

PROPOSED DOCKET



**21st Stated Meeting of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
October 11-12, 2024
Community Presbyterian Church
222 W El Pintado Road, Danville, CA 94526
925-837-5525**

Please note: The Presbytery proceedings today are being recorded.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2024

9:00 am	Call to Order and Opening Prayer	RE Brian Wyatt, Moderator
	Declaration of Quorum	RE Mark Eshoff, Stated Clerk
9:10	Welcome	TE Tyler Scott
	Introduction of Guests	Moderator Wyatt
9:20	Worship	
	Call to Worship	Moderator Wyatt
	Worship in Music	CPC Worship Team
	Sermon	Dr. Ron Pyle
	The sermon this morning will be given by Ron Pyle, Professor Emeritus of Communication at Whitworth University in Spokane, WA who spoke at the Pastors Retreat earlier this week. Ron earned graduate degrees in Theology and Communication. He retired in 2021 after 34 years of teaching at Whitworth. Ron taught courses related to human relationships, theories of communication, social influence, preaching, and small group ministry. Ron leads retreats and seminars on topics including biblical approaches to healthy relationships, marriage and family relationships, effective preaching, and conflict management in the church.	
	Moderator's Time of Prayer	Moderator Wyatt
10:10	Stated Clerk's Report	Stated Clerk Eshoff
	Presbytery Voting Guidelines Absences without Excuse (May 16-17, 2024) GA Update and Resources (<i>Attachment 6 – pgs. A43-A45</i>) Changes to the Proposed Docket	
	Approval of the Docket	
10:20	Mission Committee Report	TE Dave Fenska, Chair
	TE Dave Fenska will introduce World Outreach workers who will be at Presbytery Friday and Saturday, and TE Sam Knottnerus will introduce Dave Matthews who serves with Reflejo, a partner mission group which also has a burden to reach the Pashtuns.	
10:40	Break	
11:00	Church Planting Report	TE Shawn Robinson, POPS Church Planting Coordinator
	TE Shawn Robinson will share an update on a possible new POPS church plant and the process of identifying and assessing a church planter. He will also introduce Tom Ricks, EPC National Director of Church Planting.	

- 11:30 **Session Minutes Review Committee** RE Janet Goodman, Chair
 RE Goodman will report on the reviews from the May 2024 meeting and update the Presbytery on how to improve the effectiveness of Session Minutes.
- Churches scheduled for Session Minutes Reviews at the October 2024 meeting:
- | | |
|---|--|
| Covenant Presbyterian Church, Orange, CA | Kingman Presbyterian Church, Kingman, AZ |
| Covenant Presbyterian Church, San Diego, CA | The Table, San Francisco, CA |
| Easton Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA | Valley Community Church, San Jacinto, CA |
| First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield, CA | Cornerstone Woodlake, Woodlake, CA |
| First Presbyterian Church, Hanford, CA | Wintersburg Presbyterian Church, Santa Ana, CA |
| Heritage EPC, Santa Maria, CA | |
- 11:40 **Ministry Update – Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV** TE Jay Hull
 TE Jay Hull will share an update on the ministry of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV, including the joys and challenges of ministry and the recent workshop featuring Andrew Brunson.
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 **Special Panel Presentation:**
“Navigating a Divisive Election – Perspective and Care for Our Congregations.”
 The intention of this discussion is to help leaders of churches provide encouragement, perspective, and a Christian filter for their people in processing the dynamics of the election, given the angst and concern that the election is creating. Featured on the panel will be Dr. Joel Landis, Professor of Political Science at UC Santa Cruz, Dr. David Nystrom, Professor of New Testament at Western Seminary and former Provost and Sr. Vice President of Biola University, and Dr. David Burke, POPS Chaplain and Pastor to Pastors with Standing Stone Ministry.
- 2:30 Break
- 2:50 **Treasurer’s Report** RE David Sylvester, POPS Treasurer
 RE Sylvester will brief the Presbytery on the 2024 Year-to-Date POPS Financials and Askings Report (*Attachment 1 – pgs. A2-A4*)
- 3:00 **Ministerial Committee Report** TE David Abdo, Chair
- Examination of Will Carreras**
 Will Carreras has been called as Assistant Pastor for Mission by the Session of Covenant Presbyterian Church, San Diego, CA. He is seeking ordination in the EPC and has signed his Ministerial Obligation Form and Ethical Affirmation Form. He has been examined by the members of the Ministerial Committee and his current Terms of Call have been reviewed and approved by the Committee. He is recommended to the Presbytery for approval.
- Will’s examination begins with a sermon on Acts 4:8-12, a passage assigned by the Ministerial Committee. The Presbytery is to examine him on his knowledge of theology and sacraments, faith in Christ, calling to the ministry, and the nature of the office of a minister of the Word, polity, the Reformed tradition, the Bible, and his spiritual journey. Will has one exception to the Westminster Standards. (*Attachment 2 – pgs. A5-A21*)

(continued)

Two to three questions in each category in the following order:

- Knowledge of Theology, Sacraments, English Bible
- Knowledge of the Book of Order, history of the Church and the Reformed tradition
- Christian experience, progress in spiritual growth, and the nature of the office of Teaching Elder
- Exception to the Westminster Standards

Representatives speaking on behalf of Will Carreras

MOTION: To approve the examination of Will Carreras, including his exception to the Westminster Standards, and receive him into full membership in the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest.

