

Eighteenth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery - July 25, 2020

The Eighteenth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry was held at 9:00 a.m., July 25, 2020 at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Charleston, SC. Host church was Christ Church Presbyterian.

Worship Service 9am The worship service began at 9:05am the Call to Worship from Psalm 124:8 led by TE Jon Payne. After prayer, the presbyters sang Psalm 149. TE Michael Bauer read Ephesians 6:10-20. After the Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon the presbyters confessed their faith by reciting the Apostle's Creed.

Call to Order The Eighteenth Stated Meeting of the Lowcountry Presbytery was called to order by the acting moderator RE Rich Wylly at 10:25AM in the fellowship hall of Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

TE Craig Bailey was asked by the Moderator to open the meeting with prayer. TE Bailey reminded presbyters about parking and to maintain social distancing and observe safe practices in light of COVID-19.

TE Sibley rose to pray about our lack of internet during this meeting. Request to allow a presbyter who is at home. Watch via facebook.

Quorum The acting moderator asked the Recording Clerk if there was a quorum. The Recording Clerk declared that a quorum was present.

Docket Approval **M/S/C:** that the docket for the 18th Stated meeting of Lowcountry presbytery as submitted by the Administration Committee and posted on the website and electronically distributed to presbyters be approved.

Approval of Minutes **M/S/C:** that the minutes of the 17th Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery which met on January 25, 2020 be approved with modifications as posted on the website.

Introduction of Guests & Memorials Guests & first-time commissioners were introduced. TE Bailey introduced Rev. John Song. TE Sibley introduced Mr. Joel Brown. Cody Duncan

The Moderator asked if there were any memorials. There were none.

Candidates & Credentials TE Alex Mark opened in prayer.

Examination for Transfer of Ordination: TE John Song (Christian Experience, views in theology, sacraments, and church government, BCO 13-6). Rev. John Song is currently in the Chesapeake Presbytery. Rev Song has received a call from Redeemer Presbyterian in Charleston, SC.

TE Mark led the examination of TE Song in the area of his Christian Experience.

M/C that the examination of TE Song in Christian Experience be arrested. Motion adopted.

Bio of Rev. John Song:

My personal journey to faith and service into ministry is one that many would seem “routine”, but one that nevertheless demonstrates God’s faithfulness through covenantal families. I grew up as Pastor’s Kid in a Korean-American home, where my parents would teach me the principles of the faith, and telling me the stories of Scriptures as I fell asleep. I remember fondly my mother’s dramatic telling of the story of Jonathan and David again and again every night; perhaps it was my favorite story because of the service and sacrifice that Jonathan made for David’s life; a characteristic that was a family trait of my parents. Both my father and mother came to America with less than \$1,000 in their pockets with the goal of serving the people for the sake of the gospel, and over the course of the next 29 years raised two children while planting a church in Columbia, MD. The ability to grow up with people who loved the Lord shaped my early childhood in this context, but it wasn’t until I reached a middle school age where the Holy Spirit convicted me of my sin and Christ called me into belief and repentance that he had died and rose again, conquering Satan, sin, and death and proclaiming himself victorious over all. This was largely due to the preaching ministry of my middle school pastor, who lead me to faith, disciplined me, and exhorted me to live as a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17) for the glory of the Gospel. Now as a young Christian, I was met with many temptations and trials as a young teen, and it was during this time that the church experienced growing pains during my high school and early college years. I found myself without a direction and mentorship in my faith as I continued in a pattern of sin, shame, repentance, and trying to pull myself up by my own bootstraps, but found myself failing each and every single time. I realized now that it was because my understanding of the Gospel was tainted by a legalistic and man-centered perseverance, and that like Paul, I would do the very things that I hated to do (Romans 7:18).

It wasn’t until several men entered into my life that encouraged me to continue a deeper calling and service into the ministry at my church, and a deepened understanding of the Gospel. Both the young adult pastor and the youth director of the church where I was serving took me under their wings, and helped me to grow through the service of the church and also personal one-on-one mentorship. It was here where more clarity was given to the Gospel of grace and the perseverance of the saints that I had been taught in my middle school years but never reinforced in my later years. Both of these men were patient and gracious through my immaturities and growing pains of that period, and gave me a pastoral heart for the care and concern that my parents would always read to me about. In that service I realized my love in the service and work of the church, and began exploring a calling into pastoral ministry after three years as a music teacher in the Howard County Public School System. When the youth director resigned from his post in 2011, the call for me to take up the role of pursuing ministry began, and I knew that I needed theological training to pursue my calling into Scriptures further. Having been influenced and convinced by the growth in Reformed theology during this time, I pursued Reformed Theological seminary in Washington D.C. where the covenantal understanding of Scriptures leaped out of the page for me, of a kingdom that is already here but not-yet arrived. There I found my foundation for grasping the truth of Scripture, and I knew there was no turning back.

