

Sixth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery

April 25, 2017

The Sixth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery was held at 9:00 a.m., April 25, 2017 at Eastbridge Presbyterian Church in Goose Creek, SC.

Worship Service 9:00am	<p>TE Ron Steel led the worship service by leading the Call to Worship responsively from Hebrews 12:1-2 and Revelation 7:10-11. The presbyters stood and sang, <i>For All the Saints</i>. After a prayer and a time of Confessing our Faith, <i>Jesus I My Cross Have Taken</i>, was sung followed by a Corporate Confession of Sin. TE Steel pronounced the Assurance of Pardon from 1 Corinthians 10:13. He then led us in worship from the Word by reading 2 Timothy 2:1-10; 4:5. He then expounded upon the Word with a message entitled, <i>The Ministry: Laboring in the Grace of Christ</i>.</p> <p>TE Steel properly fenced the table and the elements of the Lord's Table were distributed by the elders of Eastbridge Presbyterian while the presbyters sang, <i>Here is Love</i>.</p> <p>The presbyters stood and sang, <i>O Church Arise</i>. TE Steel gave the benediction.</p>
Call to Order 10:15am	<p>The Sixth stated meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery was called to order by the moderator, TE Ross Hodges at 10:15 AM in the sanctuary of Eastbridge Presbyterian Church in Mt. Pleasant, SC.</p> <p>The Moderator, TE Ross Hodges, opened the meeting with prayer.</p> <p>The moderator then 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> <p>The moderator appointed TE JP Sibley and TE Michael Walters to form a Committee of Thanks.</p>
Docket Approval	<p>The Stated clerk moved that the docket submitted by the Administration Committee be approved as presented. M/S/C.</p>
Introduction of Guests	<p>Guests & first time commissioners were introduced.</p>
Ministry Equipping Time 10:20am	<p>TE Howard Cole led the Ministry Equipping Time: <i>Equipping our People to Make New Disciples</i>.</p>
Prayer 11:00am	<p>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.</p>
BUSINESS	<p>TE Ross Hodges called the presbyters to order after the season of prayer.</p>

11:18am

Motion: M/S/C approval of minutes from the Fifth Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery held January 28, 2017 as presented and distributed.

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 report of the commission to install and organize First Scots Presbyterian and install their pastor TE Alex Mark on February 12, 2017 be approved.

Administration
Committee
Report

TE Chris Bennett opened the Admin report in prayer.

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

TE Bennett presented the upcoming meeting location issues regarding Church Creek and their remodeling during the Summer.

Location and dates for upcoming meetings were announced:

- 7th – Sat, July 22nd, 2017 – ~~Church Creek Presbyterian, Charleston~~
Trinity PCA, Orangeburg
- 8th – Thu, Nov 2nd, 2017 – Hilton Head Presbyterian, Hilton Head
- 9th – Sat, Jan 27th, 2018 – Redeemer Presbyterian, Charleston
- 10th – Tue, Apr 24th, 2018 – Location needed
- 11th – Sat, Jul 28th, 2018 – Location needed
- 12th – Thu, Nov 1st, 2018 – Location needed

Trinity PCA in Orangeburg graciously offered to host the 7th Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery on Saturday, July 22, 2017. It was agreed by common consent that we accept their invitation.

Report regarding upcoming need for Nominations:

We will need to elect men to replace the Class of 2017 at the November 2, 2017 Presbytery meeting so that they will be ready to serve in 2018. Here is a list of the class of 2017:

- TE Mark Turner – Administration
- RE Chris Jarvis – Campus Ministries
- RE Kurt Brewer – Church Planting & Outreach
- TE Phil Stogner – Church Planting & Outreach
- TE Howard Cole – Leadership Development
- TE Tim Pitzer – Leadership Development
- TE Ron Steel – Shepherding & Church Vitality
- RE David Walters, Sr. -- Shepherding & Church Vitality
- TE Michael Walters -- Shepherding & Church Vitality
- RE Nate Arnold – Trustee

Please let any member of the administrative Committee know if you have suggestions. We will be receiving nominations through our July meeting and voting on them at the November 2nd meeting.

