

**Seventeenth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery - January 25, 2020**  
**The Seventeenth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry was held at 9:00 a.m., January 25, 2020 at New City Fellowship Church Plant in Orangeburg, SC.**

Worship Service 9am	The service was opened with a reading of Psalm 150 followed by a Prayer of Praise led by TE JP Sibley. After singing, <i>Be Lifted</i> , the presbyters professed the truths of God's Word using Heidelberg Catechism #1, corporately confessed sin and were reminded of God's wonderful pardon from John 10:7-11,3. After singing, <i>You Know My Name</i> , an offering was collected and the congregation stood and sang the <i>Doxology</i> . TE Sibley read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 and then preached a message from that passage. After properly fencing the table, TE JP Sibley and various elders served the Lord's Table. The congregation stood and sang, <i>Nothing But the Blood</i> . TE Sibley pronounced the benediction from Matthew 10:39 and the presbyters sang, <i>Let the Church Say, Amen</i> .
Call to Order	The Seventeenth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery was called to order by the moderator, RE David Walters, Sr. at 10:30AM in the meeting place of the New City Fellowship Church Plant in Orangeburg, SC.  The Moderator, RE David Walters, Sr. opened the meeting with prayer.
Quorum	The moderator asked the Stated Clerk if there was a quorum. The Stated Clerk declared that a quorum was present.
Docket Approval	<b>M/S/C:</b> that the docket for the 17th Stated meeting of Lowcountry presbytery as submitted by the Administration Committee and posted on the website and electronically distributed to presbyters be approved with amendments to move the consideration of an Overture to the beginning of the docket.
Introduction of Guests	Guests & first-time commissioners were introduced.
Approval of Minutes	<b>M/S/C:</b> that the minutes of the 16th Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery which met on November 7, 2019 be approved as posted on the website.  <b>M/S/C:</b> that the minutes from the Specially Called Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery which met on December 9, 2019 be approved as posted on the website.  <b>M/S/C:</b> 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	Welcomed TE Jeremy Mullen, MTW Missionary Alan Cochet. TE Rob Hamby. Member of New City, Gary Robinson, Barry Sibley. TE Steve Walton from Scots Kirk.
Presentation of Memorials	The Moderator asked if there were any memorials. There were none. <b>M/S/C:</b> The Moderator appointed TE Bill Harritt and TE Rob Hamby. to the Committee of Thanks.

Consideration  
of Overture

TE Payne opened in prayer. An overture was received from the Session of Christ Church Presbyterian Church in Charleston, SC. See Appendix for Overture Text. After some introductory comments the Overture was read.

Motion presented by TE Turner from the Two Rivers Church Session:

Motion: While we appreciate the time and thought that Christ Church invested in preparing the Overture and their desire to protect and maintain the purity of the church regarding the ordination of officers. The Overture raises some very important points that should be discussed and considered carefully and prayerfully. We submit that the individual churches should have more than a week to consider the Overture before it comes to a vote at Low Country Presbytery. We move that we **postpone consideration** of this overture until the April 28, 2020 meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery.

This motion was ruled out of order by the moderator because this would prohibit the Lowcountry Presbytery from acting in a timely manner on this overture before General Assembly deadlines.

Motion to adopt the Overture humbly submitted by the Session of Christ Church Presbyterian Church in Charleston, SC.

Discussion ensued...

Motion by TE Steel and 2<sup>nd</sup> to postpone consideration of this Overture to a Specially Called meeting to be held on a date to be determined.

Favor 11 Against 14 – **Motion failed.**

Back to main motion.

**M/S/C:** to adopt the Overture humbly submitted by the Session of Christ Church Presbyterian Church in Charleston, SC.

Favor 17 Against 10 – motion carries.

TE Payne closed in prayer.

Prayer Time  
11:45am

The presbyters broke into groups and spent time in a season of prayer for the churches and ministries within the Lowcountry Presbytery.

