

South Texas Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America
One Hundred Fifty-third Stated Meeting
Southside Community Church
3346 Airline Road, Corpus Christi, Texas 78414
January 26-27, 2024

GATHERING

Pursuant to the *Book of Church Order* for the Presbyterian Church in America and the Standing Rules of the South Texas Presbytery, presbyters from Presbyterian churches located in South Texas were called together by an announcement made and distributed on January 5, 2024, for a quarterly stated meeting to be held on January 26 and 27, 2024, at Southside Community Church at 3346 Airline Road in Corpus Christi, Texas (78414).

Standing committees of the presbytery met prior to the convening of the meeting to conduct business.

Afterwards presbyters and guests shared a meal.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Eric Landry welcomed presbyters and guests and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, January 26. The meeting was opened by TE Landry with a prayer of thanks.

WORSHIP

Season of Prayer. The meeting was opened with a season of prayer by committee chairmen and presbyters, with specific prayer for: the work of the presbytery; ruling elders in the presbytery; the upcoming 51st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA); the campus ministries in the presbytery; the missionaries supported by the presbytery; church planters and evangelists in the presbytery and those pastors laboring out of bounds; struggling pastors and churches that need renewal; and candidates for the gospel ministry.

Music. Members of Southside Community led the presbytery into worship through music and TE Rob Bailey summoned the presbytery to worship.

Sermon. TE Paul Hahn preached a sermon from Exodus 19:1-6.

Communion. TE Bailey presided over the administration of the Lord's Supper.

Benediction. TE Bailey pronounced the benediction.

Recess. The presbytery recessed for the day at 7:51 p.m. Presbyters retired to an evening of fellowship and rest.

CALL TO ORDER

Reconvening. Moderator Landry called the meeting back to order at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 27. The moderator read Psalm 27 and prayed for the meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

The proposed docket was distributed to the members on January 5, 2024 by email.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed without objection to amend the docket to set an Order of the Day for New Business at 10:00 a.m. and to adopt the docket as amended.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Stated Clerk RE Mike Simpson reported that he had reviewed the roll and determined that the Standing Rule requiring the presence of five teaching elders and five ruling elders elected by their sessions from at least three different churches was met and that a quorum was present.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Stated Clerk RE Mike Simpson opened his report with prayer.

Approval of Minutes. A motion was made and passed without objection to approve the minutes of the October 2023 stated meeting and to permit the stated clerk to make corrections to perfect the final copy of the minutes.

Absences Excused. Requests for excused absences were received from the following active and retired teaching elders:

TE Terry Dykstra (without call)
TE Tim Frickenschmidt, All Saints Austin
TE Jon Green, Honorably Retired
TE Keith Howard, Faith San Antonio
TE Bryan Lee, Christ San Antonio
TE Adam Lopez, Trinity Grace San Antonio
TE Adam Radcliff, All Saints Austin
TE Danny Shuffield (without call)

Excused absences are also recognized for all active teaching elders on sabbatical, serving as missionaries or military chaplains, laboring out-of-bounds, living out-of-state, and honorably retired.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed without objection to grant the excused absences.

The following teaching elders were absent without excuse:

TE Craig Chapman, All Saints Austin

TE Josh Eby (without call)
TE Josh Keller, All Saints Austin
TE Kevin Witten, Trinity Boerne

Stated Clerk Simpson reminded chairmen of commissions of the need to turn in all commission minutes. The stated clerk can provide a form to be utilized in the preparation and submission of commission minutes.

Exceptions to Presbytery Records. Exceptions to presbytery records for 2021 and 2022 have been received from the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records and the 50th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America. A motion for presbytery approval of the responses to the exceptions (Attachment A) was made, seconded, and passed.

A motion to permit the stated clerk to make corrections to perfect the final copy of the presbytery minutes for 2023 was made, seconded, and passed.

Stated Clerk Simpson announced his resignation, effective upon the adjournment of this meeting. The presbyters expressed their deep appreciation to RE Simpson for his years of service as stated clerk.

RE Barry McBee was elected to serve as the new stated clerk for the term ending December 31, 2025, effective upon the adjournment of this meeting.

RE Simpson closed his report with prayer.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

TE Michael Novak, Chairman of the Administrative Committee, reported on behalf of Treasurer RE Ken Kieley and prayed.

Novak reported on the financial condition of the presbytery at year-end 2023, including the amounts of the unrestricted and restricted ending cash balances.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to receive the Treasurer's report (Attachment B).

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to use \$1,800 in uncommitted presbytery funds for a pastoral retreat in 2024, subject to and pending verification of the availability of such funds.

TE Novak closed his report with prayer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Committee Chairman TE Michael Novak opened his report with prayer.

TE Novak called on RE Joshua Torrey to present an overture from Redeemer Austin coming from the committee for consideration. A version of the overture had previously been adopted at the January 2023 meeting and referred to the 50th General Assembly of the PCA in Memphis in June 2023. The General Assembly referred the overture back to the Presbytery for further consideration.

RE Torrey explained changes to the overture previously adopted and the floor was opened for questions and debate.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adopt the overture (Attachment C) and refer it to the 51st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America in Richmond in June.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to go into executive session.

At the conclusion of the executive session, a motion was made, seconded, and passed without objection to rise from executive session.

The committee received a request from Covenant Harlingen for the appointment of a temporary session. A motion from the committee was made and passed to appoint under Book of Church Order 15.1 an interim session for Covenant Harlingen, comprised of the following members:

TE Italo Furieri
RE Tim Holliday
RE Mike Simpson

RE Joshua Torrey presented on second reading a proposed amendment to the Standing Rules of the presbytery from the Candidates and Credentials Committee (Attachment D) to divide the committee into two committees, one vested with the authority to conduct the examinations of candidates and one charged with oversight of the care of interns and candidates. RE Torrey answered questions from the floor. A motion coming from the committee was made and passed by the requisite two-thirds vote to amend the Standing Rules and establish separate Candidates and Credentials Committees, with the respective duties and responsibilities described in the amendment.

