

Recommended Docket for the Fourth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery

To be held: 9:00 a.m., Thursday, November 3, 2016 at Grace Coastal PCA, Okatie, SC

Recommended Docket submitted by the Administration Committee:

That the following docket be approved for the Fourth Stated Meeting of the Palmetto Presbytery scheduled for November 3, 2016 at Grace Coastal PCA, Okatie, SC:

- 9:00 Worship with Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 Call to Order & Opening Business
 1. Welcome
 2. Roll Call (by registration sign in sheets)
 3. Clerk's declaration of quorum
 4. Adoption of docket
 5. Introduction of Special Guests & First Time Commissioners
 6. Presentation of Memorials
- 10:30 Ministry Equipping Time
TE Chris Brown - Hospital Ministry and Chaplaincy Today
- 11:00 Prayer Time – led by Shepherding & Church Vitality Committee
- 11:15 Business & Reports
 - Approval of Third Lowcountry Presbytery minutes for July 23, 2016
 - Presentation of Omnibus motion
 - Administration Committee
 - Report of Stated Clerk
 - Report of the Treasurer
 - Campus Ministries Committee
 - Church Planting & Outreach Committee
 - Judicial Committee – no report
 - Leadership Development Committee
 - Shepherding & Church Vitality Committee
 - Additional Business if needed & Adjournment targeted before 2:30
- 12:00 Order of the Day – Lunch

Administration Committee

TE Mark Turner, Chairman, Oakbrook PCA, Summerville [mturner@oakbrookpca.org]

Important Information:

- The mailing address for Lowcountry Presbytery is P.O. Box 31775, Charleston, SC 29417-1775. The website address is www.lowcountrypresbytery.org
- Stated Clerk: TE Chris Bennett statedclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org 843-202-0655
- Treasurer: TE Chris Bennett treasurer@lowcountrypresbytery.org 843-202-0655
- Recording Clerk: TE Mark Turner recordingclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org 843-224-9337
- Moderator: RE David Walters, Jr. dwaltersjr@jonesford.com 843-296-8298
- Health Insurance is cooperatively provided among the 3 multiplied Presbyteries through the *Stewart and Monroe Health Insurance Agency*.

- **Budget Requests:** It is the job of the Administrative Committee to present a budget at the November Stated meeting (Nov 3, 2016). The Administrative Committee has taken input from each committee is presenting to you today with two options for a recommended budget for 2017: 1) A Balanced Budget which impacts our campus ministers and has no allocation for expanding our church planting and 2) A Needed Budget which includes what our committees would like to accomplish in 2017 for the Kingdom. The Needed Budget is not aggressive, it simply maintains what we used to do as part of the Palmetto Presbytery, however, it will require EACH of our churches to get behind it and support it financially.
- It was extremely difficult to come up with a balanced proposed budget for 2017 since we are a small presbytery without many large churches. You are reminded that if each local church will give to the Lowcountry Presbytery in 2016 the expected amount of at least 1% of its Tithes and Offerings then we will be only able to operate minimally as a presbytery. In order for us to meet our “Needed Budget” in this coming year it will be necessary for our churches to provide **more** than the normal 1% Asking. To meet our “Needed Budget” which fully funds our campus ministries and Church planning efforts without any frills, **each church will need to prayerfully consider giving 1.5% of their Annual Budget.** This is especially important that each church participate financially so we can continue to support our Campus Ministers and plant churches! We ask that all Presbyters go back to their churches and discuss how their contributions to Presbytery heavily support Campus Ministries and Church Planting.
- **Reminder:** Our Standing Rules 5.3.1 state that All Presbytery Commissioners should attend every meeting unless providentially hindered. When providentially hindered from attendance the presbyter must request Presbytery for an excuse from the Stated Clerk, stating, via email or letter, his reason for his non-attendance. Failure to comply with this will mean his absence is unexcused. The Presbytery will determine if a requested absence is excused. Members of Presbytery are expected to arrive on time and to attend all sessions.

1. **Report of Stated Clerk**

- Stated Clerk’s report

2. **Report of the Treasurer**

- Treasurer’s report
- Presentation of Proposed Budgets for 2017
See Attached: Proposed Balanced Budget 2017 & Proposed Needed Budget 2017

Motions:

From Treasurer’s Report:

We will entertain motions from the floor to approve EITHER the NEEDED or the BALANCED budget for 2017. The administration committee wanted to offer an opportunity for Presbyters to step up and support the Needed budget rather than make the cuts necessary to submit the Balanced budget.

Elections:

Election of Moderator – Nominations: TE Ross Hodges; TE David Donovan; Others?

Vice Moderator: Our Standing Rules 3.2.1 state: Vice Moderator shall ordinarily be the immediate past Moderator and shall serve at the request of the Moderator, or when the Moderator is unable to serve. So RE Michael Walters shall serve as Vice-Moderator for 2017.

