

Recommended Docket for the Eighteenth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery

To be held: 9:00 a.m., Saturday, July 25, 2020 at Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Charleston, SC. NOTE: this meeting is streamlined due to the COVID-19 precautions in place.

Recommended Docket submitted by the Administration Committee:

That the following docket be approved for the Eighteenth Stated Meeting of the Palmetto Presbytery scheduled for July 25, 2020 at Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Charleston, SC. Because of COVID-19 we will observe proper social distancing and we will celebrate the Lord's Table with hygiene precautions.

- 9:00 Worship with Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
- 9:45 Break
- 10:00 Call to Order & Opening Business - Moderator: RE David Walters, Sr.
 - 1. Prayer & Welcome
 - 2. Roll Call (by registration sign in sheets)
 - 3. Clerk's declaration of quorum
 - 4. Adoption of docket
 - 5. Approval of the Minutes from the 17th Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery which met on January 25, 2020
 - 6. Introduction of Special Guests & First Time Commissioners
 - 7. Presentation of Memorials
- 10:15 Business & Reports (LIMITED AND REQUIRED BUSINESS ONLY!)
 - Candidates and Credentials Committee
Transfer of Ordination Exam for Rev. Song
 - MNA & MTW Committee – written report (5 minutes)
 - Campus Ministries Committee – (15 minutes)
 - Judicial Committee – no report
 - Shepherding & Church Vitality Committee – written report
 - Administration Committee – written report (15 minutes)
 - Report of Stated Clerk - written
 - Report of the Treasurer - written
 - Motions to address RPR report of exceptions to our minutes
 - 1st reading : recommended changes to Lowcountry Presbytery Standing Rules – we will address and vote on the changes in 3 sections:
 - Nominations Procedure Changes – Changes in Red
 - Overtures Procedure Changes – Changes in Green
 - Meetings by Videoconference Changes—Changes in Blue
 - Address overture passed at the 117th Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery by request of the Session of Two Rivers PCA:
 - Motion from Session of Two Rivers PCA: Move to rescind the overture to the General Assembly approved at the seventeenth stated meeting.
 - The Administrative Committee recommends a substitute motion: In light of the release of the report of The Forty-Seventh General

Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America Ad Interim Committee on Human Sexuality, the Administrative Committee of the Lowcountry Presbytery moves to establish a study committee consisting of at least 2 RE's and 3 TE's for the purpose of examining said report and recommending any potential subsequent/ replacement overtures as well as recommendations for how congregations can address this topic. The committee shall distribute their report to the Lowcountry Presbytery at least one week in advance of the November 5, 2020 Stated Meeting.

- We will have open season of prayer once business is completed.

12:00 Goal: Dismissal by Noon

Candidates and Credentials Committee (C&C)

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

Examination for Transfer of Ordination: TE John Song (Christian Experience, views in theology, sacraments, and church government, BCO 13-6). Rev. John Song is currently in the _____ Presbytery. Rev Song has received a call from Redeemer Presbyterian in Charleston, SC.

Bio of Rev. John Song:

Stated Exceptions to the Confession:

Pertaining to the Sabbath:

WCF 21.8 "...recreations; but also are taken up, the whole time, in the public and private exercises of His worship"

WLC Q 117: "worldly employments and recreations..."

WSC Q 60 "sanctified by a holy resting... spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship"

In the Confession's understanding of the Sabbath, while I agree with the significance of the Sabbath day and Sabbath worship, there are several exhortations that are unclear in their application and binding in ways that cannot find their direct or indirect inference from Scripture. The first is the statement that the whole time is to be spent in public and private exercises of God's worship. How public and private worship all day on the Sabbath is to be done is a statement that scripture in either testament neither gives any direct command. It is indeed sad that our understanding of the Sabbath in our modern times has been minimized and marginalized by Christians in our age to excuse itself into neglect of public worship, but I don't believe the Confession can be used in a way that binds the entire time of the day to worship in a way that is not feasible in a variety of scenarios. Nor can we say that "worship" can simply be any activity we claim it to be, as to over spiritualize the actions of everyday activities. The second issue I have is the idea that holy rest is sanctified (perhaps overstated as "only sanctified") through holy worship. In stating this phrase in WSC Q60, the Confession overemphasizes the division of spiritual/physical that understates the role and necessity of physical rest and even restful recreation as a part of rest. If our understanding of the physical body is not Platonic, then it must follow that as a new creation our physical rest (and its reasonable recreation and fellowship) would also be allowable in the idea of a holy rest(1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Concerning Rev. Song's difference concerning the Sabbath, the committee recommends his view be considered merely semantic.