MOTION: To approve the Administrative Commission of TE's David Fenska (Active-Retired) and Patrick King from Covenant Presbyterian Church, San Diego, CA and RE's Alicia Luschei, Rick Priebisus, Bo Harvey from Covenant Presbyterian Church, San Diego, CA and Stephen Morris from Covenant Presbyterian Church, Orange, CA to ordain and install Will Carreras as Assistant Pastor of Missions and Mercy Ministry at Covenant Presbyterian Church, San Diego, CA on November 10, 2024 at 12:00 pm for a term of 3 years.

3:50 **Ministerial Committee Report (continued)**

Dissolution of Call – TE Joe Mazzela

The congregation of Sanger Community Church and TE Joe Mazzela have agreed to dissolve their relationship effective August 31, 2024.

MOTION: To approve the dissolution of the relationship between TE Joe Mazzela and Sanger Community Church effective August 31, 2024 and change his status to Without Call.

Change in Status – TE Jeff Hooker

The congregation of Centerpoint Community Church, Roseville, CA has called TE Jeff Hooker to the position of Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation. He is currently the Assistant Pastor of Spiritual Formation at the church. This change has been reviewed by the Ministerial Committee and is recommended to the Presbytery for approval.

MOTION: To approve the Change in Status of TE Jeff Hooker from Assistant Pastor of Spiritual Formation to Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation at Centerpoint Community Church, Roseville, CA.

MOTION: To approve the Administrative Commission consisting of TE's Bryan Yeo and Rachel Dorsey from Centerpoint Community Church and RE's Sharon Wurst, Tim Kovar, Joe Watkins from Centerpoint Community Church and Vicki Meyer from Fremont Presbyterian Church to install TE Jeff Hooker as Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation at Centerpoint Community Church on October 20, 2024 at 11:35 am.

Change of Call – TE Eric Amundson

TE Eric Amundson has completed his service as Transitional Pastor at Hope Church, Kent, WA and has been called to Hope Church, Carbondale, IL as Transitional Pastor. He has requested that we affirm his Outside the Bounds call. He will remain a member of POPS.

MOTION: To approve the call of TE Eric Amundson to work Outside the Bounds of the Pacific Southwest Presbytery at Hope Church, Carbondale, IL beginning September 22, 2024

Transfer of Ordination – TE Greg Ehlert

TE Greg Ehlert is currently serving an Outside the Bounds call with Restoration Project in San Diego, CA. He has been called to Renew Community in San Diego, a Reformed Church of America congregation and has requested his transfer to the City Classis of the RCA.

MOTION: To approve the transfer of TE Greg Ehlert to the Reformed Church in America City Classis effective October 17, 2024, contingent on his acceptance by the Classis.

4:10 Break

4:30 **Nominating Committee Report** RE Christine Deane, Chair
RE Christine Deane will bring nominees for several POPS committees and the second term of the Moderator.

MOTION: To approve the nomination of TE Jay Hull from Covenant Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV as a member of the Nominating Committee – Class of 2027

MOTION: To approve the nomination of TE Joe Tolin from Kingman Presbyterian Church, Kingman, AZ as a member of the Care of Candidates Committee – Class of 2027

MOTION: To approve the nomination of TE Lana Roberts (Active-Retired) as a member of the Ministerial Committee – Class of 2027

MOTION: To approve the second term of RE Brian Wyatt as POPS Moderator for 2025.

4:50 **Ministry Update –**

5:10 **Change in the POPS Bylaws – Ministerial Committee Chairperson** Stated Clerk Eshoff
Stated Clerk Eshoff will present the reasoning to support the recommendation of the POPS Council to change the POPS Bylaws to allow the Ministerial Committee Chair to serve unlimited terms. (Attachment 3 – pgs. A22-A23)

5:25 **Descending Overtures from the 44th General Assembly – First Reading**
Stated Clerk Eshoff will present the overtures from the recent 44th General Assembly meeting in June. **These overtures are provided for reading only** in anticipation of a formal vote at the January 2025 POPS Meeting. (Attachment 4 – pgs. A24–A25)

5:30 **Meeting Recess and Dinner**

7:00 **Presbytery Worship Service**
The POPS Worship Service will be led by TE Tyler Scott and the staff and leaders from Community Presbyterian Church. Communion will be served, and an offering will be received for the POPS Church Planting Fund.

PROPOSED DOCKET



21st Stated Meeting of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
October 11-12, 2024

Please note: The Presbytery proceedings today are being recorded.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024

8:00 am Breakfast

9:00 **Call to Order and Opening Prayer**

RE Brian Wyatt, Moderator

Appreciation to the Volunteers and Staff of the Host Church

9:10 **Worship and Prayer**

Call to Worship

Moderator Wyatt

Worship in Music

CPC Worship Team

Sermon

TE Ken Ferguson

The sermon this morning will be given by Ken Ferguson, candidate for Pastor at San Ramon Presbyterian Church, San Ramon, CA. He will be preaching on 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, a passage assigned to him by the Ministerial Committee.

Moderator's Time of Prayer

Moderator Wyatt

9:50 **Ministerial Committee Report** (continued)

TE David Abdo, Chair

Examination of TE Ken Ferguson

TE Ken Ferguson has been called as Pastor by the congregation of San Ramon Presbyterian Church, San Ramon, CA. He is seeking to transfer his membership from the EPC Presbytery of the Great Plains. He has signed his Ministerial Obligation Form and Ethical Affirmation Form. He has been examined by the members of the Ministerial Committee and his current Terms of Call have been reviewed and approved by the Committee. He is recommended to the Presbytery for approval.

