

MEETING 006

**NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY
OF THE
Evangelical Presbyterian Church**

PACKET

3-4 May 2024

**Rivermont Presbyterian Church
Lynchburg, Virginia**

**Docket New River Presbytery EPC
006 Stated Meeting – May 3-4, 2024
Rivermont Presbyterian Church, Lynchburg, Virginia**

Friday, May 3

9:00am Registration and Committee/Group Meetings

11:00am RE training and nurture – Powell Sykes

1:00pm Call to Order
Host Church Welcome – Bert Murphy

1:05pm Opening Worship/Prayer – Tom Clymer

* * * Pastors' Wives Tea 2:05 * * *

2:05pm Preliminary Matters

- Declaration of a quorum & adoption of the docket
- Approval of the minutes and errata –
- Communications and referrals
- Welcome and introduction of first-time commissioners and corresponding members.

2:15pm Moderator's Report – Gordon Miller

2:20pm Report of Missional Director – Andy Koesters

2:25pm Report of the Stated Clerk – Rufus Burton

2:30pm World Outreach Session 1 – Jeff Smith

2:50pm Break

3:00pm Report of Church Development Committee – Chuck Estes

3:25pm World Outreach Session 2 – Jeff Smith

3:45pm Report of Stewardship – Brett Eubank

- 3:55pm Mini-Break
- 4:00pm (Order of the Day) Equipping & Encouragement –**
Rivermont and 1/3/5 Mile Evangelism
- 5:30pm Recess for Dinner
- 7:00pm Worship and Celebration of the Lord's Supper -
Preacher – David Weber
Communion – Ron

Saturday, February 3

- 8:30am Call to Order
Morning Worship – Preaching – Scott Whitener
- 9:00am Report of Ministerial Committee – Cameron Smith
Examination of Scott Whitener for Candidacy
- 9:30am Break
- 9:45am Focus – Westminster Standards: TE Marcos Ortega, PotE
- 10:45am Break
- 11:00 Other matters of importance
- 11:55am Expression of appreciation to host church
- 12:00pm Recess
- 12:10pm Leadership Team Working Lunch
- 1:45pm Conclusion of the Working Lunch

Watch for NRP Communications and Information

Next NRP Meeting – October 4-5, 2024
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bluefield, West Virginia

Prayer

Tom Clymer, Chaplain

Previous Meeting Minutes:

005 Stated Meeting New River Presbytery

The Moderator's Report:

Gordon Miller, Moderator

It has been an interesting couple of months since our last meeting. Discussions continue throughout the EPC concerning our overture addressing homosexuals in leadership positions. In these intervening months, I have found myself reading so many reports, articles, etc. on this issue that I feel as if I'm back in law school! By the time you read this, our Stated Clerk Dean Weaver will have met with your leadership, and the Presbytery of Mid-America will have met to consider the question of sending their candidate to the floor of their Presbytery for a vote, or to refer the issue of homosexual leadership to our denominations Theology Committee. Be in prayer for our denomination as it considers this and other important issues.

As usual, Past Moderator Ed Pettus and Stated Clerk Rufus Burton continue to do the heavy lifting for our Presbytery. Thank all of you for all you do to advance God's kingdom.

Notes:

The Missional Director's Report

Andy Koesters, Missional Director

Notes:

Clerk's Report

For Information

Contact Details

Rufus T Burton
First Presbyterian Church
220 S Queen St
Martinsburg, WV 25401
304.839.1991 (Mobile)
304.263.5201 (Study)
pastorburtonfpc@comcast.net

Important Due Dates

First Lord's Day after the first Monday in January:

Ministerial Reports are Due (7 January 2024)

“Annual Report on Teaching Elders” <https://epc.org/downloads/>

First Lord's Day in February

Previous Year Session Minutes are Due (4 February 2024)

Roughly 1/3 of Congregations have submitted minutes.

Annual Church Reports

(29 February 2024)

The General Assembly sets policy and priorities on the basis of the information provided.

Communications Rising from the 005 Meeting

- 1) Transmitted the NRP Ascending Overture to the OGA.

Church Development Committee

Chuck Estes, Chair

Notes:

GUIDE FOR RECEIVING A CHURCH INTO THE NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY

From the EPC Book of Order, Chapter 5

5-6 The reception of a local church from another body or from independency

A. When a non-EPC congregation desires to become a part of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, it shall petition the Presbytery in which it is located to be received (see exception in **G.5-8**). Such petition should indicate that the congregation and its governing body have concurred in the request, and have agreed to walk together as a church, based upon the faith and government of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, to be faithful to one another, to the Lordship of Christ, to the support of the whole Church, to be obedient to the order and doctrines of our faith, submitting themselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promising to promote its purity and peace.