Order of the  
Day: Lunch  
12 Noon

LUNCH: TE Sibley gave instructions and thanked the Lord for the food.

TE Bill Harritt read the resolution of thanks to New City Fellowship.  
Resolution of Thanks for New City Fellowship

*Whereas, The Winter 2020 meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery met in Orangeburg, SC at New City Fellowship.*

*Whereas, we were exhorted to turn our eyes to Jesus who was truly and totally faithful and experienced great loss in order that believers found in Him might win.*

*Whereas, we give thanks to God for the excellent leadership and warm welcome from JP Sibley and all of New City Fellowship's servants.*

*Whereas, our Fellowship with our brothers today at Presbytery might have included the business of the day, an excellent meal, or a pick-up game.*

*Whereas, the meal we received shows that the culinary skills of our host go hard in the paint and that its rich goodness would make all of us need to run suicides.*

*Therefore, be it resolved that Lowcountry Presbytery offers its praise to our Lord Jesus Christ who is our true satisfaction and sustenance.*

*And we give thanks for the hospitality of the servants of New City Fellowship.*

12:50pm BUSINESS	RE David Walters, Sr. called the presbyters back to order after lunch with prayer to conduct the business of the presbytery.
Candidates & Credentials	<p>TE Alex Mark is away and has an excused absence so the Moderator presented the following motion from committee for Mr. David Seitzinger, a candidate under care. He was received as a candidate under the care of Lowcountry Presbytery, however we failed to establish his internship officially at that time.</p> <p><b>M/S/C</b> that an internship for Mr. David Seitzinger be established per BCO 19-10. The moderator declared the following:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">At Orangeburg, SC, the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January 2020, the Lowcountry Presbytery having received testimonials commending Mr. David Seitzinger, having received him as a candidate for the ministry, has placed him under internship at his request in order to test his gifts for the holy ministry.</p>
<b>MNA/MTW Committee</b> 10 minutes	<p>RE Rich Wylly opened the MNA/MTW report in prayer.</p> <p>Brief Report on Disaster Recovery Ministry.</p> <p>RE David Walters, Jr. exhorted churches to provide a point of contact for each church to be a viable part of the Disaster Plan for Lowcountry Presbytery.</p> <p>RE Wylly reminded presbyters of the availability of scholarship money from the presbytery for mission trips.</p> <p>Brief Greeting from the missionary Alan Cochet.</p> <p>RE Wylly closed the report in prayer.</p> <p><b>M/S/C:</b> to receive the report of the MNA/MTW Committee as presented.</p>
Campus Ministries Committee	<p>TE Sam Joyner opened the report in prayer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brief campus ministry report: TE Sibley gave an update on the desire to start an RUF work at the colleges in Orangeburg. We have a good start, but we need more funds to start the work in Orangeburg, SC. The goal is to have healthy balance plus a couple of churches who are regularly giving to the work. Perhaps this work can best start with an intern who will grow into this role.</li></ul> <p>TE Joyner closed the report in prayer.</p> <p><b>M/S/C:</b> that the report of Campus Ministries be received as presented.</p>
Judicial Committee	<p>We need to replace TE David Donovan as the chairmen of the Judicial Committee. Taking nominations from the floor to have an elder take over his chairmanship of the Judicial Committee. Current: Judicial Committee: 2 members, 1 TE, 1 RE TE David Donovan 2021, Chair and RE Barry Brinson, just re-elected class of 2022.</p> <p><b>M/S/C:</b> to elect TE Michael Walters as the chairmen of the Judicial committee to replace TE David Donovan.</p>

Shepherding &  
Church Vitality  
Committee:

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

**M/C:** to designate today's offering from worship to be given to New City Fellowship mission in Orangeburg to assist with the ongoing expenses of ministry. A hearty thanks is extended to this mission church for hosting presbytery today.

