



HILTON HEAD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 22, 2018

The Pastoral Search Committee of Hilton Head Presbyterian Church (PCA) has unanimously recommended that a call be extended to Rev. Robert Tansill as our next Assistant Pastor of Spiritual Formation. Pursuant to BCO 20, a recommendation was made to the Session of Hilton Head Presbyterian Church that the call to Rev. Tansill be approved. The recommendation was unanimously approved. Rev. Tansill is currently ordained in the EPC (Central South Presbytery).

BCO 13.6 which outlines the guidelines for ministers seeking admission to a Presbytery states, "Ministers seeking admission to a Presbytery from other Presbyteries in the Presbyterian Church in America shall be examined on Christian experience, and also touching their views in theology, the Sacraments, and church government. If applicants come from other denominations, the Presbytery shall examine them thoroughly in knowledge and views as required by BCO 21-4 and require them to answer in the affirmative the questions put to candidates at their ordination. Ordained ministers from other denominations being considered by Presbytery for reception may come under the extraordinary provisions set forth in BCO 21.4."

BCO 21.4.h provides guidelines for the application of ordination and in this case, transfer from another denomination, under the extraordinary clauses. "The extraordinary clauses should be limited to extraordinary circumstances of the church or prove extraordinary gifts of the man." The Session of Hilton Head Presbyterian believes that Rev. Tansill's considerable and continual experience in pastoral ministry in the EPC fits under BCO 21.4.h. Rev. Tansill was ordained in the EPC in 1991. He has spent the past 27 years serving in several churches with distinguished ministry.

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church is not a member of NAPARC, but the PCA does have Corresponding Relations with the EPC and the PCA General Assembly has recognized that we have a special relationship with the EPC. Moreover, the EPC and the PCA are both members of the National Association of Evangelicals and the World Reformed Fellowship. Over the years the PCA and the EPC have transferred churches, ministers, and members between the two denominations.

We are requesting that the examination under BCO 21.4.c.l.b-h as well as 21.4.c.2-4 be omitted and that Rev. Tansill be examined on his Christian experience and call to ministry, that he be examined in his views related to doctrine, Bible content, and church government, and that Rev. Tansill state any differences that he has with the Westminster Standards.

Thank you for your consideration!

The Session at Hilton Head Presbyterian Church


John Thomas, Clerk of the Session


Rev. Bill McCutchen, Moderator of the Session