

## Recommended Modified Docket for the Thirteenth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery

**To be held: 9AM, Saturday, January 26, 2019 at Metro North PCA, 109 Central Ave, Goose Creek, SC**

Recommended Modified Docket submitted by the Administration Committee:

That the following docket be approved for the Thirteenth Stated Meeting of the Palmetto Presbytery scheduled for January 26, 2019 at Metro North PCA, Goose Creek, SC:

- 9:00 Worship with Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 Call to Order & Opening Business (handout prayer sheets during this time)
  - 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. Presentation of Memorials
- 10:25 Prayer Time Led by Shepherding & Church Vitality Committee
- 10:45 Judicial Committee – 45 min
- 11:30 Candidates and Credentials Committee 20 min
- 11:50 Committee of a Whole for Session Minute Review
- 11:52 Shepherding Committee
- 12:05 Order of the Day – Lunch
- 1:00 MNA Committee
- 1:25 Campus Ministries Committee 10 min
- 1:35 Administrative Committee 10 min
  - Approval of Twelfth Lowcountry Presbytery minutes from 11/1/18
  - Report of Stated Clerk
  - Report of the Treasurer

Additional Business if needed & Adjournment targeted before 2:00

### Judicial Committee

TE David Donovan, Chairman, Church Creek PCA, Charleston [pastordavid@church-creek.org].

There will be a verbal report. We may need to move into Executive Session to deal with a judicial matter.

### Form Committee as a Whole for Session Minute Review

**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.

## Candidates and Credentials Committee

TE Alex Mark, Chairman, First Scots PCA, [[amark@firstscotsbeaufort.org](mailto:amark@firstscotsbeaufort.org)].

**Examination for Licensure** (Christian Experience, Bible Content, Theology, Church Government, written and preached sermon evaluation). **Mr. Nate Arnold** – (Moderator: See BCO 19-3 & 19-4). Mr. Nate Arnold was sustained in his Licensure exams (Christian Experience, Bible Content, Theology and Church Government) at the 12<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery. He preached before presbytery today.

Motion to accept Mr. Nate Arnold's written and preached sermon given today during worship as the final requirement for Mr. Nate Arnold in his examination for licensure per BCO 19-2.

The moderator shall pose the questions of BCO 19-3 to Mr. Nate Arnold.

Pending his answering of the BCO19-3 questions in the affirmative, the moderator shall offer prayer and give Mr. Nate Arnold the charge of BCO 19-4.

**Under Care Examinations for Mr. Nate Arnold and Mr. Tyler McSwain** (Christian Experience and Sense of Call, See BCO18-2&3).

The Candidates and Credentials committee affirms that they have received a written endorsements from the Session of Metro North PCA per BCO 18-2 and they have met the 6 month membership requirement.

Examination of **Mr. Nate Arnold** in Christian Experience and Sense of Call.

Examination of **Mr. Tyler McSwain** in Christian Experience and Sense of Call.

Moderator shall pose questions of BCO18-3 to the candidates.

The moderator or someone appointed by him shall give the candidates a brief charge and pray.

## Shepherding and Church Vitality Committee

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

**Motion** to direct the offering today to Rob Hamby and church planting efforts.

**Motion** to release TE Chris Bennett, honorably retired, and transfer his credentials to the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery pending their reception of TE Chris Bennett in February.

Brief report from **Mrs. Shea Patrick** of the Lowcountry PresWIC regarding women's ministry within the presbytery. She is also the new Regional Advisor for the Mid-Atlantic Region for the PCA Women's Ministry.

### **New Lowcountry Women's Ministry Report**

- Spent initial months trying to figure out who we were and how to function as part of the Lowcountry Presbytery
- Vision Statement: To think biblically, love covenantally, and serve faithfully to the glory of God.
- Mission Statement: To equip, connect, and encourage women for ministry in the Lowcountry Presbytery.

- Druid Joyner from Grace Coastal hosted a retreat for senior pastor's wives from our presbytery in March of 2017. It was an incredible time of relaxing and getting to know each other that we hope to repeat.
- We hosted an event in January 2018 for pastor/elder/deacon wives or "leadership marriages," that included a panel of experienced women in those positions. We did a survey following the event and got great feedback from the women who attended about the helpfulness of the panel and the small group time that followed.
- We have an event planned for all women of the Presbytery on March 30th. Wendy Alsup, a published author and speaker from New City Fellowship, will be doing a teaching time, and we will break into small groups to further discuss the teaching.

**My Service as Regional Advisor for the Mid-Atlantic Region for the Women's Ministry of the PCA**

I am now serving as the Regional Advisor for the following presbyteries located in the Mid-Atlantic Region: Blue Ridge, Calvary, Catawba Valley, Central Carolina, Eastern Carolina, Fellowship, James River, Lowcountry, New River, Palmetto, Pee Dee, Piedmont Triad, Tidewater, Western Carolina, and Westminster.

