

Recommended Docket for the Seventh Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery

To be held: 9:00 a.m., Saturday, July 22, 2017 at Trinity PCA, Orangeburg, SC

Recommended Docket submitted by the Administration Committee:

That the following docket be approved for the Seventh Stated Meeting of the Palmetto Presbytery scheduled for July 22, 2017 at Trinity PCA, Orangeburg, SC:

- 9:00 Worship with Sacrament of the Lord's Supper – RE David Walters, Jr. preaching
- 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. Moderator to appoint Committee of Thanks
 - 6. Introduction of Special Guests & First Time Commissioners
 - 7. Presentation of Memorials
 - Memorial for Dr. Bill Barton
- 10:30 Ministry Equipping Time
 - Brett Chapman – Lifeline Children's Services*
- 11:00 Prayer Time – led by Shepherding & Church Vitality Committee
- 11:15 Business & Reports
 - Approval of Sixth Lowcountry Presbytery minutes from April 25, 2017
 - 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
 - Examination for transfer of Ordination, Rev. Bill Harritt, being called as Assistant Pastor - Eastbridge
 - Shepherding & Church Vitality Committee
 - Possible Approval of Call Package, Rev. Bill Harritt, being called as Assistant Pastor - Eastbridge
 - Additional Business if needed & Adjournment targeted before 2:30
- 12:00 Resolution of Thanks for Host Church
- Order of the Day – Lunch

Administration Committee

TE Mark Turner will present report.

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: TE Ross Hodges ross@christchurchcharleston.org 334-391-4931
- Health Insurance is cooperatively provided among the 3 multiplied Presbyteries through the *Stewart and Monroe Health Insurance Agency*.

Upcoming Stated Meetings:

- 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

Nominations Upcoming:

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.

1. Report of Stated Clerk & Treasurer

- Stated Clerk's report
 - Report on 45th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America
 - BCO Amendments sent down to Presbyteries by the 45th General Assembly:
 - Amend BCO 25-3 on Quorums for Withdrawal (at end)
 - Motion to Amend BCO 25-3 – must record votes Favor, Opposed, Abstain
- Treasurer's report

Church Planting and Outreach Committee

TE Craig Bailey, Chairman, Redeemer PCA, Charleston [craig@redeemer-charleston.org].

Campus Ministries Committee

TE Sam Joyner, Chairman, Grace Coastal PCA, Okatie [sam@gracecoastalchurch.com].
See Campus Ministries 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].

Examination for Transfer of Ordination – TE Bill Harritt

TE Bill Harritt Biography:

Bill and his wife, Janet, moved to Durham, NC from St Louis, MO after Bill completed his Masters of Divinity at Covenant Theological Seminary (2012). Janet and Bill met while both were working in youth ministry so she is passionate about ministering to students as well. Bill graduated from the University of South Carolina (2003), and has served in youth ministry for over ten years. His ministry has brought him to serve in churches in South Carolina, Colorado, Virginia, Alabama and Missouri before his most recent position at Church of the Good Shepherd in Durham. They have two young children: a daughter, Janet and a son, William. Bill was ordained in the Eastern Carolina Presbytery in 2014 and is being called to be an Assistant Pastor of Family Ministries and Discipleship at Eastbridge.

He is to be examined in: Christian Experience, views in theology, sacraments, and church government. Any declared differences with the Westminster Standards. Assent to BCO 21-5 ordination questions.

Bill's exception to WCF— 21:8

I take exception to WCF-21:8 regarding the keeping of the Sabbath day. I do not think that Scripture sets as strict of an observance of the Sabbath as is stated in this section that seems to imply to me that recreation is not part of keeping the Sabbath day.

The Sabbath was sanctified by the Lord at creation. The Sabbath is to be a day set apart for worship and rest. It is not to be taken lightly in our observance and obedience to the commands to remember the sabbath.

Scripture shows that God prohibits work on the Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11; Deut 5:12-15), except for works of mercy (Matt 12:11-13), that we may gather for worship (Lev 23:3), but it is not clear that recreation is included in this prohibition. The Scripture encourages rest (Lev 23:3), and I find recreation to be an expression that blesses and renews a man, for as Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27). I think that this allows activities on the Sabbath that would traditionally and by the confessions standards be considered recreation.

Recreation is not the centerpiece of my sabbath, the Sabbath is honored by our family starting on Saturday as we prepare for worship, observing the Sabbath as a day of rest for our family through putting aside of worldly things that would normally consume our regular work week and built around the worship of the Lord.