**M/C:** to dissolve the Associate Pastoral relationship between TE Donovan and Church Creek Presbyterian Church BCO 23 and approve the transfer of TE David Donovan to the Northwest Georgia Presbytery where he is being called to Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church of Dallas, GA, BCO 20-9.

**M/C:** that the Report of the Commission to Ordain and Install Michael Bauer on November 24, 2019 be approved.

**M/S/C:** That the Administrative Committee be charged to bring a motion to the 18<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery to be held on April 28, 2020, concerning a process for dealing with overtures to the General Assembly from our Presbytery and this process be voted on to be added to our Standing Rules.

**M/S/C:** to receive the report of the MNA/MTW Committee as presented. 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](http://www.lowcountrypresbytery.org)
- Stated Clerk: RE Rich Wyly [statedclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org](mailto:statedclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org) 843-412-9090
- Treasurer: RE David Walters, Sr. [treasurer@lowcountrypresbytery.org](mailto:treasurer@lowcountrypresbytery.org) 843-297-2517
- Recording Clerk: TE Mark Turner [recordingclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org](mailto:recordingclerk@lowcountrypresbytery.org) 843-224-9337
- Moderator: RE David Walters, Sr. [kingsman12@aol.com](mailto: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.

**The Stated clerk reminded presbyters of Upcoming Stated Meetings:**

18<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, Apr 28, 2020 – First Scots,  
19<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, Jul 25, 2020 – Christ Church  
20<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, Nov 5, 2020 – Grace Coastal Church  
21<sup>st</sup> – Saturday Jan 23, 2021 – Metro North Church, Goose Creek

**Treasurer Report:**

1. Current Operating Account Balance is \$36,286
2. Restricted Funds Account Balance is \$69,708
3. Payment of Funds from Lowcountry Presbytery to Church Planters (Nathan Francis & Rob Hamby) per their call letters will begin on Feb 1st, 2020.

**Stated Clerk's Report:**

As Stated Clerk, I have over the last 2 months provided:

- "Letter of Good Standing" to the Northwest Georgia Presbytery for TE David Donovan
- Concluded an official change of Presbytery Rolls for Jeremy Mullen from the Southern New England Presbytery.

There are 2 items sent down from the General Assembly regarding proposed changes to the BCO:  
ITEM 1: Overture 9 - Amend BCO 42-4, 43-2, and 43-3 regarding method and deadlines of filing cases as follows ...  
ITEM 2: Overture 17 - Amend BCO 32,8, 32-13 and 35-10 to allow for video testimony by witness ...  
These items will be voted on at our Stated Meeting on April 28, 2020.

We need to appoint members to support RPR and Nominating functions.

Nominations for committees of Committees at General Assembly.  
**M/S/C** that the Stated Clerk and Moderator be authorized to fill the Lowcountry Presbytery 2020 General Assembly Committee of Commissioners and Permanent Committees and Agencies positions from those Presbyters who will be attending the 48<sup>th</sup> meeting of the General Assembly being held in Birmingham, AL, June 16-19, 2020

The following names were proposed for the Moderator and Stated Clerk to consider: TE Alex Mark has volunteered to provide RPR support. TE Chris Bowen would like to serve on the RUF Permanent Committee. TE Steve Walton for Covenant Seminary Board. RE Mark Senn for Covenant College Board. RE Rich Wyllly for MNA. RE Tobe Hester to serve on Overtures. TE Michael Bauer to Overtures. TE Sibley to serve on Overtures

**M/S/C:** that TE Tom Watson, TE Alex Mark TE Bill McCutchen and TE Craig Bailey be granted excused absences for today's presbytery meeting.

**M/S/C:** that the 2019 minutes of the following churches be approved by the Review Committee with Notations: Church Creek; First Scots; Metro North; Oakbrook Community and Christ Church be approved with Exception of Form

It was noted that the following churches **still need to submit their 2019 Session minutes for review:** Eastbridge PCA; Grace Coastal Church; Hilton Head PCA; Redeemer Presbyterian; Trinity Presbyterian; and Two Rivers Presbyterian.