Election of Trustees – No election this year as our 1st class of Trustees serves until Nov 2017.

RE Nate Arnold (Class of 2017)
RE Jim Rowland (Class of 2018)

RE Matt King (Class of 2019)
RE David Walters, Sr. (Class of 2019)

Invitations for upcoming meetings are needed: Please volunteer your church to host the Lowcountry Presbytery on one of these dates:

5th – January 28th, 2017 @ Metro North, Goose Creek
6th – April 27th, 2017 – Location needed
7th – July 22nd, 2017 – Invited by Eastbridge PCA, Mt. Pleasant
8th – Nov 2nd, 2017 – Location needed
9th – Jan 27th, 2018 – Location needed
10th – Apr 24th, 2018 – Location needed
11th – Jul 28th, 2018 – Location needed
12th – Nov 1st, 2018 – Location needed

Church Planting and Outreach Committee

TE Craig Bailey, Chairman, Redeemer PCA, Charleston [craig@redeemer-charleston.org].
Particularization information for First Scots Church Plant, Beaufort

Campus Ministries Committee

TE Sam Joyner, Chairman, Grace Coastal PCA, Okatie [sam@gracecoastalchurch.com].
Brief report from TE Danny Clark about his ministry at the College of Charleston.
See RUF CofC report at end after Omnibus motion.

Judicial Committee

TE David Donovan, Chairman, Church Creek PCA, Charleston [pastordavid@church-creek.org].
No Report. Let us pray that this committee remains without work.

Leadership Development Committee (LDT)

TE Jon Payne, Chairman, Christ Church PCA, [jdpchristchurch@icloud.com].
No Report.

Shepherding and Church Vitality

TE Ron Steel, Chairman, Eastbridge PCA, Mt. Pleasant [ron.steel48@gmail.com].
No Report.

Omnibus Motion

Omnibus Motions are collected and moved by the Stated Clerk to expedite routine business that usually does not require discussion and debate. All of these items will be included in one omnibus motion for a SINGLE vote **unless** there is a request to lift one or more for separate action during the meeting. If you have questions or would like further information about any item in the Omnibus Motion, please request that item be lifted out for special consideration.

The Omnibus Motion for the Third Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:

1. **Motion** to form a Committee as a whole to review the Session minutes of the churches who have not yet submitted them for 2016. (Church Creek & Hilton Head)
Be prepared to have one of your commissioners' review the minutes of another church during the Presbytery meeting.

2. **Motion** that the report of the commission to install organize Christ Church Presbyterian and install their pastors TE Jon Payne and TE Ross Hodges on August 28, 2016 be approved.
3. **Motion** that presbytery approve TE Chris Brown’s LOB report from 2016 and that Presbytery approve his continuing to labor outside of bounds as a Chaplain at MUSC.

Minutes from Campus Ministries Meeting:

Campus Ministry Committee Minutes
September 9, 2016 in Mt. Pleasant, SC

Members Present- TE Sam Joyner, TE Bill McCutchen, RE Chris Jarvis, (RE Mike Slay via speaker phone), Guest Danny Clark

The meeting was opened in prayer by Sam Joyner.

Danny Clark gave an overview of the development of the group over his nine years.

His specific prayer requests are for

1. A female intern for 2017 that would build on the foundation in place by his previous female interns.
2. Wisdom for how to use his time with specific reference to developing leadership
3. That his October Parents weekend would be successful in raising funds among parents of students currently enrolled.

It was moved, seconded, and passed that the budget for campus ministries be as follows

USC-	7220
CofC-	10,220
Citadel-	700
 Total	 18,140

Other miscellaneous action items

Danny will call or meet with committee members more often to think through ministry issues so he is not so much on his own to figure things out.

Bill McCutchen will look into a place in Charleston for Danny to have the parents weekend reception close to College of Charleston.

Danny will send a copy of his total budget for Cof C to the entire committee.

Danny will send an outline of the five stages of campus development to Mike Slay.

Chris will meet with Danny in the fall to gain a better understanding of the finances so that he may make the presentation to Presbytery in the fall(Nov. 3) for greater funding.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Sam Joyner.

Sam Joyner, Chairman

Bill McCutchen, Clerk

RUF at College of Charleston: Fall Update 2016

RUF at The College of Charleston: November Presbytery Report (2016)

Here are just a few of our notable highlights from this Fall:

2 Freshmen Small Groups (15-17 students total each week): Our interns Annie Kate Barr and Philip Rohrer are taking students through a series called, “The Gospel and my...” This expositional study covers all kinds of practical life issues that freshmen face in new ways once coming to college. At the same time it teaches many of the central doctrines of Christianity, such as, creation, fall, redemption, justification, sanctification, adoption, etc. We’ve been encouraged because it’s been really effective at applying the gospel to students at various places in their faith journeys and sparking spiritual conversations between them.