The Leadership Development Committee has met and examined TE Bill Harritt in Christian Experience, views in theology, sacraments, and church government per BCO 13-6.. The committee recommends Bill Harritt for transfer into the Low country presbytery. He has successfully passed his written and oral exams, and has expressed one exception to our Confessional standards (WCF 21—8) that we deem is not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine.

Shepherding and Church Vitality

TE Ron Steel, Chairman, Eastbridge PCA, Mt. Pleasant [ron.steel48@gmail.com].

Approval of call package for TE Bill Harritt pending the outcome of LDT examinations of TE Bill Harritt.

Resolution of Thanks

Last order of business before Lunch – approve resolution of thanks to host church from our Committee of Thanks.

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 Sixth Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:

1. **Motion** to form a Committee as a whole to review the Session minutes of the churches.
Please be prepared to have one of your commissioners' review the minutes of another church during the Presbytery meeting. The following church has not yet submitted their 2016 minutes for review: **Church Creek**.
2. **Motion** that the Report of the Commission which met on May 21, 2017 to Install TE John Mark Patrick as pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Orangeburg, SC be approved.

Campus Ministries Report:

College of Charleston- July 2017 Update:

This summer started off great with the RUF Summer Conference in Laguna Beach, Florida. Our group, made up of almost entirely freshmen and sophomores, bonded together better than any group we've ever taken. This was especially encouraging because the academic atmosphere at CofC has made it increasingly difficult to build community over the past several years. It was a bittersweet time because we said goodbye to our gifted and faithful female intern Annie-Kate Barr who has completed her internship with RUF. Please pray for our female student leaders, as a new female intern was not placed at CofC for the fall, and their responsibility will grow while at the same time losing the woman who was most influential in their faith over the past couple years. Positively, we feel like more of them are involved in local churches than in the past years, and there will be more opportunities for them to be discipled by older women than in the past. This summer Philip (our male intern) and I have been working hard at writing an in-depth small group on Galatians, as well as attending numerous freshmen orientation fairs. I've been preaching at local churches and researching for a series of sermons I'll be delivering to the students on the topic of "Relationships." We have a leadership team retreat (Aug. 20-21) and the first day of classes is Tues. August 22. Please pray for our retreat and our attempts to reach out to new students over the first month of school. Thanks. -Danny Clark

The Citadel- Rev. Phil Stogner is on sabbatical this summer so there is no report at this time.

MEMORIAL FOR TEACHING ELDER WHALEY (BILL) BARTON, JR.
May 5, 1941-June 12, 2017

The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.” Job 1:21

Dr. Bill Barton was born in Miami, Florida and died in Columbia, South Carolina at the age of 76 having been married to his wife Linda for 55 years.

He was faithful to the end to God, to his calling, and to his wife and family. To God be the Glory!

WHEREAS, Bill, after being called to Christ in salvation and then to the Gospel Ministry, studying at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, was ordained in 1974, and

WHEREAS, Bill served as pastor of a number of churches; Calvary Church, Marietta, Georgia; Church of the Covenant, Houston, Texas; Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church; eighteen years at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church which he planted; and New Harmony Presbyterian Church. And served as Stated Supply at Oakbrook Community Church, Summerville, SC and Interim Pastor at Lake Oconee Presbyterian Church, Eatonton, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Bill served the church on the presbytery and denominational level and served his community as a volunteer Police Chaplain for twenty three years: and

WHEREAS, Bill, developed a consulting ministry, Ministry Resource Team and helped numerous churches through that ministry; and

WHEREAS, his ministry bore much fruit to advance the Kingdom of God; and

WHEREAS, to the Church Bill leaves a legacy of a love for and faithfulness to Christ, a love for the Church Universal, for the Presbyterian Church in America, for the local church, and for other Pastors; and

WHEREAS, to his family Bill leaves the legacy, of strong faith, faithfulness in marriage, and a deep love for each one of them; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT we the Lowcountry Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America, give our thanks to God for Bill Barton’s life and ministry among us and extend our prayer and support to Dr. Barton’s wife Linda, and his daughter Kathryn, his son Steve and their spouses, his thirteen grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution shall be given to the family of our beloved father and brother in the faith and that a copy be spread upon the minutes of the 7th stated meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery, July 22, 2017.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Respectfully Submitted by Teaching Elder Mark W. Turner on behalf of the Session of the Oakbrook Community Church (PCA).

July 3, 2017

Report of Commission to Install TE John Mark Patrick:

042

REPORT OF COMMISSION TO ORDAIN/INSTALL

Report of the Commission to ordain/install Mr./Rev. John Mark Patrick
as Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church

The Commission met on May 21, 2017, at 10:15 a.m./p.m.
at the church (or at _____). A quorum was present.

