

## Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC)

### Statistics

- From the EPC website: EPC has “about 575 churches with nearly 150,000 members”
- EPC has grown significantly since 2007, adding 325 congregations through 2016

### History

- Formed in 1981 in reaction to perceived liberalism in the United Presbyterian Church. Sources cite two cases in particular that laid the groundwork for this reaction:
  - Winn Kenyon, who refused to participate in the ordination of a female (although he was willing to work alongside already-ordained women), was subsequently relieved from *his* ordination by the UPC, causing about 40 congregations to leave the UPC.
  - Mansfield Kasemann, a candidate for ordination, would not explicitly affirm the divinity of Christ, but was installed anyway by the UPC, leading to a further exodus of churches.

### Doctrine

- From the EPC website: “*The Westminster Confession of Faith* and Larger and Shorter Catechisms are our singular confessional standard. We affirm that it contains the system of doctrine taught by the Bible.”
- EPC also includes a 7-point statement of faith called “The Essentials of our Faith”
- The EPC Constitution declares the “first duty” of the church is “to evangelize by extending the gospel both at home and abroad, leading others to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.”
- Ordination of women: “Left to the discretion of the presbytery and the congregation, respectively”

### Structure

- Three governing bodies: local church, presbytery, and annual GA. No synod.