

## Recommended Docket for the Sixth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery

**To be held: 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at Eastbridge PCA, Mt. Pleasant, SC**

Recommended Docket submitted by the Administration Committee:

That the following docket be approved for the Sixth Stated Meeting of the Palmetto Presbytery scheduled for April 25, 2017 at Eastbridge PCA, Mt. Pleasant, SC:

- 9:00 Worship with Sacrament of the Lord's Supper  
10:00 Break  
10:15 Call to Order & Opening Business
1. Welcome
  2. Roll Call (by registration sign in sheets)
  3. Clerk's declaration of quorum
  4. Adoption of docket
  5. Moderator to appoint Committee of Thanks
  6. Introduction of Special Guests & First Time Commissioners
  7. Presentation of Memorials
- 10:30 Ministry Equipping Time  
*Howard Cole - Equipping Our People to Make New Disciples -- II*  
11:00 Prayer Time – led by Shepherding & Church Vitality Committee  
11:15 Business & Reports
- Approval of Fifth Lowcountry Presbytery minutes for January 28, 2017
  - Presentation of Omnibus motion
  - Administration Committee
    - Report of Stated Clerk
    - Report of the Treasurer
  - Campus Ministries Committee
  - Church Planting & Outreach Committee
  - Judicial Committee – no report
  - Leadership Development Committee
  - Shepherding & Church Vitality Committee
  - Additional Business if needed & Adjournment targeted before 2:30
- 12:00 Resolution of Thanks for Host Church  
Order of the Day – Lunch

### Administration Committee

TE Chris Bennett will present report.

#### Important Information:

- The mailing address for Lowcountry Presbytery is P.O. Box 31775, Charleston, SC 29417-1775. The website address is [www.lowcountrypresbytery.org](http://www.lowcountrypresbytery.org)
- Stated Clerk: TE Chris Bennett [statedclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org](mailto:statedclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org) 843-202-0655
- Treasurer: TE Chris Bennett [treasurer@lowcountrypresbytery.org](mailto:treasurer@lowcountrypresbytery.org) 843-202-0655
- Recording Clerk: TE Mark Turner [recordingclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org](mailto:recordingclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org) 843-224-9337
- Moderator: TE Ross Hodges [ross@christchurchcharleston.org](mailto:ross@christchurchcharleston.org) 334-391-4931
- Health Insurance is cooperatively provided among the 3 multiplied Presbyteries through the *Stewart and Monroe Health Insurance Agency*.

### Upcoming Stated Meetings:

- 7<sup>th</sup> – Sat, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 – Church Creek Presbyterian, Charleston
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Thu, Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 – Hilton Head Presbyterian, Charleston
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Sat, Jan 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Redeemer Presbyterian, Charleston
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Tue, Apr 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Location needed
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Sat, Jul 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Location needed
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Thu, Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 – Location needed

Due to remodeling at Church Creek it will be necessary to find an alternate location for the Saturday, July 22 meeting – would your church consider hosting our July 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting?

### Nominations Upcoming:

We will need to elect men to replace the Class of 2017 at the November 2, 2017 Presbytery meeting so that they will be ready to serve in 2018. Here is a list of the class of 2017:

- TE Mark Turner – Administration
- RE Chris Jarvis – Campus Ministries
- RE Kurt Brewer – Church Planting & Outreach
- TE Phil Stogner – Church Planting & Outreach
- TE Howard Cole – Leadership Development
- TE Tim Pitzer – Leadership Development
- TE Ron Steel – Shepherding & Church Vitality
- RE David Walters, Sr. -- Shepherding & Church Vitality
- TE Michael Walters -- Shepherding & Church Vitality
- RE Nate Arnold – Trustee

Please let any member of the administrative Committee know if you have suggestions. We will be receiving nominations through our July meeting and voting on them at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

#### 1. Report of Stated Clerk & Treasurer

- Stated Clerk's report
- Treasurer's report

**Motion** that TE Ross Hodges be appointed to the Overtures Committee and TE Jon Payne be appointed to the Committee of Commissioners on Mission to the World for the 45th meeting of the General Assembly.

