

## ABOUT THE ERPC

In an era of widespread compromise in the Reformed church, The Evangelical Reformed Presbyterian Church stands without compromise or apology for authentic Biblical Christianity.

- We preach the one true Gospel to the exclusion of all false gospels.
- We teach Biblical truth regarding the meaning and purpose of baptism and the Lord's Supper, to the exclusion of all error.
- We conduct worship with Biblical reverence, dignity, and God-centeredness.
- We practice Biblical discipline in doctrine and life.
- We hold to the Scriptures as the fully inspired, fully inerrant, infallible Word of God, and to the principle that Scripture is its only infallible interpreter.
- Following the example of our Lord and his apostles, we do not fear to speak against error.

These are neglected principles in our time. The Evangelical Reformed Presbyterian Church seeks to be, by God's grace, an instrument to bring about a much-needed *new Reformation among the Reformed*.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### THE EVANGELICAL REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## TRANSFERRING YOUR CREDENTIALS TO THE ERPC

### A GUIDE FOR PASTORS, AND FOR MINISTERS IN SPECIAL SITUATIONS

#### Most ministers

of The Evangelical Reformed Presbyterian Church are pastors of local ERPC congregations. Ordained ministers of the Gospel who are in other situations may also wish to become ministers of the ERPC, and come under the oversight of one of its Presbyteries. Such men include:

- Missionaries
- Evangelists
- Instructors in Christian colleges, seminaries, and other institutions
- Pastors of congregations not presently affiliated with the ERPC, but who desire their minister(s) to be under its oversight

Such relationships are desirable and mutually beneficial, since it is the responsibility of each ERPC Presbytery to:

- Proclaim and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world, with particular attention to its proclamation within the boundaries of its jurisdiction;
- Promote the spiritual health and vitality of every congregation within its boundaries; and
- Protect the orthodoxy of the member congregations within its jurisdiction.

*(Form of Government 12.4)*

**The purpose of this guide** is to outline the steps involved in transferring your ministerial credentials to the ERPC. If you need further assistance, please contact us (see panel at left). We will be glad to help you.

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## TRANSFERRING YOUR CREDENTIALS TO THE ERPC

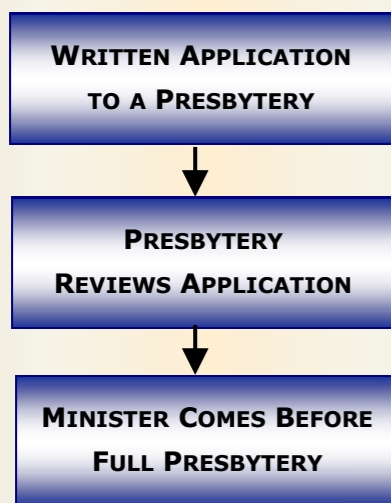
### A Guide for Pastors, and for Ministers in Special Situations

THE  
EVANGELICAL  
REFORMED  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

The process for receiving ordained ministers into the ERPC is regulated by *Form of Government* chapter 17.12:

When an ordained minister of another denomination seeks admission to The Evangelical Reformed Presbyterian Church, the presbytery to which he applies shall require him to give evidence of possessing the qualifications, in regard to faith, piety, and learning, which are demanded of candidates for ordination as given above; and it shall require him to answer affirmatively the questions appointed for the ordination of candidates in Section 5 of this chapter, and Section 11 if it shall apply.

There are three steps in the process, which are outlined on the following pages.



Pastors whose congregations are planning to affiliate with the ERPC should also consult the companion guide, *Affiliating With The ERPC*. Numbers in parentheses on the following pages refer to sections of the ERPC *Form of Government* (FOG).

## 1 WRITTEN APPLICATION TO A PRESBYTERY

A minister first makes written application by letter to the ERPC Presbytery within which he desires to labor (FOG 6.2, 6.4). Your application should state the following:

- Your reasons for desiring to affiliate with the ERPC
- That you subscribe to the Constitution of the ERPC, including its Doctrinal Standards, Form of Government, Book of Discipline, and Directory for Worship
- That you are willing to be governed by the Constitution of the ERPC
- That you are conducting yourself and your ministry, to the best of your knowledge before God, in submission to the Scriptures

Your application must be accompanied by transcripts showing creditable work in the areas of English Bible, theology, apologetics, the original languages of the Scriptures, and church history (FOG 17.1); or other evidence of such learning (FOG 17.12).

Your application must also be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from the session of the church of which you are a member or pastor (FOG 16.4).

## 2 PRESBYTERY REVIEWS APPLICATION

The Presbytery then reviews your application. It assigns an *ad hoc* committee to perform the review (FOG 6.4).

The examining committee will:

- Review your application and all documents submitted with it
- Interview you as to the statements of your application and as to your gifts and calling.

The committee then presents its findings and recommendations to the full Presbytery (FOG 6.5).

## 3 MINISTER COMES BEFORE FULL PRESBYTERY

If the committee's recommendation is to proceed, you will then be invited to come before the full Presbytery.

- You will be asked to read a brief written statement of your beliefs before the Presbytery, which shall be filed with the clerk (FOG 16.7)
- Whenever possible, you will be asked to preach a sermon to the full Presbytery (FOG 16.7).
- The Presbytery may vote to waive specific educational requirements by a three-fourths majority (FOG 17.2).
- You will be examined in theology by the full Presbytery (FOG 16.6).
- If the Presbytery is satisfied with the foregoing, the moderator will then propose to you the following questions (FOG 17.5):
  1. Do you now reaffirm your personal faith in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ alone for your eternal salvation?
  2. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

3. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Confession of Faith of this church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any part of this system of doctrine, you will on your own initiative, make known to your Presbytery the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this vow?
4. Do you approve of the government and discipline of The Evangelical Reformed Presbyterian Church?
5. Do you promise, by the grace of God, such subjection to your brethren as is taught in the Word of God?
6. Are you motivated, as far as you know your own heart, to seek the office of the holy ministry by love to God, and a sincere desire to promote His glory in the Gospel of His Son?
7. Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be zealous and faithful in maintaining the truths of the Gospel, and the purity and peace of the Church; whatever persecution or opposition may arise against you on that account?
8. Do you engage, by the grace of God, to be faithful and diligent in the exercise of all private and personal duties, which become you as a Christian and a minister of the Gospel; as well as in all related duties, and the public duties of your office; endeavoring to adorn the profession of the Gospel by your conduct; and being a godly example before the flock over which God shall make you overseer?

When you have answered these questions in the affirmative, the moderator will lead the Presbytery in prayer for you, and the members of the Presbytery will welcome you into the fellowship of the ERPC and of the Presbytery as a minister of the Gospel (FOG 17.9).