Pertaining to the Role of Civil Government:

WCF 23.3. "Yet, **as nursing fathers, it is the duty of civil magistrates to protect the church of our common Lord**, without giving the preference to any denomination of Christians above the rest, in such a manner that **all**

ecclesiastical persons whatever shall enjoy the full, free, and unquestioned liberty of discharging every part of their sacred functions, without violence or danger”

In the American revision of the Confession, the role of church and state I believe is properly defined in scriptural terms, save this line that was preserved by the Philadelphia Assembly (In its original draft, with no scriptural proofs). I don't believe this can be defended from scripture, and the use of an addendum proof text of Isaiah 49:23 “nursing fathers” (added by the OPC later and adopted by the PCA) is an over prescriptive reading when viewed in context of a theocratic national Israel. Rather, if we are indeed sojourners and exiles in a foreign land (1 Peter 2:11), then our posture should be one of understanding the rightful role of how the state and the church are to relate to each other, as one not in expectation of favorable, preferential, or necessary treatment, but rather one that is willing to accept both praise and persecution, with the understanding of the not yet Kingdom that will be consummated. In other words, to quote Chad Van Dixhoorn in his “Confessing the Faith”, In the New Testament the assembly or church of God is Israel, but there is no chosen political nation (eg. Gal 6:16, Eph 2:11-16) (pg.314). This means that the state, while certainly will be favorable for them to protect the churches, it should not then follow that Christians and the church should *expect biblically* such protection in this life.

Concerning Rev. Song's difference concerning the role of civil authorities to protect the church, the committee recommended his view be considered merely semantic.

MNA & MTW Committee

TE Craig Bailey, Chairman, Redeemer PCA, Charleston [craig@redeemer-charleston.org]. Please read the written report from the MNA DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE & RECOVERY PLAN carefully BEFORE presbytery so that you are ready to respond and act.

PLEASE NOTE: **the MNA Disaster Preparedness Team needs an ALTERNATE COORDINATOR FOR DISASTER RESPONSE FOR THE LOWCOUNTRY PRESBYTERY!** Please come prepared to nominate a candidate. If not the MNA Committee submits the following motion:

MOTION: “The MNA committee be given the power of a commission to name an alternate coordinator for Disaster Response at a later date if none is offered from the floor.”

Motion: “The MNA/MTW Committee moves that the following slate of elders be approved as the temporary session for the Cane Bay Church plant: J.P. Sibley (TE), John Schley (TE), Michael Walters (TE), Rich Wyllly (RE), Ron Hemingway (RE)”

Nathan Francis – Church Planting Update for Cane Bay Church Plant

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Ministering to many families in Cane Bay, functioning as their pastor. However, most have never met.
- Large interest meeting in mid-August. After which, starting men's Bible study and group Bible study.
- Please pray we can gain momentum this Fall as we begin meeting.
- God has provided: 94 Prayer Partners, 78% Financial Support. Praise God!
- Would you like to receive monthly email newsletters or short weekly prayer emails, please let me know: nathanbfrancis@gmail.com
- Weekly 90 second videos: www.canebaychurchplant.org/videos/

DETAILS:

As it has been for all of us, COVID has been a major challenge to ministry. However, God has been extremely gracious to allow us to connect with many families in Cane Bay. These friendships have grown through the months and many look to me as their pastor. The challenge is that we have not had our first interest meeting or any gatherings. The baptist church in our neighborhood has been super generous and has offered for us to use their

building anytime we need. So we will have our first interest meeting in mid-August at that church which will allow us to gather everyone (with masks) in a socially distant fashion. This will be a kickoff for several other groups (e.g. men's Bible study and group Bible study). Please pray that God would allow us to really gain momentum this Fall as we begin to gather people (while having to be so careful). I have also been creating weekly 90 second videos to connect with those we are ministering to. You can access them here: www.canebaychurchplant.org/videos/

It has been amazing to see God continue to be faithful to provide for our needs financially. He has provided 78% of the money we need. Please pray God provides the remaining 22%. It is also our goal to have a prayer team of 100 people. God has already provided 94 people who are praying for us either weekly or monthly. If you would be interested in joining our prayer team or receiving our email newsletters, please let me know. I am also trying to meet with as many of the sessions in our Presbytery. Since we are a presbytery church plant, I want to know you and I want you to know me. Thank you for all of you that have already invited me to meet with your sessions! It has been a joy to get to know you! On a personal note, this Fall, we are sending our oldest daughter, Emily, off to college for the first time at North Greenville University. Please pray for her and our whole family during this big change.

In Christ,

-Nathan

www.CaneBayChurchPlant.org

704.561.1232

Rev. Rob Hamby –

Church Planting Update for Point Hope Presbyterian Church (Daniel Island/Cainho)

Personal/Family:

*The Lord continues to be gracious to our family as we continue to settle into life in Charleston in the midst of the current pandemic. The pandemic has turned our lives upside down in so many ways which has necessitated that we extend a tremendous amount of grace to one another and constantly lean upon the Lord. Our daughter Wells is taking pre-nursing courses online. Our son Simeon completed the Spring semester of 10th grade at Philip Simmons online. He has been attending football workouts about 3 times a week since June. Kendall recently accepted an art teaching position at North Charleston Elementary School.

Development:

*The COVID-19 crisis has definitely affected our efforts to develop partnerships and raise financial support for our church plant. We have seen a definite decrease in giving since March but we are continuing to press on and trust the Lord to provide for our needs. We are praying and hoping that the Lord will provide some new individuals, churches and organizations to partner with us. We are particularly praying for individuals, churches and organizations in the Lowcountry to partner with us prayerfully and financially.