Upperclassmen Girls Small Group: Over the years, as CofC’s demographic has changed, it has become much more difficult to find times for upperclassmen to be able to meet together. This fall, our upperclassmen girls couldn’t find any time on any afternoon or evening during the week when a majority of them could meet. So they are faithfully meeting on Saturday mornings! A senior (Sarah Ford) has been leading a book study on “The Praying Life” by Paul Miller. Their discussion and time in prayer has been especially edifying and vulnerable. We are thankful to the Lord for the maturity occurring in their lives.

Tuesday Picnics- Every other Tuesday we’ve been meeting in casually in Stern Gardens anytime between 11:30-1:30 for a bring your own lunch picnic. People have had a great time sitting in the shade or slack-lining between trees and getting to know each other better. This has been extremely helpful in connecting our upperclassmen to freshmen and giving us opportunities to meet fringe students who are brought by friends.

Large Group Meetings (worship)- Our male intern Philip Rohrer has worked hard with the worship team and they have grown immensely over the last several months. In addition to guitarists we now have a keyboardist, a ukulele player, a Cajon, and a rotation of multiple harmonizing singers. Their work ethic, thoughtful song choices, and ethos, has really made our time of worship go from being an awkward necessity to a unifying delight.

Large Group Meetings (preaching)- I knew that the structure of Proverbs would make preaching through it difficult this fall, but I couldn’t have imagined how pertinent our students would find its wisdom. Students have been discussing the sermons’ subjects with each other and RUF staff members throughout the week, far more than they ever have in the past. So while we are still waiting to see the fruit of the gospel coming to bear in areas like work, friendships, family, pride/humility, life planning, etc., we’re certainly excited that they’re talking about it and expressing hope and repentance.

Prayer Requests:

- Freshmen connecting more with each other and finding consistent community and a home on campus within RUF.
- Student Leadership: Many of our student leaders are stymied in their devotional lives by the increasing pressure they feel to perform in school and internships, as well as the constant distractions of social media. Please pray that the H.S. will move them to create consistent practices of Scripture study and personal prayer.

New support raising avenues and relationships: Our biggest opportunity to meet possible ministry partners was lost this fall when Parent’s Weekend was cancelled by Hurricane Matthew. Please pray for the Clark Family as well as intern Annie Kate Barr as they face significant challenges in this area.

LOB Reports

Chris Brown, Chaplain, MUSC Charleston, SC

I currently serve as a Chaplain at MUSC Hospital in Charleston, a position I've held since 2007. I visit and minister to patients, their families, and staff. I am a full time employee of the hospital and I receive salary and benefits (health insurance, vacation, and retirement) from MUSC. I am free to maintain the Reformed faith in my work as a chaplain at MUSC.

Hospital ministry is very much a **counseling** ministry. I have many opportunities to teach and communicate the Gospel and the great truths of the Reformed faith, such as the sovereignty and providence of God, salvation by faith alone, and the perseverance of the Saints. I respond to emergency pages, take referrals from nurses and other staff, and follow up with patients I've already seen. Because MUSC is so large (750+ beds), and I'm one of only eight chaplains, I cover all areas of the hospital: ER, ICUs, Med-Surg, Oncology, Cardiac, GI, Psychiatry, Orthopedics, Neurology, Pediatrics, etc. A few of my recent visits include:

- Counseling a young patient who felt he had pushed God out of his life and wondered if he could be forgiven and restored
- Talking with a psychiatric patient who asked every question imaginable about Christianity and the Bible ("What are the Gospels?" "Who wrote the Bible?")
- Talking with a security officer about believers' eternal security in Christ
- Notifying the elderly husband of an ICU patient that his wife had just passed away, and praying with him
- Helping to calm the family of a badly injured car accident victim in the ER
- Praying with the family of a surgery patient who had just died, and talking to the husband about the hope we have in Christ
- Offering encouragement and supportive counsel to a patient who was a strong Christian

While there is no such thing as a "typical visit", on most visits I will listen to the patient or family member's story, offer counsel, read and share Scripture passages, and pray. However, not everyone is open to hearing about the Faith, so I must be sensitive to different needs in different situations.

It is a blessing to minister to the sick and suffering, and I am thankful the Lord has allowed me to do it full time. I request that Presbytery approve me to continue laboring out of bounds for 2017 in my current call.