B. The Petition shall include a list of the membership and a list of elected officers. Upon approval of the request, either the Presbytery or a duly appointed commission shall meet with the petitioning congregation and, depending on the particular situation:

1. Arrange for the election of Ruling Elders.
2. Require and arrange for training of existing officers.
3. If the congregation is from a body with a similar form of government, declare the officers of that congregation to be duly installed.

C. If the petitioning congregation is served by a Pastor(s) and if said Pastor(s) has been duly received by the Presbytery, the receiving body may declare the Pastor(s) duly installed.

More information on the process of becoming an EPC congregation may be found on the EPC website, or by following [THIS LINK](#).

EIGHT STEP PROCESS FOR RECEIVING CHURCHES

The Church Development Committee of the New River Presbytery (www.nrpfepc.org) has developed an 8-step process that we believe provides the best approach for everyone. Below is an outline of the process of joining the EPC.

STEP 1: A congregation will enter into a time of prayer, discussion and study of God's word to discern if entry into the EPC is desired. This often begins at the level of a Governing Body (e.g. the Session) and then ultimately the congregation.

Early in the process a church may contact either the Chairperson of the NRP Church Development Committee, the Presbytery Coordinator, or the Stated Clerk of the NRP. Should the church desire a representative of the presbytery to visit to answer questions and share insight into the EPC (either at the Governing Body level or the Congregational level), the presbytery will gladly arrange for someone to meet with you. This can be done at any time during the process. You may also attend a Presbytery meeting to observe our fellowship.

Ministers and churches seeking to be received into the NRP should allow up to 12 months for the receiving process. Adequate time is needed for churches seeking dismissal from other reformed bodies.

Churches seeking dismissal may approach the process in a variety of ways. In many cases, the decision of where a church will go once dismissed is not clear to church leaders until well along in the process. This can take several months and is often done in an amicable manner between the church and the dismissing body. Yet in some instances, dismissal can create strife in the relationship between the church and the dismissing body.

STEP 2: At some point in the discernment process, a church must call a congregational meeting to vote to seek admission into the EPC. It cannot be only a Governing Body vote. If the vote carries, the church must complete the "Petition to be Received" (obtained from the NRP Stated Clerk, or by clicking [HERE](#)) and submit the completed application to the Stated Clerk. This is the official beginning of the reception process. In special circumstances (to be determined by the NRP Leadership Team), transitional membership may be helpful. **Transitional membership will be discussed on an as-needed basis.**

STEP 3: The church Session begins a course of study preparing for Elder Examination. A curriculum is given to church leaders to guide the study, which is usually led by the Pastor. The study guide ("Elder Exam Handbook"), developed by the Presbytery of the Alleghenies, can be found under the "Resource" page of the EPC website (<https://epc.org/downloads/>).

The EPC is Presbyterian, Reformed and Confessional. The course of study will allow Elders to explore our beliefs and prepare Elders to take the ordination vows of the EPC.

STEP 4: A congregation must send leaders of the church to **ReFocus Training**. This is a one day seminar that allows a church to examine itself, reset its goals and develop a plan of obedience to the Great Commission of the Lord. The **ReFocus Training** is arranged through the NRP Coordinator. A church must have at least 50% of the Session attend this important training.

(**ReFocus Training** resources may be accessed by clicking [HERE](#))

STEP 5: A face to face meeting will be held between the church leadership (Pastor(s) and Elders) and representatives of the NRP. The purpose of this meeting is to allow the NRP to have a more personal contact with the church and have a mutual time of interaction and encouragement. The meeting is part of the process and will allow the Presbytery to review with the Elders the Elder Training Process and ReFocus Training. Again, the goal is to help churches transition into the EPC as healthy, growing congregations. The Pastor calls the Chairperson of the CDC to arrange this meeting when the Elder Training and the Refocus Training are completed or nearing completion.

STEP 6: Active Elders will be examined by a team formed by the CDC. This is a three-to-four-hour examination and will be scheduled after the prescribed time of study. Examinations are usually scheduled about two weeks prior to a Presbytery meeting. A minimum of 75% of the Active Elders must participate in this examination.

STEP 7: At the successful completion of the examination process, a church is received at a Presbytery meeting as a full member church. This is a time of great joy and praise! We encourage the church to bring its elders and key leaders to the Presbytery meeting to share its experience and celebrate in the new fellowship.