**M/S/C:** to receive the report of the AC as presented.

Adjournment **M/S/C:** to adjourn the 17<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery with prayer.

The Moderator, TE David Walters, Sr. closed in prayer at 1:45pm.

Presbyters were invited by TE Sibley to join with him on a prayer walk on the campus of SC State University.

**Appendixes:**

- A. Attendance Roster – Teaching Elders
- B. Attendance Roster – Ruling Elders
- C. Overture from Christ Presbyterian Church

**Appendix A**

**Teaching Elder Attendance for Jan 25, 2020 Seventeenth Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:**

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

Bailey, Crag	Redeemer Church, Charleston	X
Bauer, Michael	Christ Church, Charleston	P
Bowen, Chris	Hilton Head Church, Hilton Head	P
Brown, Christopher	LOB, Chaplain, MUSC, Charleston	P
Clark, Danny	RUF, College of Charleston	P
Cole, Howard	Metro North Church, Goose Creek	P
Donovan, David	Church Creek, Charleston	X
Franics, Nathan	Church Planter, Cane Bay	P
Hamby, Rob	Church Planter, Cainhoy Pennisula	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	X
McCutchen, William	Hilton Head Church, Hilton Head	X
Mullen, Jeremy	Two Rivers Presbyterian	P
Olson, John	Church Creek, Charleston	P
Patrick, John Mark	Trinity Church, Orangeburg	P
Payne, Jon	Christ Church, Charleston	P
Schley, John	Metro North Church, Goose Creek	P
Schweitzer, Bill	MTW, England	ME
Sibley, J.P.	New City Fellowship Plant	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
Watson, Tom	Interim, Two Rivers Presbyterian	X

**Appendix B**

**Ruling Elder Attendance for Jan 25, 2020 Seventeenth Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:**

Nate	Arnold	Metro North PCA
Tim	Greenway	First Scots Presbyterian
Steve	Hawley	Trinity Presbyterian
Tobe	Hester	Christ Church Presbyterian
Don	Hinton	First Scots Presbyterian
Mike	Royal	Christ Church Presbyterian
Mark	Senn	First Scots Presbyterian
David	Walters, Jr.	Church Creek Presbyterian
David	Walters, Sr.	Church Creek Presbyterian (non-voting)
Dean	Walters	Church Creek Presbyterian
Rich	Wyly	Eastbridge Presbyterian

**Guest Attendance for Jan 25, 2020 Seventeenth Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:**

Amanda Dolinski, Redeemer; A. David Griffin, NCF; Jessica Nuckolls, NCF; Laurie Sibley, NCF; Danny Sibley, NCF; Jacqui Schley, Metro North; Esther Jones, NCF; Marcia Snyder, NCF; Shea Patrick, Trinity Presbyterian; Lisa McCutchen, Hilton Head Presbyterian; Wendy Alsup, NCF; Druid Joyner, Grace Coastal; Freda Monissey, Metro North; Debra Braun, Metro North; David Braun, Metro North; Rhemell Jones, Brown Chapel AME; Troy Jones.

## Appendix C – Overture from Christ Church Presbyterian

1 **Overture ??? from Lowcountry Presbytery (submitted by Christ Church Presbyterian)**

2  
3 “Amend *BCO* 17 by Adding a Clause Which Prohibits Ordination for Men Who Self-  
4 Identify as ‘Gay Christians,’ ‘Same-sex Attracted Christians,’ and/or ‘Homosexual  
5 Christians”

6 **Whereas** God created Adam and Eve and ordained the first marriage and family consisting of  
7 one man and one woman in sexual union, establishing the context for the biblical sexual ethic  
8 (Gen. 1:27–28; 2:24; 4:1); and

