

Nineteenth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery – November 5, 2020

The Nineteenth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry was held starting at 9:00 a.m., November 5, 2020 at Grace Coastal Church in Okatie.

Worship Service 9am	TE Sam Joyner read the Call to Worship from Psalm 95:1-3. The Presbyters stood and sang, O Worship the King and Rock of Ages. TE Joyner read Isaiah 30:18 and led the Presbyters in Confession of Sins followed by the singing of the Trisagion. Ephesians 2:1,4-5 was read as the Assurance of Pardon. Psalm 146 was read and then the Presbyters sang <i>Grace</i> , and gave of their offerings and tithes. After reading John 13:1-17, TE Joyner preached a message from God’s Holy Word. After properly fencing the Lord’s Table TE Joyner, the presbyters sang <i>When I Survey</i> and partook of the table. TE Joyner pronounced the Benediction.
Call to Order	<p>The Nineteenth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery was called to order by the moderator RE David Walters, Sr. at 10:10 AM in the sanctuary of Grace Coastal Church.</p> <p>The Moderator opened the meeting with prayer.</p>
Quorum	The moderator asked the Clerk if there was a quorum. The Clerk declared that a quorum was present.
Docket Approval	M/S/C: that the docket for the 19th Stated meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery as submitted by the Administration Committee and posted on the website and electronically distributed to presbyters be approved with changes.
Approval of Minutes	M/S/C: that the minutes of the 18th Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery which met on July 25, 2020 be approved as posted on the website.
Introduction of Guests & Memorials	<p>Guests & first-time commissioners were introduced.</p> <p>TE Gregg Perry w/ Third Millennium James Griffith w/ Third Millennium Leonard Liu with MTW RE Jack Hall – 1st time elder.</p> <p>The Moderator asked if there were any memorials. There were no Memorials. TE Kevin Thumpston was called to introduce his new book, <i>Questions of the Heart</i>.</p>
Ministry Equipping Time	TE Bailey introduced Dr. Gregg Perry with Third Millennium, VP of Strategic Projects. A key focus of Third Millennium is to train pastors.
Prayer Time	TE Steel led the presbyters in a season of prayer.
Presbytery Overture Committee	At our the 18 th Lowcountry Presbytery the following motion was approved: 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 Presbytery moderator shall 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 further report on the orderliness and appropriateness of rescinding the overture previously submitted at the 17th stated meeting. The committee shall distribute their report to the Lowcountry Presbytery at least TWO weeks in advance of the November 5, 2020 Stated Meeting.

Presentation of Report and discussion of Overture.

I. The Overture

OVERTURE TO THE 48TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PCA TO CLARIFY MORAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CHURCH OFFICE FROM LOWCOUNTRY PRESBYTERY

The overture was read:

OVERTURE TO THE 48TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PCA TO CLARIFY MORAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CHURCH OFFICE FROM LOWCOUNTRY PRESBYTERY

Whereas a candidate for ordination’s character is as important as his doctrine (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:6-9) and specific areas and means of inquiry into doctrine, knowledge, views, and ability are enumerated in the BCO (BCO 21-4; 24-1); yet little emphasis or elaboration is given to the examination of the candidate’s character (BCO 21-4-a-1; 24-1-a); and

Whereas the qualifications for a church officer particularly require that he be above reproach and blameless (1 Tim. 3:2,10; Tit. 1:7); and

Whereas scripture itself singles out sexual immorality as being worthy of particular note in the context of the church operating in the world (Acts 15:20); and

Whereas the Presbyterian Church in America has sought consistent and clear responses to questions of homosexuality throughout its history; and

Whereas recently the language of sexual and gender identification has caused much confusion, leading to the formation of a study committee and its helpful report; and

Whereas still other forms of actual sin and sinful desires raise similar concerns, and new issues will likely arise in the future; and

Whereas the Christian’s identity is rooted in Christ so that he is a “new creation” in Him, his identity cannot be defined by any desires or lifestyles that are contrary to the Holy Scripture; for the Christian there is a clear distinction between self-conception (“this is who I am”) and remaining indwelling sin (“This is what I must daily mortify”) (Rom. 6: 1-14; I Cor. 6: 9-11; II Cor. 5: 17; Gal. 2:20; Col. 3: 1-5); and

Whereas some men may have experienced various struggles with sin in a manner that would have disqualified them from church office, yet through God’s work of sanctification they have been faithfully and consistently,

although imperfectly, mortifying this sin with its desires to the point where they may be qualified; and