STEP 8: The church will plan a time for “celebration of reception into the EPC” and for renewal of ordination of all Elders. At the church’s request, the NRP will send representatives to participate in the celebration and welcome the congregation into the EPC. Regarding the pastor, an NRP Administrative Commission will be assigned to lead an installation service.

Ministers will be examined separately, but often concurrently with the church. Ministers must contact the Chairperson of the NRP Ministerial Committee for additional information.

World Missions Committee

Jeff Smith, Chair

Notes:



**World Outreach Committee of New River Presbytery
Report for May 3-4, 2024 Meeting
Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian Church**

Report to Presbytery (Part 1)

We serve the mission of the EPC to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus, focusing on those with the least access to the Gospel.

❖ **Engage 2025: An update on the Presbytery's mission to Least Reached Peoples**

Engage 2025 is an effort within the EPC whereby each presbytery engages with a people group that currently has no viable church capable of evangelizing its own people. We send and support a team of long-term disciple-makers to penetrate communities where no Jesus followers are actively engaged in disciple-making.

New River Presbytery supports the work among the Uzbek people in Uzbekistan and, in cooperation with Coastal Mid-Atlantic and Central Carolinas presbyteries, with the Punjabi people in Pakistan.

TE Brown Caldwell will provide an update on those ministries, emphasizing their importance.

❖ **Kairos Update**

Kairos is a discipleship course offered by the EPC that helps transform worldviews so that every believer and every church understands God's missionary purpose and is engaged in reaching every cultural group in the world, especially Least Reached People groups. It is a nine-session course utilizing a variety of learning methods and activities.

The next course is Thursday, 7:00-9:00 pm, via Zoom August 1 – September 26, 2024.

TE Bob Barnett will provide a brief update on our involvement with this course.

Report to Presbytery (Part 2)

❖ **EPC World Outreach**

TE Phil Thrash, representing EPC World Outreach, will provide an update on the many ways that individuals, families, groups, and churches can partner with World Outreach to walk alongside our global workers.

❖ **Families Alive**

Families Alive is a ministry that helps parents raise children who know, love, and serve the Lord. TE Andy Koesters, who serves as the Pastor to Churches and Families at Families Alive, will give a presentation about his ministry.



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MOBILIZING YOUR CHURCH TO REACH THE 3 BILLION

<https://www.epcwo.org/3billion/>

CONNECTING **MISSION LEADERS** CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 24 - 26

MEMPHIS, TN

WWW.EPCWO.ORG/CML

II TIMOTHY 2:1-2

44th EPC GENERAL ASSEMBLY & GOSPEL PRIORITY SUMMIT 2024

MEXt.

MEMPHIS ★★ TENNESSEE

June 18 - 20 HOSTED BY HOPE CHURCH MEMPHIS

YOUNG ADULT MISSIONS COHORT

We're looking for 18 - 24 year olds with a heart for missions for our 6th missions cohort beginning in AUGUST. Send contact info to Saul.h@epcwo.org

SEND

There are several World Outreach missionaries that are in process of launching to the field. They need more prayer warriors and financial partners to join their team. If your church is interested, please reach out:

David & Heather - Japan
theskinners2japan@gmail.com

Gretchen - N. Macedonia
masiellogretchen@gmail.com

Laurie - France
llucas30@yahoo.com

Jeff & Alma - Greece
jeff.whitfield@gemission.com

Andrea - US Mobilization
andrea.c@epcwo.org

Bill & Sharon - US Mobilization
sharonaandbill@gmail.com

Peter & Jasmine - Central Asia
petercantonacci@gmail.com

GO

Are you or someone you know discerning a call to missions? We'd love for you to join us! Contact Saul Huber (Saul.h@epcwo.org) or visit epcwo.org/go to get started.

KAIROS



INFORMATION SHEET

INTRODUCTION KAIROS is a foundational course on world Christian mission. It brings out God's heart for all the nations of the world and His desire to use His people to be a blessing to them. KAIROS, emphasises the importance of ministering to cultures that still have few or no indigenous churches.

PURPOSE KAIROS is designed to educate, inspire and challenge Christians to meaningful participation in cross-cultural ministry, especially to least reached peoples. It is a tool God is using to help transform the worldview of believers so they see themselves and their church as called to play a significant role in being a blessing to all people groups.

FORMAT & CONTENT KAIROS is a nine-session course that covers four major areas:

- Biblical - We discover that mission lies at the center of God's concern and that an overriding theme throughout the whole Bible is God blessing His people to be a blessing to all people groups.
- Historical - God's mission purpose can be seen throughout history. We gain much from studying the past successes and failures of the church, in the area of mission expansion.
- Strategic - We learn about strategy and key mission strategies that bear fruit in reaching unreached people groups in today' s world. Every believer and church has a significant role to play.
- Cultural - Mission involves crossing cultures. We learn what culture is and see what it takes to communicate and make disciples in a culture different from our own.

