Book of Order Questions to Examine TE/CP Knowledge/Views

Ask every examinee: Have you read the Book of Order of the EPC?
(No = automatic fail)

I. Basic questions:

1. **What is the EPC motto and your view on it?**
   In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, In All Things Charity

2. **Why do you value liberty in non-essentials?**

3. **If a commissioner to Presbytery tries to debate a non-essential, what will happen?**
   The Commissioner will be called out of order by the Moderator

4. **Define the Book of Order.**
   It's the Constitution/Governing Document of the EPC

5. **Who is the missional administrative director? (TE Marty Duffell)**

6. **Who is the stated Clerk of Presbytery? (RE Duke Lineberry)** What is his email address?
   statedclerk@pcmaofepc.org

7. **Who is the current moderator of the Presbytery? (RE Pete Bowell)**

8. **Who is the chair of the church Planting Team? (TE Matt Hartman)**

9. **Who is the chair of the Church Discipleship Team? (TE Chrishon Ducker)**

II Book of Government:

1. **What are the three parts of the Book of Order? BOG, BOD, & BOW**

2. **Based on 81-03 of the Acts of the Assembly, what is the primary purpose of Presbytery meetings?**
Presbyteries shall have as goals for their meetings the following:

1. **To develop fellowship and support for pastors and elders;**

2. **To share resources with other churches;**

3. **To encourage church planting strategies. (Minutes, 1-24)**

3. What weight does the Acts of the Assembly carry in the BOO?
(Acts of the Assembly have Full authority but can't conflict with the BOO)

4. (BOG 1-3B) What is the Visible Church Statement in the BOG?

The Visible Church, though more or less divided and obscured, is bound together in its essential unity (1) where the Word is rightly proclaimed, (2) where the sacraments are properly observed, (3) where scriptural discipline is practiced, and (4) where loving fellowship is maintained. Such groups who demonstrate this fundamental integrity of the Church shall be recognized as true parts of the Church, the Body of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth.

5.(BOG 2-2) What is the BOG Statement on Non-Presbyterian forms of church government

While this Presbyterian form of government is biblical, it is not essential to the existence of the true Church. However, the order of the Visible Church is best established where the Presbyterian form of government is practiced.

6. (BOG 3-2) Define the "Nature of the Power of the Church"

The authority given to the Church by Christ is moral and spiritual only, thus distinguishing the government of the Church from civil government. The authority of Church courts is limited to the expressed provisions of the Constitution and is exercised in its Church courts, not by individuals. The authority given to the Church is for the purpose of proclamation, administration, and enforcement of the commands of Jesus Christ as revealed in Scripture. Exercise of this authority must always be in conformity with the Scripture. However, the word "power" is not used.

7. (BOG 3-2 & 3-3) What is the difference between the "Responsibility of Order" and "Power of Jurisdiction"?

1. The Responsibility of Order Christ's law of love is incumbent upon each Christian but shall be discharged by officers as an official duty as they serve, proclaim, and minister in the name of Christ as under-shepherds. The officers' Responsibility of Order includes especially the sharing of the gospel, reproving the erring, visiting the sick, and otherwise exhibiting to the world the fruit of the Spirit. "TE"

2. 3-3 The Authority of Jurisdiction The Authority of Jurisdiction is the authority to rule and is exercised jointly in ascending Church courts. The Authority of Jurisdiction is always to be exercised in accordance with Scripture, the Confession and Catechisms, and the Book of Order.

Specific authority and responsibilities of the Church courts are enumerated in chapters 18, 19, and 20. The exercise of such authority shall always reflect the essential unity of the Church. REs and TEs

8. (BOG 4-3) What is 'the primary mission of the local church?

It is the primary mission of the local church to evangelize, making disciples by extending the gospel both at home and abroad, leading others to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, providing for the nurture of that faith that all might worship the true God and grow in grace and in sanctification.