The report of the Administrative Committee was received by the presbytery and TE Novak closed his report with prayer.

SESSIONAL RECORDS:

Committee Chairman TE Rob Bailey opened his report with prayer.

TE Bailey reminded presbyters that minutes and statistical reports are due by the April presbytery meeting and should be sent to RE Barry McBee.

TE Bailey reminded presbyters to register their attendance.

The report of the Sessional Records Committee was received by the presbytery and TE Bailey closed his report with prayer.

NOMINATIONS:

Committee Chairman RE Joshua Torrey opened his report with prayer.

RE Torrey has been selected to continue as chairman.

RE Torrey presented the following slate of nominations for the committees of the presbytery:

Candidates: TEs Ben Hailey (Class of 2026), Tom McKeon (Class of 2024), and Mike Singenstreu (Class of 2025) and RE Dan Allen (Class of 2026)
Ministerial Relations: TE Danny Morgan (Class of 2025)
Credentials: TE Andrew "Tree" Triolo and RE Ed Arvin (both Class of 2024)

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to approve such nominations.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed that the moderator be delegated the authority to make appointments of additional ruling elders to the Candidates Committee until the earlier of such time as the committee has three RE members and may achieve a quorum or the August 2024 meeting and to name the convener of the committee.

RE Torrey presented the following slate of appointments to committees of commissioners at the 51st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America in June 2024:

Administrative Committee: RE Barry McBee
Overtures Committee: TE Ben Hailey and RE Joshua Torrey

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to approve such appointments.

If presbyters are interested in serving on a committee of commissioners, they should contact RE Torrey.

The report of the Nominations Committee was received by the presbytery and RE Torrey closed his report with prayer.

CAMPUS MINISTRIES:

Committee Chairman-elect TE Billy Crain opened his report with prayer.

Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) has selected Ryan Dougan to serve as RUF campus minister at the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin). The committee concurs with RUF.

No candidate has yet been identified to serve as campus minister for RUF International at UT Austin and RUF is seeking to hire a staff member in fall 2024.

A diligent search is underway for a RUF campus minister at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi and prayers are solicited for this search.

The report of the Campus Ministries Committee was received by the presbytery and TE Crain closed his report with prayer.

MISSION TO THE WORLD:

Committee Chairman TE “Tree” Triolo opened his report with prayer.

TE Oscar Oliveres with his wife Nancy is in training in Belgium to move to Nagano, Japan in March and TE Tim Hoke is preparing to return from home assignment in August to African Bible University in Kampala, Uganda.

The committee received reports from RE Tim Holliday and his wife Christi and from RE Marcus Rudd, working in Mexico with Isaiah 55, and whose team members need support.

TE Matt Southerland has been elected as the new chairman of the committee.

The report of the Mission to the World Committee was received by the presbytery and TE Triolo closed his report with prayer.

MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA:

Committee Chairman TE Paul Hahn opened his report with prayer.

Ben Hailey reported on his church planting work at Redeemer College Station. TE Coleman prayed for Hailey and Redeemer.

TE Chris Fisher reported on his new work, moving from Young Life to the Austin Bridge Builders Alliance (ABBA), starting in March.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed unanimously to amend the presbytery’s 2024 budget to continue to support TE Fisher laboring out of bounds in his new work at ABBA at the same amount. The committee also commends the change to the Ministerial Relations Committee and the presbytery. RE McBee prayed for Fisher.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed that, with the concurrence of the temporary session of The Crossing McAllen, The Crossing McAllen be dissolved, with this action to be ratified at the April meeting, and further that a commission, comprised of TEs Luke Evans, Whit Anderson, and Paul Hahn and RE Alan Tysinger and the Ruling Elders serving on the temporary session of The Crossing, be established to work with and alongside church planter TE “Gama Pozos,” the temporary session, and members of The Crossing to work through this process, with TE Hahn serving as convener of the commission.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to dissolve All Souls Dripping Springs, with this action to be ratified at the April meeting. The committee has named a committee of TEs Luke

Evans, Whit Anderson, and Paul Hahn and church planter TE Byron West and members of All Souls to work through this process.

TE Allen Taha prayed for The Crossing and All Souls and TEs Pozos and West.

TE Hahn provided reports on the efforts of TE Adam Radcliff to plant a church out of All Saints Austin and TE Adam Lopez to plant out of Trinity Grace San Antonio. TE Michael Novak prayed for Radcliff and Lopez.

TE Hahn announced that Reach South Texas will meet on February 19 at All Saints Austin. Richard Pratt of Third Mill will speak, followed by an open conversation in the afternoon.

The report of the Mission to North America Committee was received by the presbytery and TE Hahn closed his report with prayer.

MINISTERIAL RELATIONS:

Committee Chairman TE Mike Singenstreu opened his report with prayer.

TE Alan Taha has been elected as the new chairman of the committee.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to approve TE Chris Fisher's laboring out of bounds as executive director of the Austin Bridge Builders Association (ABBA), the presbytery finding that the work of ABBA is a valid Christian ministry, that Fisher will continue to be engaged in preaching and teaching the Word, and being assured Fisher will have full freedom to maintain and teach the doctrine of the Church in accordance with the tenets of the Presbyterian Church in America and the Westminster Confession of Faith.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed unanimously to approve TE Josh Eby laboring out of bounds as executive director of Vida House, the presbytery finding that the work of Vida House is a valid Christian ministry, that Eby will continue to be engaged in preaching and teaching the Word, and being assured Eby will have full freedom to maintain and teach the doctrine of the Church in accordance with the tenets of the Presbyterian Church in America and the Westminster Confession of Faith.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to approve John Weller moving from serving as assistant pastor at Christ the King Austin to serving without call.

The committee has received annual reports on TEs Terry Dykstra and Bryce Waller, being all teaching elders in the presbytery serving without call.

TE Dan Young, moderator of the provisional session of Dios Con Nosotros Edinburg, reported on the church. The membership roll has been clarified; a search committee has been formed; and the session recommends Ramon Alvarez as a candidate for gospel ministry.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to approve TE Pedro Guzman as Stated Supply for Dios Con Nosotros.

