
EPC FOUNDATION BOARD REPORT (EPCF)

37th General Assembly

Members of the EPC Foundation (EPCF) Board are RE Greg Baggenstos (Pacific), RE Ted Hailes, Adviser (Central South), Elizabeth Hickman (Gulf South) and RE John Looloian, (Great Plains). Chief Operating Officer Phil VanValkenburg and Stated Clerk Jeff Jeremiah provide staff support. Since the last report the Foundation Board has met twice, once in Detroit, MI in Jun 2016 and then in 2017 at the new EPC headquarters in Orlando. At that latter meeting, the board agreed to meet via videoconference once a quarter.

The Work of the Foundation

It has been a busy year for the Foundation as we more clearly define our mission, expand the size of the board and refine the business model. The highlights of the year are listed below:

1. The GA staff hosted two meetings for Executive Pastors from large churches and invited the Foundation to provide training on financial challenges and opportunities where they can assist churches towards meeting financial goals and increasing generous giving among their congregations.
2. The Board welcomed Elizabeth Hickman as its newest member. She is from the Gulf South Presbytery and has many years' experience in wealth management.
3. RE Bob Welsh, the Foundation Field Representative has been on the road across the Presbyteries introducing the Foundation, assisting churches in their financial planning, and opening up financially relevant programs that can significantly increase giving towards churches, missions, and personal giving goals. A brief summary of the types of work accomplished include attending eight Presbytery meetings with presentations to six; visited 18 churches helping in such areas as fund raising; charitable gift annuities, options the Foundation provides to assist each church; opened avenues for better targeted giving for individuals; helped a church liquidate property; and assisted a Presbytery in setting up two funds that supports their missionary activity.
4. The partnership with the National Christian Foundation (NCF) has been pivotal. Their support, expertise and large staff manned with lawyers, accountants and fund raising knowledgeable experts have provided the grounding for all our work.
5. The main challenges for the Foundation Board in 2017 is settling on a business plan that provides adequate funding for getting the word out, making better connections with the Presbyteries, providing training at the General Assembly, Presbytery and church level, introducing the NCF programs that foster generous giving as well as seeking to round out the Board with additional members whose background, experience and training will complement those already on board and help us develop more strength to benefit the EPCF and the EPC's interests.

To view the Foundation web presence, go to epc.org/foundation

Recommendations to the General Assembly

Recommendation FND-1

That the Assembly provide the EPC Foundation with ten minutes at each General Assembly meeting where a church can provide a testimonial for the substantial financial value gained by working through the Foundation.

Recommendation FND-2

That the Assembly explore the feasibility of the Foundation working closely with World Outreach assisting in fund raising for missions and help in general financial issues.

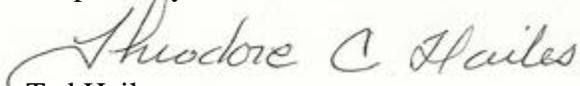
Recommendation FND-3

That the Assembly increase action to support effort in fund raising for the four key areas of interest to EPC

Recommendation FND-4

That the Assembly 'highly encourage' each Presbytery to create time on their meeting agenda at least once (or more) per year for EPC Foundation updates, new ideas, plus Q&A. It would also be a time for the church leaders attending to schedule and or meet on specific issues with members of the EPCF board.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Foundation Board,



Ted Hailes

June 2017