

Twentieth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery

January 23, 2021

The Twentieth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry was held at 9:00 a.m., January 23, 2021 at Metro North PCA in Goose Creek, SC. Additionally because of COVID-19 delegates were permitted to electronically participate per our Standing Rules via Zoom.

Worship Service 9am	TE John Schley welcomed presbyters and then read a Call to Worship from Psa 59:16-17. He led in prayer and the presbyters sang a hymn, recited a Confession of Sin and heard an Assurance of Pardon from Psa 103:8-12. An offering was given as an act of worship and the presbyters sang, <i>Before the Throne</i> . TE John Schley preached a sermon from Col 4:7-18 about God's Fullness in Ministry. After properly fencing the table, TE John Schley and the elders of Metro North PCA served the Lord's Table.
Call to Order	The Twentieth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery was called to order by the moderator, TE JP Sibley at 10:13AM in the sanctuary Metro North PCA in Goose Creek, SC. TE Sibley read the Mission Statement of Lowcountry Presbytery, he then opened the meeting with prayer.
Quorum	TE Sibley asked the Stated Clerk if there was a quorum. Electronic delegates were recognized and acknowledged. The Stated Clerk declared that a quorum was present.
Docket Approval	M/S/C: that the docket for the 20th Stated meeting of Lowcountry presbytery submitted by the Administration Committee and posted on the website and electronically distributed to presbyters be approved as presented.
Approval of Minutes	M/S/C: that the Minutes from the 19 th Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery which met on November 5, 2020 which were posted on the website in the packet be approved (with modifications).
Review of Session Minutes	M/S/C to form a Committee as a whole to review the Session minutes of the churches. Minutes of the various Churches were handed out for review along with a Minutes Review form.
Introduction of Guests Presentation of Memorials	Special Guests and first time delegates were acknowledged. Mr. Joel Brown was the liaison for Zoom delegates. The Moderator asked if there were any memorials. There were none. The Moderator appointed TE Nathan Francis & TE Thom Watson to the Committee of Thanks.
Prayer Time 10:20am	The presbyters broke into groups and spent time in a season of prayer for the churches and ministries within the Lowcountry Presbytery.
10:50am BUSINESS	TE Sibley called the presbyters back to order after the season of prayer to conduct the business of the presbytery.

Candidates & Credentials Committee:

No Report.

MNA/MTW Committee
10 minutes

RE Rich Wylly opened the MNA/MTW report in prayer.
RE Wylly reported on the status of our church planters in the Lowcountry. He encouraged church sessions to prayerfully come up with creative ways to encourage and support our church planters during this difficult time.
RE Wylly reminded presbyters that money is available to support vision mission trips in our churches. Inputs are requested by April of 2021 for Summer trips. The committee also is in need of an additional RE to join the MNA/MTW committee.
TE Nathan Francis gave a brief report of the Cane Bay Church Plant. The provisional session of the Cane Bay church plant prayed for Nathan's health.
TE Rob Hamby gave a brief report on the Point Hope Mission Church. Pray that amidst the pandemic relationships can be developed and the Gospel spread.
The report was closed in prayer.

Campus Ministries Committee
10 minutes

TE Rob Hamby, Chairman, Point Hope Mission, rob@pointhopepres.com
TE Rob Hamby opened the report in prayer.

- Brief campus ministry report
Report from Joel Brown South Carolina State University/Claflin University
- TE John Song prayed for TE Danny Clark and his ministry at the College of Charleston.

M/C from the Committee to add RE Nathan Holleman, Two Rivers PCA to Campus Ministry Committee

TE Hamby closed the Campus Ministries report in prayer.

Judicial Committee:

TE Michael Walters. Church Creek PCA, Charleston
[m.allenwalters@gmail.com].
No report

Shepherding & Church Vitality Committee:

TE Ron Steel, Chairman, Eastbridge PCA, Mt. Pleasant [ron.steel48@gmail.com].
M/C to designate today's offering of \$231 from the worship service to be divided between the 3 Mission Plant efforts of Lowcountry presbytery.

Metro North has asked for TE John Schley to be made their Senior Pastor:
Note from RE Brian Kath, Stated Clerk of Metro North Session: *We have been following the pastoral search process. The search committee, by unanimous vote and with unanimous agreement from the Session, presented John to the congregation as the candidate for Senior Pastor. We communicated to the congregation that, due to the circumstances, a 4/5 vote would be required to move this to Presbytery for review and vote. Our understanding is that Presbytery will review, discuss and vote on this at the January 23rd meeting. Pending a vote in support of this, we have tentatively scheduled the installation service January 31st, 2021.*
See Metro North Congregation Meeting Minutes 12/13/2020

M/S/C: to approve the change of call of TE John Schley from associate to senior pastor by request of the session and congregation of Metro North. It was noted that the congregation properly elected by secret ballot TE John Schley per BCO 23-1. Yay 26-- Nay 1 Abstention 2

M/C to approve the terms of call for TE John Schley as presented by the session of Metro North Church to the Shepherding Committee who has approved the call package.

