

Called Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery

December 9, 2019

A Specially Called Meeting of the Lowcountry was held at 2:30 p.m., December 9, 2019 at Church Creek Presbyterian Church, Charleston, SC.

Call to Order The Specially Called Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery was called to order by the moderator, TE Michael Walters at 2:30 pm in the fellowship hall of Church Creek Presbyterian Church in Charleston, SC. He led the presbytery in prayer.

Roll Call &
Quorum **MSC** to have TE Turner, Recording Clerk handle any functions for the Stated Clerk, RE Rich Wylly who is unable to make this meeting.

The moderator asked the Recording Clerk if there was a quorum.
The Recording Clerk declared that a quorum was present per BCO 13-4.

Docket
Approval **MSC** that the docket for the Specially Called meeting of Lowcountry presbytery submitted by the Administration Committee and posted on the website and electronically distributed to presbyters be approved.

Business &
Reports: The business of this Specially Called Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery is to do a transfer of ordination examination for TE Jeremy Mullen. As a presbytery we don't normally call special meetings because we meet 4 times per year. However, it has been determined that the following rationale calls for this called meeting:

- Two Rivers has been functioning for quite a while without a called pastor. It is not in their best interests to delay any longer than they must.
- Rev. Mullen is currently without call and without income. While they are financially afloat, it is disadvantageous for him to continue for another month and a half without income if we do not do a called meeting.
- Rev. Mullen has two children, and it would be in their best interest to move during a break from school rather than during a semester.
- The Mullen family currently lives in New England. Waiting until later in winter will likely add complications to the move due to the severity of weather.
- Rev. Mullen has been extremely prompt in communicating with the Candidates and Credentials process

Candidates
and
Credentials TE Alex Mark led in prayer.

TE Mark reported that the Candidates and Credentials Committee has met and examined TE Jeremy Mullen for transfer of ordination from Southern New England Presbytery.

The Candidates and Credentials Committee does believe that TE Mullen meets the requirements for transfer into Lowcountry Presbytery.

Examination for Transfer of Ordination: TE Jeremy Mullen (Christian Experience, views in theology, sacraments, and church government, BCO 13-6). Rev. Jeremy Mullen is currently in the Southern New England Presbytery. Rev Mullen has received a call from Two Rivers Presbyterian Church in North Charleston, SC.

Biography: TE Jeremy Mullen: *A native of Virginia Beach, VA, Jeremy grew up in the PCA. He attended Vanderbilt University, and benefited from the ministry of*

RUF. After college, he served as a U.S. Naval Officer for four years, which he let to follow his sense of call to the gospel ministry. Jeremy attended Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and served as a seminary intern with Citylife Presbyterian Church (Boston, MA). He was ordained in November 2009, and he served as the RUF Campus Minister at Harvard University from 2009 to 2019.

Jeremy has served on the Leadership Development Team (comparable to a candidates and credentials committee) and Ministerial and Church Relations Team (comparable to a shepherding committee) for the Southern New England Presbytery. He has also served the General Assembly as a commissioner on the Overtures Committee in 2011 and 2012. From 2017 to 2019, he served as an advisory Campus Minister Representative to the RUF Permanent Committee.

Jeremy has been married to his wife Adrienne for nearly sixteen years, and they have two children: Lila (age 9) and Oliver (age 5).

TE Alex Mark led the examination of TE Jeremy Mullen in the area of his Christian Experience.

MSC that the examination of TE Jeremy Mullen in Christian Experience be arrested.

TE Alex Mark asked TE Jeremy Mullen if there had been any changes to any of his ordination vows of BCO 21-5.

TE Jeremy Mullen indicated that there were no changes to his vows.

Westminster Differences – TE Jeremy Mullen

“The space of six days” (WCF 4-1; WLC 15; WSC 9):

I understand the days of creation to operate analogously to a human work-week since the work being done by God through the word of his power occurs in heaven, on his throne. This view does not necessarily deny that each day may have been 24 hours, but I do not believe the correspondence is certain. Where the Westminster Standards refer to the days of creation as taking place in “the space of six days”, I do not believe we are bound to understand them as literal 24-hour days since the Standards offer no clarification on the length and divergent views were at least known at the time.

MSC that TE Jeremy Mullen’s views on the “space of six days” be judged to be merely semantic per BCO 21-4.

Images of Jesus (WLC 109):

While no representation of God (or any of the persons of the Godhead) should be made, I do not believe that images of Jesus as a fully human person is prohibited since he was visible and accessible as a human during his earthly ministry. Nonetheless, great care should be taken so that these images do not become “superstitious devices.” Thus, they should not be used in worship, and they should only be used with clear explanation of their limitations in representing the full person of Jesus in his hypostatic union, as well as in representing the spiritual aspects of his work.

MSC that TE Jeremy Mullen’s views on the “Images of Jesus” be judged to be: more than semantic, but “not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine” (BCO 21-4)

“Recreations” (WCF 21-8; WLC 119; WSC 61):

I do not believe worldly “recreations” to be forbidden on the Sabbath. The commandment only requires us to cease from our labors (Ex 20:8-11; Deut 5:12-15), and so I believe the inclusion of recreations unnecessarily binds the consciences of believers. However, it must still be clear that the Lord’s Day is intended for worship (public and private) and works of mercy and necessity, and recreation ought not distract us from those God-ordained privileges and duties.