9. (BOG 5-10) How does a congregation leave the EPC

The dismissal of a local church to another body or to independence

A. The Church Session shall notify the Presbytery of its desire to be dismissed. Once a Church Session has notified Presbytery of its desire under this section, Presbytery shall take no action to dismiss, dissolve or divide the local church and its elders until all proceedings under this section 5-10 are fully completed. This provision shall not be construed to prohibit the Presbytery from reasonable means of access to the Session or church members in order to present its position. Nor shall this provision be construed to prohibit the presbytery from taking action under the Book of Discipline on matters unrelated to the request for dismissal.

B. At a duly called meeting of the congregation, with representatives from the Presbytery present and having the privilege of the floor, the motion to request dismissal shall be put and discussed. The meeting shall recess for no less than three months and no more than six months, to a date determined at the meeting.

C. At the time set, the congregation shall reconvene, with representatives from the Presbytery present and having the privilege of the floor, and the request to dismiss shall again be put to the congregation and the floor opened for discussion. The congregation shall then vote on the motion by written ballot. If it passes by a two-thirds majority, the Presbytery shall dismiss the congregation as requested with all of its property and assets. Those not desiring to participate in the dismissal shall notify the Presbytery which will assign them to other congregations of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

D. If a request for dismissal fails to achieve the required two-thirds majority, the process of dismissal (G.5-10) may not be repeated until at least 12 months have elapsed following

10. (BOG 6-5) What is the Book of Government statement on the ownership of church property concerning local churches?

The local church has ownership of its own property.
It may buy, sell, lease, rent or otherwise determine the use of its property. It may incur debt and other legal obligations. However, care should be exercised that the good name and the reputation of the Church not be harmed through unwise and imprudent management.

11. (BOG 7-8) Can the moderator vote and Is voting by proxy permitted

Unless stipulated otherwise, any majority vote specified in this *Book of Government* means a majority of those present and voting. The Moderator of the congregational meeting may not vote. Voting by Proxy is not permitted

12. (BOG 9-2) What is your view on the BOG statement on the ordination of women?

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church believes that the issue of the ordination of women is not an essential of the faith. Since people of good faith who equally love the Lord and hold to the infallibility of Scripture differ on this issue, and since uniformity of view and practice is not essential to the existence of the visible church, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church has chosen to leave this decision to the Spirit-guided consciences of local churches concerning the ordination of women as Ruling Elders and Deacons, and to the presbyteries concerning the ordination of women as Teaching Elders

13. (BOG 9-8) What is the BOG statement regarding "the first duty of a Ruling Elder" and your view on it?

"It is the first duty of the Ruling Elder to represent the mind of Christ, as that person understands it, in the various courts of the Church"

14. (BOG 10-5 & 10-6) What is the difference between Associate and Assistant Pastors?

Associate Pastors are called by the congregation, and Assistant Pastors are called by the Session.

15. (BOG 18-1) What body has supervision of the entire church?

The entire life of the local church is under the oversight and supervision of the Session. The Session is composed of the Pastor and Associate Pastor(s) and all the Ruling Elders on active service. The Pastor and Associate Pastor(s) are full members of the Session and have the privilege of voting.

16. (BOG18-2A-1) Minister voting at session or congregational meetings

The Pastor shall be the Moderator and is a voting member of the Session. If the Moderator wishes to make motions or otherwise participate in debate, some other member of the Session should serve as Temporary Moderator.

17. (BOG 18-3G) How are Membership rolls maintained by the Session

To receive, dismiss, restore, grant affiliation, remove members and keep rolls in accordance with G.8-1, 8-2, and 8-3. The Session may establish a minimum age for the active roll and to vote in congregational meetings.

18. (BOG 18-4 1-2-3) What is the difference between a "Called Meeting" and a "Stated Meeting"?

A. Frequency

1. Stated Meetings The Session shall meet at least quarterly.

2. Called meetings The Session shall meet at the call of the Moderator or when ordered to convene by the Presbytery. When one-fourth of the members make a request in writing for a meeting, the Moderator shall immediately call a meeting. The purpose of the meeting shall be clearly stated. No business other than that stated in the call may be transacted.

3. Meetings in the absence of the Pastor In the absence of the Pastor, the Session may not meet except in the case of an emergency. In that event, two Ruling Elders must convene the Session and no business may be transacted other than that which precipitated the meeting.