Commission members present were:

RE Mark Ford
RE Michael Salley
RE Woody Watford
RE Jett Watford

RE John Paul Sibley
RE Sean Sawyer
RE _____

Others Present: _____

The Commission meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Woody Watford.
Mr./Rev. Mark Ford was elected chairman and
Mr./Rev. Michael Salley was elected Secretary of the Commission. The
order of worship was reviewed and approved by the Commission. The minutes were
read and approved. Commission recessed with prayer by Michael Salley
for the ordination/installation service.

The Chairman presided in the sanctuary service, which was opened with singing, prayer
and Scripture reading. The sermon was preached by Rev. Sean Sawyer
on the text: Mark 6:1-29.

The Chairman stated briefly the previous proceedings of the Presbytery, and pointed out
the nature and importance of the ordination/installation ordinance.

The Chairman propounded the constitutional questions to the Candidate/Minister (BCO
21.9) and these were answered in the affirmative. The Chairman then propounded the
constitutional questions to the congregation (BCO 21.10), and these were answered in
the affirmative by the Members holding up their right hands. The Candidate then
kneeled and was set apart to the holy office of the Gospel Ministry with prayer and the
laying on of hands. (Dr. Michael Salley led in prayer as John Mark Patrick
was installed as Pastor of the congregation.) He then rose and the Members of the
Commission gave him the right hand of fellowship. The Chairman then declared that
Mr./Rev. John Mark Patrick had been regularly elected, (ordained),
and installed as Pastor of the Church.

A charge to the Pastor was delivered by Mr./Rev. John Paul Sibley.

A charge to the Congregation was delivered by Mr./Rev. John Paul Sibley.

Following prayer and singing, the new Pastor pronounced the benediction. The minutes
having been approved, the Benediction closed this portion of the Commission's business.

Mark D. Ford
Secretary

11/11

1 OVERTURE 16 from Pacific Northwest Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 "Amend BCO 25-3 on Quorums for Withdrawal"
3

4 Be it resolved, that the 45th General Assembly amend BCO 25-3 by adding a sentence to
5 increase the quorum for withdrawals (underlining for addition):
6

7 25-3. The quorum of the congregational meeting shall consist of one-fourth
8 (1/4) of the resident communing members, if the church has not more than one
9 hundred (100) such members, and of one-sixth (1/6) of the resident communing
10 members if a church has more than one hundred (100) such members.
11 However, at any meeting where there will be a vote to withdraw from the
12 Presbyterian Church in America, the quorum shall be one-half (1/2) of the
13 resident communing members.
14

15 Rationale
16

17 The current quorum requirement is too low for a decision as important as severing relations
18 with the denomination. With the current BCO quorum requirements, for any church with
19 over 100 communicant members, it is possible for 9% of the membership to take the church
20 out of the PCA – and in a congregational meeting announced with just one week's notice.
21

22 101 members x 1/6 quorum x 51% = 9 (i.e., 9% of membership)
23 1,000 members x 1/6 quorum x 51% = 85 (i.e., 8.5% of membership)
24

25 The change would require a minimum of 26% of the membership to vote to leave.
26

27 101 members x 1/2 quorum x 51% = 26 (i.e., 26% of membership)
28 1,000 members x 1/2 quorum x 51% = 255 (i.e., 26% of membership)
29

30 One example might help illustrate the unreasonable lowness of the quorum currently required
31 for a vote to leave the PCA. Our *Rules of Assembly Operations* require a quorum of at least
32 1/2 in order to make any change to the *RAO*.
33

34 Article XX - The *Rules of Assembly Operations* may be amended or
35 suspended only by a two-thirds vote of those voting, **which must also be a**
36 **majority of the total enrollment of commissioners.** (Emphasis added.)
37

38 In other words, with 1,200 enrolled GA commissioners, approval of any change would require
39 at least 600 commissioners to cast votes. (And a 2/3 majority to adopt any change.)
40

41 Note - Approval of a departure motion would still only require a simple majority; just a higher
42 quorum. Our Presbytery also considered whether BCO 25-11 should be revised to require
43 more than a simple majority to withdraw, but we believed the quorum change would be
44 sufficient. But if the Overtures Committee believes it is also prudent to revise BCO 25-11,
45 our Presbytery would regard that as a germane.
46

47 *Proposed to the Pacific Northwest Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 27, 2017*

48 *Adopted by a BCO 15-1 administrative commission of Presbytery, March 13, 2017*

49 *Attested by /s/ RE Howard Donahoe, stated clerk*