Now as I seek ordination and service in the church, I wish for the Lord to continue the work that he has already started within me (Philippians 1:6), as he shapes me to be a minister of the Word, and I look forward to the challenges and growth ahead. I am excited to serve and to sacrifice my life for the sake of the Gospel-- much like the bible stories I grew up hearing-- and looking forward to how the Lord will use me on this journey ahead.

Stated Exceptions to the Confession:

Pertaining to the Sabbath:

WCF 21.8 “...recreations; but also are taken up, the whole time, in the public and private exercises of His worship”

WLC Q 117: “worldly employments and recreations...”

WSC Q 60 “sanctified by a holy resting... spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God’s worship”

In the Confession’s understanding of the Sabbath, while I agree with the significance of the Sabbath day and Sabbath worship, there are several exhortations that are unclear in their application and binding in ways that cannot find their direct or indirect inference from Scripture. The first is the statement that the whole time is to be spent in public and private exercises of God’s worship. How public and private worship all day on the Sabbath is to be done is a statement that scripture in either testament neither gives any direct command. It is indeed sad that our understanding of the Sabbath in our modern times has been minimized and marginalized by Christians in our age to excuse itself into neglect of public worship, but I don’t believe the Confession can be used in a way that binds the entire time of the day to worship in a way that is not feasible in a variety of scenarios. Nor can we say that “worship” can simply be any activity we claim it to be, as to over spiritualize the actions of everyday activities. The second issue I have is the idea that holy rest is sanctified (perhaps overstated as “only sanctified”) through holy worship. In stating this phrase in

WSC Q60, the Confession overemphasizes the division of spiritual/physical that understates the role and necessity of physical rest and even restful recreation as a part of rest. If our understanding of the physical body is not Platonic, then it must follow that as a new creation our physical rest (and its reasonable recreation and fellowship) would also be allowable in the idea of a holy rest(1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Concerning Rev. Song's difference concerning the Sabbath, the committee recommends his view be considered merely semantic.

M/C: that Rev. John Song's stated differences with our Standards concerning the Sabbath be considered merely semantic.

Pertaining to the Role of Civil Government:

WCF 23.3. "Yet, **as nursing fathers, it is the duty of civil magistrates to protect the church of our common Lord**, without giving the preference to any denomination of Christians above the rest, in such a manner that **all ecclesiastical persons whatever shall enjoy the full, free, and unquestioned liberty of discharging every part of their sacred functions, without violence or danger**"

In the American revision of the Confession, the role of church and state I believe is properly defined in scriptural terms, save this line that was preserved by the Philadelphia Assembly (In its original draft, with no scriptural proofs). I don't believe this can be defended from scripture, and the use of an addendum proof text of Isaiah 49:23 "nursing fathers" (added by the OPC later and adopted by the PCA) is an over prescriptive reading when viewed in context of a theocratic national Israel. Rather, if we are indeed sojourners and exiles in a foreign land(1 Peter 2:11), then our posture should be one of understanding the rightful role of how the state and the church are to relate to each other, as one not in expectation of favorable, preferential, or necessary treatment, but rather one that is willing to accept both praise and persecution, with the understanding of the not yet Kingdom that will be consummated. In other words, to quote Chad Van Dixhoorn in his "Confessing the Faith", In the New Testament the assembly or church of God is Israel, but there is no chosen political nation (eg. Gal 6:16, Eph 2:11-16) (pg.314). This means that the state, while certainly will be favorable for them to protect the churches, it should not then follow that Christians and the church should *expect biblically* such protection in this life.

Concerning Rev. Song's difference concerning the role of civil authorities to protect the church, the committee recommended his view be considered merely semantic.

M/C: that Rev. John Song's stated differences with our Standards concerning the role of civil authorities to protect the church be considered merely semantic.

TE Mark led the examination of TE Song in the area of his views touching Theology.

M/C that the examinations of TE Song on his views touching Theology be arrested.

TE Mark led the examination of TE Song in the area of his views touching Sacraments.

M/C that the examination of TE Song on his views touching Sacraments be arrested.

TE Mark led the examination of TE Song in the area of his views touching Church Government.

M/C that the examination of TE Song on his views touching Church Government be arrested.

TE Mark asked TE Song if there had been any changes to any of his ordination vows of BCO 21-5. TE Song indicated that there were no changes.