Ministry:

*I have continued to try to meet new people and build relationships and inroads in our community. The Lord has been extremely gracious to continue to open doors and provide opportunities for me to invite people to participate in our church planting efforts. I am particularly grateful for Church of the Holy Cross on Daniel Island and for their incredible generosity in allowing us to use their facility on Sunday Evenings for our Foundations Study. Our Foundations Study is intended to offer people the opportunity to learn more about who we are as a church, where we are going, and how we plan to get there. We have been meeting together every Sunday evening since June 28. So far, our attendance has grown every week as people are spreading the word and inviting their friends. We had 30 people at our last meeting. God is good!

Future:

*In addition to development work, our chief focus is for the formation of a core group to unite together in planting Point Hope Presbyterian. My hope and prayer is that a core group will be birthed out of our current Foundations Study. I am also hoping that we can begin corporate worship together early in 2021.

Here's a link to our most recent newsletter:

<https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?u=6fd4a790850ac91d47853da65&id=2d714811f9>

In Christ,
Rev. Rob Hamby
Point Hope Presbyterian Church
rob@pointhopepres.com
817.205.7082 cell

Campus Ministries Committee

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

Report on the search to find a campus worker for South Carolina State University

Introduction of Joel Brown- He is being hired by New City Fellowship to be their Outreach Director with specific emphasis on SCSU/Claflin University.

Motion from Committee- that Lowcountry Presbytery support Joel Brown at a level of \$300 per month beginning in August of 2020.

Report from Rev. Danny Clark – RUF – College of Charleston

Update on the opportunities Covid-19 has provided us this summer:

- I have been able to do more one-on-one discipleship with students because they've been available to meet weekly. I bring two camping chairs downtown, we find a shady spot to sit 6 feet apart, and I teach them how to read the Bible, or we discuss a chapter of a book on a topic that they want to understand better, or I go over Bible study lessons with future small group leaders. It's been a treat as I've gotten to meet with 10-14 students on any given week.
- I've had the opportunity to do a good deal of mercy ministry with students this summer as their summer. Most of their internships and research jobs have been cancelled, and the stores and restaurants they normally work at on King St. have had fewer hours. Several students have even stated that they will have to take the fall semester off because of the inability to make enough money this summer. I have had various occasions to help with buying groceries, proper clothes for work, rain jackets, socks, and even replacing chains on their bikes. It has been an honor represent our churches by serving them in these ways.
- I have had the time to work with Annie-Kate (former intern), Savannah (female staff), Harrison (student-junior), and Isabella (student-senior), on writing a Bible study on the book of Hebrews for our upperclassmen this fall. Each of them has taken different passages to research and study and meet with me to collaborate on writing a study for it. It has been exciting to see them grow as exegetes, and so far the teamwork has made the studies much better than if I had done them on my own.

Prayer Requests as we look to the Fall:

- Madison Daniels (new intern), Savannah Medvedev (female staff) and I, all have had greater difficulty raising the support we need to be on campus by the time school starts. Please pray especially for Savannah and Madison as it regards their accounts, as they have a significant amount to still raise.

- The university has already decided that no group over 30 can meet inside on campus and that no group over 50 can meet at all. We are considering having large group viewing groups on the porches of various student apartments near campus, though as a staff we are not even sure about this solution. Pray for God to give our student leadership team the organization, unity, and motivation needed to reach the campus.
- Pray for the incoming freshmen as it will be difficult for them to meet each other, recognize each other around campus, and build friendships/community when they are wearing masks and need to social distance. Many of our normal outreach events will be impossible to carry out, so we have got to get creative. Pray for God to use these strange times to bring students to faith in Christ.

Report from Rev. Sammy Rhodes – RUF – University of South Carolina:

It's a strange time to be a campus minister. We made it through Spring Break in our He Stories Jesus Told series, a sermon series through the parables in Luke, and then like that our semester was abruptly changed. Thankfully we were able to gather through Zoom to finish the semester, but the sadness and strangeness started to set in. Instead of I-I coffees, it was I-I FaceTimes. Instead of our annual cookout at our house to end the semester, it was a virtual hangout.

The summer has in some ways been strange too. How do you fundraise in a pandemic? How do you rest when your family of 6 (with teen and preteen children) is cooped up at home. Long walks and runs have been a God send for me, but how do you do that in 100 degree heat?!

Thankfully the Lord has met us in real and sweet ways. Donors have come through unexpectedly (we were in the middle of a \$40k campaign and thankfully raised almost half of that). A couple of weeks of vacation, one in Grand Rapids, MI where my wife's family is from, and one in Laguna Beach, FL, because my kids were so sad to miss RUF Summer Conference this year, proved deeply restful, masks and physical distance it withstanding.

