

# Descending Overtures from the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Evangelical Presbyterian Church

## DESCENDING OVERTURE 44-A

That the *Book of Government* 10-7 and 9.5C.3 be amended. [**Rational:** Temporary Pastoral Relationships are by invitation for a specified time and therefore do not require examination for presbytery membership, only interviewing for suitability to the task. Those pursuing transfer into the Evangelical Presbyterian Church as a Transitional Pastor would be examined for presbytery membership while those serving from outside the Evangelical Presbyterian Church could serve by temporary invitation in the same manner as a Stated Supply.]

[**Rational:** Teaching Elders from outside the Evangelical Presbyterian Church called as Transitional Pastors must be examined for transfer according to G. 10-7 a.1.d. Teaching Elders from outside the Evangelical Presbyterian Church who are not seeking transfer will still be able to serve as Transitional Pastors by invitation of a Session in the same manner as Stated Supply Pastors G. 10-7 A.1.e]

Current <i>Book of Government</i> 10-7	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 10-7 <i>Amendments in bold italics</i>
<p><b>10-7 Temporary Pastoral Relationships</b></p> <p>A. Temporary Pastoral Relationships may be established with lawfully ordained Ministers or Commissioned Pastors when a church is without a pastor.</p> <p>1. Transitional Pastor</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. 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 pastor and will ordinarily be appointed by the Presbytery to moderate the Session during the time of service.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. 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.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">c. Upon approval of the Ministerial Committee, Transitional Pastors are introduced to the receiving presbytery</p>	<p><b>10-7 Temporary Pastoral Relationships</b></p> <p>A. Temporary Pastoral Relationships may be established with lawfully ordained Ministers or Commissioned Pastors when a church is without a pastor.</p> <p>1. Transitional Pastor</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. 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 pastor and will ordinarily be appointed by the Presbytery to moderate the Session during the time of service.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. 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.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">c. Upon approval of the Ministerial Committee, Transitional Pastors are introduced to the receiving presbytery</p>

<p>and enrolled as corresponding members (voice but not vote).</p> <p>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 <i>Book of Government</i>.</p>	<p>and enrolled as corresponding members (voice but not vote).</p> <p>d. If a Transitional Pastor is called from outside the Evangelical Presbyterian Church <b><i>and seeks to transfer ordination</i></b>, the presbytery shall examine and transfer the pastor according to applicable provisions of this Book of Government.</p> <p><b><i>e. If a Transitional Pastor from outside the Evangelical Presbyterian Church is not seeking to transfer ordination, the Session may extend an invitation in the same manner as a Stated Supply Pastor except that the invitation will remain in effect during the period the congregation is seeking a Pastor.</i></b></p>
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Current <i>Book of Government</i> 9-5	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 9-5 <b><i>Amendments in bold italics</i></b>
<p><b>9-5 The office of Teaching Elder</b></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, Transitional Pastor, or invite a Teaching Elder as Stated Supply Pastor, or Occasional Supply Pastor. Presbytery must approve all such positions. These are the only recognized callings for Teaching Elders in a congregational setting.<sup>54</sup> The office of the “co-pastor” is not a constitutionally recognized calling in a local church. Except as otherwise provided in the Book of Government, the Pastor of the church shall be the Moderator of Session.</p>	<p><b>9-5 The office of Teaching Elder</b></p> <p>B. 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, Transitional Pastor, or invite a Teaching Elder as <b><i>Transitional Pastor</i></b>, Stated Supply Pastor, or Occasional Supply Pastor. Presbytery must approve all such positions. These are the only recognized callings for Teaching Elders in a congregational setting.<sup>54</sup> The office of the “co-pastor” is not a constitutionally recognized calling in a local church. Except as otherwise provided in the Book of Government, the Pastor of the church shall be the Moderator of Session.</p>