Whereas all Christians should expect to experience progress in the Christian life (WLC 75; WSC 35) as a work of grace by the Holy Spirit and in time to be enabled more and more to die unto sin and to live unto righteousness; and

Whereas the mortifying of sin includes not only actual sins committed but also the battling of all sinful passions and desires that remain (WLC 78; WSC 35); and

Whereas the “Report of the Ad Interim Committee on Human Sexuality” offers the clarifying distinction that “we name our sins, but are not named by them”; and

Whereas the answer to contemporary debates is better made with biblical and confessional language rather than the introduction of contemporary terms which cause confusion; and

Whereas there is precedent for amending the BCO to address emerging cultural issues;

Therefore be it resolved that, for the examination of Teaching Elders, *BCO* 21-4 be amended to add a new sub-paragraph 21-4-e, as follows, with the subsequent sub-paragraphs re-lettered:

In the examination of the candidate’s personal character, the presbytery should give specific attention to potentially notorious concerns, such as but not limited to relational sins, sexual immorality (including homosexuality, fornication, and pornography), addictions, abusive behavior, and financial mismanagement. Careful reflection should be given to his practical struggle against sinful actions, as well as persistent sinful desires. The candidate shall give clear testimony of his reliance upon his union with Christ and the benefits thereof by the Holy Spirit, depending upon this work of grace to make progress over sin (Psalm 103:2-5; Romans 8:29) and to bear fruit (Psalm 1:3; Galatians 5:22-23). While imperfection will remain, he should not be known by reputation or self-profession according to his remaining sinfulness, but rather by the work of the Holy Spirit in Christ Jesus (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). In order to maintain discretion and protect the honor of the pastoral office, the presbytery may empower a committee to conduct detailed examinations into these matters and to give prayerful support to candidates.

Be it further resolved that, for the examination of Ruling Elders and Deacons, *BCO* 24-1 be amended as follows (additions are underlined):

24-1. Every church shall elect persons to the offices of ruling elder and deacon in the following manner: At such times as determined by the Session, communicant members of the congregation may submit names

to the Session, keeping in mind that each prospective officer should be an active male member who meets the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. After the close of the nomination period nominees for the office of ruling elder and/or deacon shall receive instruction in the qualifications and work of the office. Each nominee shall then be examined in:

- a. his Christian experience, especially his personal character and family management (based on the qualifications set out in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9),
- b. his knowledge of Bible content,
- c. his knowledge of the system of doctrine, government, discipline contained in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America (*BCO* Preface III, *The Constitution Defined*),
- d. the duties of the office to which he has been nominated, and
- e. his willingness to give assent to the questions required for ordination. (*BCO* 24-6)

In the examination of each nominee's personal character, the session should give specific attention to potentially notorious concerns, such as but not limited to relational sins, sexual immorality (including homosexuality, fornication, and pornography), addictions, abusive behavior, and financial mismanagement. Careful reflection should be given to his practical struggle against sinful actions, as well as persistent sinful desires. Each nominee shall give clear testimony of his reliance upon his union with Christ and the benefits thereof by the Holy Spirit, depending upon this work of grace to make progress over sin (Psalm 103:2-5; Romans 8:29) and to bear fruit (Psalm 1:3; Galatians 5:22-23). While imperfection will remain, he should not be known by reputation or self-profession according to his remaining sinfulness, but rather by the work of the Holy Spirit in Christ Jesus (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). In order to maintain discretion and protect the honor of church office, the session may empower a committee to conduct detailed examinations into these matters and prayerful support to nominees.

If there are candidates eligible for the election, the Session shall report to the congregation those eligible, giving at least thirty (30) days prior notice of the time and place of a congregational meeting for elections.

If one-fourth (1/4) of the persons entitled to vote shall at any time request the Session to call a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing additional officers, it shall be the duty of the Session to call such a meeting on the above procedure. The number of officers to be elected shall be determined by the congregation after hearing the Session's recommendation.

Motion: That the Overture be adopted as presented from the committee.
Discussion followed.

Substitute Motion that the Overture be considered as a first reading and that it be voted on at the 20th Stated meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery.

TE Hamby call the question. Motion passed.

Motion fails. We returned to deal with the main motion:

We came up against the Order of the Day : Lunch
M/S/C to extend discussion – Motion passed.