My job is to connect women in the Mid-Atlantic Region with the resources and trainers of the PCA women's ministry and to connect the women with each other. I went to my first meeting time with the rest of the regional advisors and women's ministry trainers in September. I will be attending Leadership Training at the end of February and will be figuring out more at that time about my role. I would love your prayers in that process.

## MNA/MTW Committee

TE Craig Bailey, Chairman, Redeemer PCA, Charleston [craig@redeemer-charleston.org]. They will have a brief report.

## Campus Ministries Committee

TE Sam Joyner, Chairman, Grace Coastal PCA, Okatie [sam@gracecoastalchurch.com]. Brief report from TE Danny Clark, campus minister at CoC. There will be a brief update on the new work at SCSU.

## Administration Committee

**Important Information:**

- The mailing address for Lowcountry Presbytery is P.O. Box 31775, Charleston, SC 29417-1775. The website address is [www.lowcountrypresbytery.org](http://www.lowcountrypresbytery.org)
- Stated Clerk: TE Ross Hodges [statedclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org](mailto:statedclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org) 843-606-0572
- Treasurer: RE David Walters, Sr. [treasurer@lowcountrypresbytery.org](mailto:treasurer@lowcountrypresbytery.org) 843-297-2517
- Recording Clerk: TE Mark Turner [recordingclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org](mailto:recordingclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org) 843-224-9337
- Moderator: TE Michael Walters [mwalters@jonesford.com](mailto:mwalters@jonesford.com) 843-209-3659
- 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.

**Motion:** to approve the minutes from the Twelfth Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery held on November 1, 2018 as presented and electronically distributed to presbyters.

**Motion:** to use up to \$1000 of Administrative Committee fund balance to pay for the Lowcountry Presbytery Worship service which was held on Sunday, January 20, 2019.

**Note:** other committees are tasked with coming up with a funding plan for future joint worship services.

### **Upcoming Stated Meetings:**

14th – Tue, Apr 23, 2019 – Trinity PCA, Orangeburg

15th – Sat, Jul 27, 2019 – Eastbridge PCA, Mt. Pleasant

16th – Thu, Nov 7, 2019 – Church Creek, Charleston

#### **1. Report of Stated Clerk**

- Stated Clerk's report

**Motion** that the Stated Clerk and Moderator be authorized to fill the Lowcountry Presbytery 2019 General Assembly Committee of Commissioners and Permanent Committees and Agencies positions from those Presbyters who will be attending the 47<sup>th</sup> meeting of the General Assembly being held in Dallas, TX, June 25-28, 2019. RE David Walters, Jr. – Overtures Committee; TE Alex Mark – Overtures Committee; TE JP Sibley – Ridge Haven Committee of Commissioners; RE Ron Woernle – to begin a 3yr term (until GA 2021) as the Lowcountry presbytery representative for the PCA Nominating Committee

If you will be attending and are interested in serving on a Committee of Commissioners this year, please contact TE Ross Hodges as soon as possible at 843-606-0572 by February 12<sup>th</sup>, [statedclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org](mailto:statedclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org).

#### **2. Report of the Treasurer**

- Treasurer's report

**Motion** that Rich Wylly be added as an authorized check signer for the Lowcountry Presbytery.

## Testimony/Spiritual Biography of Nate Arnold

My father and mother were both followers of Christ when I was an infant. I do have some memories (mental flashes) of churches in those early years. At some point my father (and I assume also my mother) turned back into the world during my early childhood. Therefore, I grew up in a non-Christian home. My first introduction to Jesus Christ was in the fifth grade by a visiting preacher who held a service at our school auditorium. As the evangelist preached I became convicted of sin and when he gave the invitation to pray for salvation, I asked Christ to save me. My father had apparently turned back to Christ around the same timeframe. We attended the Argyle Church Of God which was a Pentecostal, Arminian church. My training was sparse and consisted mostly of getting saved each week with almost no in depth bible study. I began to stray from the Lord about 6-8 months later mostly due to peer pressure and lack of biblical training. In my teenage years, I strayed completely from the Lord, became rebellious, fought (literally) on a continual basis with my father, quit high school after the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and joined the US Navy at age 17 (1978).

