43<sup>rd</sup> EPC General Assembly.

Recommendation 43-02: That the 43rd General Assembly elect RE Victor Jones as Moderator-elect of the 43<sup>rd</sup> EPC General Assembly.

TE Mike Allen (Gulf South) brought the nominating speech.

**ON MOTION** Nominations were closed with the required two thirds of the Assembly voting in favor.

**ON MOTION** RE Victor Jones (Gulf South) was elected as Moderator-Elect of the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly.

TE Joe Kim offered prayer for the Moderator-Elect and asked the constitutional investiture questions of RE Victor Jones and the Assembly which were all answered in the affirmative. RE John Adamson (Central South) offered prayer for the incoming Moderator-Elect.

The newly elected Moderator-Elect offered remarks that challenged the Assembly to action for the coming year.

The Stated Clerk reminded the court that any new business to come before this Assembly must be submitted by noon on Wednesday-followed by a song of thanksgiving led by Moderator Joe Kim.

## **43-11 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT (Partial)**

TE Brad Strait (West) opened the report with prayer and introduced the following recommendations to the Assembly.

Recommendation 43-03 – Create an Interim Committee to update our Pastoral

Letter on Domestic Abuse.

Recommendation 43-04 - Creating a Permanent Committee on Disaster Relief

## **43-12 Ad-Interim Committee for a Pastoral Letter of Racial Lament and Hope Report**

TE Gerrit Dawson (Gulf South) opened with prayer and reported for the committee. The members of the committee also introduced themselves and spoke to the challenges of the committee's work.

Moderator, Kim offered prayer for the committee and its ongoing work.

## **43-13 Revelation 7:9 Task Force**

Committee Member RE Edith Flores (Florida and Caribbean) opened with prayer. TE Rufus Smith (Central South) and TE Andrew Smith (East) and committee members reported for the committee. Two videos were shown as representations of how two EPC churches are already putting the concepts of Revelation 7:9 into practice. Teams from the committee are available to work with any interested churches. Closed in prayer by TE Andrew Smith.

## **43-14 REPORT FROM THE NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES COUNCIL**

The Moderator welcomed TE Cole Lescher (Mid-America), who opened his report with prayer and shared the work of the committee. The Committee is already seeing networks forming in various presbyteries and the committee is looking forward to hosting another NextGen summit in next spring of 2024. Cole gave three recommendations to the Assembly.

Check on you NextGen workers—take them to coffee, etc.

Find a friend who is under 30.

Encourage your presbytery in sending NextGen's to the Summits and invite them to attend presbytery and General Assembly meetings.

Report closed with prayer by TE Lescher.

## **43-15 Greeting from Presbyterian Church in America**

The Assembly received greetings from Rev. Dr. Brian Chapell, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church in America, via video highlighting their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Great Commission Sharing & Closing Prayer

TE Joe Stroup (Alleghenies) brought further testimony from NextGen interactions and led the Assembly in a closing prayer.

## **43-16 ADJOURNMENT**

## **43-17 WORSHIP**

Worship began at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of Cherry Hills Church

### **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Tonight's Music was led by the Cherry Hills Praise Team

Tribes  
Great Are You Lord  
How Great Is Our God

Scripture Isaiah 49:6, Acts 8:1-8, 26-38

Sermon To The Nations-A Pursuit of Passion Rev. Mike Kuhn

Presentation and Commissioning of World Outreach Missionaries

Designated Offering is for the Global Workers Health Fund

Benediction Is He Worthy