Ken's examination begins with a sermon on 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, a passage assigned by the Ministerial Committee. The Presbytery is to examine him on his views of theology and sacraments, faith in Christ, calling to the ministry, and the nature of the office of a minister of the Word, polity, the Reformed tradition, the Bible, and his spiritual journey. Rachel has no exceptions to the Westminster Standards. (*Attachment 5 – pgs. A26-A42*)

Two to three questions in each category in the following order:

- Views on Theology, Sacraments, English Bible
- Views on the Book of Order, history of the Church and the Reformed tradition
- Christian experience, progress in spiritual growth, and the nature of the office of Teaching Elder

Representatives speaking on behalf of Ken Ferguson

MOTION: To approve the examination of Ken Ferguson and receive him into full membership in the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest, pending his transfer from the EPC Presbytery of the Great Plains.

MOTION: To approve the Administrative Commission of TE's Tyler Scott from Community Presbyterian Church, Danville, CA and Shawn Robinson from Clayton Community Church, and RE's Doug Fry, Steve Liao and Mike Goldsmith from San Ramon Presbyterian Church and Rhea Serpan from Community Presbyterian Church, Danville, CA to install Ken Ferguson as Pastor of San Ramon Presbyterian Church on November 3, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

10:30 Break

10:50 **Church Health Report** TE Mike Griffin, POPS Church Health Coordinator

11:10 **Care of Candidates Report** TE Matt Young, Chair
Some Candidates Under Care decide to remove themselves from the candidate care process while others do not progress adequately enough to continue in the process.

MOTION: To remove Yungfeng Huang and Grace Babayan from the POPS Candidate Care process.

11:15 **Omnibus Motion** Moderator Wyatt

1. That the Minutes of the Twentieth Stated Meeting of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest on May 16-17, 2024, be approved as posted (these minutes are available on the POPS website).
2. That the minutes of the Called Meeting of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest, July 13, 2024, be approved as posted (these minutes are available on the POPS website)
3. That the Administrative Commission to install Rachel Dorsey as Assistant Pastor of Outreach and Mission at Centerpoint Community Church, Roseville, CA be dismissed with appreciation for their service to the Presbytery, to the pastor, and to the congregation. The commission's minutes are on file with the Stated Clerk.
4. That the Administrative Commission to install Justin Kim as Pastor of Wintersburg Presbyterian Church, Santa Ana, CA be dismissed with appreciation for their service to the Presbytery, to the pastor, and to the congregation. The commission's minutes are on file with the Stated Clerk.
5. That the Administrative Commission to install Marcos Ortega as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield, CA be dismissed with appreciation for their service to the Presbytery, to the pastor, and to the congregation. The commission's minutes are on file with the Stated Clerk.
6. That the Administrative Commission to install Matthew McCleary as Associate Pastor for Congregational Life of Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento, CA be dismissed with appreciation for their service to the Presbytery, to the pastor, and to the congregation. The commission's minutes are on file with the Stated Clerk.
7. To extend the call of TE Meagan Kroeker as Assistant Pastor of at First Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA for an additional 3 years through June 2027.
8. To approve the extension of the Outside the Bounds calls of TE Ryan Suzuki at 3Crosses Church in Castro Valley, CA, TE Kurt Teng at Bakersfield Reformed Gospel Church, TE Mgrdich Melkonian at the Evangelical Church of Armenia, Fresno, CA, TE Melaku Mekuria at Maranatha Ethiopian Christian Fellowship, San Diego, CA, and TE Tony Winterowd at Hanford Christian Reformed Church, Hanford, CA.

MOTION: To approve the Omnibus actions

11:25 **Important Upcoming Dates**

January 24-25, 2025 Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest Meeting (#22)
Location: Centerpoint Community Church, Roseville, CA

May 15-16, 2025 Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest Meeting (#23)
Location (TBD)

October 10-11, 2025 Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest Meeting (#24)
Location (TBD)

January 23-24, 2026 Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest Meeting (#25)
Location: First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield, CA

Hosting Opportunities

Member churches are reminded that opportunities are available to host the Presbytery at its May and October 2025 meetings. Contact the Stated Clerk if you are interested in offering an invitation.

We are looking for churches to host **Discovery Workshops** in 2025. Contact the Stated Clerk if you are interested in offering an invitation.

11:30 am **Adjournment and Closing Prayer**

Moderator Wyatt



Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
5770 Carlson Drive
Sacramento, CA 95819
(916) 452-7132

Presbytery Meeting Docket
October 11-12, 2024

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| 1. | 2024 POPS Year-to-Date Financial Statements and Askings Report | A2-A4 |
| 2. | Personal Information and Statement of Faith for Will Carreras | A5-A21 |
| 3. | Change in the POPS Bylaws – Ministerial Committee Chairperson | A22-A23 |
| 4. | Descending Overtures from the 44 th EPC General Assembly | A24-A25 |
| 5. | Personal Information and Statement of Faith for Ken Ferguson | A26-A42 |
| 6. | GA Gospel Priorities Update and Other Resources | A43-A45 |



Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
Income and Expenses
 August 31, 2024