**Motion** that the Stated Clerk and Moderator be authorized to fill the Lowcountry Presbytery 2017 General Assembly Committee of Commissioners positions from those Presbyters who will be attending the 45th meeting of the General Assembly being held in Greensboro, NC, June 12-16, 2017. If you will be attending and are interested in serving on a Committee of Commissioners this year, please contact TE Chris Bennett as soon as possible at 717-224-0257, [statedclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org](mailto:statedclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org).

### Church Planting and Outreach Committee

TE Craig Bailey, Chairman, Redeemer PCA, Charleston [[craig@redeemer-charleston.org](mailto:craig@redeemer-charleston.org)].

TE Bailey will briefly share about mission opportunities for presbyters and available funds to sponsor presbyters to go on mission trips. He will also update the presbytery on the Bluffton plant from Independent Presbyterian Church.

The motion to approve the commission to organize First Scots Presbyterian was in the Omnibus motion.

## Campus Ministries Committee

TE Sam Joyner, Chairman, Grace Coastal PCA, Okatie [sam@gracecoastalchurch.com].  
Brief report from TE Sammy Rhodes about his RUF ministry at the USC.  
See Campus Ministries report at end after Omnibus motion.

## Judicial Committee

TE David Donovan, Chairman, Church Creek PCA, Charleston [pastordavid@church-creek.org].  
No Report. Let us pray that this committee remains without work.

## Leadership Development Committee (LDT)

TE Jon Payne, Chairman, Christ Church PCA, [jdpchristchurch@icloud.com].  
Update: RE Nate Arnold is still working on licensure.  
There are currently no licentiates, candidates, or men under care.

## Shepherding and Church Vitality

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

**Motion** from committee:

Motion to approve the attached call from the Trinity Presbyterian Church of Orangeburg, SC to T.E. John Mark Patrick to be their Senior Pastor. Presbytery notes that T.E. Patrick has been the Associate Pastor of the church before receiving this call. For this reason, 4/5 of the congregation and ¾ of the Presbytery must approve the call (BCO, 23-1). The 4/5 threshold was amply attained by the congregation's vote.

**Note:** the Presbytery must approve this motion by a ¾ majority (BCO 23-1)

Possible motion to dissolve pastoral relationship if prepared in time.

## Resolution of Thanks

Last order of business before Lunch – approve resolution of thanks to host church.

## Omnibus Motion

Omnibus Motions are collected and moved by the Stated Clerk to expedite routine business that usually does not require discussion and debate. All of these items will be included in one omnibus motion for a SINGLE vote **unless** there is a request to lift one or more for separate action during the meeting. If you have questions or would like further information about any item in the Omnibus Motion, please request that item be lifted out for special consideration.

### **The Omnibus Motion for the Sixth Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:**

1. **Motion** to form a Committee as a whole to review the Session minutes of the churches.  
Please be prepared to have one of your commissioners' review the minutes of another church during the Presbytery meeting. **The following churches have not yet submitted their 2016 minutes for review: Church Creek, Eastbridge, Hilton Head, Two Rivers.**
2. **Motion** that the report of the commission to install and organize First Scots Presbyterian and install their pastor TE Alex Mark on February 12, 2017 be approved.  
Sent as attachment or see website.

## Campus Ministry Report

### **RCF Citadel 2nd Semester 2017**

We have between 12 to 15 cadets each Monday for our large group meetings. That number of disciples is pretty normal as 2nd semester is when the competition for time really presses upon their commitment to the ministry and fellowship on Mondays. Add to classes, their ROTC training, required leadership training, and their Company (think fraternity) demands it is a wonder that they carve out the time at all. But they do! "We few, but oh, we happy few!"

We are studying the "Means of His Grace" again this semester through select scriptures. We always begin our time with worship in songs and from time to time are "invited" to quiet it down as neither the Honor Court nor Jewish group down the hall quite appreciate our singing, nor the laughter from the games we enjoy playing to wake everyone up as it is the end of their long day.

