

Recommended Docket for the Ninth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery

To be held: 9:00 a.m., Saturday, January 27, 2018 at Redeemer PCA, Charleston, SC

Recommended Docket submitted by the Administration Committee:

That the following docket be approved for the Ninth Stated Meeting of the Palmetto Presbytery scheduled for January 27, 2018 at Redeemer PCA, Charleston, SC:

- 9:00 Worship with Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
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. Introduction of Special Guests & First Time Commissioners
 6. Brief Presentation from Ashley Chandler of Charleston Christian School
 7. Presentation of Memorials
- 10:30 Ministry Equipping Time
Panel Discussion - How can Lowcountry Presbytery extend the gospel more effectively to the various populations represented within our boundaries?
- 11:00 Prayer Time – led by Shepherding & Church Vitality Committee
11:15 Business & Reports
- Approval of Eighth Lowcountry Presbytery minutes for November 2, 2017
 - Presentation of Omnibus motion
 - Administration Committee 10 min
 - Report of Stated Clerk
 - Report of the Treasurer
 - Campus Ministries Committee 10 min
 - Church Planting & Outreach Committee 30 min
 - David Campbell -- Report on the MTW 1% Tithe Initiative – 30 minutes
 - Judicial Committee – no report
 - Leadership Development Committee 20 in
 - Shepherding & Church Vitality Committee
 - Additional Business if needed & Adjournment targeted before 2:30
- 12:00 Order of the Day – Lunch

Administration Committee

TE Chris Bennett 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: RE Rich Wylly rhwyly@gmail.com 843-412-9090

- Health Insurance is cooperatively provided among the 3 multiplied Presbyteries through the *Stewart and Monroe Health Insurance Agency*.
- REMINDER: churches are asked to submit their annual statistical reports either via signed original or through the web to be received by the PCA Administrative Committee by February 15, 2018.

Upcoming Stated Meetings:

10th – Tue, Apr 24th, 2018 – Grace Coastal, Okatie
 11th – Sat, Jul 28th, 2018 – Church Creek, Charleston
 12th – Thu, Nov 1st, 2018 – Hilton Head, Hilton Head

1. **Report of Stated Clerk**
 - Stated Clerk’s report
2. **Report of the Treasurer**
 - Treasurer’s report

Church Planting and Outreach Committee

TE Craig Bailey, Chairman, Redeemer PCA, Charleston [craig@redeemer-charleston.org].
 David Campbell with the MTW National will share with the presbytery about what the PCA is doing with missions – particularly the 1% Tithe initiative (30 min).

Campus Ministries Committee

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

Motion from committee regarding Danny Clark’s 2018 housing allowance submitted as part of the omnibus motion.

TE Phil Stogner will give a brief report on the work at The Citadel.

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 Alex Mark, Chairman, First Scots PCA, [amark@firstscotsbeaufort.org].

Brothers,

The Leadership Development Team has no candidates for examination at this presbytery meeting.

We would like to ask the presbytery to make a modification to our Leadership Development Manual concerning the use of the extraordinary clause in cases of ordination.

Background: It is necessary for us to clarify how we interpret the extraordinary clause (BCO 21-4). After contacting many presbyteries and studying the issue to great depth, the committee met on 11/30/17 to discuss. As a result of that study and meeting, we drafted the following (See Statement at end) as an amendment to the Leadership Development Team Operating Manual.

Thank you-
 Alex Mark

Shepherding and Church Vitality

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

Motion to direct the offering today to Next Steps of South Carolina and Jobs for Life Charleston.