TE Song was excused from the floor of Presbytery.

M/S/C that the examination of TE Song in Christian Experience be sustained.

M/S/C that the examination of TE Song in Views in Theology be sustained.

M/S/C that the examination of TE Song in Views in Sacraments be sustained.

M/S/C that the examination of TE Song in Views of Church Government be sustained.

M/S/C that examinations for transfer of ordination for TE Song in its entirety be approved and that he be entered on the rolls of Lowcountry Presbytery.

M/S/C that TE Song be received into membership in the Lowcountry Presbytery, being received from Chesapeake Presbytery who has released him pending his acceptance into Lowcountry Presbytery.

TE Mark welcomed TE Song 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.

Rev. Song was asked if he would accept the call presented to him from Redeemer Presbyterian. He indicated that he would accept it.

Motion: The Shepherding Committee has reviewed and approved TE Song's Call Package as being sufficient to provide for his needs. That the following Commission be appointed to install TE John Song as Assistant Pastor at Redeemer Presbyterian Church on a date to be announced with TE Craig Bailey as convener, assisted by at least 2 TE and 2 Ruling Elders. TE Bailey, convener, TE Jon Payne.

TE Mark led the presbytery in prayer for TE Song and his future ministry at Redeemer Presbyterian Church and closed the report in prayer.

The Committee was asked to address the issue of providing basic theological questions to candidates by providing their answers to the presbytery as a whole. They are asked to report back at the next presbytery.

**MNA/MTW
Committee**
10 minutes

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

Presbyters were urged to read the report of our Church Planters, TE Nathan Francis and TE Rob Hamby.

Motion: “The MNA/MTW Committee moves that the following slate of elders be approved as the temporary session for the Cane Bay Church plant: J.P. Sibley (TE), John Schley (TE), Michael Walters (TE), Rich Wylly (RE), Ron Hemingway (RE)”

Brief Report on Disaster Recovery Ministry by RE Rich Wylly. RE Rich Wylly exhorted churches to provide a point of contact for each church to be a viable part of the Disaster Plan for Lowcountry Presbytery.

M/S/C that Mr. Troy Jones, Church Creek, be elected as Main Coordinator for Disaster Response in the Lowcountry Presbytery.

M/S/C to allow the MNA committee be given the power of a commission to name an alternate coordinator for Disaster Response at a later date.

TE Bailey closed the report in prayer by asking TE Michael Bauer, J.P. Sibley, and TE Bill Harritt to lead in a season of prayer for our church planters and the work of the MNA/MTW committee.

Campus
Ministries
Committee

TE Sam Joyner opened the report in prayer.

Report on the search to find a campus worker for South Carolina State University

TE Joyner introduced Mr. Joel Brown. He is being hired by New City Fellowship to be their outreach director with a specific emphasis on SCSU/Claflin University.

M/C from Committee- that Lowcountry Presbytery support Joel Brown at a level of \$300 per month beginning in August of 2020

Motion & 2nd – To move the normal MTW missions money for 2020 to be transferred to the support of Mr. Joel Brown.

Substitute motion TE Mullens & 2nd that the motion be given to the MTW committee for consideration and report back at the next presbytery.

M/S/C that this be given to the MTW committee for consideration and for them to report back at the 19th Stated meeting of presbytery.

TE Danny Clark gave a very brief report. He asked for prayer for Freshman student who come in under the COVID environment.

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.

M/C to designate today’s offering from worship to be equally split between our two Lowcountry Church Plants in Cain Hoy and Cane Bay.

M/S/C: On March 8th, 2020, the congregation of Hilton Head PCA voted to call TE Chris Bowen as Associate Pastor. The Shepherding Committee of Lowcountry Presbytery has reviewed both the request to dissolve the current relationship as Assistant Pastor and the request to call TE Bowen as Associate Pastor. We recommend that the call be approved from the Session and congregation of Hilton Head PCA, Hilton Head, SC, to TE Chris Bowen as Associate Pastor. A commission will be established by Presbytery composed of 2 Teaching Elders, TE Bill McCutchen and TE Rob Hamby and 2 Ruling Elders, Richard MacDonald, Gerrit Albert with TE McCutchen acting as convener of the commission. The date for the installation service will be 8/23/2020 at Hilton Head Presbyterian Church.

M/S/C: On February 16th, 2020 the congregation of Eastbridge PCA voted to call TE Bill Harritt as an Associate Pastor. The Shepherding Committee has reviewed the terms of the call, which has not changed and recommend that the call be approved from the Congregation of Eastbridge Presbyterian Church, Mt. Pleasant, SC to TE Bill Harritt as Associate pastor. On Sunday, March 1, 2020 TE Harritt was installed as an Associate Pastor in Eastbridge PCA with both him and the congregation answering in the affirmative the questions in BCO 21-9 and 21-10

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.