KAIROS uses a variety of learning methods and activities such as:

- Devotional Teaching
- Prayer for Least Reached Peoples
- Introductions to Readings using PowerPoint
- Video Teaching
- Readings
- Worksheets
- Small Group Interaction
- Special Cultural Activities

KAIROS can be conducted using several formats. The most common format is one evening a week for nine weeks. It can also be conducted over several weekends or as an intensive course over four and a half days.

CONTACT

August 1 – September 26, 2024
Thursdays, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
\$100 per person
www.epcwo.org/kairos



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Ministerial Committee

Cameron Smith, Chair

Notes:

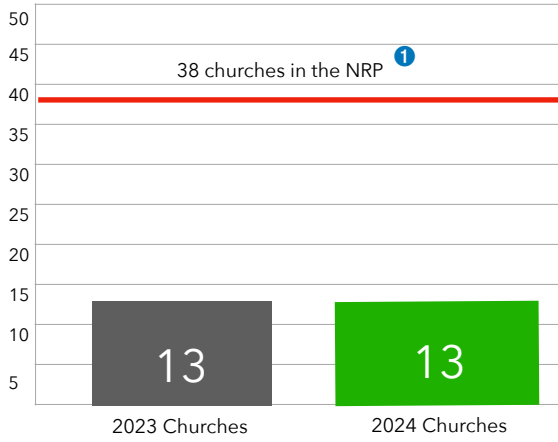
Treasurer's Report

Brett Eubank, Treasurer

Notes:

NRP PMA/POI Comparison (through 3/31/24)

Number of Giving Churches from 2023 vs. 2024 thru 3/31



Per Member Asking Comparison from 2023 vs. 2024



PMA/POI FINANCIAL NOTES

- 1 Mission Groups/Churches (Christ Reigns & Forge) aren't asked to give towards PMA/POI, so the number of potential giving churches is 38.
- 2 The difference of ~\$4,000 between 2023 vs. 2024 PMA giving is a timing one in which a church gave it's Feb. and March gift in April. Had they given in the first quarter 2023, the difference would be negligible.
- 3 Thanks to the churches who have begun to increase their PMA giving to POI. Of the churches that have given in the first quarter, six have increased, two have decreased and the rest are holding steady. We also had a church begin giving their POI having not given PMA prior to at least 2018.

Church	2023 PMA/POI GIVEN IN 2024	2024 PMA/POI YTD	TOTAL IN 2024
Asbury	\$0.00	\$544.00	\$544.00
Bethel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bouldin Memorial	\$299.00	\$0.00	\$299.00
Buffalo	\$0.00	\$805.00	\$805.00
Christ Reigns (Mission Group)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cleveland	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Elon	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Elkton	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Falling Spring	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Roanoke	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Eden	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Martinsburg	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Galatia	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Greenwood	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hope	\$0.00	\$550.00	\$550.00
Hurley	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lebanon	\$0.00	\$456.25	\$456.25
Mary's	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mebane	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Memorial/Forge (Mission Church)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Life	\$0.00	\$437.50	\$437.50
Northminster	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Norton	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Piedmont	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Princeton	\$0.00	\$462.50	\$462.50
Providence	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Restoration	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Reynolda	\$0.00	\$3,255.24	\$3,255.24
River Oaks	\$0.00	\$5,220.00	\$5,220.00
Rivermont	\$0.00	\$4,464.99	\$4,464.99
Roseann	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Slate Mountain	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Stuart	\$0.00	\$875.00	\$875.00
Thompson Valley	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Walker's	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Warm Springs	\$871.19	\$0.00	\$871.19
Westminster Bluefield	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Westminster Burlington	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Woodside	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Wyliesburg	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
	\$2,370.19	\$19,620.48	\$21,990.67

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NRP Income Statement (through 3/31/24)