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 Third 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.
REMINDER TO ALL CHURCHES: PLEASE BRING YOUR MINUTES TO THIS 9TH PRESBYTERY SO THAT YOUR 2017 MINUTES CAN BE REVIEWED!
2. **Motion** from Campus Ministries Committee:
Whereas, Internal Revenue Code Section 107, as well as the associated Regulations and Revenue Rulings, provide that the portion of a minister's remuneration, designated as a rental/housing allowance by the employing church or other qualifying organization, is excludable from the minister's gross income under Section 107 of the Code; and
Whereas, the Lowcountry Presbytery is a qualifying organization, and **Rev. Danny Clark** is a campus minister with Reformed University Fellowship at College of Charleston. Therefore, be it Resolved that \$ 34,289 of the compensation paid the Reverend Danny Clark during 2018 is designated as a rental/ housing allowance in accordance with the provisions of Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code.
Now, Therefore, be it Resolved that the amounts so designated as rental/housing allowance are excludable from gross income of the recipient only to the extent that said amounts are used to rent or provide a home. Further, the amount eligible for the Section 107 exclusion may not exceed the fair rental value of the minister's home (including furnishings and appurtenances) plus the cost of utilities. To the extent a greater amount is designated as rental/housing allowance, the designation will be ineffectual with respect to such amount.
3. **Motion** that the Stated Clerk and Moderator be authorized to fill the Lowcountry Presbytery 2018 General Assembly Permanent Committees and Agencies positions from those Presbyters who will be attending the 46th meeting of the General Assembly being held in Atlanta, GA, June 12-15, 2018.
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 13th, statedclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org.

Leadership Development Team - Extraordinary Clause Statement

Over the past three months, our committee has diligently undertaken to understand if/ when to invoke the extraordinary clause, particularly as pertains to a man seeking transfer from another denomination. During this time, we have done the following:

- Contacted the stated clerk's office and received direct communication from Dr. Roy Taylor, as well as his assistant Bob Hornick. Of particular clarity was his statement entitled "Extraordinary Clause for Ordination".
- Sought guidance from other presbyteries, including Atlanta Metro, Calvary, Central Carolina, New York, etc.
- Read papers from the PCA historical society concerning the original implementation of the extraordinary clause, as well as ways in which it has been amended through the years (particularly in 1989 and 1996).
- Sought counsel concerning what RPR looks for when reviewing presbytery records in regards to ordination exams and the extraordinary clause.
- Prayed and had regular communications with one another. For us, this was a time of discovery as to what we believe is the right use of the extraordinary clause:

It is the committee's belief that the original intent of the extraordinary clause in BCO 21-4 was given as a provision in order to ensure that a gifted man would not be prevented from ordination due to educational requirements that he cannot reasonably meet. This clause specifically addresses two scenarios:

- Circumstances of the Church: A church in which the absence of an ordained minister may hinder them from doing ministry in accord with Scripture, our Confessional standards, or our BCO. In this scenario, the extraordinary clause may be invoked in order to expedite the church having a minister in place sooner rather than later.
- Extraordinary Gifts of the Man: Due to the varied requirements in seminary curriculum, as well as varied Masters-level degrees which may be applied toward ordination, there may be scenarios in which a man may be extraordinarily gifted but does not meet the educational requirements. In those cases, the extraordinary clause may be invoked in order to alleviate the burden of unattainable educational requirements so that such a gifted man may not be hindered from ordained ministry.

Extraordinary Clause for Ordination Statement -Roy Taylor

Extraordinary Clause for Ordination, BCO 21-4

L. Roy Taylor, Stated Clerk PCA

The *Book of Church Order* uses the term “ordinarily” to designate the usual procedure that is to be followed but allows for the courts of the Church to make exceptions to usual practices within the parameters of the PCA Constitution. One such instance is the so-called “extraordinary clause” for ordination of ministers (BCO 21-4) regarding the educational requirements for ordination.

One of the results of the Reformation was that Reformed, Lutheran, and Anglican Churches expected their ministers to be educationally prepared for ministry. This is reflected in our *BCO* educational requirements for ordination. The usual preparation for ministry is a college education followed by a three-year divinity program.

Prior to the mid-1960s, the first degree in divinity was called a Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.), just as the first degree in law was called a Bachelor of Laws (LLB). After the 1960s, the nomenclature was changed from B.D. to Master of Divinity (M.Div.). The standard law degree became Juris Doctor (J.D.).

In earlier times one could be tutored for ministry by a minister, or attend a theological seminary. Prospective lawyers could “read law” under an attorney or go to law school in preparation for the law exam. Our *BCO* educational requirements for ministry (BCO 21-4) may be completed in the traditional formal education, having “a diploma of Bachelor or Master from some approved college or university, and also a diploma of Bachelor or Master from some approved theological seminary, or by “authentic testimonials of having completed a regular course of theological studies, or a certificate of completion of and endorsement from a theological study program as approved by the General Assembly and one of the Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America.”