19. (BOG 18-4B) What is a Quorum for a Session meeting

1. If there are five or more Ruling Elders on the Session, the Pastor and two Ruling Elders shall constitute a quorum. If there is no Pastor, three Ruling Elders shall constitute a quorum.

2. If there are less than five Ruling Elders on the Session, the Pastor and one Ruling Elder shall constitute a quorum. If there is no Pastor, two Ruling Elders shall constitute a quorum.

3. Sessions may set their own quorum, provided it is not less than the minimum stated above. "Note" Many Sessions require a simple majority of REs in attendance to be a quorum.

20. (BOG 19-2A) Who makes up the members of Presbytery

Membership of Presbytery The Presbytery is composed of all the Teaching Elders on its rolls as ongoing members any Ruling Elder officers of the Presbytery and Ruling Elders elected by each Session as commissioners for a stated or called meeting as per G.19-2A.4.

A. Voting Members of Presbytery

1. Active Teaching Elders: Teaching Elders who are serving in an approved call or actively seeking a call

2. Retired (Active) Teaching Elders

3. Ruling Elder Officers of the Presbytery

4. Ruling Elder Commissioners elected by each Session

a. The Session shall elect two Ruling Elders for each Pastor, Associate, and/or Assistant. A local church shall have no fewer than two Ruling Elders for each 500 members or major portion thereof.

b. Disparity Correction When a disproportionate ratio of Teaching Elders to Ruling Elders occurs in a Presbytery, the Presbytery shall move to correct the ratio by assigning to member churches on a yearly alphabetical rotational basis the right to elect additional Ruling Elder Commissioners to the Presbytery. Associate Members are not counted as part of the ratio of Ruling and Teaching Elders.

21. (BOG 19-3) Officers of Presbytery

A. Moderator The Moderator of the Presbytery shall be elected by that court. The person elected must be a Ruling or Teaching Elder. A Ruling Elder, once elected, shall be a member of the court for the length of term to which elected.

1. Length of Term Election may be for that stated meeting of the court, or, at the discretion of the Presbytery, for one year. A Ruling Elder, once elected as Moderator, shall be a member of the court for the length of term to which elected.

2. Special provisions if unable to serve In the event of death or inability to serve, the most recently elected Moderator shall serve until the court can elect a new Moderator. If no former Moderator is court until a Moderator is elected.

B. Stated Clerk The court shall also elect a Stated Clerk. The Stated Clerk shall be a Teaching or Ruling Elder. Such election shall be for a specified period of time. If a Ruling Elder, the Stated Clerk shall be a full member of the court for the duration of the term

22. (BOG 20-3) Oficers of the General Assembly

A. The General Assembly shall have a Moderator, a Moderator-elect, and a Stated Clerk.

1. Moderator and Moderator-elect The General Assembly shall have a Moderator and a Moderator-elect who will be elected at each stated meeting. They may be Ministers or Ruling Elders. The persons elected must be members of the court and are not eligible to succession to their respective offices. They shall continue to be members of the court until their successors are elected. In the event of death or disability of the Moderator, the most immediate past Moderator shall serve until a Moderator is elected. The Moderator-elect shall normally be the nominee for Moderator at the succeeding Assembly.

2. Stated Clerk The General Assembly shall elect a Stated Clerk who shall serve for a period of three years, with eligibility for reelection for two additional terms. The Stated Clerk may be elected for additional terms if the General Assembly, by a 2/3 vote, sets aside this limitation for each additional term. The Stated Clerk must be eligible for membership in the court.
B. Past Ruling Elder Moderators continue as members of the court as long as each maintains active membership in a church of the EPC. Past Ruling Elder Moderators who are not able to maintain membership in an EPC congregation for reasons other than church discipline may continue to be eligible for membership in General Assembly upon approval by the Presbytery in whose geographic boundaries they reside.

23. (BOG 21-1A) What is the difference between a Committee, a Board, and a Commission?

1. A committee is appointed by a court to study a matter and make recommendations back to the appointing body, or to carry out decisions already made. It shall then make written reports to the court that created it.

