

Fifth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery

January 28, 2017

The Fifth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery was held at 9:00 a.m., January 28, 2017 at Metro North Church in Goose Creek, SC.

Worship Service	TE Howard Cole read Micah 6:6-8 as the Call to Worship and opened worship in prayer. The presbytery sang, <i>Praise to the Lord The Almighty</i> , after which Exodus 34:1-8 was read and the presbyters recited a prayer of confession. An offering was taken and then Ruling Elder Nate Arnold brought the message from Ephesians 4:1-16 entitled, <i>A Body Fit for A King</i> . TE Cole led presbyters in reciting The Scot's Confession after which, TE John Schley properly fenced the table and led the presbyters in celebrating the Lord's Supper.
Call to Order 10:15am	<p>The Fifth stated meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery was called to order by the moderator, TE Ross Hodges at 10:15am in the sanctuary of Metro North Church (PCA), Goose Creek SC.</p> <p>The Moderator, TE Ross Hodges, opened the meeting with prayer and then he asked for any remaining Session minutes to be brought forward for review.</p>
Quorum	<p>TE Hodges asked the Stated Clerk if there was a quorum.</p> <p>The Stated Clerk declared that a quorum was present.</p>
Docket Approval	<p>The Stated clerk moved that the docket submitted by the Administration Committee be approved with amendments being: Updated reports from Church Planting and Outreach and Shepherding and Church Vitality. M/S/C.</p> <p>Motion by the Stated Clerk: M/S/C That RE Matt King be allowed to serve as the Recording Clerk for this Fifth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery.</p>
Introduction of Guests	<p>Guests & First Time commissioners were introduced by the members of Presbytery.</p> <p>Ashley Chandler of Charleston Christian School gave a brief presentation concerning the ministry of CCS.</p>
Ministry Equipping Time 10:25am	TE Howard Cole led the Ministry Equipping Time: <i>Equipping our People to Make New Disciples</i> . See Appendix.
Prayer 11:00am	TE Ron Steel led the members and commissioners of Presbytery to break into small groups to pray for the requests provided by the churches and members of the Presbytery. See Prayer Sheet in Appendix.
BUSINESS 11:15am	TE Ross Hodges called the presbyters to order after the season of prayer.

Motion: M/S/C approval of minutes from the 4th Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery held November 3, 2016 as presented.

Omnibus
Motion

The following Omnibus Motion was M/S/C:

1. **Motion** to form a Committee as a whole to review the Session minutes of the churches.
2. **Motion** that the Stated Clerk and Moderator be authorized to fill the Lowcountry Presbytery 2017 General Assembly Permanent Committees and Agencies positions from those Presbyters who will be attending the 45th meeting of the General Assembly being held in Greensboro, NC, June 12-16, 2017.

If you will be attending and are interested in serving on a Committee of Commissioners this year, please contact TE Chris Bennett as soon as possible at 717-224-0257 **by February 6th**, statedclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org.

Administration
Committee

TE Chris Bennett opened the Admin report in prayer.

He reminded presbyters of the information contained in the docket under Administration Committee.

Stated Clerk's
Report

The Stated Clerk, TE Chris Bennett, gave his report.

Motion: M/S/C that RE Rich Wiley be nominated for the General Assembly MNA Committee.

Treasurer's
Report
Administrative
Committee

Treasurer, TE Chris Bennett gave a report on the Presbytery finances.

TE Bennett presented updated information regarding the budget dilemma facing the Lowcountry presbytery in 2017 and happily reported that churches have made sufficient financial commitments so that the Administrative Committee can recommend passing the "2017 Needed Budget". Thank you for your generous support of the presbytery and its work! This was presented to you in your packet.

Motion M/S/C: After receiving 2017 commitments from the churches of Lowcountry Presbytery the Administration Committee recommends the adoption of the "2017 Needed Budget" for 2017 which was provisionally approved at the November 3, 2016.

Location and dates for upcoming meetings were announced:

April 25th, 2017 = Eastbridge Presbyterian, Mt. Pleasant

July 22nd, 2017 = Church Creek, Charleston

Nov 2nd, 2017 = Hilton Head Presbyterian, Hilton Head

Jan 27th, 2018 = Redeemer Presbyterian, Charleston

Motion: M/S/C to accept the report of the Administration Committee and the budget report as a whole.

TE Chris Bennett closed report in prayer.

Church
Planting &

TE Craig Bailey opened in prayer and gave a brief report concerning the work of church planting.