CATEGORY	CURRENT MONTH			YEAR-TO-DATE			ANNUAL BUDGET
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE	
INCOME							
POPS Church Support	\$8,233	\$12,667	(\$4,434)	\$88,836	\$101,333	(\$12,498)	\$152,000
Other Income -Church Planting Subsidy	0	250	(250)	0	2,000	(2,000)	3,000
Other Income- Church Health Subsidy	3,000	1,000	2,000	6,000	8,000	(2,000)	12,000
Other Income - Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Income	11,233	13,917	(2,684)	94,836	111,333	(16,498)	167,000
EXPENSES							
Personnel	\$10,094	\$9,983	(\$110)	\$77,978	\$79,867	\$1,888	\$119,800
Travel	1,578	1,617	38	11,560	12,933	1,373	19,400
Presbytery Office	78	225	147	1,586	1,800	214	2,700
Moderator	0	17	17	0	133	133	200
Care of Candidates	0	67	67	202	533	332	800
Church Planting	0	17	17	0	133	133	200
Church Health	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mission	0	583	583	2,529	4,667	2,137	7,000
Nominating Committee	0	42	42	0	333	333	500
Session Minutes Review Committee	0	42	42	0	333	333	500
Presbytery Meetings	930	792	(138)	5,740	6,333	593	9,500
Leadership and Training	0	233	233	0	1,867	1,867	2,800
Accounting and Finance	270	300	30	4,270	2,400	(1,870)	3,600
Total All Expenses	\$12,950	\$13,917	\$967	\$103,865	\$111,333	\$7,468	\$167,000
NET INCOME	(\$1,717)	(\$0)	(\$1,717)	(\$9,030)	\$0	(\$9,030)	\$0



Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest

Balance Sheet

8/31/2024

DESCRIPTION	BALANCE at 8/31/24	BALANCE at 12/31/23
ASSETS		
Cash	\$44,651	\$131,079
Investments	75,000	0
Other Assets	0	0
TOTAL ASSETS	\$119,651	\$131,079
FUNDS		
Designated Funds		
Pastor's Care & Support	\$3,875	\$5,780
Church Planting	1,733	2,538
Educational Assistance Fund	3,945	2,842
Chaplains Travel	2,308	2,308
World Outreach E2025	3,766	3,116
Pastors Retreat	2,804	1,249
Church Health	7,220	7,220
Women's Ministries	2,896	3,066
Total Designated Funds	28,546	28,119
Reserve/Undesignated Funds	100,134	84,065
Current Income (Loss)	(9,030)	18,895
TOTAL FUNDS	\$119,650	\$131,079



Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
Percentage of Income (POI)
 August 2024

CHURCH	REPORTED 2022 INCOME	REQUESTED POI	ACTUAL GIVING	% of TOTAL
Centerpoint	\$2,495,179	\$12,476	\$0	0%
Centerville PC	1,504,686	7,523	2,618	35%
Christ Church East Bay	1,483,879	7,419	0	0%
Christ Community Church	2,586,263	12,931	9,370	72%
Clayton Community	703,198	3,516	0	0%
CPC Danville	6,193,415	30,967	20,648	67%
Cornerstone Woodlake	138,061	690	690	100%
Covenant PC - Orange	471,556	2,358	3,596	153%
Covenant PC - Reno	421,358	2,107	1,877	89%
Covenant PC - San Diego	659,485	3,297	2,288	69%
Covenant Community Vacaville	504,929	2,525	1,572	62%
Easton PC	232,000	1,160	1,160	100%
Fair Oaks	2,642,304	13,212	6,329	48%
First Armenian PC	623,434	3,117	1,163	37%
First PC - Bakersfield	1,438,643	7,193	4,556	63%
First PC - Fresno	1,428,390	7,142	7,193	101%
First PC - Hanford	227,875	1,139	759	67%
Fowler PC	394,677	1,973	0	0%
Fremont PC**	2,175,527	8,478	8,000	94%
Heritage EPC	65,222	326	188	57%
Hope PC	318,705	1,594	1,594	100%
Kingman PC	195,781	979	734	75%
Millbrook PC	87,353	437	0	0%
Moraga Valley PC	2,042,000	10,210	7,658	75%
New Life, Covelo	20,096	100	100	100%
San Ramon PC	880,627	4,403	3,585	81%
Sanger Community	207,000	1,035	0	0%
Sierra PC	561,967	2,810	1,868	66%
St. John's Assyrian PC	112,851	564	0	0%
The Table	138,112	691	691	100%
Valley Community	111,004	555	600	108%
Wintersburg PC	1,691,770	8,459	0	0%
TOTAL	\$32,757,347	\$161,387	\$88,836	55%

**Presbytery Office

Name:

Part 2: Personal Information

1. Name:

(Last)

(First)

(Middle)

Preferred Address:

Preferred Phone:

Cell Work Home

Alternate Phone:

Cell Work Home

Email:

2. Work History:

Current and Previous Positions (ministry or otherwise)

Dates

Name:

3. Volunteer Experience (applicable to a pastoral role)

Dates

4. Ordination Status

Ordained by (church/city/state):

Ordination Date:

If not ordained:

Church Membership (church, city, state):

Candidate Under Care of (denomination and presbytery):

since (date):

Name:

5. Educational Background:

a. Name of Institution	Dates Attended	Degree
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b. Continuing Education/Professional Development	Dates
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6. Other Experience:

a. Types of professional supervision and personal accountability you have found helpful in your life and ministry:

Name:

b. Community and Civic Activities:

c. Presbytery and General Assembly Activities:

d. Ecumenical Activities:

e. Special Interests, Hobbies:

f. Languages (other than English) you can speak, and level of proficiency:

Name:

Part 3: Narrative

- 1. Life Story:** In one page, describe your life's journey. Include key incidents (such as how you came to faith in Christ) that were significant in your formation as a person and your call to ministry.