TE Marcus Serven is working to keep track of honorably retired pastors within the presbytery. Presbyters are encouraged to maintain connections with these pastors and to pray for TEs Ken Campbell, Greg Grooms, Jack Smith, and John Ratliff.

TE Allen Taha announced the intention to have a retreat in 2024 for pastors and wives.

The report of the Ministerial Relations Committee was received by the presbytery and TE Singenstreu closed his report with prayer.

CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS:

Committee Chairman TE Matt Beham opened his report with prayer.

Examinations of Avery Kelly, Madison Haegan, Ramon Alvarez, and Eddie Ramirez on Christian Call and Experience

TE Beham introduced Avery Kelly, Madison Haegan, Ramon Alvarez, and Eddie Ramirez as candidates to come under care for the gospel ministry.

Each gave a description of his Christian experience and motives for and sense of inward call to the ministry of the Word.

TE Beham reported that the committee has received endorsements from the respective sessions of each of Haegan, Alvarez, and Ramirez and affirmations of church membership for six months of Haegan and Ramirez and sustained the character examination of each of Haegan, Ramirez, and Alvarez.

Moderator Landry asked Kelly, Haegan, Ramirez, and Alvarez the questions from *Book of Church Order* 18-3, which they answered in the affirmative.

TE Dan Young gave Kelly, Haegan, Ramirez, and Alvarez a brief charge and prayed for them.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to approve the examinations of Avery Kelly, Madison Haegan, Ramon Alvarez, and Eddie Ramirez and to receive each of them as a candidate for the gospel ministry under the care of the South Texas Presbytery and for each of their names to be added to the roll of the presbytery.

The committee recommends that the presbytery receive and accept the internships of Haegan, Alvarez, and Ramirez under the South Texas Presbytery, with TE Tim Fox being assigned as Haegan's mentor, TE Dan Young being assigned as Alvarez's mentor, and TE Ben Hailey being assigned as Ramirez's mentor, and further take up Kelly's internship from the Northwest Georgia Presbytery, which has presented a letter of commendation for him, consider it completed, and approve it. The recommendations were received without objection.

Moderator Landry declared Haegan, Ramirez, and Alvarez interns under Book of Church Order 19-10 and prayed for them.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed unanimously for the presbytery under Book of Church Order 18-2 to deem extraordinary the situation of Avery Kelly due to his having been a member of his previous church for six months and having labored under the care of his previous session and the Northwest Georgia Presbytery.

Therefore, at Corpus Christi, Texas, the 27th day of January, 2024, the South Texas Presbytery, having received testimonials commending Madison Haegan, Eddie Ramirez, and Ramon Alvarez and having received them as candidates for the ministry, have placed them under internship at their request in order to test their gifts for holy ministry.

NEW BUSINESS (UNDER ORDER OF THE DAY)

Creation of Study Committee on Exceptions

The presbyters discussed a proposal from TE Wade Coleman for the creation of a study committee on the issue of the need for exceptions to be taken by candidates for ordination (Attachment E). TE Coleman answered questions from the floor. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to create the study committee, with the charge, purposes, composition, and procedures set forth in the proposal. The study committee will endeavor to bring a report to the October meeting.

Consideration of 2023-2024 Proposed Amendments to the Book of Church Order

The moderator laid out the proposed amendments that had been sent down to the presbytery from the 50th General Assembly for voting, and for advice and consent (Attachment F).

The moderator stated his intention to take up the proposed amendments individually. There was no objection.

The presbytery took up and considered each of the following proposed amendments in the following order, thoughtfully and prayerfully considering each, with the following results recorded below announced after each vote.

ITEM 1 FINAL VOTE:	FOR 13	AGAINST 18	ABSTENTION 6
ITEM 2 FINAL VOTE:	FOR 33	AGAINST 1	ABSTENTION 4
ITEM 3 FINAL VOTE:	FOR 26	AGAINST 7	ABSTENTION 6

CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS:

Committee Chairman TE Matt Beham resumed his report.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed unanimously for the presbytery under Book of Church Order 18-2 to deem extraordinary the situation of Ramon Alvarez as to formal church membership for six months due to the extraordinary situation of his endorsing church, Dios Con Nosotros, and the status of its members.

TE Beham reported that the committee has approved the internships of Holt West and Steve Hampton as having been completed, West's under the South Texas Presbytery and Hampton's under the Northern Illinois Presbytery.

Examinations of Avery Kelly on English Bible, Book of Church Order, and Theology

TE Beham introduced Avery Kelly as a candidate for licensure in order to serve as director of parish and adult discipleship at Grace + Peace Presbyterian Church in Austin.

RE Randy Scott asked questions of Kelly on the English Bible. Kelly answered questions from the floor.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to arrest the examination.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to sustain Kelly's examination on the English Bible.

RE Joshua Torrey asked questions of Kelly on the *Book of Church Order*.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to arrest the examination.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to sustain Kelly's examination on the *Book of Church Order*.

TE Beham read Kelly's stated exception in his own words to Westminster Confession of Faith 21.8, Westminster Larger Catechism 117, and Westminster Shorter Catechism 60:

Concerning recreation on the Sabbath. I differ with the standards when they state we must rest from all words and thoughts about our recreations on the sabbath. Jesus says, "The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath" in Mark 2:27. Additionally, Paul calls us to do all things to the glory of God in 1 Corinthians 10:31, which would include our works, vocations, worship and recreations—also implying we are able to consecrate our recreation as holy. The ultimate end of the sabbath is worship—by taking a holy rest in God, enjoying Him, His benefits, and the benefits of our salvation in Him by means of worship, devotion, fellowship with other believers, and enjoyment of His creation (just as He did on the last day in Genesis 2). I believe that based on that, one can still rest in God, in a holy consecrated way, even through recreation on the sabbath. Finally, I believe we see an example of this in Nehemiah 8. In that passage they are consecrating the day as holy to the Lord, yet they are commanded to feast, to go out in merriment, and great rejoicing, showing that some form of recreative

activity is able to occur in holy celebration of God's benefits and the benefits of His salvation.