We are excited that two of our men are mature disciples and are going into the military service as officers. We have often spoken in our group about subjects that many campuses might not find relevant. "Is it wrong for me to kill another person at the command of another person (the officer up from you in the chain of command) if I do not agree with the command?" "What is a 'just war'?" "Pornography and sexual behavior that is associated with Citadel manhood is pressed upon me by my upperclassmen in my Company. I am also supposed to drink and fight 'like a man' when told to. What do I do since I am not a snitch or do not want to be seen as weak?"

We have a good class of cadet leaders returning for next academic year. We have less than five weeks before graduation. This year's baccalaureate service is to be preached by Rev. Jeff Strueker. Jeff is a reformed pastor in Columbus, GA and a good friend to one of our cadet leaders. We have made arrangements for him to come and speak to all the graduating seniors, parents, and teachers and share the gospel. Jeff's testimony includes his being a part of the enlisted troupe as seen in the movie, "Black Hawk Down." This should be an exciting recounting of the action in the streets of Mogadishu, but more importantly, a retelling of the Gospel.

### **RUF at College of Charleston: March 2017 Update**

**Fellowship:** Building fellowship among a bunch of overly committed, success-driven, individualistic students is perhaps our most challenging job these days. But just recently, we've had some encouraging developments along those lines. Since coming back from spring break group of over 20 freshmen and sophomores went swing dancing for an evening, a large group of girls went to see Beauty and the Beast together, on a Friday afternoon a bunch of guys had a great time playing spike ball and ended up inventing some creative alternative game, and a senior girl had a Saturday morning brunch at her apartment that tons of students attended. Additionally, we've recently had a senior guy and sophomore girl team up to host a unique small group on the book of Hebrews. Students read a chapter each week, and each one brings something to contribute to the weekly discussion. It could be a drawing that expresses the truths of the passage, a story or poem that applies the truths, a little research on one of the words from the Greek, or even highlighting a parallel passage from Scripture that relates to the one they're studying. This has been entirely student initiated and designed. It's been growing and gathering momentum each week and it looks like they will soon need to split into 2 groups!

**Discipleship:** The prevailing worldview on our campus suggests that sin doesn't exist. This has crippled our students' understanding of repentance and experience of forgiveness. Rather than acknowledging its offense to God and the injury it causes their neighbor and themselves, they either justify it by blaming others or suppress it by filling their time with activities they hope will

build their self-esteem and quiet their shame. That's what everyone around them does. So over the last 10 days, in my one-on-ones, I've found myself going over a 6-step process of repentance (Seeing sin, Hating sin, Confessing sin, Receiving Forgiveness, Turning the other way, Fleeing temptation/Pursuing righteousness) with double-digit numbers of students. In every single instance, this simple training been received by the student with a great sense of relief, gratitude, and hope.

**Teaching:** In our large group meetings this spring we've looked at the invisible providence of God (Ruth) and the visible self-declarations of God (I Am statements in John). It's been invigorating for me to get to study, meditate on, apply, and share these portions of revelation with numerous people who are grasping their truths for just the first time. Additionally, in each sermon, I've been careful to address at least one of our current cultural narratives that relates to the passage, taken time to expose its weaknesses, and tried to winsomely argue for the Christian worldview of the Scripture. In spite of my fumbling efforts, students have responded especially well to this aspect of the teaching. One freshman recently stated, "Danny, preachers are answering questions we're not asking, and not answering the questions we do have. So thanks for doing that." This was incredibly gratifying, given how much I struggle to understand their rapidly changing presuppositions. Kids these days...I'm always learning and growing.

**Outreach/Service:** As nearly all of our students have community service heavily engrained in their degree requirements, it has been increasingly difficult to find times and opportunities for them to serve together with RUF. But recently a group was able to volunteer together for the Charleston Walk for Water, and in April, we're coordinating with a ministry in N. Charleston and a landscape architect to spend a Saturday beautifying an overlooked neighborhood and its parks.

**Prayer Requests:**

- 1) Students to sign-up for Summer Conference. This would be critical for the development of community.
- 2) Freshmen and sophomores building spiritual bonds over these last 4 weeks of school.
- 3) RUF 10 year reunion, May 2- good turnout, go smoothly, and be encouraging to all, fundraising.