Outreach
Committee

At the 4th Stated meeting a commission was formed to examine the elders of First Scots. TE Craig Baily reported for the commission that all of exams of the elders of First Scots Church Plant were sustained.

Motion M/C: that the report of the commission to sustain the examination the elders of First Scots Church Plant be received.

Motion M/C: that a quorum of two Ruling Elders and two Teaching Elders: TE Ross Hodges, TE Sam Joyner, RE David Walters, Jr and RE Mike Slay, along with guest participants Ligon Duncan, Terry Johnson, and Douglas Kelly be constituted as the Lowcountry Presbytery commission to organize First Scots Presbyterian as a particular church of the PCA in accordance with BCO 5-9 on February 12, 2017 at 5:30pm at the Parish Hall of the Parish Church of St. Helena (507 Newcastle Street) in Beaufort, South Carolina, to receive communing members of First Scots Presbyterian in accordance with BCO 5-9, to conduct the ordination and installation of elected Ruling Elders to the Session of First Scots Presbyterian in accordance with BCO 24-4 and 6, to conduct the election and installation of the Pastor for First Scots Presbyterian in accordance with BCO 20-3, 20-4, 21-9 and 21-10.

Our Stated Clerk received a letter from Independent Presbyterian Church concerning their desire to plant a church in Bluffton. This was forwarded on to the Church Planting and Outreach Committee.

Motion M/S/C: that debate be extended by 5 minutes past 12:00 noon.

Motion M/S/C: In response, the committee recommends that the following letter to reflect today's date 1/28/2017 be sent as a response to Independent Presbyterian Church. See Attachment.

The presbytery recessed for Lunch.

The Church Planting and Outreach Committee report was closed with prayer.

Motion: M/C that the report be received as presented.

Campus
Ministries
Committee

TE Sam Joyner opened in prayer.

TE Danny Clark gave a brief report on the work at the College of Charleston.

Motion: M/C that the report be received as presented.

TE Sam Joyner closed the report in prayer.

Leadership
Development
Committee

No report.

Info: It was reported that RE Nate Arnold is working on completing licensure to be examined at our April 25 2017 meeting of presbytery.

Shepherding &
Church Vitality
Committee

TE Ron Steel opened the report in prayer.

Motion M/C: that the following call be approved pending particularization of First Scots of Beaufort. The Church of First Scots Presbyterian Church of Beaufort, being on sufficient grounds well satisfied of the ministerial qualifications of you, Alexander D. Mark, and having good hopes from our knowledge of your labors

that your ministrations in the Gospel will be profitable to our spiritual interests, do earnestly call you to undertake the pastoral office in said congregation, promising you, in the discharge of your duty, all proper support, encouragement and obedience in the Lord. That you may be free from worldly cares and avocations, we hereby promise and oblige ourselves to pay you the sum of \$51,260 a year in regular monthly payments, and other benefits, housing \$19,800, annuity \$7,752, medical insurance \$8239.80, 4 weeks vacation and 1 week study leave during the time of your being and continuing the regular pastor of this church.

Motion: M/S/C approval of offering collected today of be directed to help offset the negative cash flow of Lowcountry Presbytery from last year's budget.

Motion: M/C that the report be received as presented.

TE Steel closed the report of the Shepherding & Church Vitality Committee in prayer.

Motion: that the report of the Shepherding Committee be received as presented.

Review of
Session
Minutes

Motion M/S/C: that the Presbytery approve the 2016 minutes of the following churches: Trinity Presbyterian approved; Christ Church Presbyterian, Metro North PCA, and Redeemer Presbyterian be approved with notations; Grace Coastal Presbyterian and Oakbrook Community be approved with exceptions of form. Let it be noted that Church Creek Presbyterian, Eastbridge Presbyterian, Hilton Head Presbyterian and Two Rivers Presbyterian's minutes were not submitted for review.

Resolution of Thanks:

Whereas, the 2017 Winter Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery met at the Metro North Church in Goose Creek, SC, and;

Whereas, the host pastor TE Howard Cole and TE John Schley and the Session of Metro North Church led us in worship, and;

Whereas, our worship service was blessed by the preaching of God's word by RE. Nate Arnold, and;

Whereas, a wonderful lunch was provided to our presbytery by the members of Metro North Church and;

Whereas, gracious hospitality was extended by the staff, officers, and members of the church throughout our meeting;

Therefore, let it be resolved, that Lowcountry Presbytery offers its sincere praise to our Lord and King Jesus Christ for His love evidenced in the Metro North Church and we humbly ask that His richest blessings of grace be granted to this body as they serve the kingdom.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Administrative Committee of Lowcountry Presbytery

Motion M/S/C : to approve resolution of Thanks and present it to the host church.

