

January 18, 2007

In “An Historic Opportunity in the Midst of Change,” my column in the [December 20 edition of EPNews](#), I reported that the Committee on Administration (CoA) was hard at work preparing a proposal that would create Transitional Presbyteries in order to receive churches interested in coming into the EPC. After giving an overview of this proposal, I noted that I should be able to get back to you in January when it is finalized.

That time has come. The Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) met on Thursday, January 11 to respond to the “Proposal to General Assembly, Structure for Receiving Churches Transitionally” ([click here to view or download the proposal](#)). The PJC declared that this proposal is consistent with our constitution, and can be approved by an act of our General Assembly. The CoA will present this to you for your consideration at the 27th General Assembly, meeting at Cherry Hills Community Church, Highlands Ranch, Colorado in June 2007. If you would prefer to receive this document as an e-mail attachment, please contact us at epchurch@epc.org.

The leadership of the [New Wineskins](#), which would be a major beneficiary of this proposal should we approve it, is very excited about the prospect of being able to come into the EPC through this vehicle. They will be referencing our proposal at their Convocation in Orlando, Florida on February 8-9 as they recommend a departure strategy for churches that would like come to us.

As with any team effort, a number of really good minds worked on the Transitional Presbytery proposal. Mike Glodo, Ed McCallum, Bill Vogler and Paul Heidebrecht made significant contributions to the document. I am also very grateful for the consideration given the proposal by the PJC, chaired by John Graham. The primary architect of the proposal, however, was Bill Meyer. I’m very appreciative of the time, thought and energy he poured into this proposal which the PJC concluded, “Ushers in an historic new day in the life of the EPC.”

I will be very pleased to get your feedback and answer questions about the proposal. We can do that in person, as I will attend the presbyteries of Mid-America (January 26-27), Southeast (February 2-3) and Florida (February 10) in the coming weeks. (I’ll try to get to as many of the other presbyteries as possible in the April-May cycle).

As I concluded in “An Historic Opportunity,” let’s prayerfully pursue Jesus Christ as He leads us in this exciting time in the life of our church. Let’s be open to how and where He leads us, and let’s converse regularly among ourselves about our dreams, goals and hopes for the church we serve.

Yours in Christ,
Jeffrey Jeremiah, Stated Clerk
Evangelical Presbyterian Church