My father gave me a Thompson Chain Reference Bible as a present when I joined the navy. I carried the bible in its original box for years until the box began to fall apart. During a Mediterranean cruise (9 month deployment) in 1984 I began reading the bible at night in my bunk. Of course, this consistent contact with God's word brought massive conviction and one night I sought a private place to pray. This happened while underway, onboard the USS Biddle, CG-34. I located a fan room and sought God for some time. I asked the Lord to forgive me of my sins and to fill my heart with Jesus Christ. The date was Oct 26, 1984, which I wrote in the front of the Armed Forces New Testament that I was given in Boot Camp. This is the date that I count for my salvation. I have not turned aside from serving God since that date. I read and studied continually. My ship returned to the United States and immediately went into the shipyard in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Kate (my wife) who had already given her life to Christ some years earlier, joined me in locating a church, which turned out to be the Wilmington Church of God in Wilmington, Delaware. Here I began to grow and to feel God's call on my life. I approached the Pastor with this information. He worked with me during several counseling sessions and recommended that I try teaching a young boy's Wednesday night bible class. I took the class and taught it until classes let out for the summer. I felt particularly attracted to teaching but struggled with teaching children.

We transferred to Pensacola, Florida where we joined the Warrington Assembly of God. I began to work in the church and was soon asked to teach the Adult Sunday School class. I found this very rewarding but felt like God was equipping me to do something else. I did not want to preach but explored the idea with the Pastor. He worked with me a while and then allowed me to preach my first sermon. Wow! I had fifteen pages of notes and the sermon lasted maybe five minutes. I began to do pulpit supply in my local church and taught in other churches as the need arose. I also led a home bible study group for a couple of years. I sought preaching credentials in the Assemblies of God but was turned down because of Kate's former marriages. This really shook my ideas concerning God's call with respect to preaching.

We were transferred to Winter Harbor, Maine where we joined the local (read "only") church. This was an Independent, Fundamental Baptist Church. My time there was a "theological transition period" where I had to work through many of the doctrinal issues that I believe today. I began to teach Adult Sunday School and also did pulpit supply as required. Over time, the church licensed me to preach the gospel. The issue of my wife's previous marriages caused consternation, but we were well accepted. The pastor left the church a few years later and I served as interim pastor for approximately 4 months until we were transferred.

My next duty station was an unaccompanied tour. We had planned to settle the family in Georgia while I was away. While home on leave, I was badly injured and out of commission/convalescening for about six months. We decided against the local Pentecostal church (the church I grew up in) immediately. We visited many churches but decided to attend a small United Methodist (yes Methodist) circuit church. As I began to teach and preach, I soon learned why God had placed us there. This stretched me both theologically and in love. By this time I was moving heavily toward Calvinism. The problem was, how to teach Arminian believers what I believe is biblical truth while maintaining the correct attitudes within the denomination? Basically, I was in the wrong denomination. I don't think that I was able to change many people's minds (that's the Spirit's job anyway) but the experience definitely gave me a different view on teaching.

The following years are kind of a blur. I received a commission, served at sea for two years and spent my last tour of duty in London, UK as a staff action officer. At sea, I worked one on one where the opportunity presented itself and in London, I became the Sunday School Director for the Protestant side of the base chapel. During this period, my spirituality seemed to languish, partially due to the extreme requirements of the job and partially due to personal neglect and lack of direction. I often felt alone, unmotivated and somehow like God had placed me on a shelf.

After retiring from the navy, we took a job here and really took our time searching for a church. We wanted a place to grow, to serve and to be exactly where God wanted us to be (though I'm still a little unsure how to determine that). I had never considered a Presbyterian church but decided to visit Metro North (after exhausting other viable, local church options). Several visits later, and after much prayer, we decided to attend Metro North Church. I'm still not sure what God has in store but we are following His leadership and direction. I have found that wherever I go I seem compelled to teach. If I don't follow that direction I seem to languish spiritually similar to my tenure at sea and in London.

We have been at MNC for approximately 15 years, during which time I have taught numerous Sunday Morning Bible Studies, facilitated Uniquely You, assisted in facilitating Theological Foundations for Leaders (TFL), been a FOCUS leader, been a leader for Men's Ministry, preached on occasion (at Metro and other churches) and have served as a Ruling Elder since 2005. It has been a great joy serving MNC.

I have a desire to get out of debt completely (almost there) and possibly free myself to work more directly in the Lord's service. I'm not really sure what that looks like but am exploring planting an inter-racial church in St. George, SC. I'm going through the licensure process with Low Country Presbytery to see where the Lord leads me. If licensed, I intend to go back to school and get a biblical degree. I very much look forward to freeing myself of the things that are holding us back from "grass roots" service and get to work teaching in the local community. Please pray for me in this regard.

Coram Deo,

Nate Arnold

## Sense of Call - Nate Arnold

My sense of calling to preach and teach the Gospel has waxed and waned throughout my lifetime, since the day God called me to Himself in Christ Jesus. Some days I have a strong desire to glorify him by pointing people to the marvelous things He has said and done in His Word. At other times, I struggle with the question of personal pride and arrogance – am I preaching to be seen, be popular, or have power? I am often frustrated and driven to prayer because I fear seeking my own glory over God's.