Adjournment

Motion: M/C that the Fifth meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery be adjourned.

RE Dean Ezell closed the meeting in prayer at 1:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

TE Chris Bennett
Stated Clerk

TE Ross Hodges
Moderator

Attachments:

1. Attendance Roster – Teaching Elders
2. Attendance Roster – Ruling Elders
3. Guest List for Second Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery
4. Stated Clerk’s Report
5. Treasurer’s Report – End of year 2016

Attachment #1:

Teaching Elder Attendance for November 23, 2016 Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:

Bailey, Crag	Redeemer Church, Charleston	P
Bennett, Christopher	HR, Charleston	P
Brown, Christopher	LOB, Chaplain, MUSC, Charleston	X
Clark, Danny	RUF, College of Charleston	P
Cole, Howard	Metro North Church, Goose Creek	P
Donovan, David	Church Creek Church, Charleston	X
Hodges, W. Ross	Christ Church Plant, Charleston	P
Joyner, Sam	Grace Coastal Church, Okatie	P
Konopa, Ben	HR, Eastbridge, Mt. Pleasant	P
Mark, Alex	Beaufort Church Plant, Beaufort	P
McCutchen, William	Hilton Head Church, Hilton Head	P
Olson, John	Church Creek Church, Charleston	X
Patrick, John Mark	Trinity Church, Orangeburg	P
Payne, Jon	Christ Church Plant, Charleston	P
Pitzer, Tim	Hilton Head Church, Hilton Head	P
Schley, John	Metro North Church, Goose Creek	P
Schweitzer, Bill	MTW, England	ME
Shank, Andrew	Hilton Head Church, Hilton Head	P
Sibley, J.P.	Orangeburg Church Plant, Orangeburg	X
Steel, Ron	Eastbridge Church, Mt. Pleasant	P
Stogner, Phil	Two Rivers Church, North Charleston	P
Turner, Mark	Oakbrook Church, Summerville	X
Walters, Michael	Without Call, Charleston	A

Attachment #2:

Ruling Elder Attendance for July 23, 2016 Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:

Nate	Arnold	P	Metro North Church
Kurt	Brewer	P	Metro North Church
Dean	Ezelle	P	Church Creek Presbyterian
Bob	Gillgrist	P	Metro North Church

Matt	King	P	Oakbrook Community
John	Miller	P	Metro North Church
Tony	Paladino	P	Redeemer Presbyterian
Dan	Wall	P	Oakbrook Community
Dean	Walters	P	Church Creek Presbyterian
Rich	Wylly	P	Eastbridge Presbyterian

Church Delegate Summary Report:

Church Creek Presbyterian	RE
Eastbridge Presbyterian	TE & RE
Grace Coastal Church	TE
Hilton Head Presbyterian	TE
Metro North PCA	TE & RE
Oakbrook Community Church	RE
Redeemer Presbyterian Church	TE & RE
Trinity Presbyterian	TE
Two Rivers Presbyterian	TE

Attachment #3:

Registered Guests for November 23, 2016 Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:

Ladies attending with Lowcountry Women's Ministry:

Frankie Bennett	Leslie Paladino
Lisa McCutchen	Laurie Sibly
Shea Patrick	Bobbi Foster
Druid Joyner	Wendy Stogner
Beth Hilleke	Jean Clark
Elaine Greenway	Ashley Chandler, Charleston Christian School of Church Creek
Kyle Phillips, First Scots, Beaufort	Jim Walsh, Metro North Church
Kenny Barnes, Metro North Church	Cameron Bunn, Metro North Church
David Braun, Metro North Church	Tim Greenway, Grace Coastal