We are starting to prepare for more strangeness in the Fall. Most likely our large group will still be virtual, which makes me sad. Please pray for us, too, to know how to gather freshmen and newcomers as best we can without having any of our big welcome week events. Pray the Lord will sustain us, staff and students alike, as we continue to navigate life and ministry together in what feels like a never ending pandemic with no real end in sight yet. We trust the Lord will sustain us, bless us, keep us, and give us precisely what we need when we need it. He has given us His best in Christ. Pray for us to delight in Him even when our hearts are fainting. As always thank you so much for your continued support. And please don't hesitate to use me if you ever need a break in the pulpit. I would be honored to serve you all in that way.

Grace & Peace,
Sammy

Judicial Committee

TE Michael Walters, Chairman, [mwalters@jonesford.com]

No report

Shepherding and Church Vitality

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

Motion to designate today's offering from worship to be equally split between our two Lowcountry Church Plants in Cain Hoy and Cane Bay.

Motion: On March 8th, 2020, the congregation of Hilton Head PCA voted to call TE Chris Bowen as Associate Pastor. The Shepherding Committee of Lowcountry Presbytery has reviewed both the request to dissolve the current relationship as Assistant Pastor and the request to call TE Bowen as Associate Pastor. We recommend that the call be approved from the Session and

congregation of Hilton Head PCA, Hilton Head, SC, to TE Chris Bowen as Associate Pastor. A commission will be established by Presbytery composed of 2 Teaching Elders and 2 Ruling Elders with TE McCutchen acting as convener of the commission. The date for the installation service will be determined in coordination with the Presbytery.”

Motion: On February 16th, 2020 the congregation of Eastbridge PCA voted to call TE Bill Harritt as an Associate Pastor. The Shepherding Committee has reviewed the terms of the call, which has not changed and recommend that the call be approved from the Congregation of Eastbridge Presbyterian Church, Mt. Pleasant, SC to TE Bill Harritt as Associate pastor. On Sunday, March 1, 2020 TE Harritt was installed as an Associate Pastor in Eastbridge PCA with both him and the congregation answering in the affirmative the questions in BCO 21-9 and 21-10

The Shepherding Committee has reviewed the call package of Rev. John Song and pending his acceptance will present the necessary motions at the end of his Transfer Examination.

Administration Committee

TE Mark Turner, Chairman, Oakbrook PCA, Summerville [mturner@oakbrookpca.org]

Please see the Stated Clerk’s Report Attached.

Motions to address RPR report of exceptions to our minutes

For 2018 minutes:

Motion: Approve the Lowcountry Presbytery’s responses to the exceptions (as written in the Stated Clerk’s report) for our 2018 minutes since there was no record of response in our 2019 minutes.

For 2019 minutes – only exception of form for July 27th meeting:

Action Required: Per the General Assembly’s Rules of Assembly Operations (RAO), line 16-7.c, all exceptions of form shall be reported to the Presbytery. Also, as we submit our 2020 records to the RPR Committee due NLT March 15th, 2021, we will also submit our responses to the Exceptions of Form at the same time. These responses will be approved by the Lowcountry Presbytery no later than its 20th Stated Meeting on January 23rd, 2021 so that submittal of responses to the RPR Committee can occur before March 15th, 2021.

Motion: to elect Rev. Michael Bauer to serve as the Lowcountry Presbytery Parliamentarian to fill the spot vacated by TE David Donovan per section 2.3 of our Standing Rules.

1st reading : recommended changes to Lowcountry Presbytery Standing Rules – we will address and vote on the changes in 3 sections. J.P. Sibley will present, read and explain the rationale for these changes.

- Nominations Procedure Changes – Changes in Red
- Overtures Procedure Changes – Changes in Green
- Meetings by Videoconference Changes—Changes in Blue

3 Motions: The changes to the Standing Rules Nominations/Overtures/Videoconference shall be received as a first reading to be acted upon at the 19th Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery by reading and the changes will require a 2/3 affirmative vote per section 2.2 of our Standing Rules.

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: RE Rich Wyly statedclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org 843-412-9090
- Treasurer: RE David Walters, Sr., treasurer@lowcountrypresbytery.org 843-297-2517
- Recording Clerk: TE Mark Turner recordingclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org 843-224-9337
- Moderator: RE David Walters, Sr. kingsman12@aol.com 843-297-2517
- Health Insurance is cooperatively provided among the 3 multiplied Presbyteries through the *Stewart and Monroe Health Insurance Agency*.
- Upcoming Stated Meetings:
 - 19th – Thursday, Nov 5, 2020 – Grace Coastal Church, Okatie, SC.
 - 20th – Saturday, Jan 21, 2021 – Metro North Church, Goose Creek, SC.
 - 21st – Tuesday, Apr 27, 2021 – invitation needed
 - 22nd – Saturday, Jul 24, 2021 – invitation needed
 - 23rd – Thursday, Nov 4, 2021 – invitation needed



Lowcountry Presbytery

Presbyterian Church in America

09 July 2020

Subject: Exceptions to Lowcountry Presbytery Minutes from PCA RPR Committee

Fathers and Brothers of the Lowcountry Presbytery,

Because of the current pandemic and postponement of the 2019 General Assembly, the Review of Presbytery Records (RPR) Committee did not meet in person this year. They did have a shortened Zoom meeting on June 17-18, 2020, and were able to begin their work of reviewing presbytery records.

