



EPC

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

February 16, 2017

To: Pastors, Clerks of Session, Presbytery Stated Clerks
From: Jeff Jeremiah, EPC Stated Clerk

Dear colleague in ministry,

This year's General Assembly will take place June 20-23 at Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church in Sacramento, Calif. This is the first time the EPC has held its annual meeting on the west coast! We are excited about what God is going to do in our midst this June, and I wanted to give you some important details about our 37th General Assembly.

- Our theme is Generation to Generation, based on Psalm 79:13, "From generation to generation we will proclaim your praise."
- Eleven Leadership Institute tracks to choose from on Tuesday afternoon.
- Mark Noll, one of today's leading church historians is our Wednesday morning plenary speaker. He will help us appreciate and build on our heritage in the Reformed Tradition as we look to the future.
- David Kinnaman, president of the Barna Group, is our Thursday morning plenary speaker. He will help us understand church and cultural trends as we seek to reach the next generation.
- Assembly business convenes on Wednesday afternoon, June 21.
- Business concludes on Friday evening, June 23. This is a change from previous years. We want you to be able to stay through the conclusion of the Assembly, and then have all day to travel on Saturday.

Business Item—Preliminary Position Paper on Human Sexuality

In 2016, the Assembly approved a Preliminary Position Paper on Human Sexuality. This Paper is designed to replace our current Position Papers on Homosexuality and the Sanctity of Marriage, and the first step in approving it as a Position Paper was making it available as a "Preliminary Position Paper."

The Preliminary Position Paper continues to be subject to revision and discussion,

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5850 T.G. Lee Blvd., Suite 510
Orlando, FL 32822

407.930.4239
407.930.4247 fax

www.epc.org

and must be adopted or withdrawn by the act of another Assembly. I encourage your Session to read and discuss the Preliminary Position Paper, which can be downloaded at www.epc.org/positionpapers.

The Preliminary Position Paper will be presented to the 2017 General Assembly to be adopted as a Position Paper. Potential revisions to the paper may come by way of an ascending overture from your presbytery (contact your presbytery Stated Clerk with questions on how that happens) or by recommendation from a Commissioner during debate on the floor.

Election and Certification of Commissioners—Now Through May

Ruling Elders must be elected by the Session to serve as Commissioners to the General Assembly. You may elect the same number of Ruling Elder Commissioners to the Assembly as you do to the Presbytery. Once your Ruling Elder Commissioners are elected, the Clerk of Session must notify the General Assembly by using the Commissioner Certification Form available at www.epc.org/ga2017#Comm. Without this certification, a Ruling Elder will not receive voting credentials at the Assembly.

All Teaching Elders who are active members of their presbyteries are eligible to vote at the Assembly and need no additional certification. However, they do need to complete program registration, which opens April 1.

Program Registration—April/May

Beginning April 1, Commissioners can register online and pay for fees, meals, and any other scheduled events. Commissioners should read the 2017 General Assembly web page (www.epc.org/ga2017) from time to time for any updates. Hotel and ground transportation information is available now, and any updates will be posted there.

A registration-by-mail option will be available for those who require it; a printable pdf form will be available at www.epc.org/ga2017. All registration fees double on June 1, so be sure to register by May 31.

Memorials—Now Through May

A special moment at each Assembly is when we give voice to our belief in the “communion of the saints” and honor those Ruling and Teaching Elders who have gone home to be with the Lord during the previous Assembly year (June-June). To both facilitate reporting and maintain accuracy, please use the Memorials Form available at www.epc.org/ga2017#Comm.

God bless you! We’re looking forward to a great meeting at this year’s General Assembly.

Jeff Jeremiah

Jeff Jeremiah
EPC Stated Clerk