Kelly answered questions from the floor regarding his exception.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to judge and accept Kelly's stated difference as more than semantic but not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine.

TE Beham asked questions of Kelly on theology. Kelly answered questions from the floor.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to arrest the examination.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to sustain Kelly's examination on theology.

TE Beham reported that the committee also sustained the character examination of and received and heard a sermon from Kelly.

All requirements of the Book of Church Order having been met, Moderator Landry asked Kelly the questions from Book of Church Order 19-3, which Kelly answered in the affirmative. The moderator pronounced the licensure of Kelly with the language of Book of Church Order 19-4 and prayed for Kelly.

Therefore, at Corpus Christi, Texas, the 27th day of January, 2024, the South Texas Presbytery, having received testimonials commending Avery Kelly, proceeded to submit to him the prescribed examination for licensure, which was met to the approval of the presbytery. Having satisfactorily answered the questions for licensure, Avery Kelly was licensed by the presbytery to preach the Gospel within the bounds of this presbytery.

Examinations of Holt West on Sacraments and Church History

TE Beham introduced Holt West, who was licensed by the presbytery in August 2023 and is continuing his examinations as a candidate for ordination in order to serve with Reformed University Fellowship at Trinity University in San Antonio. Beham also reported that the committee reviewed and sustained West's theological and exegetical papers.

The committee having reviewed and approved West's written examination on the Sacraments, TE Greg Ward asked questions of West on the Sacraments and West answered questions from the floor.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to arrest the examination.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to sustain West's examination on the Sacraments.

The committee having reviewed and approved West's written examination on Church history, TE Michael Novak asked questions of West on Church history and West answered questions from the floor.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to arrest the examination.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to sustain West's examination on Church history.

Consistent with the practice of the presbytery, TE Beham read West's stated difference that had been approved by the presbytery in August 2023 and asked West if he has changed any of his previous views concerning any points in the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms, or the Book of Church Order of the PCA. West answered he has not.

West answered questions from the floor.

A motion coming from the committee was made and passed to arrest and sustain West's examinations for ordination as a whole.

The committee having reviewed and found the terms of West's call from Reformed University Fellowship to be in order, a motion coming from the committee was made and passed to ordain and install Holt West as campus minister with Reformed University Fellowship at Trinity University in San Antonio.

The moderator appointed the following commission for the ordination and installation of West at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in San Antonio on February 18, 2024:

TE Matt Beham, Convener
TE Paul Hahn
TE Victor Martinez
TE Bryant McGee
RE Jeff Brouillard
RE John Browning
RE Zach Burkhardt
RE John Fitch
RE Bernard Hildebrand
RE Charley Hollimon
RE Morriss Hurt
RE Winston Meeker
RE Jason Register
RE Henry Sauer
RE David Schwab
RE Jason Smith
RE Jeremy Whitley
RE Alan Williams
RE Reagan Winslow

Upcoming Meetings

The Stated Clerk reminded the presbyters of the upcoming 154th stated meeting of the presbytery at All Saints Presbyterian Church in Austin on April 26 and 27, 2024.

Other upcoming presbytery meetings are:

August 9-10, 2024	Redeemer San Antonio	Central
October 25-26, 2024	CrossPointe Austin	North

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded, and passed without objection to adjourn. The one hundred fifty-third stated meeting of the South Texas Presbytery adjourned at 11:15 a.m. on Saturday, January 27, 2024 with singing the *Doxology* and a benediction from Moderator Landry.

Respectfully Submitted,

RE Barry R. McBee
Stated Clerk

ADOPTED DOCKET
South Texas Presbytery
153rd Stated Meeting
January 26-27, 2024
Southside Community Church
3346 Airline Road, Corpus Christi, TX 78414 (361) 992-4977

Friday, January 26, 2024

Standing Committee meetings noon – 5:00 pm

Shared meal for presbyters and guests 5:30 pm

Convene 6:30 pm

Welcome
Season of Prayer
Worship
Lord's Supper

Recess to Fellowship 8:00 pm

SATURDAY, January 27, 2024

Breakfast 7:00 am

Call to order 8:00 am

Roll call and quorum

Adoption of the docket

Report of the Stated Clerk

Treasurer's Report

Committee Reports:

Administrative
Sessional Records
Nominations

Campus Ministries
Mission to the World
Mission to North America
Ministerial Relations
Candidates and Credentials

New Business

Consideration of Forming a Study Committee on Exceptions to WCF Creation Day
Consideration and voting on BCO Amendments (Order of the Day at 10:00 a.m.)

Announcement of time and place of next meeting

Closing hymn and Benediction

Adjournment

noon

DRAFT

South Texas Presbytery Attendance Rolls
Southside Community Church
January 26-27, 2024

Teaching Elders:

TE Whitney Anderson, Christ Georgetown
TE Titus Bagby, Reformed University Fellowship International Texas A&M University
TE Rob Bailey, Southside Corpus Christi
TE Brent Baker, All Saints Austin
TE Michael Barber, Buckner Villas, Austin
TE Matt Beham, Redeemer San Antonio
TE Nick Bullock, Christ New Braunfels
TE Wade Coleman, Westminster Bryan
TE Billy Crain, Christ Kerrville
TE Luke Evans, Christ San Antonio
TE Chris Fisher, Young Life Austin/Austin Bridge Builders Association
TE Tim Fox, Christ the King Austin
TE Italo Furieri, Covenant Harlingen
TE Padro Guzman, Honorably Retired
TE Michael Haberkorn, Hope New Braunfels
TE Paul Hahn, Redeemer San Antonio
TE Ben Hailey, Redeemer Mission College Station
TE Jonathan Herr, Redeemer Austin
TE Steve Johnson, CrossPointe Austin
TE Eric Landry, Redeemer Austin
TE Bryan Lee, Christ San Antonio
TE Victor Martinez, Redeemer San Antonio
TE Eduardo Martorano, Iglesia La Vid Laredo
TE Austin McCann, Reformed University Fellowship Texas A&M University
TE Derek McCollum, Hope New Braunfels
TE Bryant McGee, Redeemer San Antonio
TE Tom McKeon, Grace McAllen
TE Danny Morgan, Redeemer Austin
TE Michael Novak, Trinity Grace San Antonio
TE "Gama" Pozos, The Crossing McAllen
TE Marcus Serven, Redeemer Austin
TE Michael Singenstreu, Christ Victoria
TE Matthew Southerland, CrossPointe Austin
TE John Sweet, Grace + Peace Austin
TE Alan Taha, Trinity Boerne
TE Ben Tharp, Trinity Grace San Antonio
TE "Tree" Triolo, Westminster Bryan
TE David Vilches, All Saints Austin
TE Gregory Ward, Emmanuel Austin
TE John Weller, Christ the King Austin
TE Byron West, All Souls Dripping Springs