2. A commission is appointed to act for the appointing court. The appointing court shall state specifically the powers and duration given to a commission. The only permanent commission is the Permanent Judicial Commission. A commission shall make a written report of its actions which shall then be inserted in the minutes of the appointing court and be regarded as the actions of the court itself.

3. In the EPC the word board is used in reference to the Board of Deacons.

24.(BOG 21-C) Administrative Commissions

C. Administrative Commissions

1. Authority and Responsibilities Administrative Commissions are appointed to perform special functions. The functions entrusted to such commissions include, but are not limited to, the following:
a. To ordain Teaching Elders and to install them where appropriate.

b. To organize, dissolve, dismiss, or receive local churches, or to constitute a mission church.

c. To serve as a temporary Session of a mission church.

d. To visit local churches having difficulties or appearing to be failing in their mission, to inquire into and resolve the difficulties therein. If it is necessary that a Session be dissolved, the authority of an Administrative Commission may be limited by actions of the General Assembly.9

2. Membership Administrative Commissions of Presbytery and General Assembly shall be composed of Teaching and Ruling Elders in proportion as near to two Ruling Elders to one Teaching Elder as possible. The minimum numbers and distribution of members shall be: a. For the General Assembly, not fewer than three Presbyteries. b. For the Presbytery, not fewer than five members, with Ruling Elders representing not fewer than two-member churches.

3. Quorum A commission shall have as its quorum a minimum of one-half of its membership.

25. (BOG 25-0) What is your view on chapter 25 Limitations in Perpetuity?

Certain rights are held in perpetuity by Christians, both individually and gathered in congregations. These rights must always be guaranteed by the Church.

(BOG 25-2) These rights include, but not by way of exclusion, the following:

A. The Church may make no laws to bind the conscience with respect to the interpretation of Scripture. No person may be rejected for membership or ordination because of such matters of conscience unless that matter has been officially declared a heresy by the Church, or unless it obstructs the constitutional governance of the Church. However, those seeking ordination in the EPC, either initially or by transfer, voluntarily limit their free exercise of conscience to the lawful bounds of the Essentials of Our Faith, the Westminster Standards, and the Book of Order of the EPC.

B. The Church may make no laws that infringe on the rights of the local church to elect its own officers, to own and control its own property under the laws of the state in which it is located, to determine its own benevolence and other budgetary objectives, and to determine its own internal life so long as it does not violate the Constitution of the Church.

C. The Denomination may make no provision in the Book of Government to establish any trust, implied or expressed, on property, both real or personal, held by or for a local church in favor of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The voluntary establishment of a trust is not prohibited, but any trust, to be enforceable, must be the clear intent of the owner and follow the legal requirements for trusts in the state in which the property is located.

D. This section (i.e., chapter) may be added to by the procedures set forth for amending the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, but no deletions may be made

III Book of Discipline:

1.(BOD 1-1) Why is discipline important in the church?

Definition of Church Discipline.

There are two kinds of authority vested in the church; the responsibility of order and the authority of jurisdiction. Both kinds of authority are given the church by the Lord Jesus Christ to instruct and guide her members and to promote her purity and welfare. Discipline is the exercise of the responsibility of order, particularly in regard to the reproving of the erring. As the exercise of such authority may adversely affect the membership rights of an individual who has been accused of an offense, the authority requires the use of ecclesiastical judicial procedures. The word "discipline," when used in the *Book of Discipline*, chapters 1-11, shall therefore refer to the use of ecclesiastical judicial procedures.

2.(BOD 1-2) Church discipline: define types of offenses and types of sanctions

Grounds for Discipline Not everything displeasing to God is a ground for discipline. The offenses that require discipline and are subject to ecclesiastical judicial procedures are as follows:
A. Heresy. B. Immorality. C. Contempt.

3.(BOD) 1-8 What is the Book of Discipline Definition of "Contempt"
Contempt is willful conduct done in deliberate disrespect of a court of the church, the constitutional documents of the church, or the officers of the church acting in their official capacities

4.(BOD 1-9) What is the Book of Discipline Definition of "Heresy"

Heresy is the expressed or implied denial, openly taught and obstinately maintained, of one or more of the essential doctrines of Christianity.