TE Ron Steel prayed for the ministry of TE Schley and the Metro North Church.

M/S/C: that we extend this report by 5 minutes.

M/S/C:that we approve the Commission to install TE John Schley as Senior Pastor of Metro North Church on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at Metro North Church in Goose Creek, SC. The commission shall be composed of TE Nathan Francis as convener, TE Thom Watson, RE Brian Kath and RE Nate Arnold. Additionally RE Todd Billman, RE David Braun, RE Matthew Schwart, and RE Jim Walsh. A quorum being two Ruling Elders and two Teaching Elders.

Motions to address TE Sam Joyner – Senior pastor of Grace Coastal Church dissolution of pastoral relationship by mutual consent – See BCO 23-1.

M/S/C: to Per BCO 23-1 to dissolve the pastoral relationship between TE Sam Joyner and Grace Coastal Church per their mutual request. TE Joyner shall be kept on the rolls of Lowcountry Presbytery without call.

TE Ron Steel closed the report in prayer and prayed for the upcoming meal. The Moderator declared we will reconvene at 12:45pm.

Presbytery was reconvened with Prayer by the Moderator at 12:50pm. The Committee of Thanks read the Resolution of Thanks.

Resolution of Thanks
Metro North Presbyterian Church
Jan 23, 2021

- Whereas, the 2021 Jan meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery met at Metro North Presbyterian Church in Goose Creek, SC, and;
- Whereas, the Lord Jesus through the preaching of TE John Schley showed us that list of names and final greetings have much to teach us we've got our fruit growing on other peoples' trees, and;
- Whereas, we have gathered confidently in our historic in person and zoom in the grace of God Who is present in all places, and;
- Whereas, we give thanks for the MNA report, and prayer time that included the use of essential oils,
- Whereas, we prayed fervent prayers under many faces joining your hearts but not our germs before the throne of God,
- Whereas, we rejoice with John Schley's new call as senior pastor of Metro North Church, and;

- Whereas, we enjoyed a socially distanced lunch provided by the servants of Metro North, and though we wish we could get grab to-go boxes for dinner, we yielded to the rejoining for business;
- 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 Metro North who have been blessed to be a blessing.

**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 843-606-0572
- Treasurer: RE David Walters, Sr. treasurer@lowcountrypresbytery.org 843-297-2517
- Recording Clerk: TE Mark Turner recordingclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org 843-224-9337
- Moderator: TE JP Sibley jsibley@gmail.com 803-747-4935
- 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, 2021.

RE Rich Wyly gave the Report of the Stated Clerk and the Treasurer:

1. Report of Stated Clerk

- Stated Clerk's report
In support of the General Assembly (GA), the Lowcountry Presbytery has the following opportunities that we can nominate folks for:
 - a. Nominating Committee (Ruling Elder), class of 2022.
 - b. Review of Presbytery Records (Teaching Elder), class of 2022

Nominations are due to the Stated Clerk's office 4 months prior to the start of GA (June 29th). As such our nominations will be due on Monday, March 1st.

2. Report of the Treasurer

- Treasurer's report

3. Report from Overture Committee

This motion comes from the overture committee:

M/S/C: The overture committee moves to modify overture 30 by including footnotes that were previously missing. See Updated Overture 30 in packet.

M/S/C: that TE Chris Brown, TE Chris Bowen, TE Bill Harritt, TE Bill McCutcheon, TE Olson, and TE Bailey, TE John Mark Patrick be granted excused absences for today's presbytery meeting.

Report of the Session Minute Review Committee

M/S/C: that the 2020 minutes of the following churches be approved:
Grace Coastal Church, Church Creek, Eastbridge Grace Coastal, w/o exception;
First Scots Presbyterian, Metro North, Trinity with Notations;
And Oakbrook Church pending approval being asked to submit additional
supporting documents and that the following churches be exhorted to submit
their minutes at the next stated meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery: Christ Church,
Hilton Head PCA; Redeemer PCA and Two Rivers.

- **The Stated clerk reminded presbyters of Upcoming Stated Meetings:**
21st – 4/27/2021 – First Scots, Beaufort, SC
22nd – 7/24/2021 – Location needed
23rd – 11/4/2021 – Location needed

RE Rich Wyly closed the report of AC in prayer.

Adjournment

M/S/C: to adjourn the 20th Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery with prayer.
The Moderator, TE JP Sibley closed in prayer at 1:08pm.

