

3.0 Guiding Operating Principles and Governance Philosophy of the ECO Presbytery of Texas

The Texas Presbytery desires to be a flourishing presbytery that not only accomplishes the life-giving tasks and responsibilities it was created to pursue, but does so in a particular way that honors and aligns with the mission, values, culture, polity, and strategies of the ECO movement. To that end, the Texas Presbytery is devoted to the following statements of operating principles and governance philosophies:

- The role of the Presbytery is to support, encourage, and be a resource for local congregations to pursue their Kingdom purposes.
- The role of the Presbytery is to serve congregations, not rule congregations; ministry is “from the church up” not “from the Presbytery down.”
- Presbytery is always to seek synergy with Synod initiatives. The Presbytery is to be an enthusiastic and active conduit to churches for the resources and catalytic initiatives of the Synod.
- Presbytery governance is to be flexible and cultivate connection and community among member churches. Presbytery governance is to be relational and based on trust in those granted authority over Presbytery tasks and responsibilities
- Presbytery governance is to limit the number of “mandatory regulatory policies” as much as possible and not try to have prescribed answers for every situation
- A strong board governance model, with executive power delegated to the Presbytery Council, and strong delegation from the Council to Council Teams is valued
- The teams reporting to the Presbytery Governing Council are to do the bulk of the work of the Presbytery. This delegation allows the Council to focus on overall governance, policy and strategy and to leave execution to specialized groups of people.
- The Presbytery is to be focused on Pastor Covenant Groups and Mission Affinity Groups as environments where many of the goals of Presbytery are lived out. Encouragement and accountability for participation by all is highly valued.
- Presbytery meetings are to be the highlights of the year – devoted as much as possible to the premise of “flourishing churches are led by flourishing leaders who are flourishing disciples”
- Church planting is done by local churches not the Presbytery
- The administration and governance of Presbytery is to be “voluntary” without staff
- Member churches and their sessions, as well as member pastors, are to be part of the Presbytery community and life and feel at all times connected to the ECO movement
 - Presbytery, through liaisons from the Council, the Ministry Partnership Team, or one of their teams will interact with each Session at least annually, including in connection with the annual report Presbytery is required to receive from each member church