**RUF at USC-** One of the things I treasure most about campus ministry is when RUF Large Group lands on Valentine's Day. It has only happened to me once before, in 2011 I think, but can't exactly remember. But PTL, it happened again this past Tuesday night. Getting to preach on Valentine's Day is like opening a pack of Starburst only to find that every single one is Pink. Or Red, if you like. Or Yellow, if you're a sociopath. The point is that it is a gift. Not the Pink Starburst. The getting to preach the gospel on Valentine's Day.

We are studying the Life of Peter this semester, and happened to land on the part of his story where he denies Jesus in that dark, approval-seeking hour of his life that led him to "weep bitterly" over his own horrifying choices. Thankfully our Bibles include John 21, and the moving scene on the beach where Peter run-swims to the Risen Jesus, who is cooking breakfast for his friends. There Jesus utters maybe my favorite words he ever says: "Come and have breakfast." In my mind, heaven is like Waffle House with Jesus. Actually I'm holding on to that as a kind of promise.

The scene is a moving one, but the point is pretty simple: Peter's failure is no match for the unfailing love of Jesus. Neither are your greatest failures. Neither are mine. Neither are the freshmen from NC's who showed up to RUF for the first time Tuesday. We'll call him "Thomas." Thomas comes from a great family that loves

Jesus, but would own pretty honestly, I think, that he's not so sure. But he came to USC to escape some of that. To make his own way. New image. New friends. New lifestyle. But without the Jesus part.

Facebook chronicled a pretty rough first semester of college for "Thomas." Whatever it was he was seeking, it failed him. Which is why his comment to my intern after RUF was so beautiful. He simply said: "This was exactly what I needed. To come and be reminded of the love of Jesus and actually be loved by some people."

It would mean a lot to me if you would stop for a second and pray for "Thomas." Pray that he would take the failures of last semester to Jesus. Pray that he would know that the Lord is more willing to forgive than we are to sin. Pray for me and my interns to know how to love him well. Pray for my students to do the same, that he might find friends in RUF that can help point him to Jesus. You can also pray for us in a new venture. We're calling it Monday Night Fellowship. We are having students over to hang out, read through Paul Miller's *A Praying Life*, and try all the local pizza in Columbia. It started this week. We had LaBrasca's (my personal favorite), and it was polarizing. 10 thumbs up, 5 thumbs middle, and 4 thumbs down. One of the thumbs down said it "tastes like they went and bought Tombstone and then served it." Good times. We also talked about the radical privilege it is to call God "Abba," a privilege that Jesus won for us on the cross. That our Father cares more deeply than we know and we have constant access to Him. We also talked about how our helplessness, and our anxiety are actually springboards to prayer. The discussion was deep and rich. Better than the pizza, apparently.

One great way to serve RUF right now is to help us provide this pizza every week. It's about \$150 every week to feed 25 college students well. Let me know if you want to bless our ministry with one of the Lord's greatest gifts: pizza.

Thank you for all your love and support. As always, if you are ever interested in giving to our ministry, it's easy. No pressure, but here's the link: <https://givetoruf.org/ProductLanding/766>. Our students thank you in advance for the way you help the gospel flourish at USC through your generosity.



Call for Reverend John Mark Patrick

Trinity Presbyterian church, being on sufficient grounds well satisfied of the ministerial qualifications of you, Reverend John Mark Patrick, and having good hopes from our knowledge of your labors that your ministrations in the Gospel will be profitable to our spiritual interests, do earnestly call you to undertake the pastoral office in said congregation, promising you, in the discharge of your duty, all proper support, encouragement and obedience in the Lord. That you may be free from worldly cares and avocations, we hereby promise and oblige ourselves to pay you the sum of \$67,000 a year in regular monthly payments, to be broken out as you see fit between housing allowance, annuities, insurance, and salary, four weeks of vacation during this year of service.

In testimony, whereof I have respectively subscribed my name this 19th day of March, A.D. 2017.

Attest: I have moderated the congregational meeting which extended a call to Reverend John Mark Patrick for his ministerial services, do certify that the call has been made in all respects according to the rules laid down in the Book of Church Order, and that the person who issued the foregoing call were authorized to do so by vote of the congregation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Paul Sibloy", written over a horizontal line.

Rev. John Paul Sibloy  
Moderator of the Meeting