TE Lee Wright, RUF University of Texas San Antonio
TE Dan Young, Mission to the World

Ruling Elders:

RE Ed Arvin, Southside Community Corpus Christi
RE Rick Bocock, Redeemer Austin
RE Johnny Cotton, Southside Community Corpus Christi
RE Bob Hardister, Christ the King Austin
RE Ramon Hernandez, Grace McAllen
RE Bernard Hildebrand, Redeemer San Antonio
RE Tim Holliday, Covenant Harlingen
RE Morriss Hurt, Redeemer San Antonio
RE Mike Kelley, Trinity Boerne
RE Gordon Landreth, Southside Community Corpus Christi
RE Landy Ligon, Redeemer Austin
RE Barry McBee, Redeemer Austin
RE Paul McDonald, Westminster Bryan
RE Tim Mulder, Southside Community Corpus Christi
RE Chris Peterson, Westminster Bryan
RE Jose Reyna, Dios Con Nosotros Edinburg
RE Gilbert Saucedo, CrossPointe Austin
RE Randy Scott, Redeemer Austin
RE Michael Simpson, Faith San Antonio
RE Joshua Torrey, Redeemer Austin
RE Alan Tysinger, Christ San Antonio
RE Jeremy Whitley, Redeemer San Antonio
RE Fred Willard, Christ New Braunfels

Candidates Under Care:

Brandon Flynn
Steve Hampton
Daniel McDowell
Tim Mulder
Holt West

Churches:

All Saints Austin
All Souls Dripping Springs
Christ Georgetown
Christ Kerrville
Christ New Braunfels
Christ San Antonio
Christ Victoria
Christ the King Austin
Covenant Harlingen
CrossPointe Austin

Dios Con Nosotros Edinburg
Emmanuel Austin
Faith San Antonio
Grace McAllen
Grace + Peace Austin
Hope New Braunfels
Iglesia La Vid Laredo
Redeemer Austin
Redeemer Mission College Station
Redeemer San Antonio
Southside Community Corpus Christi
Trinity Boerne
Trinity Grace San Antonio
Westminster Bryan

DRAFT

Attachment A

Minutes of
South Texas Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America
One Hundred Fifty-third Stated Meeting
Southside Community Church
3346 Airline Road, Corpus Christi, Texas 78414
January 26-27, 2024

**Response to Exceptions
from the
50th General Assembly
Due by March 15, 2024**

These responses should normally be adopted by Presbytery in the same calendar year as the exceptions were taken by the Assembly (RAO 16-10.a).

Date of Approval by Presbytery: January 27, 2024

Presbytery: South Texas

Exception: 1.Exception: General 2022 (BCO 15-1; RAO 16-3.e.4) – No minutes of any committee empowered as commissions submitted for GA review.

Meeting Dates: Jan 28-29, 2022; April 29-30, 2022; Aug 12-13, 2022; Oct 28-29, 2022

Response: South Texas Presbytery concurs with the Exception and regrets this omission. the Stated Clerk has called for all Commission reports to be turned in to him to be included in the minutes. Commission minutes will be included with the 2023 minutes.

Exception: Exception: (BCO 18-2) – No record of endorsement by candidate's Session, and/or no record of six-months membership for candidate. [Jan: missing endorsement and six-months of membership; Aug: missing record of a Session endorsement; Oct: missing record of endorsement and six-months membership for Mr. Oscar Palin]

Meeting Dates: Jan 28-29, 2022 [p. 7]; Aug 12-13, 2022 [p.37]; Oct 28-29, 2022 [p. 50]

Response: South Texas Presbytery concurs with the Exception and regrets its failure.

The Candidates and Credentials Committee maintains records of candidates' membership qualifications Session endorsement prior to recommending the candidate for floor examination. Candidates in both cited instances met the BCO requirements. The Presbytery will be more diligent to include recitations of candidates meeting the requirements in future minute keeping.

Exception: (BCO 40-2.1) – Minutes state that the presbytery voted to receive the commission report to ordain and install Bryant McGee, but referenced Attachment speaks only of a report to Commission to Ordain/Install a Mr. Eduardo Mendoza. Minutes make no mention of Mr. Eduardo Mendoza.

Meeting Date: Jan 28-29, 2022 [pp. 5, 15]

Response: South Texas Presbytery concurs with the Exception regrets the oversight. The minutes should have reflected receipt of the report of the Commission to ordain and install Rev. Mendoza. The Presbytery regrets this scrivener's error.

*Please return this form to:
mmallow@pcanet.org
PCA Administrative Committee
Attn: Margie Mallow, RPR Assistant
1700 North Brown Road, Suite 105
Lawrenceville, GA 30043*

Exception: (BCO 15-1) – It appears committees are empowered to act as if they were commissions. [Apr p. 25: nominating committee report that “RE Tysinger had 2 items of business to bring before the presbytery one of them that needed to be voted on by presbytery since their committee did not have a quorum.” Apr p. 26: Ministerial Relations Committee Report indicates “TE Singenstreu reported that the committee approved the dissolution of TE Bryce Waller from Redeemer, Austin...” No indication this was approved by presbytery; also, same report “The committee also approved change of status for the following TE’s.” Oct p. 47: committee to examine complaint against TE Tom McKeon; Oct p. 50: candidates and credentials committee approved theology and exegetical papers of candidate John Weller but no indication this was approved by presbytery.]