God seems to have graciously gifted me with the mental aptitude to study and a decent ability to expound His Word, and I have great joy when I do so. My desire to learn God's word and to develop a logical understanding of Scripture constantly drives me to study. I repeatedly ask God to show me the truth. When I do not teach and preach, I literally languish; when I do use these gifts, I seem to flourish.

When preaching and teaching, I love to see the light come on for people with regard to understanding. When the Spirit leads me to a deeper understanding, I want others to see those same truths also and rejoice. I love to see them grasp the Word for themselves, and watch God change them. I firmly believe that orthodoxy (right understanding) is the key to orthopraxy (right behavior) and this drives me personally to desire to refine my gifts so that I may better explain and apply His Word.

I come to this point in my life after completing two careers, and having pastored for short periods and taught the scriptures for over 30 years. I strongly feel the weight and responsibility of the task that I am pursuing and have a very intense awareness of my shortcomings and weaknesses. There are many things that I do not know but I strongly desire to be used of God and to glorify Him.

One thing I have learned in the course of my life is that God accomplishes His will through His Word and Spirit. Licensure and ordination is a process that will help me determine and refine God's calling in my life and I believe that through His Spirit, He will use His church to guide me in that regard. I think God has placed an opportunity before me to possibly plant and pastor a church. I desire to explore His will regarding licensure in accordance with Rom 12:2 *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."*

Please pray for me.

Coram Deo,

Nate Arnold

## Testimony of Christian Faith and Calling into Ministry – Tyler McSwain

I grew up in a typical southern Christian home where my family always went to church on Sunday. In fact, many of my earliest memories involve being at a church. As an adolescent, I always knew who God and Christ were in my mind. However, I never lived as if I was a Christian including never being convicted by my sin. During the summer going into my freshmen year of high school, I had lunch with my youth pastor during which I asked him some tough questions about God and salvation. It was then that God convicted me of my sin and helped me to understand that I needed his love through Christ to save me from an eternal death and separation from him. In that moment, I felt the conviction of the Holy Spirit come upon me as God began to regenerate me to faith in Christ and repentance from sin. I accepted his call and my need for his redemptive work through Christ. Ever since that day, my life has never been the same. Even on that day, I excitedly told my Christian friends and family that I became a Christian (most thought I already was because of my up-bringing). My relationship with Christ and the sanctification process into a reflection of his image has been a bumpy but spiritually satisfying road (with many detours that I added). My walk with Christ includes spending time reading his word and praying almost every day, seeking his grace. When I fail to do so, my spirit grows hungry and thirsty in such a way that nothing else can fulfill. In my daily walk, I seek to reflect and honor him through my words and actions. Of course, I am a sinner who falls short of doing this and I am in need of his grace daily. It is by his grace and through the counsel and convictions of the Holy Spirit that God is molding me more into his image. It is also through community and fellowship at our church that I experience his grace.

As I grew stronger in my faith and walk with Christ through high school and into college, I knew I had a passion for ministry. It was the summer going into my senior year of high school that I felt God calling me to be a shepherd in full-time ministry. I went to Charleston Southern University and received a ministry degree that God used to grow me in my relationship with him and develop me further into my calling. During college, I knew God gave me a burden for youth ministry as many struggle with identity formation during adolescence much like myself. During college, I completed a one-year internship as Assistant Youth Pastor at my local church where I received further affirmation that I wanted to be a youth pastor. After I graduated college in 2009, the economy crippled churches from hiring in South Carolina, so I became a Sunday school teacher at my previous church for high school seniors. However, I began a road of brokenness in 2013 when I experienced a divorce from my previous marriage and my father passed away from cancer in 2014. I was sure that my journey of pursuing ministry was over, especially in the denomination of which I was a member. In 2015, I started attending my current church, Metro North Church, and immediately began serving as a volunteer youth leader. I also experienced God's grace and begin healing from my wounds of divorce and my father's death. Later that year, I completed a three-week membership class; I was interviewed by my elder, took vows and became a member of Metro North Church. In 2016, the church called me to be a volunteer staff member who assisted the Associate Pastor with oversight of the high school ministry. In late 2017, the church hired me as a part-time Student Ministry Director over the entire student ministry (middle school, high school, and college) where I now serve. My wife serves alongside me as my support, champion, and our church's Ministry Coordinator (volunteer staff). While serving in youth ministry for the past three years, I obtained a Master of Arts in Christian Studies. In order to grow in my faith and knowledge of Christ, ministry, and to prepare for ordination in the PCA denomination, I have recently started the process of coming under care by our Presbytery and I am currently seeking a Masters of Divinity. I am eager to serve as a full-time pastor.