

## Committee on Ministerial Vocation

### Standing Committee Report 37th General Assembly

The Standing Committee on Ministerial Vocation convened at 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 and met once. Chairman TE Soon Pak opened the meeting with prayer.

Mark Ingles, chaplain endorser for EPC gave a brief report and explanation of the role of chaplains and the chaplain endorser.

#### A. Business Referred to Committee:

1. **Recommendation #8** [MVC 37-1]
2. **Recommendation #9** [MVC 37-2]
3. **Recommendation #10** [MVC 37-3]
4. **Recommendation #11** [MVC 37-4]
5. **Recommendation #12** [MVC 37-5]
6. **Recommendation #13** [MVC 37-6]
7. **Recommendation #21** [PJC 37-1]
8. **Recommendation #22** [PJC 37-2]
9. **Recommendation #23** [PJC 37-3]
10. **Recommendation #24** [PJC 37-4]
11. **Recommendation #25** [PJC 37-5]
12. **Minutes** of the Permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee
13. **Minutes** of the Permanent Chaplains Work and Care Committee

#### B. Recommendations:

1. That **Recommendation #8**, “that the Assembly amend *Book of Government* 9-6A and 10-8B.2a to specify the term of service for an out of bounds call to be a renewable term of up to three years, bringing consistency to the two sections” (see p. MVC-3 and Attachment MVC-C in the Commissioner’s Handbook for the details.) **be adopted.**

Current <i>Book of Government</i> 9-6A	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 9-6A Additions in <i>bold italics</i>
<p><b>9-6 Teaching Elders serving outside of presbytery bounds</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> Whenever a Teaching Elder is called to one of the positions provided for under <b>G.9-5</b> by an agency that is outside the jurisdiction of a court of the Church and after being fully satisfied that the ministry is consistent with the calling to the ministry of the Word, the Presbytery may grant permission for the Minister to labor outside of its</p>	<p><b>9-6 Teaching Elders serving outside of presbytery bounds</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> Whenever a Teaching Elder is called to one of the positions provided for under <b>G.9-5</b> by an agency that is outside the jurisdiction of a court of the Church and after being fully satisfied that the ministry is consistent with the calling to the ministry of the Word, the Presbytery may grant permission for the Minister to labor outside of its</p>

<p>jurisdictional bounds. Such permission is renewable annually. The Teaching Elder shall make an annual report to the Presbytery of faithfulness to the gospel. The Teaching Elder serving out of bounds shall be diligent to serve actively in the Court. If the particular call prohibits such service, the Teaching Elder should seek Associate Member status.</p>	<p>jurisdictional bounds <del>Such permission is renewable annually.</del> <b><i>for a term of up to three years. After the expiration of that time, the Minister must receive further Presbytery approval to continue.</i></b> The Teaching Elder shall make an annual report to the Presbytery of faithfulness to the gospel. The Teaching Elder serving out of bounds shall be diligent to serve actively in the Court. If the particular call prohibits such service, the Teaching Elder should seek Associate Member status.</p>
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<b>Current Book of Government 10-8B.2a</b>	<b>Proposed Book of Government 10-8B.2a Changes in bold italics</b>
<p>a. If a Teaching Elder desires to accept a call outside the jurisdictional or geographic bounds of the approving Presbytery, the Teaching Elder shall present a call from that body to the Presbytery, indicating the nature of the work and the terms of the call. If the Presbytery approves the nature of the work as appropriate to the gospel ministry and requiring ordination, it may approve the call for a definite period of time. After the expiration of that time, the Minister must receive further approval to continue.</p>	<p>a. If a Teaching Elder desires to accept a call outside the jurisdictional or geographic bounds of the approving Presbytery, the Teaching Elder shall present a call from that body to the Presbytery, indicating the nature of the work and the terms of the call. If the Presbytery approves the nature of the work as appropriate to the gospel ministry and requiring ordination, it may approve the call for a <del>definite period of time</del> <b><i>term of up to three years.</i></b> After the expiration of that time, the Minister must receive further <b><i>Presbytery</i></b> approval to continue.</p>

In making its recommendation to the Assembly, the Committee considered the input from the Permanent Judicial Commission contained in Recommendation #23.

2. That **Recommendation #9**, “that the Assembly, not adopt Overture 16-A” (see p. MVC-3 and Attachment MVC-A in the Commissioner’s Handbook for the details and for text of the Overture.) **be adopted.**

In making its recommendation to the Assembly, the Committee considered the input from the Permanent Judicial Commission contained in Recommendation #21.

3. That **Recommendation #10**, “that the Assembly amend *Book of Government* 21-2D.2e and f, expanding areas of ongoing authority that may be given to the Ministerial Committee at the discretion of the Presbytery” **be adopted**.