Motion: that TE John Olsen and TE William McCutchen be granted excused absences for today's presbytery. M/S/C.

Stated Clerk's Report

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

M/S/C: that following be appointees of the Lowcountry Presbytery to the Committees of Commissioners for the 45th General Assembly: TE Ross Hodges to Overtures Committee; TE Jon Payne to Mission to the World, TE Phil Stogner to MNA, TE Sibley to Discipleship Ministries, TE Ron Steel to Covenant Theological Seminary; and TE John Mark Patrick to Reformed University Ministries for the 45th meeting of the General Assembly. M/S/C.

Treasurer's Report

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

Motion: to approve the spending of \$500 for our presbytery's contribution to the General Assembly Host Committee. M/S/C.

Administrative Committee

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

TE Chris Bennett closed report in prayer.

Church Planting & Outreach Committee

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

Report on Independent Presbyterian Church concerning their desire to plant a church in Bluffton.

Motion to extend time past the order of the day. M/S/C.

Motion to suspend the CPO report and allow Shepherding to conduct a portion of their report as needed. M/S/C.

RE Jeff Watford shared about the situation at Trinity Presbyterian and how their pastoral search committee has worked diligently to pursue God's best for their next pastor. TE John Mark Patrick was the unanimous result of that committee.

Motion to approve the attached call from the Trinity Presbyterian Church of Orangeburg, SC to T.E. John Mark Patrick to be their Senior Pastor. Presbytery notes that T.E. Patrick has been the Associate Pastor of the church before receiving this call. For this reason, 4/5 of the congregation and ¾ of the Presbytery must approve the call (BCO, 23-1). The 4/5 threshold was amply attained by the congregation's vote.

Motion carried unanimously.

TE Steel prayed for Trinity Church & TE John Mark Patrick's ministry at Trinity. He also thanked the Lord for the lunch.

Order of the Day: Lunch

The moderator recessed the presbytery until 1pm.

The moderator reconvened Lowcountry Presbytery at 1:00pm with prayer.

M/S/C: that the Presbytery approve the 2016 minutes of the following churches: Eastbridge PCA, and Hilton Head Presbyterian, and Two Rivers PCA be approved with notations. Let it be noted that Church Creek Presbyterian minutes were not submitted for review.

Church
Planting and
Outreach
Committee
Continued

TE Craig Bailey continued the report of the Church Planting and Outreach Committee.

He shared about Redeemer's work to build a Christian resource center in Uganda. TE Bailey shared about mission opportunities for presbyters and available funds to sponsor presbyters to go on mission trips.

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

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

M/S/C: that we accept Trinity Presbyterian's invitation to host the 7th stated meeting on Saturday, July 22, 2017. M/S/C.

Campus
Ministries
Committee

TE Sam Joyner opened in prayer.

We heard a brief report from TE Sammy Rhodes about his RUF ministry at the USC.

TE Sam Joyner closed the report in prayer.

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

Leadership
Development
Committee

No report.

Shepherding &
Church Vitality
Committee

TE Ron Steel opened the report in prayer.

M/S/C: that the pastoral relationship between Hilton Head Presbyterian Church and TE Andrew Shank be dissolved on June 1, 2017 pending his acceptance by the Western Carolina Presbytery as he moves on to become the RUF campus minister at Western Carolina. M/S/C.

M/S/C: to appoint a commission to install John Mark Patrick as Senior pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church at Trinity Presbyterian Church on May 21, 2017 at 10:30am; a commission being two TE's and two RE's: TE JP Sibley, TE Sean Sawyers and RE Mark Ford, RE Michael Salley, RE Jeff Watford, and RE Woody Watford. M/S/C.

TE Ron Steel announced that they are trying to form a joint worship service on Sunday, Oct 29, in the evening for the 500th reformation

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

M/S/C: that the report of the Shepherding Committee be received as presented.