5.(BOD 1-10) What is the Book of Disciplines definition of "Immorality"

"Definition of "Immorality"
Immorality is conduct inconsistent with the biblical standards for conduct, including but not limited to bickering, brawling, debauchery, drunkenness, gossiping, hatred, idolatry, impurity, slander, and sexual immorality such as adultery, fornication, homosexual practice, and bestiality.

6.(BOD 2-3) What is your view on the Book of Discipline concerning the retention of authority over church property?

Retention of Authority over Church Property While possessing no civil authority over any person, the church does retain authority over its property and ministries. In providing a secure and nurturing atmosphere for worship and spiritual growth, the church retains the right to exclude anyone from its property, services or ministries on such terms and conditions as it may desire. Thus, for example, a particular church may require certain standards before permitting adults to teach Sunday School, lead ministries, or otherwise participate in the life and ministry of the church.

7.(BOD 11-1 to 11-6) Disciplinary Sanctions

1 & 2 Disciplinary Sanctions Disciplinary sanctions which may be administered by church courts or commissions are (1) admonition, (2) suspension, (3) removal from church office, and (4) excommunication. When a milder sanction fails to reclaim the offender, it may become the duty of the court to proceed to the administration of a more severe sanction. If the court finds on trial that the matter complained of amounts to no more than such acts of infirmity as may be amended, so that little or nothing remains to hinder the person's ministry, it shall take all prudent measures to see that the infirmity is amended.

11-3 Definition of Admonition Admonition is the formal reproof of an offender by a church court, warning of his guilt and danger, and encouraging him to be more careful and watchful in the future.

11-4 Definition of Suspension. Suspension is the temporary exclusion of church members from the sacraments and/or from other church ministries or activities. With respect to church officers, suspension may include the exclusion of the officer from office and the sacraments. It may be either definite or indefinite as to its duration. Suspension should generally be indefinite in its duration, continuing until the person suspended gives such evidence of repentance as may warrant its repeal.
The good of the offender and/or the church may require that the offender be suspended for a definite length of time, even though he confesses his sin and gives evidence of repentance.

11-5 Definition of Removal from Office Removal from office is the sanction by which the offender's ordination and election are set aside, and the offender is removed from all church offices without excommunication. Removal from office may or may not be accompanied by the administration of other sanctions.

11-6 Definition of Excommunication Excommunication is the removal of an offender from the membership and fellowship of the church. Excommunication shall be administered only in cases of offenses aggravated by a continuing refusal to repent. The purpose of this sanction is to reclaim the offender, to deliver the church from the disgrace and injury of his offense, and to motivate the church with fear by the example of his discipline.

8. (BOD 11-13) What is your view on "Excommunication"?

Excommunication may be administered according to one or other of the two modes laid down for indefinite suspension, or it may be inflicted in public as the court may decide. In administering this sanction, the Moderator of the court or Chair of the commission shall make a statement of the several steps which have been taken with respect to the offending person, and of the decision to cut him off from the membership and fellowship of the church.

He shall then show from Matthew 18:15-18 and 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 the authority of the church to cast out unworthy members, and shall explain the nature, use, and consequences of this sanction. He shall then administer the sanction in the words following: "Whereas , a member of this Church has been by sufficient proof convicted of the sin of, and after much admonition and prayer,obstinately refuses to hear the Church, and has manifested no evidence of repentance: Therefore, in the name and by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, we, the Session of the Churchof do pronounce him to be excluded from the Sacraments and cut off from the fellowship of the Church

IV. Book Of Worship

1.(BOW 1-1) What is your View on the statement below?

"Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever"

2.(BOW 2-4A) Why does the BOO give final authority over all parts of the worship service, including the music, to the Pastor?

The Pastor, while advised to consult with the Session, has the duty and responsibility to determine the order, sequence, elements, and proportion of the service that each shall have in public worship. In making those decisions about worship, the Pastor shall be reminded of guidance for worship given in Scripture, the Reformed heritage in which we stand, of the customs, circumstances, and particular needs of the congregation, as well as the admonitions and limitations set by the Book of Worship

3. (BOW 2-4B What does it mean that "all who come to worship should actively participate"?