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**

RE Rich Wyly opened the report in prayer.

Please see the Stated Clerk's Report Attached.

Motions to address RPR report of exceptions to our minutes for 2018 minutes:

M/C: Approve the Lowcountry Presbytery's responses to the exceptions (as written in the Stated Clerk's report 1.a.i and 1.b.i) for our 2018 minutes since there was no record of response in our 2019 minutes.

For 2019 minutes – only exception of form for July 27th meeting:

Action Required: Per the General Assembly's Rules of Assembly Operations (RAO), line 16-7.c, all exceptions of form shall be reported to the Presbytery. Also, as we submit our 2020 records to the RPR Committee due NLT March 15th, 2021, we will also submit our responses to the Exceptions of Form at the same time. These responses will be approved by the Lowcountry Presbytery no later than its 20th Stated Meeting on January 23rd, 2021 so that submittal of responses to the RPR Committee can occur before March 15th, 2021.

M/C: Approve the Lowcountry Presbytery's Stated Clerk's responses to the exceptions (as written in the Stated Clerk's report) for our 2019 minutes to the RPR Committee.

M/S/C: to elect Rev. Michael Bauer to serve as the Lowcountry Presbytery Parliamentarian to fill the spot vacated by TE David Donovan per section 2.3 of our Standing Rules.

1st reading : recommended changes to Lowcountry Presbytery Standing Rules – we will address and vote on the changes in 3 sections. J.P. Sibley will present, read and explain the rationale for these changes.

- **Nominations Procedure Changes – Changes in Red**
- **Overtures Procedure Changes – Changes in Green**
- **Meetings by Videoconference Changes—Changes in Blue**

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

Motion from Session of Two Rivers PCA: Move to rescind the overture to the General Assembly approved at the seventeenth stated meeting. WITHDRAWN in light of Admin Committee substitute motion.

The Administrative Committee recommends a substitute motion:
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 Administrative Committee of the Lowcountry Presbytery moves to 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 distribute their report to the Lowcountry Presbytery at least one week in advance of the November 5, 2020 Stated Meeting.

Amendment & 2nd: to modify the wording such that it be TWO weeks.
Motion carries.

TE Mullens & 2nd: Amendment: "*The committee shall further report on the orderliness and appropriateness of rescinding the overture previously submitted at the 17th stated meeting.*"

Motion passes of the amendment.

Motion to amend – remove Motion from committee and allow Presbytery to elect members of the committee.

Motion Amendment passes.

Motion as Amended:

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 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.

Favor 20 – 4 Against. **Motion Carries**

Motion & 2nd: TE Steel motioned to nominate TE Michael Walters, convenor, TE John Payne (pending Christ Church session approval) , TE Jeremy Mullens as the TE's for the committee.

Substitute Motion:

to allow the moderator to pick the makeup of the Committee based upon input from presbyters. **Motion carried.**

M/S/C: TE Chris Brown, TE Bill McCutcheon, and TE Michael Walters, TE Steve Walton, TE John Olsen be granted excused absences for today's presbytery meeting.

- We will have open season of prayer once business is completed.

Adjournment

M/S/C: to adjourn the 18th Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery with prayer.

TE Ron Steel closed in prayer at 1:17pm.

Appendixes:

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

Appendix A

Teaching Elder Attendance for July 25, 2020 Eighteenth 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	P
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 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	P
McCutchen, William	Hilton Head Church, Hilton Head	X
Mullen, Jeremy	Two Rivers Presbyterian	P
Olson, John	Church Creek, Charleston	X
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	X
Watson, Tom	Interim, Two Rivers Presbyterian	P

Appendix B

Ruling Elder Attendance for July 25, 2020 Eighteenth Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:

Billy	Brooks	Two Rivers Presbyterian
Charles	DeAntonio	Church Creek Presbyterian
Ken	Haigh	Eastbridge Presbyterian
Tobe	Hester	Christ Church Presbyterian
Nathan	Holleman	Two Rivers Presbyterian
Bo	Warren	First Scots Presbyterian
Ron	Woernle	First Scots Presbyterian
Rich	Wylly	Eastbridge Presbyterian

Guest Attendance for July 25, 2020 Eighteenth Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery:

TE Jonathan Song, Redeemer Presbyterian

Joel Brown, NCF Orangeburg

Jacob Williams, Hilton Head Presbyterian

Donald “DB” Cummings, Church Creek Presbyterian