Respectfully submitted,
TE Christopher (Chris) Brown

Bill Schweitzer, MTW, England

I cannot recall for certain whether we have yet met, but to introduce myself and the work here. I am married, the father of seven, and an MTW missionary working in England with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in England and Wales (EPCEW). The church in Gateshead we started in 2009 is now at about 80 AM and 65 PM (this is not much by American standards, but it is currently the third largest of 17 churches in the EPCEW; we certainly need your prayers and God's power). In 2015 Gateshead planted a church about a half hour away; Hexham Presbyterian is now being led by another MTW missionary, Josh Rieger. We have a growing ministry with International students attending Newcastle and Northumbria universities. Because of the need for church planters, we have recently started the only Westminster Confession seminary in England (Westminster Presbyterian Theological Seminary), where I teach Systematic Theology and lead administratively. We have five students at the moment. I served as moderator of the EPCEW this past year, and had a busy year of conference speaking (I completed my 7th of 8 engagements this last weekend). I have also just been commissioned as a US Navy reserve Chaplain, where I minister to American servicemen in Naples, Italy on a quarterly basis; indeed I just returned from my first stint there this past week. As far as future plans, we have just begun a Bible study for another church plant in Sunderland. Along with this, the major focus will be on growing the seminary in terms of students, staff and facilities. I also hope to finish the book I am co-editing with Guy Waters, and to make progress on another volume.

Report of Commission to organize Christ Church and Install their Pastors:

Commission of Lowcountry Presbytery to organize Christ Church Presbyterian Mission Church and install their pastors.

The Commission convened on August 28, 2016, at 10:00 am, at Moultrie Middle School, Mt. Pleasant, SC.

Commission members present were: (a quorum of two TEs and two REs were present)
Teaching-Elders: Chris Bennett and Alex Mark (Chairman: Chris Bennett)
Ruling Elders: David Walters, Jr. and Richard Wylly
Others present: RE Melton L. Duncan (Calvary Presbytery), TE W. Ross Hodges, TE Jon D. Payne, TE Richard D. Phillips (Calvary Presbytery), LB Carl Robbins (Calvary Presbytery), TE Rhett Sanders (Palmetto Presbytery), and TE David F. A. Strain (Mississippi Valley Presbytery)
Secretary: TE Chris Bennett

The following have been elected to the office of Ruling Elder by the members of Christ Church Presbyterian Mission Church from the list of those found qualified by the Commission: Dr. Scott Buchanan and Mr. Keith Hester.

TE Jon D. Payne has been elected as senior pastor and TE W. Ross Hodges has been elected as associate pastor by the communicant members of the Christ Church Presbyterian Mission Church.

The Commission recessed with prayer by TE Jon D. Payne for the service of Organization and Installation of the Pastors.

RE Melton L. Duncan asked the members of the mission congregation the question for entering into church covenant contained in *BCO* 5-9i(3) which was answered affirmatively by the congregation verbally and with uplifted hands. RE Melton L. Duncan then declared that Christ Church Presbyterian Mission Church was constituted as a church in the PCA (*BCO* 5-9i(4)).

TE Rhett Sanders stated the warrant and nature of the office of Ruling Elder together with the proper character to be sustained and the duties to be fulfilled per *BCO* 24-6. The 6 questions in *BCO* 24-6 were addressed to the Ruling Elder candidates and each responded affirmatively to the questions. The question to the congregation in *BCO* 24-6 was addressed to the congregation and they answered in the affirmative verbally and by holding up their right hands.

Dr. Scott Buchanan had previously been ordained as a Ruling Elder. The Candidates, Dr. Scott Buchanan and Mr. Keith Hester, then knelt and were set apart with prayer and the laying on of hands to the office of Ruling Elder. The new officers were then given the right hand of fellowship. TE Rhett Sanders then declared that Dr. Scott Buchanan and Mr. Keith Hester had been regularly elected, ordained and installed as Ruling Elders of the church using the words of *BCO* 24-5. TE Carl Robbins then addressed a charge to the Officers and to the church.

TE Richard D. Phillips led in the installation of TE Jon D. Payne as senior pastor and TE W. Ross Hodges as associate pastor of Christ Church Presbyterian Church. He propounded the constitutional questions (*BCO* 21-9) to the Ministers and these were answered in the affirmative. TE Richard D. Phillips then propounded the constitutional questions (in *BCO* 21-10) to the congregation of the Christ Church Presbyterian Church and these were answered in the affirmative by members verbally and by holding up their right hands. LB Richard D. Phillips

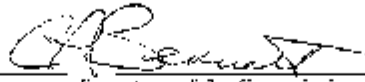
they declared that TE Jon D. Payne and TE Ross Hedges had been regularly elected, ordained, and installed as Senior Pastor and Associate Pastor of the Church, using the words of BCO 21-7.

A sermon was preached by TE David T. A. Stain on the topic/text: "Can These Bones Live?" Ezekiel 37:1-14.

Following prayer and singing, TE Jon D. Payne pronounced the benediction.

The Commission reconvened, approved its Minutes, and was adjourned with prayer by TE Alex Mark.

August 28, 2016 _____
Date


Secretary of the Commission