The following items were noted during the review of the Lowcountry Presbytery minutes for the 2019 year:

1. Lowcountry Presbytery submitted a response in March 2020 for two (2) exceptions of our 2018 Lowcountry Presbytery minutes that were found by the RPR Committee in 2019. Here are the two exceptions and our responses:

- a. Exception: Minutes p. 5 (BCO 13-11) – Presbytery adopted a motion for a called meeting with no subsequent record of that meeting. [July 28th, 2018 meeting].

- i. **Response:** The motion was “that Lowcountry Presbytery would have a specifically called meeting on Saturday, September 8, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at Redeemer Presbyterian Church for the purpose of discussing the issue of extending a call to TE Chris Hodges within the Cainhoy Peninsula area of the Lowcountry Presbytery.” **Motion carries.**

This motion became a moot point because TE Chris Hodges did something else and there was therefore no need to have the specially called meeting. We did not hold the meeting because the stated purpose of the meeting was now null and void.

- b. Exception: No record of requiring the candidate (in a licensure) to state the specific instances in which he may differ with the Confession of Faith and Catechisms in any of their statements and/or propositions. And, if any were stated, there is no record of how Presbytery judged them. [November 1st, 2018 meeting].

- i. **Response:** In the exam for Nate Arnold, he took no exceptions. That information was conveyed to the Presbyters at our November 1st, 2018 stated meeting.

Action Required: These two responses are acceptable to the RPR Committee, but there is no record in our 2019 minutes of these responses being approved by the Presbytery. We need to approve these responses to exceptions so that they are recorded in our 2020 Presbytery minutes.

Motion: Approve the Lowcountry Presbytery responses to exceptions (as written above) for our 2018 minutes.

- 2. All of our 2019 Lowcountry Presbytery minutes were approved by the RPR Committee:
 - a. Approved without exception: January 26th, 2019; April 23rd, 2019, and November 7th, 2019 minutes.
 - b. Approved with exceptions of form (July 27th meeting):
 - i. Exception #1: July 27th meeting, per BCO 19 – 10 “The minutes note that Mr. David Seitzinger is beginning his internship but there is no record of BCO 19 being followed. {NOTE: RPR must have not seen one whole page of our minutes that show BCO 19 being followed}.
 - ii. Exception #2: Transfer of RCF to ARP oversight is unclear: a motion is made but no action is recorded. {NOTE: The appropriate motion to transfer by Campus Ministries to transfer the oversight of Reformed Campus Fellowship at the Citadel to Shem Creek Presbyterian Church (ARP) was made, but there is no record of this motion being seconded and approved.}
 - iii. Exception #3: No list identifying all candidates, interns and licentiates, with their addresses can be located. All other directory lists including a list of teaching elders and their addresses, list of all officers and members of the regular committees of the Presbytery, list of all churches and missions with their addresses, and list of session clerks with their addresses are included. {NOTE: The roster will be updated to include candidates, interns and licentiates will be updated}.
 - c. There were no citations for **Exceptions of Substance**.

Action Required: Per the General Assembly’s Rules of Assembly Operations (RAO), line 16-7.c, all exceptions of form shall be reported to the Presbytery. Also, as we submit our 2020 records to the RPR Committee due NLT March 15th, 2021, we will also submit our responses to the Exceptions of Form at the same time. These responses will be approved by the Lowcountry Presbytery no later than its 20th Stated Meeting on January 23rd, 2021 so that submittal of responses to the RPR Committee can occur before March 15th, 2021.

Lowcountry Presbytery (LCP)

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE & RECOVERY PLAN

July 25, 2020

*"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"
And I said, "Here am I; send me!" Isaiah 6:8*

The Plan

The following describes the Plan for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery within the LCP. Hereafter, "The Plan" refers to the LCP Disaster Preparedness, Response & Recovery Plan.

The goal is to have a high level of disaster preparedness and quick response capabilities within the LCP by helping churches and families plan in advance for emergencies, become aware of potential disasters in their community, and develop a plan to survive after a disaster as well as minister to others. We take seriously our stewardship of the resources God has provided that we may be prepared to serve in both the "day of prosperity" and the "day of adversity" (Ecclesiastes 7:14).

The Plan also allows LCP to pull together resources which may include funds, volunteers, equipment and facilities to respond to disasters locally and/or regionally as an act of mercy, to give that community relief from a calamity and, at the same time, to plant seeds for the Kingdom of God.