Appendixes:

- A. Attendance Roster – Teaching Elders
- B. Attendance Roster – Ruling Elders
- C. Guest Attendance Roster
- D. Overture 30 w/ Footnotes

Appendix A

Teaching Elder Attendance for January 23, 2021 Twentieth Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:

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

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

Appendix B

Ruling Elder Attendance for January 23, 2021 Twentieth Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:

Nate	Arnold	P	Metro North PCA
DB	Cummings	Z	Church Creek Presbyterian
Ron	Woernle	Z	First Scots Presbyterian
Barry	Brinson	Z	Two Rivers Presbyterian
Mark	Senn	Z	First Scots Presbyterian
Matthew	Schwartz	P	Metro North
David	Braun	P	Metro North
Ron	Hemingway	P	Eastbridge
Mike	Royal	P	Christ Church
Todd	Billman	P	Metro North
Jim	Walsh	P	Metro North
David	Walters, Sr.	P	Church Creek Presbyterian
Brian	Kath	P	First Scots Presbyterian
Mike	Slay	P	Grace Coastal Presbyterian
Rich	Wylly		Eastbridge Presbyterian

Appendix C:

Guest Attendance for January 23, 2021 Twentieth Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:

Dave Cantrill, Metro North; Tyler McSwain, Metro North; Joel Brown, New City Fellowship.

Appendix D: Overture 30 w/ Footnotes – NEXT PAGE:

37 **Whereas** some men may have experienced various struggles with sin in a manner that
38 would have disqualified them from church office, yet through God’s work of
39 sanctification they have been faithfully and consistently, although imperfectly,
40 mortifying this sin with its desires to the point where they may be qualified; and

41
42 **Whereas** all Christians should expect to experience progress in the Christian life (WLC
43 75; WSC 35) as a work of grace by the Holy Spirit and in time to be enabled more and
44 more to die unto sin and to live unto righteousness; and

45
46 **Whereas** the mortifying of sin includes not only actual sins committed but also the
47 battling of all sinful passions and desires that remain (WLC 78; WSC 35); and

48
49 **Whereas** the “Report of the Ad Interim Committee on Human Sexuality” offers the
50 clarifying distinction that “we name our sins, but are not named by them”³; and

51
52 **Whereas** the answer to contemporary debates is better made with biblical and
53 confessional language rather than the introduction of contemporary terms which
54 cause confusion; and

55
56 **Whereas** there is precedent for amending the BCO to address emerging cultural
57 issues⁴;

58
59 **Therefore be it resolved** that, for the examination of Teaching Elders, BCO 21-4 be
60 amended to add a new sub-paragraph 21-4-e, as follows, with the subsequent sub-
61 paragraphs re-lettered:

62 **21-4-e** In the examination of the candidate’s personal character, the presbytery
63 should give specific attention to potentially notorious concerns, such as but
64 not limited to relational sins, sexual immorality (including homosexuality,
65 fornication, and pornography), addictions, abusive behavior, and financial
66 mismanagement. Careful reflection should be given to his practical struggle
67 against sinful actions, as well as persistent sinful desires. The candidate shall
68 give clear testimony of his reliance upon his union with Christ and the benefits
69 thereof by the Holy Spirit, depending on this work of grace to make progress
70 over sin (Psalm 103: 2-5, Romans 8:29) and to bear fruit (Psalm 1:3; Gal. 5: 22-
71 23). While imperfection will remain, he should not be known by reputation or
72 self-profession according to his remaining sinfulness, but rather by the work
73 of the Holy Spirit in Christ Jesus (1 Cor 6: 9-11). In order to maintain discretion
74 and protect the honor of the pastoral office, the presbytery may empower a
75 committee to conduct detailed examination into these matters and to give
76 prayerful support to candidates.

3 “Report of the Ad Interim Committee on Human Sexuality,” p 11, lines 22-23.

4 For example, the Forty-Seventh GA approved amendments to BCO 59-3, and granted it full constitutional authority (see the Minutes of the 47th General Assembly, p 19, available at https://pcahistory.org/pca/ga/47th_pcaga_2019.pdf).

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

80 **24-1.** Every church shall elect persons to the office of ruling elders and deacon in
81 the following manner: At such times as determined by the Session, communicant
82 members of the congregation may submit names to the Session, keeping in mind
83 that each prospective officer should be an active male member who meets the
84 qualifications set forth in 1 Tim. 3 and Tit. 1. After the close of the nomination
85 period nominees for the office of ruling elder and/or deacon shall receive
86 instruction in the qualifications and work of the office. Each nominee shall then
87 be examined in:

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

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

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

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

Adopted by the Lowcountry Presbytery at its stated meeting, November 5th, 2020.

Attested by RE _____, stated clerk

Richard H. Wylly