9  
10 **Whereas** God has established the one flesh sexual union between a husband and wife, as a great  
11 mystery in reference to Christ and his Church (Eph. 5:25, 31–32); and

12 **Whereas** Holy Scripture declares that the sexual union and desire between one man and one  
13 woman, in the covenant of marriage is righteous and holy and all other sexual activity is  
14 unrighteous and sinful, including homosexuality, which Holy Scripture describes as “degrading  
15 passions” (Prov. 5:18–19; Rom. 1:26–27; I Cor. 6:9–11; Eph. 5:3–5; Heb. 13:4; WCF 24.1 & 2;  
16 WLC 138,139); and

17  
18 **Whereas** the application of the 7th Commandment forbids the sins of homosexuality, unnatural  
19 lusts, and unclean affections, affirming that homosexual acts and the desires to commit those acts  
20 are both sinful (Matt. 5:27–28; WLC 139); and

21 **Whereas** the Biblical qualifications for a church officer require him to be “above reproach” and  
22 the “husband of one wife” (one-woman man), officers and candidates for office must conform  
23 their lives to Biblical sexual ethics, which include denying and mortifying all sexual passions  
24 and desires toward anyone to whom they are not married; and

25  
26 **Whereas** identification as “gay,” “same-sex attracted,” and/or “homosexual” is sinful, against  
27 nature itself, is something God detests, and is not fitting for an officer of the Church of Christ  
28 (Lev. 18:22; I Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:5–6); and

29  
30 **Whereas** the Christian's identity is rooted in Christ so that he is a “new creation” in Him, his  
31 identity cannot be defined by sexual and/or any other desires or lifestyles that are contrary to  
32 Holy Scripture; for the Christian there is a clear distinction between self-conception (“this is who  
33 I am”) and remaining indwelling sin (“this is what I must daily mortify”) (Rom. 6:1–14; I Cor.  
34 6:9–11; II Cor. 5:17; Col. 3:1–5); and

35  
36 **Whereas** the sexual revolution and LGBTQ+ movement are infiltrating many quarters of the  
37 Church and causing no small amount of confusion; and

38 **Whereas** the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood's Nashville Statement on biblical  
39 sexuality, affirmed by the 47th General Assembly of the PCA as a biblically faithful declaration,  
40 states in Article VII, “*We deny that adopting a homosexual or transgender self-conception is*  
41 *consistent with God's holy purposes in creation and redemption;*” and

42  
43  
44  
45

1       **Whereas** the 5th General Assembly of the PCA affirmed that, *“In light of the Biblical view of its*  
2 *sinfulness, a practicing homosexual continuing in this sin would not be a fit candidate for*  
3 *ordination or membership in the Presbyterian Church in America,”* clarity is required regarding  
4 the ordination of men who claim not to be committing homosexual acts, but who identify as “gay  
5 Christian” or “same-sex attracted Christian;” and

6  
7       **Whereas** the 47th General Assembly of the PCA voted to create an ad interim study committee  
8 on the topic of human sexuality with particular attention to the issues of homosexuality, same-  
9 sex attraction, and transgenderism, study committee reports are non-binding in nature and do not  
10 change the Constitution of the PCA, including requirements for the ordination of elders;

11       **Therefore be it resolved** that Lowcountry Presbytery overture the 48th General Assembly of the  
12 Presbyterian Church in America to amend *The Book of Church Order* chapter 17 such that a new  
13 clause, BCO 17-4, be added which reads as follows (New words underlined):

14               **17-4. Men who self-identify as a “gay Christian,” “same sex attracted Christian,” and/or**  
15               **“homosexual Christian” shall be deemed unfit for ordination in the Presbyterian Church**  
16               **in America.**  
17

18       Submitted by Christ Church Presbyterian for adoption by the Lowcountry Presbytery at its stated  
19 meeting, January 25, 2020.

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21       Attested by [Stated Clerk signature block]  
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