Name:

2. Self-Appraisal:

a. Briefly describe your leadership style:

- How you go about making decisions:

- Your administrative style:

b. Talk about how you handled a recent conflict. What did you do well? What areas of conflict resolution do you need to be more effective at?

c. What do you enjoy about working as part of a team? What is challenging to you?

Name:

d. Briefly describe your worship preferences: (*preaching style, preferred worship style [e.g., liturgical, modern, traditional, blended, etc.]*)

e. Share your sense of your call to ministry:

- What type of ministry role are you called to? And what would effectiveness look like in that role?

- What are your personal ideals and long-term goals?

Name:

Part 4: Denominational Alignment

1. Do you affirm the “Essentials of Our Faith” without exception? Yes No

If “No” please briefly explain:

2. Do you agree with and can you submit to the system of government of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church? Yes No

If “No” please briefly explain:

3. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms* of this Church as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures? Yes No

If “No” please briefly explain:

4. Do you take any exceptions to the *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms*? Yes No

If “Yes,” identify the topic with chapter, paragraph, or question number you take your exception with. State your alternate view with biblical support. Include additional page if necessary.

(An “exception” means that you disagree with a statement in the Westminster Confession, believe it to be wrong, have Scriptural support to justify your belief, and have Scriptural support of an alternative view.)

5. Do you willingly offer the sacrament of infant baptism to Christian parents? Yes No

If “No” please briefly explain:



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Candidates Statement of Faith

Provide a brief statement in your own words for each item. Return to the Chair of the Candidates or Ministerial Committee before you are scheduled for your oral ordination exam.

Candidate's Name _____ Date _____

1. The Bible (Bibliology)

2. God the Father (Theology proper)

3. Jesus Christ (Christology)



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4. The Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)

5. Mankind (Anthropology)

6. Sin (Hamartiology)

7. Salvation (Soteriology)



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8. Satan

9. Angels and Demons

10. The Church (Ecclesiology)

11. The Spiritual Life of the Believer



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12. Future Things (Eschatology)

13. Evangelism

14. Spiritual Gifts



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Answer the following integration questions:

15. State your view of the Scriptures and the place the Scriptures will have in your ministry.

16. What distinctions of the Reformed faith appeal to you?

17. What/Who is the Holy Spirit and how important is His ministry?



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18. What is your position on women in leadership roles in the church?

19. What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of the Presbyterian form of government?

20. Explain your philosophy of ministry.



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21. Describe your approach to evangelism, both personally and as a pastor in a local church.

22. As you reflect on your life, explain your sense of call to ministry.

23. Elaborate on your convictions about personal accountability in your life and in the lives of Christians to whom you might minister.



Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
5770 Carlson Drive
Sacramento, CA 95819
(916) 452-7132

Change in POPS Bylaws – Ministerial Committee Chair

Background

The POPS Bylaws were developed and approved with the formation of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest in 2018. The bylaws identify the length and number of terms of the chairs of the various POPS committees. Each chair serves a 3-year term, which can be renewed for one additional 3-year term. This plan allows for regular rotation in the leadership of the Presbytery Committees. The Bylaws do establish unlimited terms for the Stated Clerk and the Treasurer of the Presbytery. For those positions, a formal performance evaluation is conducted by the Council prior to their recommendation of a renewal of their term.

Challenge

Our denomination strongly recommends that a teaching elder fill this position in order to properly represent the authority of the Presbytery through the Ministerial Committee. It's a very challenging and demanding position. The Ministerial Committee Chair has a broad breadth of responsibility and often becomes involved in issues for which a quick response or a significant time investment is needed. Due to the nature and amount of time commitment required, in each of the presbyteries in which we have been associated (West, Pacific and now our 32 churches in the Pacific Southwest), the chair position could only be reasonably filled by a teaching elder from a smaller church. The job also requires the chair to possess unique gifts and skills including strategic savvy, conflict management, mediation, organizational agility, and human resource knowledge. As a result of the above criteria, the pool of potential chairs is quite limited. In addition, the rotation of Ministerial Committee chairs limits the historical perspective often required in dealing with longer term issues related to church ministries and teaching elders.

Recommendation

The attached recommendation changes the wording in the POPS Bylaws to allow for unlimited terms for the Ministerial Committee Chair. This proposal was reviewed by the POPS Council and is recommended to the Presbytery for approval. Along with this change, the Council will establish regular evaluation of the Ministerial Committee Chair prior to the renewal of each term. This change does bring us into conformity with many other EPC presbyteries that have faced the same challenges over many more years than we have.

BYLAWS – EPC PRESBYTERY OF THE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST (excerpt)

Section 6.04 Ministerial Committee

The Ministerial Committee is a Permanent Committee.

Membership

The Ministerial Committee shall have at least six members and be established and maintained in such a way as to ensure that the differences between the number of Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders shall never be greater than one.

Quorum

A simple majority of the Ministerial Committee’s membership, to include at least one Ruling Elder and one Teaching Elder, shall constitute a quorum.

Chairperson

The Ministerial Committee Chairperson shall ordinarily be a Teaching Elder. The Ministerial Committee Chairperson shall be elected by the Presbytery. Election shall be for a term of three years, commencing at the beginning of the calendar year after election. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the term of the initial Ministerial Committee Chairperson shall commence upon election and conclude at the end of the third calendar year after the calendar year in which the initial Ministerial Committee Chairperson is elected, or earlier, as the Presbytery determines.