- A. The LCP's role is to provide a Subcommittee for Disaster Preparedness and Response, which will develop, administer and maintain The Plan, working under the oversight of the presbytery MNA Committee.
- B. Also, the LCP, through the LCP Mission to North America (MNA) Committee, is the point of approval for The Plan.
- C. Even though The Plan is developed at the LCP level, the information is collected and provided by the local church. Each church should provide a DR Coordinator who will work with the subcommittee and General Assembly (GA) MNA Disaster Response (DR). The Coordinator should be one that the local church leadership has identified as having the necessary leadership and management skills as well as the heart for this vital mercy ministry.
- D. By General Assembly assignment, MNA Disaster Response is charged with coordinating the response of the PCA to disasters in the US and Canada. MNA DR does this through a network of staff, key leaders and many volunteers. When disaster occurs, overwhelming presbyteries, MNA DR is available to come alongside local churches and presbyteries to coordinate the response by mobilizing the greater PCA to assist. They bring a proven leadership team and strategies learned during past responses to mobilize volunteers, channel prayer focus and appeal for finances on behalf of affected churches.

- E. Since The Plan is a work in progress, we earnestly solicit your comments to improve The Plan. Based on their individual needs and capabilities, local churches may want to develop a customized plan which supports The Plan (*see Appendix D*). The intent is not to dictate but to offer assistance and work side-by-side with the presbytery Coordinator and the local church. Send comments to ahooten@pcanet.org.

The Concept

“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2

Disasters can strike quickly and without warning. There are numerous examples of disasters both natural and man-made, such as chemical spills, earthquakes, fires, floods, lightning strikes, thunderstorms, hurricanes, pandemics, industrial accidents, power failures, terrorist attacks, tornadoes and straight-line winds, gas explosions, volcanic eruptions, building or bridge collapses, transportation accidents, snow/ice storms, tsunamis, landslides, dam failures, etc.

Knowing what to do in advance of a disaster is the best protection and the responsibility of each individual. With God's help, families and churches can cope with disasters by preparing in advance and working together.

As those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (Colossians 3:12)

The LCP can multiply its efforts by working together as a team. Does God call your church to respond with compassion, kindness, generosity and the Word during disasters? How can you prepare yourself and your church? How can you help protect your community? We can begin to build a more robust LCP response toward disasters by:

- Coordinating our efforts locally and nationally
- Collaborating on disaster response to take advantage of our individual church resources
- Communicating so all within the LCP are aware of opportunities and to become more efficient and effective in disaster response ministry
- Cooperating on training, equipping, and responding
- Celebrating what God is doing in our midst

The PCA has responded enthusiastically to this vital ministry over the years to alleviate suffering from the seemingly growing number of disasters. The key to being effective during the time of a disaster is preparation. When a disaster occurs, there is no time to discuss issues and approve courses of action that require immediate attention; we must be prepared in advance of disasters.

MNA DR's goal is to help stabilize and then restore affected PCA physical plants and the homes of members, and then to reach out to the community with Christ's love. It does this by working through presbyteries and local churches.

Before Disaster Strikes

A structure needs to be in place in order to mobilize the volunteers and to put into motion the chain of events that begins the response to victims of disaster. In general, disaster preparedness begins with the individual member, then the church body as a whole. From there the church, with support from the LCP and MNA DR, can support other PCA churches.

After Disaster Strikes

Once we receive a call for assistance, we will solicit volunteers and/or disaster response teams from the local churches within the bounds of LCP and coordinate and dispatch them based on availability and the type and extent of the disaster. This mobilization is done in coordination with MNA DR, the Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and local and state emergency management offices.

Roles and Responsibilities

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10

Presbytery

Approves enabling motions to adopt The Plan as advanced by the Presbytery MNA Committee

Subcommittee:

- A. Develops, administers and maintains The Plan
- B. Elects a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary and appoints other officers as necessary
- C. Meets as needed to discuss the action items necessary for the development and execution of The Plan, normally each quarter, more often when presbytery is responding to a new disaster
- D. Appoints a LCP Coordinator and Alternate to make or receive calls for assistance; normally this would be the Chairman and the Vice Chairman
- E. Encourages each church in the LCP to pray about disaster response and to appoint a Church DR Coordinator that allows for immediate contact to be made in the event of a disaster; typically this is a RE or DE
- F. Develops a database of resources to be used in the event of a disaster
- G. Promotes disaster preparedness and response within the LCP

Chairman, or Alternate if the Chairman is unavailable:

- A. Reports to the LCP MNA Committee on matters concerning disaster response and subcommittee actions
- B. Investigates and lobbies for yearly funding through the adoption of a line item in the presbytery budget; if funds are available within the LCP, those could be used in the event an affected church is unable to handle the financial fallout of a disaster event

LCP Disaster Response Coordinator or Alternate:

- A. Takes calls from MNA DR, LCP, individual PCA churches, governmental agencies, or volunteer agencies requesting assistance after a disaster
- B. Contacts the LCP churches in a disaster area to determine if assistance is needed
- C. Contacts the MNA DR Director if a disaster strikes within the region
- D. After consulting with the Subcommittee, sends out requests to LCP churches for volunteers, equipment or other resources
- E. Coordinates the dispatching of disaster response teams and volunteers
- F. Keeps the MNA DR Director apprised of events where action may be necessary or may be of interest
- G. Reports back to the Subcommittee after a disaster response action has been completed and sends reports to the LCP MNA Committee