The *Book of Church Order* specifies that a candidate for the PCA ministry is to submit himself to the care and guidance of the presbytery in his course of study and of practical training to prepare himself for ministry (BCO 18-1, 18-4). The *BCO* does not state the seminary a candidate must or may attend, though *BCO* 21-4 speaks of an “approved theological seminary” as one of several requirements for ordination. The only seminary owned and operated by the General Assembly of the PCA is Covenant Theological Seminary. Historically, the three seminaries that have provided the greatest number ministers for the PCA are Covenant, Reformed, and Westminster seminaries. A review of *the PCA Yearbook, Ministerial Directory* will reveal that Presbyteries have accepted ministers and candidates for ordination from numerous other seminaries, not just Covenant, Reformed and Westminster. Approving a candidate’s choice of a seminary to attend or accepting candidate’s M.Div. from any seminary is a discretionary decision of a Presbytery.

In order to assist Presbyteries, the Six General Assembly approved a curriculum (*BCO* 21-4 b., see *Minutes of the General Assembly*, 1978, p.214, Appendix G, IV).). The Uniform Curriculum is divided into three major areas (Scripture, Doctrine, and Practical Theology) with supervised practical experience required in each area.

With the growth of two-year M.A. programs among seminaries, a question arises whether a two-year M.A. degree from a theological seminary meets the ordination requirements set forth in the *BCO*. If an M.A. is the *only* theological education the candidate has had, and the M.A. has not been supplemented by some program of instruction to cover all of the requirements of the curriculum approved by the General Assembly, then the M.A. alone would not meet the educational requirements because a two-year M.A. degree does not meet the requirements of “a certificate of completion of and endorsement from a theological study program as approved by the General Assembly and one of the Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America”.

The General Assembly has spoken to the issue of the proper use of the extraordinary clause.

- In 1976 Tennessee Valley Presbytery asked for an interpretation of the extraordinary clause. The Committee on Judicial Business (later renamed the Committee on Constitutional Business) opined, “The Committee gives the following opinion that each Presbytery has the right and the responsibility to interpret the “Extraordinary Clause” for itself and its action in no way binds the action of any other Presbytery” (*Minutes of the 4th General Assembly*, 1976, p. 72).
- In 1981 the General Assembly adopted the Committee on Judicial Business’ recommendation that “The General Assembly recognizes that the use of the extraordinary clause is left to the discretion of an individual Presbytery subject to the review of the General Assembly and to the process provided for in a complaint. The General Assembly declares that the use of the extraordinary clause should be limited to the extraordinary circumstances of the church or the proven extraordinary gifts of the man. The Assembly would take notice, however, that there has been an increasing laxity in the application of the clause. The Assembly would, therefore, counsel that Presbyteries exercise diligence and care in the use of this provision in order that they not prevent the ordination of a candidate for whom there are truly exceptional circumstances not ordain a person who is inadequately prepared for the ministry” (*M9GA*, 1981, p.122).

Proper Use of the Extraordinary Clause

- In the discretion of the Presbytery, there are extraordinary circumstances in the church that wishes to call the candidate (*BCO* 21-4 h.), or also there are proven extraordinary gifts (*BCO* 21-4 g., h.) exhibited by the candidate and ascertained by the Presbytery.
- If the Presbytery omits any of the educational requirements, it may only do so by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote and the reason(s) for the omission(s) must be recorded in the minutes (*BCO* 21-4 a.).
- If the Presbytery omits any of the areas of the parts of the trials for ordination, it may only do so by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote (*BCO* 21-4 c.) and the reason(s) for the omission(s) must be recorded in the minutes (*BCO* 21-4 d.).

The Office of the Stated Clerk may give advice and counsel regarding constitutional and procedural matters. Interpretations of *The Book of Church Order*, *The Westminster Standards*, “The Rules of Assembly Operation,” “The Operating Manual of the Standing Judicial Commission,” and/or *Robert’s Rules of Order* by the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PCA or staff members of the Office of the Stated Clerk are for information only, however, and are not authoritative rulings that may only be made by the courts of the Church. Responses to inquiries are based on information supplied by the inquirer, which may not necessarily be comprehensive. The Office of the Stated Clerk does not represent parties in ecclesiastical judicial cases and may not prepare judicial cases for parties. Parties to potential cases or cases in process are responsible for their own constitutional and procedural knowledge and understanding. The Office of the Stated Clerk does not give legal advice. When legal advice is needed, professional legal counsel should be secured from one familiar with applicable laws and regulations.