TE Hamby, Call for the question on the Overture. Motion passed.
M/C: That the Overture be adopted as presented from the committee. **Motion passed by Super Majority.**

TE Song asked that his nay vote be recorded.

TE Joyner gave instructions for lunch and led the presbyters in prayer.
The moderator declared that we will reconvene at 12:45pm.

Order of the Day – Lunch

TE Michael Walters called the presbyters back to order by prayer at 12:45pm.

Motion and 2nd. TE Song moved that we reconsider the Overture just passed.
10 - 19 nay motion fails.

The resolution committee presented the following motion:

Resolution of Thanks

*Grace Coastal Presbyterian Church
November 5, 2020*

Whereas, the 2020 Fall meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery met at Grace Coastal Presbyterian Church in Okatie, SC, and;

Whereas, the Lord Jesus showed us the full measure of his love as He washed us in the waters of regeneration, sanctification, and in the commission we have to serve others, and;

Whereas, we have gathered confidently before the Rock of Ages at a time when our nation is reeling from a worldwide pandemic and a tumultuous election season, and;

Whereas, we give thanks to God for the work of Third Millennium Ministries as they provide biblical education, for the world, for free, and;

Whereas, we enjoyed a socially distanced lunch provided by the servants of Grace Coastal, and though we wished we could vote to extend our lunch time by at least ten minutes, we yielded to the other group coming into the building;

Therefore, be it resolved that Lowcountry Presbytery gives thanks to the Lord Jesus for his service to his people. And we give thanks to the servants here at Grace Coastal who have been blessed to be a blessing.

TE Bill Harritt read the resolution of thanks thanking the Grace Coastal church for their gracious hospitality and it passed by common consent!

TE Turner & 2nd :Motion to direct the Stated Clerk to hold the overture until after the 20th Stated meeting and ask the committee to find the best way to also address the racial issue as a part of Christian character and present their findings via a modified or an additional overture at the January meeting.

14 yes, 16 nay. **Motion fails.**

TE Walters addressed the remainder of the Committee's business:

- II. Advice concerning how churches in Lowcountry Presbytery may make use of the report of The Forty-Seventh General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America Ad Interim Committee on Human Sexuality.
- III. A recommendation concerning the orderliness of rescinding/ withdrawing a previously submitted overture.

See Minority and Majority Reports on the request to Withdraw Overture 7 Discussion & Action on Issue with Overture 7. Both the minority and majority reports were addressed.

MSP: TE Turner moved to call the question. Motion passed.

M/C: to request the withdrawal of the overture relating to BCO17 adopted at the 17th Stated meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery, labeled Overture 7. 19 Yaw 14 Nay. **Motion carries**

TE Michael Walters closed the report in prayer.

Candidates &
Credentials

TE Alex Mark opened the report in prayer.

At the July meeting, TE Rob Hamby requested that the presbyters receive in advance the exams for a transfer candidate. The committee recommends that this be done as long as sensitive personal information is removed before distribution.

TE Mark noted that the committee will act on TE Hamby's request for future examinations.

The report was closed in prayer.

**MNA/MTW
Committee**
10 minutes

TE Craig Bailey opened the MNA/MTW report in prayer.

The committee brings this motion to presbytery:

M/C: In light of these unprecedented times caused by COVID-19, the MNA Committee of Lowcountry Presbytery appoints Rev. Rob Hamby to serve as an evangelist to preach the Word, administer the Sacraments, to receive and dismiss members of Point Hope Mission Church, and to train potential officers. This appointment will be reviewed and may be renewed after a twelve-month term (BCO 8-6).

As suggested at the July meeting, the committee has agreed and submits the following motion:

Motion to transfer the \$3,000 in unused 2020 MTW scholarships to the MNA account for Joel Brown and his work with J.P. Sibley and South Carolina State.

TE Bailey introduced the Southeast Regional Director of MTW, TE Leonard Liu.

2 Ruling elders are needed to serve on the MNA/MTW committee! Please submit names of Ruling Elders who can serve on this vital committee.

TE Hamby gave a report on the Church Planting work at Pointe Hope Mission Church.

TE Francis gave a report on the Church Planting work at Cane Bay.

TE Sibley gave a report on the New City Church work in Orangeburg.

The report of the MNA/MTW committee was closed in prayer by TE Schley.

Campus
Ministries
Committee

TE Rob Hamby opened the report in prayer.