Local Church Disaster Response Coordinator:

- A. Works together with the Subcommittee to customize the role of Local Church DR Coordinator
- B. Works with local church leadership to assess the capabilities of the church to provide volunteers, equipment, finances, and facilities
- C. Keeps the information updated at the local church level including resources such as volunteers, equipment and facilities
- D. Contacts the LCP DR Coordinator or Alternate and MNA DR Director when a disaster occurs and help is needed
- E. Receives calls from the LCP DR Coordinator or Alternate and MNA DR Director requesting or offering assistance to meet a disaster response need
- F. Solicits disaster response volunteers, gathers equipment and materials, and schedules the dispatching of teams/individuals in coordination with the LCP DR Coordinator
- G. Keeps the Subcommittee apprised of local church efforts in disaster response
- H. Promotes disaster preparedness and response in the church

LCP Preparedness and Response to Disasters

“...whatever you do, do all for the glory of God” 1 Corinthians 10:31

Coordinating – efforts locally and denomination-wide

- A. The LCP DR Coordinator or Alternate may receive a call for help from a Local Church DR Coordinator, the Presbytery, the MNA DR Director, and governmental agencies.
- B. The LCP DR Coordinator or Alternate may become aware of a disaster occurring outside the LCP geographical bounds such as Savannah River, Palmetto, Pee Dee, Fellowship, or Calvary Presbyteries, and may initiate calls to the MNA DR Director, or governmental and volunteer agencies
- C. The LCP DR Coordinator or Alternate would then solicit volunteers and/or disaster response teams from Local Church DR Coordinators based on availability and the type and extent of the disaster in coordination with the Subcommittee, the LCP MNA Committee, MNA DR and local and state emergency management offices
- D. Teams and volunteers dispatched will coordinate their work through the local PCA church and/or the locally established emergency disaster response center or MNA DR. No one should go uninvited as this can cause problems for local officials, the emergency operations center and/or the local PCA church
- E. The Local Church DR Coordinator should, to the extent possible, coordinate with the LCP on disaster response to maximize the impact of the response

Collaborating – on disaster response to take advantage of individual church resources

- A. The Subcommittee will provide questionnaires to each LCP church to assist the leadership in assessing their ability to respond to disasters and the resources they have available (*see Appendices A & B*)
- B. The LCP DR Coordinator or Alternate will solicit volunteers and/or disaster response teams and dispatch them based on availability and the type and extent of the disaster
- C. Volunteers may go individually or as part of teams of the LCP. There may be other PCA groups there as well
- D. We also may be collaborating with other denominations or organizations in response to a disaster

Communicating – so all within the LCP are aware of opportunities and to become more efficient and effective in disaster response ministry

- A. The LCP Disaster Response Subcommittee will provide information about opportunities for training and for volunteering for disaster response
- B. The Local Church DR Coordinator should keep the LCP DR Coordinator apprised on local church disaster response efforts outside of a LCP response

Cooperating – on training and responding

- A. The LCP DR Subcommittee will develop a training schedule which will be provided to all LCP Local Church Disaster Response Coordinators. This subcommittee may also seek out additional training and MNA DR consultation.
- B. The Local Church DR Coordinator should provide information to the LCP Coordinator of any local disaster response training which could benefit others in the LCP.
- C. Individuals and teams must be flexible and patient when responding; the on-site manager may have to change the schedule and type of work to be accomplished so there may be downtimes during a disaster response trip. Also, when working on disaster victims' property, individuals and teams need to be respectful and non-judgmental.

Celebrating – what God is doing in our midst

*“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good deeds
and praise your Father in heaven”. Matthew 5:16*

- A. The most critical part of preparing for and responding to disasters is seeking God's will, asking for His help, trusting Him completely, and giving Him praise and thanks throughout the process.
- B. The spiritual aspect of a disaster response effort has as high of priority as any of the physical labor being accomplished. Give God the glory!
 - 1. First, we should be “door openers” for the local PCA church by following up, inviting and building a relationship with disaster victims.
 - 2. Second, that doesn't mean we can't share the gospel with victims of disasters. Each day during a disaster response, the leaders should give the team members adequate time in the morning to ask God to provide opportunities to witness leaving the results to Him. Also, during the work day leaders should encourage prayer breaks.
 - 3. Third, a key part of any disaster response effort should be gathering the team together daily to pray and worship God as well as discuss the day's activities and the interactions with disaster victims. A sample Devotional Guide for Disaster Response Volunteers is available. Use this guide or develop your own for prayer and worship prior to, during and upon conclusion of your effort.

Appendix A

**CHURCH MEMBER
DISASTER RESPONSE INTEREST & SKILLS SURVEY**

Name: _____

Street Address: _____ Home Phone: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Church: _____ Church Phone: _____

Church Address: _____

Would you be interested in assisting with a disaster relief project by our church? ☐ In this community?
☐ In this county? ☐ Within the Presbytery? ☐ In this state? ☐ In the USA? ☐ Internationally?