Account	2024 YTD ACTUAL	2024 YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE
INCOME			
1 Per Member Asking	\$19,620.48	\$24,999.99	-\$5,379.51
2 Per Member Asking-Prior Year	\$2,370.19	\$0.00	\$2,370.19
3 Presbytery Offering	\$1,036.09	\$624.99	\$411.10
Individual Giving	\$375.00	\$249.99	\$125.01
4 Church Giving	\$2,250.00	\$249.99	\$2,000.01
5 GA Church Health Initiative	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	-\$3,000.00
6 Interest Income	\$1,907.55	\$375.00	\$1,532.55
TOTAL INCOME	\$27,559.31	\$29,499.96	-\$1,940.65
Compensation			
Missional Director Stipend	\$9,750.00	\$9,750.00	\$0.00
Clerk Stipend	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$0.00
IT Stipend	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Treasurer Stipend	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Total Compensation	\$17,250.00	\$17,250.00	\$0.00
Personnel			
Travel-Missional Director	\$899.34	\$1,250.01	-\$350.67
Travel-Stated Clerk	\$1,219.58	\$1,250.01	-\$30.43
Office Expense	\$5.08	\$125.01	-\$119.93
Total Personnel	\$2,124.00	\$2,625.03	-\$501.03
Professional Fees			
IT Expenses	\$104.52	\$249.99	-\$145.47
Treasurer Expenses	\$327.88	\$249.99	\$77.89
Liability Insurance (D/O)	\$0.00	\$750.00	-\$750.00
Licenses/Fees	\$230.09	\$375.00	-\$144.91
Bank Fees	\$6.11	\$0.00	\$6.11
Total Professional Fees	\$668.60	\$1,624.98	-\$956.38
Committees/Commissions			
Commissions	\$0.00	\$125.01	-\$125.01
Executive Council	\$0.00	\$249.99	-\$249.99
Ministerial Committee	\$149.00	\$375.00	-\$226.00
Stewardship Committee	\$0.00	\$24.99	-\$24.99
3 World Missions	\$1,036.09	\$999.99	\$36.10
Presbytery	\$692.02	\$750.00	-\$57.98
Total Committees/Commissions	\$1,877.11	\$2,524.98	-\$647.87
Benevolence			
Minister's Assistance	\$0.00	\$125.01	-\$125.01
Commissioner Assistance	\$0.00	\$125.01	-\$125.01
Benevolence - Other	\$0.00	\$125.01	-\$125.01
Total Benevolence	\$0.00	\$375.03	-\$375.03
Church Development Committee			
New Church Plant Support	\$0.00	\$3,750.00	-\$3,750.00
Church Planter Assessment/Coaching	\$0.00	\$375.00	-\$375.00
CDC Travel	\$0.00	\$500.01	-\$500.01
Church Planting Team Travel	\$0.00	\$125.01	-\$125.01
Church Health Team Travel	\$0.00	\$500.01	-\$500.01
Transitional Pastor Coaching	\$730.80	\$624.99	\$105.81
Church Revitalization	\$0.00	\$1,374.99	-\$1,374.99
Presbytery Equipping	\$0.00	\$750.00	-\$750.00
Total Church Develop. Comm.	\$730.80	\$8,000.01	-\$7,269.21
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$22,650.51	\$32,400.03	-\$9,749.52

FINANCIAL STATEMENT NOTES:

1 2024 Q1 Per Member Asking is comparable to 2023 Q1.

I did a breakdown by percentage of when our giving comes in:

- Q1 Giving is 16%
- Q2 Giving is 29%
- Q3 Giving is 28%
- Q4 Giving is 27%

2 Prior year Per Member Asking from:

- Warm Springs Church contributed \$871.19
- Mebane Church contributed \$1,200
- Bouldin EPC contributed \$299

3 The February Presbytery Offering was designated for the Hope Valley Project, a ministry of our Uzbekistan missionaries, Tim Mitchell and sent to the EPC World Outreach Office on their behalf.

4 We received a special gift of \$2,000 from First, Martinsburg.

5 I received the EPC's quarterly Church Health Check in early April.

6 We had 3 CD's mature in Q1.

Account	2024 YTD ACTUAL	2024 YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE
NET INCOME/LOSS	\$4,908.80	-\$2,900.07	\$7,808.87

NRP Balance Sheet (through 3/31/24)

Account	NRP
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Pinnacle Bank - Checking	\$20,730.54
Pinnacle Bank - Money Market	\$41,134.82
Pinnacle Bank - CD	\$102,305.01
Total Current Assets	\$164,170.37
LIABILITIES	
	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$0.00
EQUITY	
Unrestricted Net Assets	
General Fund	\$58,229.03
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	\$58,229.03
Restricted Net Asset	
Grace & Mercy Fund	\$2,281.23
Church Development Committee Fund	\$81,018.36
Chaplain Fund	\$575.39
Missions Fund	\$7,513.67
Missionary Emergency Fund	\$4,576.62
Women's Fund	\$4,352.56
Church Health Fund	\$5,623.51
Total Restricted Net Assets	\$105,941.34
Total Equity	\$164,170.37
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$164,170.37

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BALANCE SHEET NOTES:

Notes for the report to the session: