
REPORT OF THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION
37th General Assembly



William Catoe
Chairman

Members of the Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) are TE William Catoe, (Moderator-Mid-Atlantic), TE George Dakin (Pacific), TE Neil Ellison (Mid-Atlantic), RE Don Flater (Rivers and Lakes), RE Anson Keller (East), TE Dana Opp (Alleghenies), RE Joe Slesinski (East), RE David Tyra (Pacific), and RE Ken Wynne (Gulf-South). Also, participating in these meetings were TE Jeff Jeremiah, Stated Clerk of the EPC, TE Ed McCallum, Outgoing Assistant Stated Clerk of the EPC, and TE Jerry Iamurri, Incoming Assistant Stated Clerk of the EPC.

The PJC met via telephone conference on September 28, 2016; May 3, 2017; and May 22, 2017. Minutes of these meetings are on file in the Office of the Stated Clerk. A PJC Subcommittee also met via telephone conference on May 18, 2017 to work out an issue in preparation for the May 22, 2017 meeting of the PJC as a whole.

Matters Regarding Judicial Appeals

There were no matters regarding judicial appeals which came before the PJC this year.

Matters Regarding Amendment to the Book of Order

On referral from the Stated Clerk, the PJC reviewed the following proposed amendments to the Constitution for “clarity and consistency of language and for compatibility with other provisions of the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church” (BOG.21-3D.2a). Accordingly, the PJC makes the following findings and recommendations to the 37th General Assembly:

Recommendation PJC 37-1

In response to the Ministerial Vocation Committee’s recommendation regarding Overture 16A, the PJC reaffirms its previous finding, as made to the 36th General Assembly, that Overture 16A does not meet the standard for “clarity and consistency of language and for compatibility with other provisions of the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and, therefore, recommends that Overture 16A not be adopted. (*See Attachment MVC-A, p MVC-11 for the text of the Overture*)

Recommendation PJC 37-2

In response to the Ministerial Vocation Committee’s proposed amendment to *Book of Government* 21-2D.2e, f, expanding areas of ongoing authority that presbyteries may give to the Ministerial Committee, the PJC finds, pursuant to BOG 21-3D.2b, that an amended version of the proposed amendment is in order and therefore recommends that the amended

version of the proposed amendment be adopted. The amended version of G.21-D.2e, f, including its footnote and the deletion of subsection f, is as follows:

Book of Government 21-2 - The Ministerial Committee

D. Authorities and Responsibilities

2. With regard to local churches

- e. Presbytery may authorize the *Ministerial* Committee to serve as a Judicial or Administrative Commission. The Committee may also be appointed as an ongoing Administrative Commission to:
 1. Dissolve pastoral relationships and dismiss Teaching Elders according to the Book of Order when both the congregation and the Teaching Elder concur in the dissolution.
 2. Approve temporary pastoral relationships¹
 3. Review terms of call or invitations for all pastoral relationships, excluding out-of-bounds terms of calls, to ensure that the terms meet the minimum established standards.
 4. Ordain and/or install Teaching Elders in accordance with the provisions of this Book of Government
 5. Appoint advisors for Candidates Under Care and mentors for Commissioned Pastors

¹ The approval of temporary pastoral relationships is limited to the authority provided for in BOG§10-7

Recommendation PJC 37-3

In response to the Ministerial Vocation Committee's Proposed Amendment to *Book of Government* 9-6A and 10-8B.2a regarding length of term for out of bounds calls, the PJC finds that the proposed amendment meets the standard for "clarity and consistency of language and for compatibility with other provisions of the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and, therefore, recommends that the proposed amendment be adopted.

Recommendation PJC 37-4

In response to the Ministerial Vocation Committee's Proposed Amendment to *Book of Government* 10-7 creating and defining the called position of a Transitional Pastor, the PJC finds that the proposed amendment meets the standard for "clarity and consistency of language and for compatibility with other provisions of the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and, therefore, recommends that the proposed amendment be adopted.

Recommendation PJC 37-5

In response to the Ministerial Vocation Committee's Proposed Amendment to *Book of Government* 9-5A.1 regarding approval of calls to Assistant Pastors and those in Temporary Pastoral Relationships, the PJC finds that the proposed amendment meets the standard for "clarity and consistency of language and for compatibility with other provisions of the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and, therefore, recommends that the proposed amendment be adopted.

Matters Regarding Interpretation of the Book of Order

There were no matters regarding interpretation of the Book of Order which came before the PJC this year.

Respectfully submitted,



William Catoe
Chairman

June 2017