Meeting Dates: Apr 29-30, 2022 [pp. 25, 26]; Oct 28-29, 2022 [pp. 47, 50]

Response: South Texas Presbytery concurs with the Exception and regrets the oversight. RE Tysinger’s report included only one Committee item which needed Presbytery approval, and because there was no quorum, a motion and second was required. Our minutes were unclear on that point. Our Standing Rules empowers the Ministerial Relations Committee to act as a commission to dissolve the pastoral relations of a minister in cases “where the minister and congregation formally concur in such dissolution and when pastoral problems are not involved.” The Chairman of the committee should have asked for Presbytery ratification of the committee/commission’s actions. As for the report of the Administrative Committee on the complaint against TE McKeon, the Standing Rules grant the Committee authority for initial investigation to determine if the complaint was in order. This is what happened. The Presbytery regrets the ambiguity of its minutes. In the case of TE Weller’s theology and exegetical papers, the Stated Clerk failed to memorialize the motion of the Candidates and Credentials Committee’s motion to approve those actions. The Presbytery regrets this oversight and will endeavor to be more complete in future records keeping.

Exception: (RAO 16-3.e.5) – Minutes do not indicate which areas transfer candidates were examined in. [Reference is to exams of TE Adam Ratliff and TE Byron West]

Meeting Date: Apr 29-30, 2022 [pp. 27-28]

Response: South Texas Presbytery concurs with the Exception and regrets the oversight. All transfer candidates are examined in their views covered in BCO 13-6 both by the Candidates Committee and on the floor of Presbytery. The Presbytery regrets that our minutes did not include those areas of examination and will endeavor to include them in future minutes.

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mmallow@pcanet.org
PCA Administrative Committee
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Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Exception: (BCO 13-6) – Incomplete record of examination of TE transferring into Presbytery. [No record of transferring TE being examined in theology]

Meeting Dates: Apr 23, 2022 [p. 5]; Aug 20, 2022 [p. 7]

Response: South Texas Presbytery concurs with the Exception and regrets its oversight. Transferring TEs are examined in their views of theology in accordance with BCO 13-6 both in committee and on the floor of presbytery. This examination occurred by the minutes failed to memorialize the event. The Presbytery will endeavor to be more diligent in recording topics of views examination in its minutes.

Exception: (BCO 13-1) – Minutes indicate honorably retired TE is a member of a church. [Reference under New Business is to TE Jeff Weir. Honorably retired TEs are members of their presbytery, not their church]

Meeting Date Apr 29-30, 2022 [p. 29]

Response: South Texas Presbytery concurs with the Exception and regrets its mischaracterization. The minutes should have reflected TE Weir attends CrossPointe Church, not that he was a member. The Presbytery will take care to use more precise vocabulary in the future.

Exception: (BCO 8-7; 20-1) – No record of the reasons why Presbytery considers an out-of-bounds work to be a valid Christian ministry. No record that the Presbytery has full assurance that the TE will have full freedom to maintain and teach the doctrine of our Church.

Meeting Date: Apr 29-30, 2022 [p. 26]

Response: South Texas Presbytery concurs with the Exception and regrets its oversight. TE additionally reported to our MTW and Candidates committees that he would have freedom to teach the doctrines of the Confession of Faith. His work is with the United Church of Bogota. The United Church of Bogota is over 100 years old. He is the new senior pastor of the church, following two other PCA pastors in that role. The Presbytery will be more diligent to record these details in future minutes.

Exception: (BCO 23-1) – No record that Congregation/Session concurred with dissolution of pastoral relations. [TE Waller]

Meeting Date: Apr 29-30, 2022 [p. 26]

Response: South Texas Presbytery concurs with the Exception and regrets its incomplete minutes. The Ministerial Relations Committee reported in the Chairman's report that the Congregation and Session concurred with the dissolution of the relationship with TE Waller. The Presbytery will be diligent to include the substance of such reports by the committees in the future.

Exception: (BCO 19-2; RAO 16-3.e.5) – All specific requirements of licensure exam not recorded. [Minutes do not mention if Licentiate (Weller) was examined in

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regards to his Christian experience and inward call, his basic knowledge of biblical doctrine, his practical knowledge of Bible content, and his basic knowledge of the government of the PCA. Minutes additionally do not record whether or not a written sermon was provided and whether or not there was an oral presentation of his sermon, merely that, "the preaching portion was approved."]

Meeting Date: Apr 29-30, 2022 [p. 26]

Response: South Texas Presbytery concurs with the Exception and regrets its error. Mr. Weller was examined in the areas above, but the wording of our minutes inadequately reflected these elements. The Presbytery will be more diligent to ensure that a recitation of all items of the trials for licensure or ordination meetings be noted in our minutes.

Exception: (BCO 13-6) – Incomplete record of examination of TE transferring into Presbytery. [Minutes do not reflect whether TE Ratcliff was examined on his Christian experience, theology, the Sacraments and church government.]

Meeting Date: Apr 29-30, 2022 [p. 27]

Response: South Texas Presbytery concurs with the Exception and regrets its error. TE Ratcliff was examined in each of the areas noted, but the details of those examinations were inadvertently left out of the minutes for the Presbytery.

Exception: (BCO 46-6) – No record of dismissal from original presbytery. [The minutes do not record whether or not TEs were ever dismissed as members of good standing from their original presbyteries. Without such information we are unable to determine whether such a transfer was appropriate.]

Meeting Dates: Apr 29-30, 2022 [pp. 27-28]; Aug 12-13, 2022 [p. 39]; Oct 28-29, 2022 [p. 45]

Response: South Texas Presbytery concurs with the Exception and regrets the errors. All TEs were dismissed from their previous presbyteries in good standing; the Clerk failed to note those details in the minutes. The Presbytery will be diligent to include this information in the minutes in the future.

