



EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GHANA

MAJOR DECISIONS OF THE 11TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Preamble

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana, grounds all its policies in the authority of the EPCG Constitution. The 11th General Assembly therefore urges Church leadership to ensure that the authentic Constitution is printed and circulated without delay, so that all members may be guided by its provisions.

Gathered in solemn fellowship, the Assembly prayerfully deliberated and hereby proclaims the following decisions for the mission, growth, and faithful witness of the Church:

Resolutions of the Assembly

1. Moderator's Address

The General Assembly received with appreciation the Address of the Moderator and commended it to Presbyteries and Districts for study and action. The Assembly particularly notes the following emphases:

- a. The achievements of the EPCG since the last General Assembly.
- b. The call to greater faithfulness to God through *creation care* as an essential part of the Church's mission.
- c. Inspiration for agents and members to live out more fully the policies and practices of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
- d. The reaffirmation of important past decisions of the Church which require diligent implementation.
- e. The critical role of non-Standing Committee Trustees in ensuring the documentation and registration of all landed properties of the Church in accordance with the EPCG Constitution.

The General Assembly calls on all members of the Church, at every level, to be diligent in adhering to the policies emphasized in the Moderator's Address.

2. General Assembly Executive Council Report

The Assembly received with gratitude the report of the General Assembly Executive Council (GAEC), acknowledging the diligent work of the Clerk and the Council. Going forward, detailed accounts of the work undertaken shall first be received and evaluated by the GAEC before submission to the General Assembly. Reports presented to the Assembly shall be thematic, highlighting the impact achieved in relation to the policies established by the General Assembly.

3. Strategic Planning Committee

The General Assembly endorses the work of the Strategic Planning Committee and commends the new Strategic Plans for implementation at all levels of the Church. These plans include implied policies and policy frameworks which, once approved by the General Assembly Executive Council (GAEC), shall be developed into full policies. Such policies will then be presented for consideration and decision-making at the 12th General Assembly.

4. **Leadership Eligibility for New Members**

Persons joining the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana, from other denominations who feel called to serve in leadership positions—such as Pastor, Catechist, or Presbyter—must maintain active, regular, and verifiable membership within the EPCG and its congregations for a minimum of ten (10) years before being considered. This requirement ensures that such individuals are properly acculturated and have a thorough understanding of the praxis, doctrine, and traditions of the EPCG.

5. **Ministerial Training and Formation**

- i. For quality assurance, every ministerial candidate must undergo training at one of the Church's recognized seminaries—**Trinity Theological Seminary** or the **E. P. Theological Seminary, Peki**—under the sponsorship of the Church.
 - a. At Trinity Theological Seminary, only the *Master of Divinity* or *Bachelor of Theology* degrees shall qualify candidates for commissioning.
 - b. At Peki Seminary, pre-commissioning ministerial training programmes may be organized whenever deemed necessary.
- ii. All candidates must pass through the established selection processes developed by the Church and be approved by EPCG leadership before being accepted for commissioning into ministry.
- iii. Candidates trained in Reformed/Presbyterian theological institutions outside Ghana must first have their qualifications verified as consistent with EPCG requirements. Such candidates shall also undergo local ministerial formation, including attachment to a district/parish under the supervision of a senior District Pastor, as well as participation in seminary seminars or courses.

6. **Ministerial Training Sponsorship**

Any individual who independently self-sponsors for ministerial courses shall not be accepted as qualified for commissioning unless they undergo the full process of approval through the congregation, district/parish, presbytery, and head office. In addition, such candidates must complete the prescribed practical ministerial formation required of denominationally sponsored candidates, ensuring consistency, accountability, and proper preparation for ministry within the EPCG.

7. **Children's Ministry Policy**

The General Assembly adopts the new Children's Ministry policy document for use throughout the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana. The following key elements are emphasized:

- Care for children is affirmed as a biblical mandate entrusted to the Church.
- The rights and privileges of children must be respected, upheld, and nurtured in the spirit of counselling and guidance.
- Age-appropriate teaching and learning materials, together with adequate resources, must be provided to enhance effective learning.
- Pastors, catechists, and presbyters shall plan and undertake regular visits to children's services.
- A comprehensive curriculum must be developed to address the holistic growth of children—covering their physical, intellectual, social, emotional, spiritual, and special needs.

8. Multipurpose Conference Centre (175th Anniversary Hall)

To facilitate the construction of the Multipurpose Conference Centre—designated as the *175th Anniversary Hall*—at the EPCG Headquarters, every member of the Church shall contribute a minimum of Ten Cedis (GHS10.00) or more in support of the project. The EPCG leadership is directed to promptly disseminate comprehensive implementation plans, including the project budget, identified sources of income, and clearly defined steps with timelines to ensure the successful completion of the Centre.

9. Communications Policy

The General Assembly commends the draft Communications Policy of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana, to all Presbyteries for study and feedback. The Policy Drafting Committee shall incorporate these inputs to prepare a comprehensive proposal for consideration at the next General Assembly. In the meantime, elements of the policy already integrated into the Strategic Plans may be implemented at all levels of the Church.

10. Alignment of Group Constitutions

Facilitators of all church groups shall ensure that their constitutions and by-laws are fully aligned with the EPCG Constitution. These documents must be submitted to the Strategic Planning Committee for vetting within three months, to guarantee consistency, order, and faithfulness to the governance framework of the Church.

11. Definition of Preaching Posts

As the Evangelical Presbyterian Church continues to grow, there is the need for a clear definition of the basic unit of a newly planted congregation. A *Preaching Post* is understood as a community of persons gathered to begin the formation of a new congregation. It represents a start-up congregation which may be initiated by a Presbytery, a District/Parish, or an existing congregation.

Such groups may assemble in a home or a temporary structure, with leaders designated from the nearest District, working under the supervision of a District Pastor, even though they may not yet qualify as a full congregation. A Preaching Post shall receive support from the district for a period of five years, after which it shall be graduated into the status of a fully established congregation within the Church.

12. Theme of the 11th General Council

The General Assembly commends the theme “Care for Creation: The Mission of the Church” to all levels of the EPCG for study and action. Practical actions developed in response to the theme shall be disseminated across the Church. These actions, prepared by the Children’s Ministry, Youth, Men’s Ministry, Women’s Ministry, EPDRA, Education, and Theological Education groups, are to guide congregations, districts, and Presbyteries in integrating creation care into their mission and practice.