- Please see written reports from Joel Brown at South Carolina State and Claflin University and TE Sammy Rhodes at USC Columbia. Please pass these on to your churches.
- We nominate Rob Hamby to serve for another term on our committee.
- Approval of TE Clark's Housing allowance for 2020

M/C: to approve the attached Housing Allowance Resolution for TE Danny Clark:

Resolution of the Low Country Presbytery of The Presbyterian Church in America Designating a Portion of The Reverend Danny Clark's 2020 Compensation as Rental/Housing Allowance

Whereas, Internal Revenue Code Section 107, as well as the associated Regulation 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, Lowcountry Presbytery, is a qualifying organization, Now, Therefore, be it Resolved that \$35,289.00 of the compensation paid The Reverend Danny Clark during 2021 is designated as a rental/housing allowance in accordance with the provisions of Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code; and

Be it Further 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.

This Resolution is applicable for calendar year 2020 and all future years unless otherwise provided by the Affiliated Committee.
Adopted this 5th day of November 2020,
Lowcountry Presbytery

- Brief campus ministry report Campus Ministry Report from Danny Clark on the work at College of Charleston.

TE Bowen and TE Joyner closed the report in prayer.

Judicial
Committee

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

No report.

Shepherding &
Church Vitality
Committee:

TE Ron Steel opened the report of the Shepherding Committee in prayer.

See LOB Reports at the end of this docket.

M/C: Having received their LOB reports, that Lowcountry Presbytery affirm that the ministries of TE Chris Brown, TE Howard Cole. TE Phil Stogner and TE Bill Schweitzer are approved and they may continue to labor out of bounds per the terms of BCO 13-2.

M/C: That today's offering of \$244 from the Presbytery worship service be equally distributed to the church plants under the leadership of Rob Hamby and Nathan Francis.

M/C: that the Report of the Commission to Ordain and Install TE Chris Bowen on August 23, 2020 be approved.

TE Steel closed the report in prayer.

**Administrative
Committee**
10 minutes

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*.
- 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, 2020.
- Budget Requests: It is the job of the Administrative Committee to present a budget at the November Stated meeting (Nov 1, 2019). The Administrative Committee has taken input from each committee is presenting to you today with a recommended budget for 2020.

RE Rich Wyly opened the report in prayer.

The Stated clerk reminded presbyters of 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

Report of the Treasurer.

- Presentation of Proposed Budgets for 2021
See Attached: Proposed Balanced Budget 2021

M/S/C: to approve the BALANCED budget for 2021 as presented

Changes to Lowcountry Presbytery Standing Rules – 2nd Reading

See attached copy of Lowcountry Presbytery Standing Rules w/ proposed Changes:

2nd reading : The 1st reading occurred at the 18th Stated meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery. 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

M/C: The changes to the Standing Rules Nominations received a first reading at the 18th Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery and are to be acted upon at this 19th Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery. That the changes as submitted will become a part of the Lowcountry Presbytery Standing Rules. The changes will require a 2/3 affirmative vote per section 2.2 of our Standing Rules.

Motion passes unanimously.

Elections:

We will need to elect men to replace the Class of 2020 at this Presbytery meeting so that they will be ready to serve in 2021. They will be the class of 2023. These men have been nominated, Vacant slots are indicated and NEED TO BE FILLED, please come with nominations:

Motion: that the following Committee Members be elected:

Campus Ministries Committee (5 members)

Current: TE Joyner 22, chair; TE Hamby 20; TE Harritt 22; RE Slay 21; RE Hemmingway 22

M/S/C: Re-elect TE Rob Hamby 2023

Administrative Committee: 4 at large, 1 rep from each other committee

Current TE Turner 20, chair; RE David Walters Sr.21; RE David Walters, Jr.22 plus chairs

M/S/C: Re-elect TE Mark Turner 2023

Need another TE to fill the vacant spot – PLEASE NOMINATE

MNA & MTW Committee: 6 members

TE Craig Bailey 21, Chair; RE Kurt Brewer 20; RE David Walters, Jr. 20; RE Rich Wylly 21; TE Cole 22; TE Schley 22

o **M/S/C:** TE John Song – elect class of 2023 to replace Kurt Brewer

o Need Nomination -- elect for class of 2023

Candidates & Credentials Committee: 9 members

TE Alex Mark 21, Chair; TE Jon Payne 21; TE Howard Cole 20; RE Dean Ezell 21; TE Chris Bowen 20; RE Sinn 22; TE Olsen 22; RE Wylly 22; RE Suddeth 22

o **M/S/C:** TE Howard Cole, re-elect 2023

o **M/S/C:** TE Chris Bowen, re-elect 2023

RE Ezell off.