How much lead-time would you need to get ready to participate in a project? _____

INTEREST/EXPERIENCE/TRAINING

Check the disaster ministries that interest you. Place **two checks** by areas where you are experienced.

<input type="checkbox"/> Advisory/advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Driver	<input type="checkbox"/> Reconstruction team
<input type="checkbox"/> Bulk distribution	<input type="checkbox"/> Elderly care	<input type="checkbox"/> Repair (emergency)
<input type="checkbox"/> Caring for pets	<input type="checkbox"/> Employment assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources/logistics
<input type="checkbox"/> Casework	<input type="checkbox"/> Evacuation of persons	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety
<input type="checkbox"/> Chainsaw crew/tree removal	<input type="checkbox"/> General handyman	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage
<input type="checkbox"/> Child care	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/> Sanitation
<input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup crew/debris removal	<input type="checkbox"/> Interpreter/translator:	<input type="checkbox"/> Security
<input type="checkbox"/> Clerical assistant	Language(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Shelter management or care
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Site manager
(including Ham Radios)	<input type="checkbox"/> Meal preparation	<input type="checkbox"/> Special needs care
<input type="checkbox"/> Computers	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical emergency team	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Counseling	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer team coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Damage assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Procurement	

Check if you have **specialized training** in the following (please add comments below):

<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced first aid and CPR	<input type="checkbox"/> Electrician	<input type="checkbox"/> Paramedic
<input type="checkbox"/> Bricklayer	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency child care	<input type="checkbox"/> Physician
<input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry	<input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism	<input type="checkbox"/> Plumbing
<input type="checkbox"/> Chaplain	<input type="checkbox"/> General contractor	<input type="checkbox"/> Roofer
<input type="checkbox"/> Crisis counseling	<input type="checkbox"/> Heavy equipment operator	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety
<input type="checkbox"/> Disaster relief	<input type="checkbox"/> Mass Feeding	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Dry walling/Painter	<input type="checkbox"/> Nurse	

Appendix B

CHURCH POTENTIAL FOR DISASTER RESPONSE

The following may be available during disaster response in or near our community:

Church Facilities

☐ Classrooms
☐ Dining room
☐ Dumpster
☐ Fellowship hall
☐ Food bank
☐ Gymnasium
☐ Ice makers
☐ Kitchen
☐ Nursery
☐ Outside electric hookup
☐ Outside sewage hookup
☐ Outside water hookup
☐ Refrigerators/freezers

☐ Rest rooms
☐ Showers
☐ Storage/vacant buildings
☐ Other _____

Communication Equipment

☐ Cell phones
☐ Ham Radios
☐ Satellite phones
☐ Other _____

Equipment

☐ Air compressors
☐ Chainsaws, etc.

☐ Generators
☐ High volume pumps
☐ Oxygen tanks
☐ Portable stoves
☐ Power painters
☐ Power washers
☐ Sanitation equipment/supplies
☐ Submersible pumps
☐ Other _____

Vehicles

☐ 4x4's
☐ Aircraft
☐ ATVs

___ Back hoes
___ Boats
___ Bobcats
___ Buses
___ Campers/RVs
___ Cargo Trailers
___ Dump trucks
___ Front loaders
___ Portable showers
___ Tractor-trailers
___ Flat bed trailers
___ Trucks
___ Vans
___ Other _____

Construction Supplies

___ Electrical

___ Hardware
___ Lumber
___ Plumbing
___ Other _____

Medical Supplies

___ Crutches
___ First-aid kits
___ Medical supplies
___ Wheelchairs
___ Other _____

Supplies

___ Cots
___ Drinking Water
___ Ice
___ Non-perishable food

___ Sanitizing liquids
___ Tarps
___ Tents
___ Other _____

Tools

___ Brooms/mops
___ Electric extension cords
___ Garden hoses
___ Hand tools
___ Paint brushes/rollers
___ Power tools
___ Rakes
___ Shop vacuums
___ Shovels
___ Other _____

Appendix C

Key People in the PCA, State, County, City, and Community

After listing the officials, list any church members or friends who may work in a particular office or agency. Sometimes, the personal contact is helpful.

TITLE

NAME

CONTACT INFORMATION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

MNA Disaster Response Director	Arklie Hooten	678-294-3011 ahooten@pcanet.org
LCP MNA Committee Chairman	Craig Bailey, TE	843-345-1325 craig@redeemer-charleston.org
LCP Disaster Response Coordinator	Troy Jones, DE (???)	843-560-1267 troyjones29448@gmail.com
LCP Disaster Response Alternate	???	
Local Church Disaster Response Coordinator		

STATE GOVERNMENT

State Representative		
State Senator		
Office of Public Safety or Emergency Management		
Area Coordinator		

COUNTY OFFICIALS

Emergency Mgmt Director		
Commissioner or Judge		
Sheriff		
Fire Marshal		

CITY OFFICIALS

Emergency Mgmt Director		
Fire Chief		
Fire Marshal		

Council Member		
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VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS

American Red Cross		
The Salvation Army		
VOAD		

OTHER CONTACTS
