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September 10, 2018  
Monday

Dear Fathers and Brothers of Lowcountry Presbytery,

Thank you for your communication to us on July 28, 2018 inquiring about the efforts of Independent Presbyterian Church to plant a church within the bounds of Lowcountry Presbytery. With respect to your expressed concerns we offer the following explanation. When first made aware of the desire of Independent Presbyterian Church (IPC) of Savannah to begin a ministry in Bluffton, SC, it was our understanding that they were seeking to minister to and care for members of IPC who live in the Bluffton area. SRP sent a letter (08/29/16) to LCP commending the efforts of IPC as we had a long and fruitful history of cooperation with them. IPC also had several conversations and communications (10/24/16; 01/19/17; 01/31/17, and 04/26/17) about a possible church plant, beginning with Palmetto Presbytery and continuing with LCP after its formation.

Since IPC is an "independent" church and not subject to the jurisdiction of Savannah River Presbytery it seemed to be a matter of how IPC would seek to best care for those under their care, members who lived across the river in South Carolina. However, we did not consider the particular section of the BCO which you referenced in your communication to us which has to do with the ministry, not of IPC, but of a Teaching Elder who is subject to our jurisdiction (BCO 13-2). You are correct that we should have informed IPC and TE Gleason of the need for him to be granted permission from Low Country Presbytery before laboring within its bounds. We earnestly apologize for this oversight and ask you to please forgive us for our error. We should have followed good procedure and complied with the Book of Church Order. As we understand the matter now, TE Gleason's call and pastoral relation with IPC has been dissolved and he is on the roll of SRP without a call. We will investigate TE Gleason's present activities with regard to continuing a church plant and will inform him that he must not pursue such activities without having gained permission from LCP, and receiving a call from a church court. We will inform you of his response as soon as we are able.

Yours in Christ,  
On behalf of SRP

  
Roland S. Barnes,  
Moderator

*Advancing the cause of Christ!*

A Member of the Presbyterian Church in America  
- Savannah River Presbytery -