Judicial Committee: 2 members, 1 TE, 1 RE

TE Michael Walters 21, Chair; RE Barry Brinson, 22

No action needed this year

Shepherding & Church Vitality Committee: 8 members

TE Ron Steel 20, Chair; TE Ben Konopa 21; RE Jim Abbott 21; TE John Mark Patrick 21; RE David Walters, Sr.20; TE Michael Walters 20; TE Sibley 22; RE Woernle 22

o **M/S/C:** RE David Walters, Sr. re-elect 2023

o **M/S/C:** TE Michael Walters, re-elect 2023

Trustees

RE Nate Arnold 20; RE Jim Rowland 21; RE Warren 22; RE David Walters, Sr. 22

o **M/S/C:** RE Nate Arnold., re-elect 2023

Election of Moderator: –

Nominations from the floor, TE J.P. Sibley has been nominated as Moderator for 2021. **M/S/C:** To elect as Moderator for 2021 – TE J.P. Sibley

Adjournment

M/S/C: to adjourn the 19th Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery with prayer.

TE Ron Steel closed in prayer at 3:25 pm.

Appendixes:

- A. Attendance Roster – Teaching Elders
- B. Attendance Roster – Ruling Elders
- C. Guest Attendance Roster

Appendix A

Teaching Elder Attendance for November 5, 2020 Nineteenth Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:

P=present; X=Excused; U=Unexcused; HR=Honorably Retired

Bailey, Craig	Redeemer Church, Charleston	P
Bauer, Michael	Christ Church, Charleston	U
Bowen, Chris	Hilton Head Church, Hilton Head	P
Brown, Christopher	LOB, Chaplain, MUSC, Charleston	X
Clark, Danny	RUF, College of Charleston	P
Cole, Howard	Metro North Church, Goose Creek	X
Francis, Nathan	Church Planter, Cane Bay	P
Hamby, Rob	Church Planter, Cainhoy Peninsula	P
Harritt, Bill	Eastbridge Church, Mt. Pleasant	P
Joyner, Sam	Grace Coastal Church, Okatie	P
Konopa, Ben	HR, Eastbridge, Mt. Pleasant	HR
Mark, Alex	First Scots, Beaufort	P
McCutchen, William	Hilton Head Church, Hilton Head	P
Mullen, Jeremy	Two Rivers Presbyterian	P
Olson, John	Church Creek, Charleston	U
Patrick, John Mark	Trinity Church, Orangeburg	P
Payne, Jon	Christ Church, Charleston	U
Schley, John	Metro North Church, Goose Creek	P
Schweitzer, Bill	MTW, England	ME
Sibley, J.P.	New City Fellowship Plant	P
Song, John	Redeemer Church, Charleston	P
Steel, Ron	Eastbridge Church, Mt. Pleasant	P
Stogner, Phil	MTW Scotland	ME
Turner, Mark	Oakbrook Church, Summerville	P
Walters, Michael	Church Creek, Charleston	P
Walton, Steve	First Scots, Beaufort	P
Watson, Thom	Without Call	U

Appendix B

Ruling Elder Attendance for November 5, 2020 Nineteenth Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:

Nate	Arnold	Metro North PCA
DB	Cummings	Church Creek Presbyterian
Tim	Greenway	Grace Coastal Church
Jack	Hall	Grace Coastal Church
Ron	Hemingway	Eastbridge Presbyterian
John	Hildreth	Two Rivers Presbyterian
Nathan	Holleman	Two Rivers Presbyterian
Mark	Senn	First Scots Presbyterian
Mike	Slay	Grace Coastal Church
John	Thomas	Hilton Head Presbyterian
George	Townes	Hilton Head Presbyterian
David	Walters, Jr.	Church Creek Presbyterian
David	Walters, St.	Church Creek Presbyterian
Bo	Warren	First Scots Presbyterian
Ron	Woernle	First Scots Presbyterian
Rich	Wyly	Eastbridge Presbyterian

Appendix C:

Guest Attendance for November 5, 2020 Nineteenth Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:

TE Liu Leonard, James River Presbytery

TE Greg Perry, Central Florida Presbytery, Third Millennium Ministries

TE Kevin Thumpston, Palmetto Presbytery, Watershed Fellowship

Mr. Jamison Griffin, Third Millennium Ministries