All who come to worship should actively participate. The worship should be so designed that there is common participation when all share in the various elements of praise to God. Participation by various members of the local church is encouraged to demonstrate that worship is a privilege of all and not relegated to a select few.

4. (BOW 2-6) What is your view on "Sound Preaching of the Word?

The ordinary worship of God always includes the sound preaching and conscientious hearing of the Word in obedience to God. Such preaching should always open the Word of God in such a way that the hearer can respond with clear understanding and simple faith.

In dealing with matters in which there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture, the Preacher is to remember that the only infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is Scripture itself.

A. Because preaching is closely related to the reading of Scripture, it is appropriate for the sermon to follow closely the reading of the Word and to be based up on it.

B. The sermon should be related to the congregation. It should address the real issues of that community of faith and should include practical application to life. It should be framed in such terms that all present can understand. Such preaching demands study, meditation, prayer, and time for adequate preparation. Above all, that which is preached should be exemplified in the life of the Preacher.

C. Since the reading of Scriptures requires attentiveness and the sermon conscientious hearing, the worshipers have a duty also. As God speaks through the Word as it is read and preached, penetrating hearts,272 giving guidance in the Christian life, building up in the faith,273 the worshiper has a solemn duty to be open and receptive to God's revelation. Even as the Preacher is to make proper preparation, so the worshiper is to be prepared in every way to hear and respond.

5.(BOW 2-6-B) How should a sermon be related to the congregation?

The sermon should be related to the congregation. It should address the real issues of that community of faith and should include practical application to life. It should be framed in such terms that all present can understand. Such preaching demands study, meditation, prayer, and time for adequate preparation. Above all, that which is preached should be exemplified in the life of the preacher.

6.(BOW 2-6-D) What is the procedure to invite a guest minister to preach?

While all of the elements of public worship are important and should not be neglected, no worship is complete without the reading and preaching of the Word. For this reason, the Pastor and Session should be careful to protect the pulpit in each local church that the Word be truly preached. **No person should be permitted to preach to a local church without the invitation of the Pastor and the Session, or the Session if there is no Pastor.**

7.(BOW 2-7) What is your view on "Music in Worship?

Singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with grace in the heart is a necessary and indispensable part of the corporate worship of the people of God. The whole congregation is the true choir singing praises and giving glory to God. For this reason, corporate singing is not to be neglected. Emphasis should be given to the content of the hymns that all might sing with understanding.

A. Music is not an end in itself but should serve the whole purpose of giving glory and praise to God. Where there is a choir auxiliary to the congregation, it should be remembered that it is representing the whole congregation before God and is not performing for the people. For this reason, it is appropriate for the choir to be composed of those from the local church as far as possible. Those who participate in a choir inevitably represent a special calling in the life of a congregation and should exhibit a gracious Christian life that brings honor to God. Participants in the choir should have such a character and conduct themselves in such a way that their lives will not be a barrier or hindrance to those who worship.

B. The Pastor has final authority over all parts of the service, including the music. Where there is a music director or other such person working in music, that person shall always consult with the Pastor concerning the music or worship. If there is no Pastor, the Session has final authority over the service.

C. Care should be exercised in selecting music so that all may rejoice in the Lord, singing and making melody in their hearts. Lyrics should be appropriate and reflect Reformed theology.

D. The use of various musical instruments in worship is appropriate unless disapproved by the Session. However, it is to be remembered that all music, including instruments, should be aids and not hindrances to or substitutes for congregational participation. E. As a community of praise, a congregation should ordinarily conclude its worship with congregational singing suitable for the occasion prior to the benediction

8.(BOW 3-2 A) Candidates for Baptism

Candidates for Baptism Those eligible to receive this sacrament are those who have professed their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and have promised to be obedient to Him, along with the infants of one or both believing parents. Also, those who have legal responsibility for an infant have the right to present the child for Baptism.