~~A person who has served all or part of two consecutive terms as Ministerial Committee Chairperson shall be ineligible for reelection as Ministerial Committee Chairperson for three years. The Ministerial Committee Chairperson may be reelected indefinitely.~~

If desired, an Assistant Ministerial Committee Chairperson may be elected, in the same manner as the Ministerial Committee Chairperson, to support or substitute for the Ministerial Committee Chairperson as needed.

For purposes of these bylaws, unless the context requires otherwise, references to the “*Ministerial Committee Chairperson*” shall mean the Ministerial Committee Chairperson of the Presbytery then in office and references to the “*Assistant Ministerial Committee Chairperson*” shall mean the Assistant Ministerial Committee Chairperson of the Presbytery then in office.

Privileges and Duties

The Ministerial Committee shall have the authority and responsibilities set out in the Book of Order, except as to the oversight of Candidates for the gospel ministry of the Presbytery, which oversight is expressly assigned to the Candidate Care Committee. (G. 21-2D.)

Descending Overtures from the 44th 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]

<i>Current Book of Government 10-7</i>	<i>Proposed Book of Government 10-7 Amendments in bold italics</i>
<p>10-7 Temporary Pastoral Relationships</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>10-7 Temporary Pastoral Relationships</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 <i>and seeks to transfer ordination</i>, the presbytery shall examine and transfer the pastor according to applicable provisions of this Book of Government.</p> <p><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></p>
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Current <i>Book of Government</i> 9-5	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 9-5 <i>Amendments in bold italics</i>
<p>9-5 The office of Teaching Elder</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.⁵⁴ 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>9-5 The office of Teaching Elder</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 <i>Transitional Pastor</i>, 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.⁵⁴ 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>

Name: _____

3. Ordination Status

Ordained by (church/city/state): _____

Ordination Date: _____

If not ordained:

Church Membership (church, city, state): _____

Candidate Under Care of (denomination and presbytery): _____

_____ since (date): _____

4. Educational Background:

a. Name of Institution	Dates Attended	Degree Achieved
------------------------	----------------	-----------------

b. Continuing Education/Professional Development (please include dates):

Name: _____

c. Community and Civic Activities:

d. Presbytery and General Assembly Activities:

Name: _____

e. Ecumenical Activity:

f. Special Interests, Hobbies:

Name: _____

g. Languages you can speak (and level of proficiency):

h. Types of supervision/accountability you have found helpful in your ministry:

Name: _____

Part 3: Narrative

- 1. Life Story:** In one page, describe your life's journey. Include key incidents that were significant in your formation as a person and your call to ministry. State your personal ideals and goals.

Name: _____

- c. My call to ministry: *(What type of ministry role are you called to? What would effectiveness look like in that role?)*

3. Comment briefly on your views as relates to:

- a. Spiritual giftedness

Name: _____

b. Charismatic expression in worship (manifestation of spiritual gifts)

c. Women in ordained office

Name: _____

d. Presbyterian connectional system

4. Do you agree with the system of government of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church?

Yes No (please explain briefly):

5. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms* of this Church as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?

Yes No (please explain as part of your answer to #6 below)

Name: _____

6. Do you take any exceptions to the *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms*?

Yes No

If yes, please identify the topic with the specific chapter, paragraph, or question number with which you take your exception. *(Note: you will need to submit a written statement of these exceptions to the Ministerial Committee and presbytery during the examination process.)*

7. Do you willingly offer the sacrament of infant baptism to Christian parents?

Yes No (please explain briefly):



Candidates Statements of Faith

Provide a brief statement in your own words for each item. Return to the Chair of the Candidates or Ministerial Committee before you are scheduled for your oral ordination exam.

Candidate's Name: Ken Ferguson Date: May 2024

1. The Bible (Bibliology)

The Bible is God's perfect word and endures forever (Psalm 119:89). It is relevant to all ages and time periods and teaches about every area of life. It includes doctrine on faith as well as being practical for daily life. Being the inspired word of God, it is also useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training (2 Timothy 3:16). God inspired men through the Holy Spirit to record his word (2 Peter 1:21) and it is still alive and active (Hebrews 4:12). The infallible Word of God directs people to the redemptive work of God.

2. God the Father (Theology Proper)

God the Father is one person of the Trinity. God is infinitely perfect, in that He is absolutely complete, lacking in nothing. God's will is perfect (Romans 12:2). God's love is perfect (1 John 4:18). God's work is perfect (Deuteronomy 32:4). God knows all (Psalm 139:1-4), is all powerful (Jeremiah 32:17), and exists everywhere at the same time (Psalm 139:7). God is holy (Leviticus 11:44), righteous (Psalm 119:137), good (Psalm 119:68), and eternal (John 1:1). God is love (1 John 4:8), light (1 John 1:5), spirit (John 4:24), and a consuming fire (Deuteronomy 4:24).

3. Jesus Christ (Christology)

Jesus is the second person of the Trinity. Jesus is both fully God and fully man. He is eternally God (John 1:1) and the fullness of God in bodily form (Colossians 2:9). Jesus is God in nature who took on the nature of man (Philippians 2:6-7). He was also fully man taking on flesh (John 1:14), being born of the virgin Mary (Luke 2:7), and experienced the full range of humanity. In his humanity, he never sinned (1 John 3:5). Jesus was the sacrificial substitution for our sins through his crucifixion (2 Corinthians 5:21). He died, was buried, and was resurrected. He ascended into heaven and now sits at God the Father's right hand (Acts 2:32). Jesus is the son of God and God is pleased with him (Matthew 3:17).