Attachment #4: Stated Clerk's Report

Stated Clerk's Report

for the January 28, 2017 meeting of
Lowcountry Presbytery

1) **Correspondence:**

- a. Forwarded a letter received from Independent Presbyterian Church regarding their church planting in Bluffton to the chairman of our Church Planting & Outreach Committee.
- b. Received an email from Erik R. Rome who is seeking a church planting position. Forwarded the email to the presbyters.
- c. Received an email from Westminster Seminary California inquiring as to any of their graduates Presbytery may have examined. I let them know we had not examined any.
- d. Emailed the PCA Stated Clerk's office to update our Presbytery roll.
- e. Forwarded an email to the presbyters that came from the PCA Foundation addressing year-end giving.
- f. Forwarded the December RUF Newsletter to the presbyters.
- g. Sent out a reminder to the presbyters of the January 8 meeting of the Presbytery Youth Group.
- h. Forwarded an email from Ministry to State to TE Igou Hodges regarding the ministry's search for a man to serve as chaplain to the SC legislature.
- i. Received an email request from TE Jon Payne to be nominated to serve on the Committee of Commissioners for MTW at the next General Assembly.
- j. Emailed the members of Presbytery a list of openings on the permanent committees and agencies of the PCA, soliciting any nominations that may be forthcoming.
- k. Received an email from Metro North updating their Session roster.
- l. Received an email request from RE Richard Wylly to be nominated to the permanent committee of MNA. I forwarded the nominee biography form for him to fill out.
- m. Received an email from the Good Book Company offering some free books to the Presbytery. I told them we would be pleased to receive and make them available to our members.
- n. Received an email from TE Ron Steel forwarding a copy of the call from First Scots Presbyterian Church for TE Alex Mark.
- o. Followed the email traffic from the PCA Clerk Yahoo Group. Continuous
- p. Received 2017 Budget commitments from all the churches.

2) **Administration:**

- a. Attended the annual PCA Clerks Conference at PCA headquarters, December 2-3.
 - b. Represented the Presbytery at the December 11 congregational meeting of First Scots Presbyterian Church (Mission) at which they elected their ruling elders, approved the call of TE Alex Mark, and signed a petition requesting the Presbytery approve the particularization of First Scots Presbyterian Church.
 - c. Attended the January 10 meeting of the Administration Committee of the Presbytery.
 - d. Updated directory and email lists for changes in ruling elders presently serving.
- 3) Requests for excused absence received for this meeting: TE Chris Brown (taking a class at RTS Charlotte), TE David Donovan (performing a wedding), TE John Olson (performing a wedding), TE J.P. Sibley (conference on race relations and the church), and TE Mark Turner (father's 81 birthday in Aiken, SC).
- 4) Free books from The Good Book Company will be set out for your taking.

Respectfully submitted,

TE Chris Bennett
Stated Clerk

Attachment #5: Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report

Lowcountry Presbytery PCA
P.O. Box 31775
Charleston, SC 29417-1775

Updated: 1/21/17

Treasurer's Report End of Year 2016

Year to Date Income

Member church contributions	\$40,392.00
Presbytery offerings	\$1,036.00
Individual offerings	\$0.00
5:10 Fund Repayments	\$2,500.00
Interest Income	\$67.80
Total Income	\$43,995.80

Year to Date Income by Committee

Administration Committee	\$6,554.57
Campus Ministries Committee	\$20,324.37
Church Planting & Outreach Committee	\$13,523.86
Judicial Committee	\$0.00
Leadership Development Committee	\$0.00
Shepherding & Church Vitality Committee	\$1,054.81
Presbytery Designated Offering	\$647.00
Total	\$42,104.61

Year to Date Expenditures

Administration Committee	\$4,765.20
Campus Ministries Committee	\$15,010.00
Church Planting & Outreach Committee	\$21,430.04
Judicial Committee	\$0.00
Leadership Development Committee	\$0.00
Shepherding & Church Vitality Committee	\$647.00
Designated Gift	\$647.00
Total	\$42,499.24

<u>Cash Flow</u>	<u>Reserve Drawdown</u>
\$1,789.37	
\$5,314.37	
-\$7,906.18	\$7,906.18
\$0.00	\$0.00
\$0.00	\$0.00
\$407.81	
\$0.00	
-\$394.63	

Unrestricted Fund Balances

Administration Fund	\$13,845.82
Campus Ministries Fund	\$5,314.37
Church Planting & Outreach Fund	\$36,526.78
Judicial Fund	\$0.00
Leadership Development Fund	\$0.00
Shepherding & Church Vitality Fund	\$407.81
Total Unrestricted Funds	\$56,094.78

Restricted Fund Balances

Pastor Relief Fund	\$6,116.01
Disaster Relief Fund (MNA)	\$432.88
MNA Expansion (5:10) Fund	\$2,538.19
Total Loan Funds	\$9,087.08

Current Bank Balances

Checking	\$6,487.44
Money Market	\$58,694.42
Total	\$65,181.86

Respectfully submitted,
TE Chris Bennett
Treasurer