9.(BOW 3-2-E2) Private Baptism

However, if circumstances justify administering the sacrament at a time and place other than public worship, the Teaching Elder may judge. In any event, at least one Ruling Elder should be present to represent the congregation and to assume on behalf of the congregation the commitment required by that congregation in the baptismal vows. No such private administration should convey the impression of baptismal regeneration or its necessity for salvation, and those present are to be reminded that Baptism is not inseparably connected with God's grace and salvation.

10.(BOW 3-2B) Modes of Baptism

Method of Baptism In the sacrament of Baptism, water is to be used. Immersion or dipping the person into the water is not essential and Baptism is ordinarily administered by pouring or sprinkling.

11.(BOW 3-2D) Re-baptism

Administration of Baptism The grace received through Baptism does not come from the tradition or form of administration, and since it is not dependent upon the devoutness or the intention of the person administering it, Baptism should be administered only once.

12.(BOW 3-3J) Children taking Communion

Baptized children may be admitted to the Lord's Supper provided they have appeared before the Session and professed their faith in a manner acceptable to the Session. At its discretion, the Session may admit such persons to full membership.

13.(BOW 4-2) Why should the Session call for days of prayer and fasting?

Days of prayer and fasting. The Lord Jesus Christ set the example for God's people in a time of fasting. Throughout the New Testament there is frequent indication that Christians in the early Church practiced fasting. Therefore, the Church will do well in its spiritual life if it follows this example. The Session should be diligent and sensitive to those times when such a special day is called for and should be eager to order such an event. Christians individually and, in particular, families, should observe special days when fasting is practiced

14. (BOW 5-3) Marriage of a divorced person

The remarriage of divorced persons It is the divine intention that persons entering the marriage covenant become inseparably united, thus allowing for no dissolution save that caused by death of either husband or wife. However, the weaknesses of one or both partners may lead to gross and persistent denial of the marriage vows, yet only in cases of extreme, unrepentant, and irremediable unfaithfulness (physical or spiritual) should separation or divorce be considered. The remarriage of divorced persons may be sanctioned by the church, in keeping with the redemptive gospel of Jesus Christ, when sufficient penitence for sin and failure is evident, and a firm posture of an endeavor after Christian marriage is manifested. Divorced persons should give prayerful thought to discover if God's vocation for them is to remain unmarried, since one failure in this realm raises serious questions as to the rightness and wisdom of undertaking another union. If the Minister has any questions about the readiness of divorced persons to remarry according to these principles, the Session should be consulted, and its concurrence sought.

15.(BOW 6-2C) Why should the casket of the deceased not be open during a funeral service?

The casket of the deceased should not be open during the service. To avoid focusing on the remains during the Service and thus become a distraction from the hope of the resurrection.

How is service to others considered as part of our worship of God?
Opinion Question

16. BOW 7-4-B What is your view on tithing?

The giving of tithes and gifts Nowhere does the Bible mention less than a tithe as a proper stewardship for the Christian. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church believes in the tithe and teaches it as the minimum requirement for the believer. Gifts to the Lord are those contributions made over and above the tithe. Such giving should be done generously, regularly, systematically, and proportionally.

Session Meetings

Have You ever attended an entire Session Meeting? If not please arrange to attend an entire session meeting except for executive sessions.

Who moderates the Session? Who should create the Session agenda?
TE to moderate & TE\ Clerk create Session agenda

How familiar are you with Roberts' Rules of Order? Describe it. ?_____

Can the Pastor make motions or participate in a debate?
No

Does the Clerk of Session need to be an active member of Session?
No

Why should a motion be on the floor prior to any discussion?

To stay focused on the "motion" to avoid confusion and going down rabbit holes

Why should most motions be pre-written in a Session meeting?

To be precise & avoid wasting time attempting to compose a motion on the floor of the meeting which can create inaccuracies.

What kinds of motions require seconds, and what kinds don't?

Non committee motions require seconds however, committee motions don't require seconds

How long before Session meetings should the agendas be sent?

3 to 5 days ahead of meeting

Can items be added to the agenda at the time of the meeting? Explain.