Exception: (BCO 15-3; 36-7; 38-1; 40-2; RAO 16-3.e.4) – Minutes provide an incomplete record of cases of discipline, and complaints received. Minutes indicate commission received confession of a TE and imposed censures of deposition from office and indefinite suspension from the sacraments. This may have been a BCO 38-1 case without process but there is no indication; it appears from the AC report that this commission was retroactively authorized and therefore had no authority to conduct the case or impose censure; also no indication procedures in BCO 36-7 were followed; also not clear if accused was a church officer; confession is not in minutes. [Reference is to confession of Ross Lockwood.]

Meeting Dates: Aug 12-13, 2022 [pp. 36-37]; Oct 28-29, 2022 [p. 47]

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Response: South Texas Presbytery concurs with the Exception and regrets its error. This was a case without process. The Presbytery erred in its initial handling the case and these errors were reported by the Administrative Committee to the floor of Presbytery. The Presbytery chose to ratify the actions of the judicial commission and the case continued to the deposition of Mr. Lockwood. The recitation required by BCO 36-7 was read to Mr. Lockwood, but the Clerk failed to note that in the minutes of the Presbytery. Mr. Lockwood then chose to associate with another branch of the Church, severing his relationship with the PCA. The Presbytery will endeavor to avoid such irregularities in exercising discipline in the future.

Exception: (BCO 21-2) – Presbytery did not find extraordinary circumstance or record super-majority vote to waive six-month requirement to be taken under care. [David Vilches]

Meeting Date: Aug 12-13, 2022 [p. 38]

Response: South Texas Presbytery concurs with the Exception and regrets its error. The statement concerning the waiver of the six-month requirement included in the minutes was inadequate and conclusory. The vote to take Mr. Vilches under care was unanimous, but the Clerk failed to record that fact. The Presbytery will endeavor to be more precise in its record keeping in the future.

Exception: (BCO 21-1) – No record that transfer candidate received a call or that the presbytery approved the call. [Reference is to TE Danny Morgan]

Meeting Date: Oct 28-29, 2022 [p. 45]

Response: South Texas Presbytery concurs with the Exception and regrets its error. The Candidates Committee recited the call, its sufficiency and TE Morgan's acceptance of his call, however, the Clerk failed to record that information in the minutes. The Presbytery will endeavor to be more complete in its recordation of calls and acceptance in future minutes.

Exception: (BCO 15-1) – Committee cannot deliberate and conclude the business referred to it. It can only examine, and make recommendations in its report to the Presbytery. [Committee cannot extend the "without call" status of TEs without vote from presbytery]

Meeting Date: Oct 28-29, 2022 [p. 49]

Response: South Texas Presbytery concurs with the Exception and regrets its error. The extension of "without call" status will be only upon the vote of Presbytery in the future.

Exception: (BCO 21-1) – No record that candidate received a call or that the presbytery approved the call. [Reference is to John Weller]

Meeting Date: Oct. 28-29, 2022 [p. 50]

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mmallow@pcanet.org
PCA Administrative Committee
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1700 North Brown Road, Suite 105
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Response: South Texas Presbytery concurs with the Exception and regrets its error. TE Weller did receive a call as reported by the Candidates Committee and the Presbytery did approve the call. The Stated Clerk failed to record this information and will be more diligent in recording the actions of the floor in the future.

Responses submitted to GA as no responses were received in 2023:

Exception: (BCO 20-1) – No record of call to a definite work.

Meeting Date: Apr 23-24, 2021

Response: South Texas Presbytery concurs with the Exception and regrets its omission. As reported by the Candidates Committee, there was a call to a definite work, however the Clerk neglected to record it. The Presbytery will ensure recitation of the calls be included in future minutes.

Exception: (BCO 21-4; RAO 16-3.e.5) – All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded.

Meeting Dates: Apr 23-24, 2021; Aug 13-14, 2021

Response: South Texas Presbytery concurs with the Exception and regrets its error. All examination requirements of BCO 21-4 were met, however, the Clerk failed to record each detail of examination. The Presbytery will be more diligent in its record keeping for trials of examination in its minutes.

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mmallow@pcanet.org
PCA Administrative Committee
Attn: Margie Mallow, RPR Assistant
1700 North Brown Road, Suite 105
Lawrenceville, GA 30043*

Attachment B

Minutes of
South Texas Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America
One Hundred Fifty-third Stated Meeting
Southside Community Church
3346 Airline Road, Corpus Christi, Texas 78414
January 26-27, 2024

