

Session 4: The Polity of ECO

1. What does it mean to be Presbyterian?

- a. Reformed in our theological beliefs
- b. Elder-governed
- c. Connectional - churches are organized into wider councils

2. What is the governing structure of ECO?

- a. The local church session is the primary focus of governing responsibility.
- b. The presbytery – ECO is currently moving from 9 presbyteries to approximately 20. Ordinarily there will be 3-5 churches in a presbytery.
 - i. Mission Affinity Groups can also take on some roles of presbytery.
- c. The Synod – primarily focused on polity and theology overtures
 - i. Synod Executive Council – day to day operations

3. Broad understanding of our polity

- a. Understanding of Church
 - i. Church Universal
 - ii. Denominations and Networks
 - iii. Local Church
 - iv. Micro-expressions of Church
- b. Flexibility and not a “one size fits all” rule
- c. Polity is set up for us to spend less time on business
- d. If polity is silent, it is silent for a reason

Reflection Questions:

1. What parts of the ECO polity or ethos do you find particularly encouraging?
2. What questions do you have about the ECO polity?
3. How would being in ECO allow your church to be able to fulfill your mission more effectively?