Yes, if approved by the Session.

If many REs are for a motion but many against, what should happen?

The motion must be tabled and the makers of the motion amend it so it would be acceptable to a strong majority of the Session at a later meeting Stated or Called, if that can't be done abolish the motion.

Typically, what elements should be contained in a Session agenda?

1. **Open with prayer and worship**
2. **Consent Agenda (reoccurring routine items)**
3. **Old Business**
4. **New Business**
5. **Any other business**
6. **Close in Prayer**

About how long should an evening Session meeting last?

Two hours maximum

Having read and studied the book "The Moderator" By TE Andy Jumper. Explain how you would moderate a Session meeting.

The candidate is expected to articulate the main points of the book and how he/she would moderate asession meeting and most other meetings

List options of what to do if the meeting needs to go longer.

1. Vote to extend the meeting for a specific number of minutes

2. End the meeting and complete the business in a future called meeting

3. Finish the business at the next stated meeting

Describe how a motion on the floor should be fairly debated.

Vacillate back and forth for and against the action on the floor. No one would be permitted to speak a second time to a motion being debated until all present have spoken or least been afforded the opportunity to speak.

How are motions that are already on the floor amended?

1. Motion to amend 1st and 2nd and vote

2. If approved the motion as whole will be voted on

In your opinion, why are the marks of the church important?

Opinion Question

The Book of Order states that the first duty of an Elder is to represent the mind of Christ as they understand it in the courts of the church. How is this beneficial for us today?

Sessional decisions/actions will be guided by the Holy Spirit as opposed to being influenced only by the natural mind.

In 1984, the GA adopted a position paper on the ordination of women. Tell us what you appreciate about it.

Opinion Question

In 1986, the GA adopted a position paper on the Holy Spirit. Tell us what you think about it.

Opinion Question

Why is it important for a Session to make provision for courses of instruction to train Ruling Elders before they are ordained?

To avoid REs taking the ordination vows and not knowing what they have done or worse taking the vows fraudulently.

What is your practice in regard to financial stewardship and church giving?
Opinion Question However, the answer should be a minimum of a tithe

Why is it important that the EPC may make no provision in the BOO to establish any trust of property held by or for a local church?
It assures that the local congregation will always own their church property

Reflect on the purpose of church discipline.
(BOD 1-5) The purpose of discipline is to maintain the honor of God, to restore the sinner, and to remove offense from the church. Teaching Elders must instruct the officers and congregation in the use of discipline and jointly practice it in the context of the congregation and courts of the church.

What does it mean that man's chief end is to glorify God & to enjoy Him forever?
Opinion Question

Should a funeral always focus on the hope of resurrection? How would you do this?
Yes, Opinion Question

The following questions are good for ordinands and other transfers:

What part of Andrew Jumper's paper, "Why I Have Decided for the EPC," has particular meaning for you?
Opinion Question

What is the importance of the pastor's duty to perform a marriage?
Opinion Question

Quick Quiz

Who has primary responsibility for:

The local congregation _____Session (BOG 18-1)
Preparing a budget Session _____ Session (BOG 18-3H)
Organizing a congregation _____Presbytery BOG (19 4A-3)
Supervising foreign missions ____(GA (BOG 20-4A-4)
Ordaining ministers _____(Presbytery (BOG 19-4B-3)
Calling a pastor _____ Congregation (BOG 10-3)
Amending the Book of Order _____ (General Assembly (BOG 21-D2)
Renovating church property _____ Session (BOG 18 3L)
Ordaining a Deacon _____ Session (BOG 18-3J)
Overseeing the worship service _____ Pastor TE (BOW 2-4A)
Selling church property _____ (Congregation (BOG 6-5)
Dissolving a pastoral relationship _____ (Presbytery (BOG 19-4B-3)
Moderating the Session meeting _____ Pastor TE (BOG 18 2A-1)
Receiving a new member _____ Session (18-3G)
Overseeing congregational Christian education ____Session (18-3I)
Music used in a worship service _____ Pastor TE (BOW 2-7B)
Calling a congregational meeting _____ Session (BOG 7-1)