Current Book of Government 21-2D.2e, f	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 21-2D.2e, f Additions in <b><i>bold italics</i></b>
<p><b>21-2 The Ministerial Committee</b></p> <p><b>D. Authority and Responsibilities</b></p> <p>2. With regard to local churches</p> <p>e. Presbytery may authorize this Committee to dissolve pastoral relationships and dismiss Teaching Elders according to the <b>Book of Order</b> when both the congregation and the Pastor concur in the dissolution.</p> <p>f. The Committee may be appointed by Presbytery to serve as a Judicial or Administrative Commission. The Committee may be appointed as an ongoing Administrative Commission to approve temporary relationships.</p>	<p><b>21-2 The Ministerial Committee</b></p> <p><b>D. Authority and Responsibilities</b></p> <p>2. With regard to local churches</p> <p>e. Presbytery may authorize <del>this</del> the Ministerial Committee to <del>dissolve</del> <del>pastoral relationships and</del> <del>dismiss Teaching Elders</del> according to the <b>Book of Order</b> when both the congregation and the Pastor concur in the dissolution. serve as a Judicial or Administrative Commission. The Committee may also be appointed as an ongoing Administrative Commission to:</p> <p>1) Dissolve pastoral relationships and dismiss Teaching Elders according to the <b>Book of Order</b> when both the congregation and the Pastor concur in the dissolution.</p> <p>2) <b><i>Approve temporary pastoral relationships.*</i></b></p> <p>3) <b><i>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.</i></b></p>

	<p><b>4) Ordain and/or install Teaching Elders in accordance with provisions in this Book of Government.</b></p> <p><b>5) Appoint advisors for Candidates Under Care and mentors for Commissioned Pastors.</b></p> <p><i>[Note: section f is deleted here, being incorporated in section e above for clarity.]</i></p> <p><i>*If approved, the following footnote will appear in the text of the Book of Government: “The approval of temporary pastoral relationships is limited to the authority provided for in G.10-7. (Footnote approved by the 37<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.”</i></p>
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In making its recommendation to the Assembly, the Committee considered the input from the Permanent Judicial Commission contained in Recommendation #22.

4. That **Recommendation #11**, “that in response to Overture 16-B referred to the Ministerial Vocation Committee by the 36th General Assembly, the Assembly adopt a substitute recommendation to amend *Book of Government* 10-7, creating and defining the called position of ‘Transitional Pastor’” (see pp. MVC-3, MVC-8, MVC-9 and Attachment MVC-B in the Commissioner’s Handbook for the details and for text of the Overture.) **be adopted.**

Current <i>Book of Government</i> 10-7	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 10-7 Additions indicated in <b><i>bold italics</i></b>
<p>10-7 Temporary Pastoral Relationships</p> <p>A. When there is no Pastor, a Session may invite a lawfully ordained Minister in good standing or a Commissioned Pastor to enter a temporary pastoral relationship. Although this invitation is not a call as defined in <b>G.9-5</b>, the invitation and authority to preach the Word, to administer sacraments, and to moderate Session must be approved by the Presbytery or by the Ministerial Committee acting as a Commission.</p> <p>B. Ordinarily, a person currently serving in a temporary pastoral relationship is not eligible to be called as Pastor of</p>	<p>10-7 Temporary Pastoral Relationships</p> <p>A. <b><i>Temporary Pastoral Relationships may be established with lawfully ordained Ministers or Commissioned Pastors when a church is without a pastor.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>1. Transitional Pastor</i></b></p> <p>a. <b><i>A Transitional Pastor is called by the Session to serve during the period a congregation is seeking a Pastor. The Transitional Pastor intentionally leads the congregation toward greater health and readiness for their next</i></b></p>