Letter from Session of Hilton Head Presbyterian Church



HILTON HEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 22, 2018

The Pastoral Search Committee of Hilton Head Presbyterian Church (PCA) has unanimously recommended that a call be extended to Rev. Robert Tansill as our next Assistant Pastor of Spiritual Formation. Pursuant to BCO 20, a recommendation was made to the Session of Hilton Head Presbyterian Church that the call to Rev. Tansill be approved. The recommendation was unanimously approved. Rev. Tansill is currently ordained in the EPC (Central South Presbytery).

BCO 13.6 which outlines the guidelines for ministers seeking admission to a Presbytery states, "Ministers seeking admission to a Presbytery from other Presbyteries in the Presbyterian Church in America shall be examined on Christian experience, and also touching their views in Theology, the Sacraments, and church government. If applicants come from other denominations, the Presbytery shall examine them thoroughly in knowledge and views as required by BCO 21-4 and require them to answer in the affirmative the questions put to candidates at their ordination. Ordained ministers from other denominations being considered by Presbytery for reception may come under the extraordinary provisions set forth in BCO 21.4."

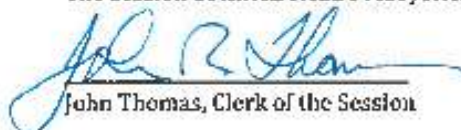
BCO 21.4.h provides guidelines for the application of ordination and in this case, transfer from another denomination, under the extraordinary clauses. "The extraordinary clauses should be limited to extraordinary circumstances of the church or prove extraordinary gifts of the man." The Session of Hilton Head Presbyterian believes that Rev. Tansill's considerable and continual experience in pastoral ministry in the RPC fits under BCO 21.4.h. Rev. Tansill was ordained in the EPC in 1991. He has spent the past 27 years serving in several churches with distinguished ministry.

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church is not a member of NAPARC, but the PCA does have Corresponding Relations with the EPC and the PCA General Assembly has recognized that we have a special relationship with the EPC. Moreover, the EPC and the PCA are both members of the National Association of Evangelicals and the World Reformed Fellowship. Over the years the PCA and the RPC have transferred churches, ministers, and members between the two denominations.

We are requesting that the examination under BCO 21.4.c.1.h-h as well as 21.4.c.2-4 be omitted and that Rev. Tansill be examined on his Christian experience and call to ministry, that he be examined in his views related to doctrine, Bible content, and church government, and that Rev. Tansill state any differences that he has with the Westminster Standards.

Thank you for your consideration!

The Session at Hilton Head Presbyterian Church


John Thomas, Clerk of the Session


Rev. Bill McCutchen, Moderator of the Session

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235 William Hilton Parkway, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926

REGISTER NOW!

Click here to register: <https://goo.gl/forms/u272tpOi1E5RGwXu1>

Registration deadline 5 p.m., Monday, January 22

Wives Under Fire

A Presbytery-level peer group workshop providing support, encouragement, guidance, and teaching for wives of leaders (Ruling Elders, Teaching Elders, Deacons, and paid church staff)

Saturday, January 27, 2018

10:00 – Noon

during Presbytery meeting at

Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 43 Wentworth Street, Charleston, SC 29401

8:30 – 9:00 am

Registration, coffee/tea and refreshments for early arrivals

9:00 – 10:00 am

Lowcountry Presbytery Worship service (women invited)

10:00 – 11:00 am

WIVES UNDER FIRE panel discussion

11:00 – 12:00

Break-out sessions to discuss and pray (grouped by wives of TE, RE, Deacon, and paid staff). Each session led by one or two women with experience in this role.

Noon

Lunch with Presbytery attendees in the Fellowship Hall

Important notes:

Child Care available - must register in advance

Lunch for attendees at no cost - reservations are necessary

Questions? Contact Laurie:

893.747.5409 LaurieSibley@gmail.com