MSC that TE Jeremy Mullen’s views on the “Recreations” be judged to be more than semantic, but “not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine” (BCO 21-4)

Public Reading of Scripture by Non-ordained Men and Women (WLC 156):

The Catechism does not specify who should be restricted from the public reading of God’s Word. Children are the only clear category from the proof text cited (Deut 31:13). So, I believe that any member in good standing, who is able to read the Word in a way consistent with the directions in WLC 157, should be allowed to read it.

MSC that TE Jeremy Mullen’s views on the “Public Reading of Scripture” be judged to be more than semantic, but “not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine” (BCO 21-4).

TE Alex Mark led the examination of TE Jeremy Mullen in the area of his views touching Theology.

MSC that the examinations of TE Jeremy Mullen on his views touching Theology be arrested.

TE Alex Mark led the examination of TE Jeremy Mullen in the area of his views touching Sacraments.

MSC that the examination of TE Jeremy Mullen on his views touching Sacraments be arrested.

TE Alex Mark led the examination of TE Jeremy Mullen in the area of his views touching Church Government.

MSC that the examination of TE Jeremy Mullen on his views touching Church Government be arrested.

TE Jeremy Mullen was excused from the floor of Presbytery.

MSC that the examinations of TE Jeremy Mullen in Christian Experience, Views in Theology, Views in Sacraments, and View of Church Government be sustained.

MSC that examinations for transfer of ordination for TE Jeremy Mullen in its entirety be approved and that he be entered on the rolls of Lowcountry Presbytery.

MSC that TE Jeremy Mullen be received into membership in the Lowcountry Presbytery, pending official notification of his release from the Southern New England Presbytery.

TE Jeremy Mullen was called back to the floor.

TE Alex Mark welcomed TE Jeremy Mullen as a Teaching Elder of the Lowcountry Presbytery and extended the right hand of fellowship to him, after which he was asked to sign the ministerial obligation form per BCO 13-7.

TE Alex Mark led the presbytery in prayer for TE Jeremy Mullen and his ministry.

The Shepherding Committee reported that the Call to TE Jeremy Mullen is in order.

MSC to approve the call for TE Jeremy Mullen from Two Rivers Presbyterian Church in N. Charleston, SC.

MSC that TE Jeremy Mullen be installed as Pastor of Two Rivers Presbyterian Church by a commission of Lowcountry Presbytery. TE Bill McCutcheon will serve as the convener, and will work in conjunction with the moderator to appoint a commission of 3 Teaching Elders and 3 Ruling Elders with a quorum being 2 TE and 2 RE to act on behalf of Lowcountry Presbytery at an installation service on a date before the Seventeenth Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery.

TE Alex Mark closed the report in prayer.

Adjournment **MSC** to adjourn this Specially Called Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery with prayer

The Meeting was closed in prayer by TE Michael Walters at 3:23pm.

Appendixes:

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

Appendix A

Teaching Elder Attendance for Nov 7, 2019 Sixteenth Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:

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

Bailey, Crag	Redeemer Church, Charleston	
Bowen, Chris	Hilton Head Church, Hilton Head	P
Brown, Christopher	LOB, Chaplain, MUSC, Charleston	
Clark, Danny	RUF, College of Charleston	
Cole, Howard	Metro North Church, Goose Creek	
Donovan, David	Church Creek, Charleston	P
Franics, Nathan	Church Planter, Cane Bay	X
Hamby, Rob	Church Planter, Cainhoy Pennisula	
Harritt, Bill	Eastbridge Church, Mt. Pleasant	
Michael Bauer	Christ Church, Charleston	P
Joyner, Sam	Grace Coastal Church, Okatie	
Konopa, Ben	HR, Eastbridge, Mt. Pleasant	HR
Mark, Alex	First Scots, Beaufort	P
McCutchen, William	Hilton Head Church, Hilton Head	P
Olson, John	Church Creek, Charleston	P
Patrick, John Mark	Trinity Church, Orangeburg	
Payne, Jon	Christ Church, Charleston	
Pitzer, Tim	Hilton Head Church, Hilton Head	
Schley, John	Metro North Church, Goose Creek	P
Schweitzer, Bill	MTW, England	ME
Sibley, J.P.	Orangeburg Church Plant	
Steel, Ron	Eastbridge Church, Mt. Pleasant	
Stogner, Phil	MTW Scotland	ME
Turner, Mark	Oakbrook Church, Summerville	P
Walters, Michael	Church Creek, Charleston	P
Watson, Tom	Interim, Two Rivers Presbyterian	P

Appendix B

Ruling Elder Attendance for Jan 26, 2019 Thirteenth Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:

Barry	Brinson		Two Rivers
John	Hildreth		Two Rivers
Nathan	Holleman		Two River
David	Walters, Jr.		Church Creek
David	Walters, Sr.		Church Creek

APPENDIX C: Guest Roster

Justin Parrish, Two Rivers

Barbara Hildreth, Two Rivers

Carrie Melchers, Two Rivers

Casey Washington, Two Rivers