Review of
Session
Minutes

M/S/C: that the Presbytery approve the 2016 minutes of the following churches be approved with notations: Eastbridge Presbyterian; Hilton Head Presbyterian; Two Rivers Presbyterian.

Resolution of Thanks:

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

Resolution of Thanks

Whereas, the 2017 Spring meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery met at Eastbridge Presbyterian Church in Mt. Pleasant, SC, and;

Whereas, the bridges of Charleston link the various islands and peninsulas of our beautiful lowcountry making us one community in our geography, and;

Whereas, we have been called to build spiritual and personal bridges of understanding and relationship with each other within our church and with others throughout our region and indeed the world, and;

Whereas, our Partnership in the Proclamation of the Gospel and our Presbyterian polity bridges us together today from our various churches and communities across the Lowcountry, and;

Whereas, Pastor Ron Steel urged us from Paul's second letter to Timothy to "be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus... with the dedication of a soldier, the discipline of an athlete, and the diligence of a farmer," despite the fact that "we are called to be a big disappointment,"

Therefore, be it resolved that Lowcountry Presbytery offers its sincere praise and gratitude to our Chief Commanding Officer, the Captain of the Team, and the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Lord Jesus Christ, for His grace to us expressed in this bountiful meal set before us today.

Adjournment

M/S/C: that the Sixth meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery be adjourned with prayer.

RE Rich Wylly closed the meeting in prayer at 1:24 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

Attachment #1:**Teaching Elder Attendance for April 25, 2017 Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:**

Bailey, Crag	Redeemer Church, Charleston	P
Bennett, Christopher	HR, Charleston	P
Brown, Christopher	LOB, Chaplain, MUSC, Charleston	P
Clark, Danny	RUF, College of Charleston	P
Cole, Howard	Metro North Church, Goose Creek	P
Donovan, David	Church Creek Church, Charleston	P
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	X
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	P
Steel, Ron	Eastbridge Church, Mt. Pleasant	P
Stogner, Phil	Two Rivers Church, North Charleston	P
Turner, Mark	Oakbrook Church, Summerville	P
Walters, Michael	Without Call, Charleston	P

Attachment #2:**Ruling Elder Attendance for April 25, 2017 Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:**

Kurt	Brewer		Metro North Church
Larry	Decker		Grace Coastal, Okatie
Dean	Ezelle		Church Creek Presbyterian
Ron	Hemingway		Eastbridge
Rick	Raybon		Eastbridge
Mark	Senn		First Scots
David	Walters, Jr.		Church Creek Presbyterian
David	Walters, Sr.		Church Creek Presbyterian
Jeff	Watford		Trinity Presbyterian
Rich	Wyly		Eastbridge Presbyterian

Church Delegate Summary Report:

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

Attachment #3:

Registered Guests for April 25, 2017 Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:

Justin Parrish, Two Rivers PCA
Jeff Watford, RE Orangeburg
TE Sammy Rhodes, RUF at USC
RE John Duncan, First Scots PCA

Attachment #4: Stated Clerk's Report

Stated Clerk's Report

for the April 25, 2017 meeting of
Lowcountry Presbytery

1) **Correspondence:**

- a. Received a request from TE Jon Payne to be appointed to the Committee of Commissioners for Mission to the World.
- b. Forwarded a letter from the Church Planting & Outreach Committee to the Clerk of Session of Independent Presbyterian Church, Savannah, GA.
- c. Submitted the nomination of RE Richard Wyly for the PCA Permanent Committee of Mission to North America to the PCA Stated Clerk's office.
- d. Fielded a request for directory information from the Leadership Development Team. Provided BCO based counsel to the committee on the steps that RE Nate Arnold would need to go through for licensure.
- e. Received a request from TE Ross Hodges to be nominated to the GA Overtures Committee.
- f. Received the report of the Commission to Particularize First Scots Beaufort and install the pastor and elders of that church.
- g. Received a copy from Independent Presbyterian Church, Savannah, GA of a letter they sent to Rev. Craig Bailey of our Church Planting & Outreach Committee.
- h. Provided counsel to a member church regarding housing allowance for a staff member.
- i. Assisted TE Ron Steel in planning for attendance numbers for the April 25 Stated Meeting.
- j. Received a letter from the Session of Christ Church PCA with a request that it be distributed to the Presbytery. In light of some controversy surrounding its subject matter, I referred the letter to the Shepherding & Church Vitality Committee for their review and action.
- k. Received copies of the email vote of the Shepherding & Church Vitality Committee on the change to TE John Mark Patrick's call.
- l. Received a committee report from Campus Ministries.
- m. Received an invitation from TE Howard Cole to inform members of Presbytery of two seminars that are being offered by Metro North PCA on parenting teenagers. I forwarded that invitation to the members of Presbytery.