4. The Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity and is set on equal ground as God the Father and Christ the Son (Matthew 28:19). Acts 5:3-4 demonstrates that the Holy Spirit is God when these two names are used interchangeably. The Holy Spirit is a divine person and is referred to with the masculine pronoun 'he' (John 14:15-18). In this same passage, it is revealed that He is our advocate who is with us now and will never leave us. This passage also proclaims the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as does 1 Corinthians 6:19. The Holy Spirit testifies about God (John 15:26) and brings glory to God (John 16:14). He is the Counselor who teaches and reminds us of what God has said (John 14:26) and guides us into all truth (John 16:13). He empowers believers to share the gospel (Acts 1:8), intercedes on their behalf (Romans 8:26-27), and speaks for them when facing persecution (Matthew 10:19-20). For the unbeliever, the Holy Spirit "convicts the world of guilt in regard to sin" (John 16:8) and brings about new birth (John 3:5-6).

5. Mankind (Anthropology)

Mankind was created by God in God's image (Genesis 1:27). However, the first man sinned. Both sin and death spread to him and every person thereafter as a result (Romans 5:12). Humans are born sinful. Man is totally depraved. There is no one who is good; mankind has turned away from God (Romans 3:10-12). Man's heart is evil (Mark 7:21-23) and he is incapable of understanding spiritual things (1 Corinthians 2:14). Man is a slave to sin (Romans 6:20) and is subject to God's wrath (Ephesians 2:3). There is nothing a man can do to change this.

6. Sin (Hamartiology)

Sin separates people from God as proclaimed in Isaiah 59:2. Scripture makes it clear that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23). This happened because Adam sinned originally and sin has been passed down ever since (Romans 5:12). The ultimate result of sin is death (Romans 6:23) and an eternal separation from God (Revelation 21:8). Sin causes brokenness in relationship between man and God, each other, and the world.

7. Salvation (Soteriology)

Salvation is the restoration of the relationship between God and man. This is initiated solely by God. God sought out Adam and Eve in the garden after they sinned and provided a necessary sacrifice to atone for their sin (Genesis 3:9, 21). Jesus came to seek and save lost



people (Luke 19:10). God offers salvation not because of anything we do, but because of his mercy (Titus 3:5). We cannot take any credit for our salvation (Ephesians 2:8). Salvation only comes through the death and resurrection of Jesus (Acts 4:12; John 14:6).

Throughout the Old Testament, God required a blood sacrifice to atone for sins. Without this shedding of blood, people cannot be forgiven (Hebrews 9:22). Jesus was this sacrifice that we receive redemption through (Ephesians 1:7). God offered Jesus to be this sacrifice out of his love for the world (John 3:16). This sacrifice was sufficient for all but not efficacious for all. Matthew 22:14 says that "many are called, but few are chosen." Jesus referred to his coming sacrifice as being for many (Matthew 26:28) and Isaiah 53:12 also foreshadows this concept of bearing the sins of many.

The act of salvation comes through God's calling (Romans 8:30) through conviction of sin by the Holy Spirit (John 16:8). Salvation involves repentance of sin (Isaiah 1:27; Acts 3:19) and confession and faith in Jesus (Romans 10:9). God's gracious extension of salvation is cause for rejoicing (Luke 15:10).

8. Satan

The Bible indicates that Satan was a heavenly being who waged war against God and was cast out of heaven. Satan now is bent on deceiving the world (Revelation 12:7-9). His first deception was in the Garden when he convinced Eve to disobey God and eat the fruit (Genesis 3:1-6). Satan disguises himself to appear good (2 Corinthians 11:14) while continuing to seek out and destroy people (1 Peter 5:8).

9. Angels and Demons

Angels are created heavenly beings under the authority of God. Angels were created and are sent to protect and care for the elect (Hebrews 1:14). Demons are angels that "did not stay within the limits of God's authority" and sided with Satan in the war against God. They were cast out of heaven. (Jude 6; Revelations 12:7-9). Angels seem to appear to people at times (Genesis 18, 19; Acts 12) while demons seem to manifest themselves through possessing people (Mark 5). Jesus is far greater than any angel (Hebrews 1:4) and has authority over all demons (Mark 5; Matthew 28) and demons tremble before him (James 2:19).

10. The Church (Ecclesiology)

The Church is made up of all believers who have been called to faith in Christ. It finds expression in local gatherings of believers that show the same qualities as the full body of



Christ (Ephesians 4:4-6). Christ is "head over everything for the church" (Ephesians 1:22-23) and each local church plays a part in God's plan for the world. The church in Acts 2:41-47 can be seen as a model. They fellowshiped together daily, prayed, broke bread, praised God and devoted themselves to teaching the Word. They loved God and loved each other. It is through these disciplines that God builds up His body and strengthens it to face a broken world.

11. The Spiritual Life of the Believer

The role of the believer is to love God and love his neighbor (Matthew 22:37-38). We are called to live according to Scripture and glorify God through our lives. We are called to be holy as this is the will of God (1 Thessalonians 4:1-3). Believers are to make disciples (Matthew 28:19).

