

**Stated Clerk's Report**  
for the November 1, 2018 meeting of  
Lowcountry Presbytery

1. **Correspondence:**

- a. Received the letter that Lowcountry Presbytery approved to be sent to Savannah River Presbytery regarding their church planting efforts in Bluffton, and forwarded it to Moderator RE Rich Wylly for signature and mailing.
- b. Received a budget request from Lowcountry Women's Ministry and forwarded same to the Shepherding Committee chairman.
- c. Received an email from Kevin Nichols, Stated Clerk, Savannah River Presbytery, PCA, acknowledging receipt of the letter our Presbytery sent regarding their church planting effort in Bluffton, SC.
- d. Received a host church invitation for the April 2019 meeting and forwarded it to TE Mark Turner.
- e. Received a question from a member church regarding the contributions to the startup of of an RUF ministry at South Carolina State/Claflin and forwarded the question to TE Sam Joyner.
- f. Received various emails from members of Presbytery regarding requests to be nominated to various committees of Presbytery and committees of commissioners of the 2019 General Assembly. I forwarded those request for Presbytery committees to the Recording Clerk and the General Assembly committee requests to the prospective Stated Clerk.
- g. Received a letter from the Campus Ministries Committee soliciting contributions from churches for the startup of RUF at SC State/Claflin. As requested by the committee, I forwarded the letter to all members of Presbytery.
- h. Received and responded to a request from PCA headquarters for information on church plants within our Presbytery.
- i. Received an email from TE Tim Pitzer regarding missions trip funding and forwarded it to TE Craig Bailey, chairman of the MNA & MTW Committee.
- j. Provided occasional updates to TE Sam Joyner on the contributions received toward the startup of RUF at SC State/Claflin.
- k. Received an email from Mr. Bob Bates, formerly a teaching elder in Palmetto Presbytery. He had been disciplined and excommunicated by Palmetto Presbytery for a moral failure while he was pastor of Okatie Presbyterian Church (now named Grace Coastal). He was requesting to initiate a process of restoration. I then spoke with Mr. Bates on the phone and advised him that I would be referring his request to TE David Donovan, chairman of our Judicial Committee. I also emailed TE Mark Turner for some background on the Palmetto Presbytery case. I then called TE Donovan and informed him of my communication with Mr. Bates and advised him to be in contact with Mr. Bates.
- l. Received and forwarded to all presbyters a position description from Hilton Head Presbyterian for a position they were seeking to fill.

- m. Received budget inputs from various committee chairmen.
- n. Received a letter from Savannah River Presbytery (SRP) in response to our Presbytery's letter regarding the Bluffton church planting effort of SRP and forwarded the letter to TE Craig Bailey of MNA & MTW Committee.
- o. Forwarded to TE Mark Turner some information received through the PCA Stated Clerks Yahoo Group regarding minutes for mission churches.
- p. Received and answered an email from a member church regarding what the 2019 budget may specify for the 2019 Askings.
- q. Sent emails to each committee chairman with their current to date spending.
- r. Provided a forecast estimate of expected attendance at the November 1 stated meeting for the benefit of the host church.
- s. Received an email from TE Hodges with the 2017 tithes & offerings data for Christ Church Presbyterian Church.
- t. Sent an email reminder to committee chairmen from whom I had not received any input for the 2019 Presbytery budget.
- u. Received budget inputs from committee chairmen.
- v. Sent out an email to all member churches requesting updates to the directory information for all TEs and Res currently serving their churches. I update the Presbytery Directory as I receive responses to my email. To date, I am still waiting for responses from some churches.
- w. Received and answered emailed questions from the host church for the November 1 Stated Meeting.
- x. In response to a member TEs request, I provided background information and advice regarding the status of a candidate for licensure.

2. **Administration:**

- a. Provided contact information to TE Sam Joyner for the four other presbyteries in South Carolina.
- b. Solicited 2017 Statistical Reports tithes & offerings data from the PCA Stated Clerk's office in preparation for the 2019 budget.
- c. Talked to various members of Presbytery to see if any would be interested in standing for election to Stated Clerk or Treasurer. I also sent out an email to all presbyters to solicit interest in the Stated Clerk position. I also provided electronic copies of the Stated Clerk Handbook to those men who were interested in talking about the positions.
- d. Created a Lowcountry Presbytery Treasurer Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and provided it to a prospective candidate for the office.
- e. Solicited 2016 Statistical Reports tithes & offerings data from the PCA Stated Clerk's office in order to analyze church contributions toward the 2018 budget.
- f. Created a Lowcountry Presbytery Stated Clerk Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

- g. Updated Presbytery directory.
  - h. Updated Presbytery email distribution lists.
  - i. Provided a draft Administrative Committee 2019 budget input to the committee chairman.
3. **Excused absence requests.** I have received excused absence requests from TE Christopher Brown (vacation). I have received no excused absence requests from churches which are unable to send any ruling elders.
4. **Recommendation:** That the excused absence request of TE Christopher Brown be approved.
5. **Personal Note.** I wish to thank the members of Lowcountry Presbytery for giving me the honor and privilege of your entrusting me with the offices of Stated Clerk and Treasurer for the first three years of our Presbytery's existence. It has been a blessing to me to have had this experience and opportunity to serve the Church of our Lord Jesus. I pray that the Lord will richly bless the men whom you will elect to take on the responsibility of these two offices. May our gracious, wise God prosper the work of the gospel in the bounds of Lowcountry Presbytery and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,  
TE Chris Bennett, Stated Clerk