2) **Administration:**

- a. Did research for the Shepherding & Church Vitality Committee regarding the NAPARC Comity Agreement.
- b. Attended the service to particularize First Scots Beaufort.
- c. Updated the Presbytery Directory with inputs from all the churches. Updated the database of the Stated Clerk of the PCA.
- d. Compiled all the minutes of Presbytery for 2016, the Presbytery Directory, and Standing Rules. Prepared, copied, bound, and mailed them to the Stated Clerk's office for General

Assembly review.

- e. Submitted to the Stated Clerk's office the Presbytery's appointments of TE Ross Hodges to the Overtures Committee of General Assembly and TE Jon Payne to the Committee of Commissioners on Mission to the World.
- 3) **Excused absence requests.** Request for excused absence received for this meeting: TE Bill McCutcheon (family conflict) and TE John Olson (study leave).
 - 4) **Recommendations:**
 - a. **Motion** that TE Ross Hodges be appointed to the Overtures Committee and TE Jon Payne be appointed to the Committee of Commissioners on Mission to the World for the 45th meeting of the General Assembly.
 - b. Motion that the Stated Clerk and Moderator be authorized to fill the Lowcountry Presbytery 2017 General Assembly Committee of Commissioners 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, statedclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org.
 - 5) **Information.** Additional copies of 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: 4/14/17

Treasurer's Report April 14, 2017

Year to Date Income

Member church contributions	\$10,333.43
Designated church contributions	\$2,800.00
Presbytery offerings	\$159.00
Individual offerings	\$0.00
Interest Income	\$17.55
Total Income	\$13,309.98

Year to Date Income by Committee

Administration Committee	\$1,100.97
Campus Ministries Committee	\$3,956.70
Church Planting & Outreach Committee	\$8,144.84
Judicial Committee	\$0.00
Leadership Development Committee	\$53.51
Shepherding & Church Vitality Committee	\$44.07
Presbytery Designated Offering	\$0.00
Total	\$13,300.09

Year to Date Expenditures

Administration Committee	\$990.50
Campus Ministries Committee	\$4,710.00
Church Planting & Outreach Committee	\$3,820.01
Judicial Committee	\$0.00
Leadership Development Committee	\$0.00
Shepherding & Church Vitality Committee	\$0.00
Designated Gift	\$0.00
Total	\$9,520.51

Cash Flow

	\$110.47
	-\$753.30
	\$4,324.83
	\$0.00
	\$53.51
	\$44.07
	\$0.00
Total	\$3,779.58

Unrestricted Fund Balances

Administration Fund	\$13,956.29
Campus Ministries Fund	\$4,561.07
Church Planting & Outreach Fund	\$40,851.61
Judicial Fund	\$0.00
Leadership Development Fund	\$53.51
Shepherding & Church Vitality Fund	\$451.88
Total Unrestricted Funds	\$59,874.36

Restricted Fund Balances

Disaster Relief Fund (MNA)	\$432.88
MNA Expansion (5:10) Fund	\$2,548.08
Pastor Relief Fund	\$6,116.01
Total Loan Funds	\$9,096.97

Current Bank Balances

Checking	\$10,259.36
Money Market	\$58,711.97
Total	\$68,971.33

Respectfully submitted,
TE Chris Bennett
Treasurer