12. Future Things (Eschatology)

God is the king over all of his creation and the victor over all evil. Christ is promised to return and believers eagerly await that time (1 Corinthians 1:7; Philipians 3:20). No one knows when Christ will return (1 Thessalonians 5:2). When Christ does return, he will call the elect (both living and dead) to be eternally with him (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17) and there will be a final judgment over all (2 Timothy 4:1).

13. Evangelism

The role of the believer is to glorify God. One means to glorify God is by telling others about Him and making disciples. Jesus regarded evangelism as the main mission of the disciples (Matthew 28:19) and Paul wrote that the church was created to build up believers and prepare them for service (Ephesians 4:12). The Church is to be the main means for evangelism and discipleship. As Paul said about his mission, "Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!" (1 Corinthians 9:16). The church must preach and live the gospel to a needy world because people need to hear it so they may believe it (Romans 10:14).

14. Spiritual Gifts

God gives spiritual gifts to believers through the Holy Spirit to be used to serve one another and build up the church (1 Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 12:11). Gifts include words of wisdom and words of knowledge, faith, healing, ability to do miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues and interpretation (1 Corinthians 12:8-10), serving, teaching, encouraging, generosity, leadership, kindness (Romans 12:6-8). I believe that all spiritual gifts are still active today.



Answer the following integration questions:

15.State your view of the Scriptures and the place the Scriptures will have in your ministry.

Question 1 already expounds on my high view of Scripture. Since Scripture is alive and active, it needs to be seen as relevant and applicable. Having knowledge of Scripture without practical application is ineffective. When I preach or teach, it will be in understandable language and pragmatic. People need to comprehend and relate to what is preached or taught to put it into practice.

16.What distinctions of the Reformed faith appeal to you?

I appreciate the focus that the Reformed faith has concerning the sovereignty of God. When God elects a person, he will see his salvation through to completion. Although I want to follow through on God's command to make disciples, which includes evangelism, a person's salvation does not depend on me or my missed opportunities. In a similar regard, I appreciate the Reformed view of the perseverance of the saints.

17.What/Who is the Holy Spirit and how important is His ministry?

Who the Holy Spirit is and what he does was answered in question four. His role is of convicting the world of sin and giving a person spiritual birth, is vital in the work of evangelism as is His empowering us to share the Gospel. He brings forth Scripture to our minds and brings glory to God. He guides us into truth. His role and direction is integral to my ministry.

18.What is your position on women in leadership roles in the church?

Believers are given different gifts by the same Spirit for the purpose of helping each other and there are different acts of service to the Lord (1 Corinthians 12:5-7). None of the spiritual gifts listed are designated for only men and it is God alone who decides who gets what gift. Paul continues to write on how the church is set up with many different people serving in different roles, but again does not delineate a male



or female role. I believe that God calls women into ordained office just as he does men.

19. What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of the Presbyterian form of government?

Having teaching elders and ruling elders work together to accomplish the mission of the church lead to a healthy governance. Mutual accountability and mutual submission between pastors and elders must exist. The drawback to the presbyterian connectional form of governance is that committees often lack the ability to respond quickly.

20. Explain your philosophy of ministry.

My philosophy of ministry is to make Christ known and empower others to do the same. This starts with prayer which is the bedrock of everything. All that we do in ministry needs to be saturated with prayer. Next to prayer, ministry happens through relationships. I need to intentionally be around people who do not know Jesus and build relationships with them. Not only do I want to get to know nonbelievers, I want to empower my staff and congregation to do the same. Churches hire staff to run ministries, but it is the responsibility of all believers to make disciples. My role is to lead by example, and to equip and mentor the staff and congregation to use our gifts to make Christ known in our community and the world.

21. Describe your approach to evangelism, both personally and as a pastor in a local church.

My approach to evangelism is not differentiated between my role as a pastor or as an individual Christian. As a disciple of Jesus, not only am I called to share the Gospel, I want to do it. I build relationships with people inside and outside of the church and work toward spiritual conversations at the gym, coffee shop, and in my neighborhood. I don't want to only live within a Christian bubble. Sometimes I miss living in China, where I knew I was constantly surrounded by people who need to know the Lord. As a pastor, I want to encourage and train people to share the Good News. Additionally, the church has moved into a realm where ministry needs to



happen both inside and outside the church walls. We need to GO and TELL, not just expect non-Christians to COME and SEE

22. As you reflect on your life, explain your sense of call to ministry.

“This is what I want to do the rest of my life,” I thought after sitting down from delivering a five-minute sermon on a sweltering Sunday evening. Merely a freshman in high school, my journey to ministry began. Following this call, led me to a Bible degree and a youth pastorate. Through the Lord’s providence, he even called me back into full-time ministry when I was on the precipice of changing careers to be a teacher. Following God in this call took my family to China for 8 years of amazing ministry. During COVID and through some crazy series of events, the Lord brought us to Eastminster. 29 years later after my call, as I write this at my favorite coffee shop, I reaffirm that ministry is what I want to do for the rest of my life.

23. Elaborate on your convictions about personal accountability in your life and in the lives of Christians to whom you might minister.

Accountability holds us to the standard of holiness that Christ has called us to. We need other people to help us with this commitment. Until recently when he moved, I met weekly with Jeff Sparks, Asst. Stated Clerk of our presbytery, for accountability and fellowship each week. On my last ministry team, the men met every Tuesday morning for breakfast and asked questions about our 5F’s: faith, family, finances, friends (people to whom we were reaching out), and fitness. I, like others, need someone who will ask me about how I am growing through Scripture, about the last time I shared Jesus, or who I am currently discipling.

Fall 2024



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