<p>that church. Should a Search Committee desire to consider any person who has served in a temporary capacity since the pulpit most recently became vacant, it must secure approval by a three-fourths vote of the Session and a three-fourths vote of the Ministerial Committee in order to proceed.</p> <p>C. Types of temporary pastoral relationships</p>	<p><b><i>pastor and will ordinarily be appointed by the Presbytery to moderate the Session during the time of service.</i></b></p> <p>b. <b><i>Due to the temporary nature of the call, Transitional Pastors called from another Presbytery in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church will ordinarily maintain membership in their home presbytery.</i></b></p> <p>c. <b><i>Upon approval of the Ministerial Committee, Transitional Pastors are introduced to the receiving presbytery and enrolled as corresponding members</i></b></p>
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<p>1. Stated Supply</p> <p>A Stated Supply Pastor is invited to serve for a definite period of time of not less than one month and no more than twelve months. The Stated Supply may be appointed by the Presbytery to Moderate the Church Session during the time of service. Before the end of any invited period of service, the Session may extend the invitation for an additional period not to exceed twelve months with the approval of the Presbytery or of the Ministerial Committee acting as a Commission.</p> <p>2. Interim Supply</p> <p>An Interim Supply Pastor is invited to serve during the period a congregation is seeking a Pastor. The Interim Supply Pastor may be appointed by the Presbytery to moderate the Session during the time of service.</p> <p>3. Occasional Supply</p> <p>An Occasional Supply Pastor is invited to serve regularly on specified days. Only the Ministerial Committee must</p>	<p><i>(voice but not vote).</i></p> <p><i>d. If a Transitional Pastor is called from outside the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the presbytery shall examine and transfer the pastor according to applicable provisions of this Book of Government.</i></p> <p>2. Stated Supply <b>Pastor</b></p> <p><i>a. A Stated Supply Pastor is invited by the Session to serve for a definite period of time, not less than one month and no more than twelve months. <b>The term of service is renewable. Although this invitation is not a call, the invitation to serve, authority to preach the Word, to administer sacraments, and to moderate Session must be approved by the Presbytery or by the Ministerial Committee, if authorized by the Presbytery.</b></i></p> <p><i>b. Stated Supply Pastors from outside the Evangelical Presbyterian Church are invited by the Session and shall be interviewed and approved by Presbytery or the Ministerial Committee, if authorized by the Presbytery.</i></p> <p>3. Occasional Supply <b>Pastor</b></p> <p>An Occasional Supply</p>
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<p>approve.</p>	<p>Pastor is invited to serve regularly on specified days. Only the Ministerial Committee must approve.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Ordinarily, a person currently serving in a temporary pastoral relationship is not eligible to be called as Pastor of that church. Should a Search Committee desire to consider any person who has served in a temporary capacity since the pulpit most recently became vacant, it must secure approval by a three-fourths vote of the Session and a three-fourths vote of the Ministerial Committee in order to proceed.</p>
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In making its recommendation to the Assembly, the Committee considered the input from the Permanent Judicial Commission contained in Recommendation #24.

5. That **Recommendation #12**, “that if the proposed amendment to **G.10-7** is approved, the Assembly approve an amendment to *Book of Government* 9-5A.1 for consistency within the *Book of Government* and to clarify that all calls to Teaching Elders must be approved by the Presbytery” (see p. MVC-10 in the Commissioner’s Handbook for the details.) **be adopted.**

Current <i>Book of Government</i> 9-5A.1	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 9-5A.1 Additions in <i>bold italics</i>
<p><b>9-5 The office of Teaching Elder</b></p> <p>Within the office of Teaching Elder there are a variety of callings that require ordination. God distributes to each gifts according to the common needs of the Church. These include:</p>	<p><b>9-5 The office of Teaching Elder</b></p> <p>Within the office of Teaching Elder there are a variety of callings that require ordination. God distributes to each gifts according to the common needs of the Church. These include:</p>

<p>A. Pastor</p> <p>1. Titles</p> <p>A Teaching Elder may be called by a congregation to be a Pastor or Associate Pastor. Sessions may call a Teaching Elder as Assistant Pastor. These are the only recognized callings for Teaching Elders in a congregational setting.</p>	<p>A. Pastor</p> <p>1. Titles</p> <p>A Teaching Elder may be called by a congregation to be a Pastor or Associate Pastor. Sessions may call a Teaching Elder as Assistant Pastor, <b><i>Transitional Pastor, or invite a Teaching Elder as Stated Supply Pastor, or Occasional Supply Pastor. Presbytery must approve all such positions.</i></b> These are the only recognized pastoral relationships for Teaching Elders in a congregational setting.</p>
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In making its recommendation to the Assembly, the Committee considered the input from the Permanent Judicial Commission contained in Recommendation #25.

6. That **Recommendation #13**, “that if the proposed amendment to G.10-7 is approved, the Assembly authorize the Ministerial Vocation Committee to oversee the training, certification, and ongoing support of Transitional Pastors” be adopted (see p. MVC-10 in the Commissioner’s Handbook for the details.) **be adopted.**

***Recommendations #21-25 are all answered in the recommendations above.***

7. That the **Minutes** of the Permanent Committee dated September 12, 2016, September 19, 2016, July 20, 2016, August 5-8, 2016, August 24, 2016, August 29, 2016, March 13-15, 2017, May 22, 2017 **be approved with minor corrections.**
8. That the **Minutes** of the Chaplains Work and Care Committee dated September 30, 2016, December 22, 2016, February 23, 2017, February 28, 2017, March 20, 2017, March 31, 2017, April 13, 2017, April 26, 2017 **be approved with minor corrections.**

**C. Additional Recommendations from the Standing Committee:**

1. Per *Rules for Assembly* 9-6, the Committee voted to place the following eligible recommendation(s) on an omnibus consent motion:

**Minutes** of the Permanent Committee (Neil Ellison made the motion)

**Minutes** of the Chaplains Work and Care Committee

The Standing Committee commends the members of the Permanent Committee on Ministerial Vocation for their good work during the past year.



RE Bob Wheelock closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman  
TE Soon Pak

\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk  
TE Suzanne Zampella