South Texas Presbytery
Presbyterian Church in America

Reporting 2023-12.xlsx

	Quarter Ended					YTD through Dec-23		Annual			
	Dec-19	Dec-20	Dec-21	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Actual	% of Budget	Budget
Beginning Cash Balance					\$ 140,316	\$ 124,111	\$ 126,553	\$ 129,603	\$ 140,316		
Giving					33,657	26,370	26,637	26,403	113,067		
Expenses					(49,863)	(23,928)	(23,586)	(24,210)	(121,587)		
Ending Cash Balance				\$ 140,316	\$ 124,111	\$ 126,553	\$ 129,603	\$ 131,796	\$ 131,796		
Less donor-restricted amounts				(76,017)	(50,285)	(50,285)	(50,685)	(50,885)	\$ (50,885)		
Unrestricted Balance				\$ 64,299	\$ 73,825	\$ 76,267	\$ 78,918	\$ 80,911	\$ 80,911		
Total Giving					\$ 33,657	\$ 26,370	\$ 26,637	\$ 26,403	\$ 113,067		
Total Expenses					49,863	23,928	23,586	24,210	121,587		
Giving less Expenses					\$ (16,206)	\$ 2,442	\$ 3,050	\$ 2,193	\$ (8,520)		
Mission to North America											
Mission To The World					10,250	11,250	10,250	10,031	41,781	102%	41,000
Ministerial Relations					2,700	2,400	1,800	3,900	10,800	100%	10,800
Total Missions Expense					375	375	375	375	1,500	100%	1,500
Campus Ministries					\$ 13,325	\$ 14,025	\$ 12,425	\$ 14,306	\$ 54,081	101%	\$ 53,300
Designated Ministry					8,703	8,703	8,703	8,703	34,813	100%	34,813
Administrative Expense					26,482	750	750	750	28,732	718%	4,000
Candidates and Credentials					\$ 1,353	\$ 450	\$ 1,708	\$ 450	\$ 3,961	69%	\$ 5,750
Total Expenses					-	-	-	-	-	--%	
					\$ 49,863	\$ 23,928	\$ 23,586	\$ 24,210	\$ 121,587	124%	\$ 97,863
Restricted Cash											
San Marcos Church Plant	Dec-20	Dec-20	Dec-21	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23			
Widows Support	\$ 42,885	\$ 42,885	\$ 42,885	\$ 42,885	\$ 42,885	\$ 42,885	\$ 42,885	\$ 42,885			
	11,100	18,132	27,332	33,132	7,400	7,400	7,800	8,000			
Total Restricted Cash	\$ 53,985	\$ 61,017	\$ 70,217	\$ 76,017	\$ 50,285	\$ 50,285	\$ 50,685	\$ 50,885			
Widows Support Restricted											
Beginning balance	Year	Year	Year	Year	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr			
	Dec-19	Dec-20	Dec-21	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23			
Cano giving	\$ -	\$ 11,100	\$ 18,132	\$ 27,332	\$ 33,132	\$ 7,400	\$ 7,400	\$ 7,800			
PCA Pastoral for Widows giving	12,507	9,357	7,400	5,200	-	-	-	-			
Spending	-	-	1,800	600	-	-	400	200			
	(1,407)	(2,325)	-	-	(25,732)	-	-	-			
Ending balance	\$ 11,100	\$ 18,132	\$ 27,332	\$ 33,132	\$ 7,400	\$ 7,400	\$ 7,800	\$ 8,000			

South Texas Presbytery
Presbyterian Church in America

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Category	Quarter Ended				YTD through Dec-23		Actl Dec-22
	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Actual	% Budg	
Cash Balances							
Beginning Balance	140,316	124,111	126,553	129,603	117,595		117,595
Giving	33,657	26,370	26,637	26,403	113,067		111,808
Expenses	(49,863)	(23,928)	(23,586)	(24,210)	(121,587)		(89,087)
Ending Balance	124,111	126,553	129,603	131,796	109,074		140,316
Giving							
All Saints Church-Austin	7,914	7,914	7,914	7,914	31,655		31,655
Christ Church Presbyterian-Kerrville	2,250	-	-	-	2,250		2,063
Christ Church-Georgetown	925	925	932	932	3,714		3,624
Christ Church-New Braunfels	-	-	-	-	-		1,200
Christ Church-San Antonio	975	750	1,125	1,125	3,975		3,575
Christ Church-Victoria	600	600	600	600	2,400		2,200
Christ the King Church-Austin	450	450	450	450	1,800		1,800
Covenant Church-Harlingen	185	185	185	185	740		750
CrossPointe Church-Austin	938	938	938	938	3,750		3,750
Faith Church-San Antonio	600	1,350	450	650	3,050		2,900
Hope Presbyterian - New Braunfels	813	813	813	813	3,251		3,205
Redeemer Church-Austin	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	12,000		10,500
Redeemer Church-San Antonio	5,362	5,362	5,362	5,362	21,448		21,036
Southside Community Church-Corpus Christi	600	600	600	600	2,400		2,301
Trinity Church-Boerne	4,600	-	-	-	4,600		3,600
Trinity Grace-San Antonio	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	4,400		2,500
Westminister Church-Bryan	1,335	1,335	1,335	1,335	5,338		4,700
Private Gifts	450	300	450	450	1,650		1,650
Christ Church-New Braunfels-UK Retirement	450	450	450	450	1,800		1,800
Southside Community-Corpus Isaiaas Uc	300	300	300	300	1,200		1,200
Presbytery Meeting Offerings	812	-	234	-	1,046		-
PCA Pastoral for Widows	-	-	400	200	600		600
Reverend Cano Support	-	-	-	-	-		5,200
Total Giving	33,657	26,370	26,637	26,403	113,067		111,808
Unrestricted Giving	32,095	25,620	25,253	25,453	108,421		103,008

South Texas Presbytery
Presbyterian Church in America

Reporting 2023-12.xlsx

Category	Quarter Ended				YTD through Dec-23		Actl Dec-22
	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Actual	% Budg	
Disbursements							
Administrative Expenses							
Administration/Insurance	-	-	1,119	-	1,119	86%	1,088
Website	-	-	-	-	-	--%	-
Review of Sessional Records	-	-	-	-	-	--%	-
Stated Clerk Supplies and Materials	903	-	-	-	903	60%	-
Stated Clerk Stipend	450	450	589	450	1,939	108%	1,800
Total Administrative Expense	1,353	450	1,708	450	3,961	69%	2,888
Mission To North America							
Redeemer College Station (prev Westminster)	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,615	10,115	101%	5,036
All Souls Dripping Springs Church Plant (West)	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	5,000	100%	2,500
Gene Bowman, HLI (aka HLI, El Paso	1,000	1,000	1,000	667	3,667	92%	4,000
Mission to the World, McAllen (Dan Young)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000	100%	4,000
Chris Fisher, (aka Young Life, Northeast Austin)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000	100%	4,000
The Crossing, McAllen	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	10,000	100%	10,000
Metanoia (Paul Miller)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000	100%	10,000
Total Mission to North America	10,250	11,250	10,250	10,031	41,781	102%	39,536
(9,036)							
Mission To The World							
African Bible University, Kampala, Uganda	1,000	500	750	750	3,000	100%	3,000
Mission to the World, Harlingen	600	300	450	450	1,800	100%	1,800
Isalah 55 Ministries, Reynosa, Mexico	400	200	300	300	1,200	100%	1,200
Mission to the World, Peru (Pekarek)	400	200	300	300	1,200	100%	1,200
Matt Ziehr	100	400	-	700	1,200	100%	1,200
Oscar Olivares	200	800	-	1,400	2,400	100%	1,200
Total Mission To The World	2,700	2,400	1,800	3,900	10,800	100%	9,600
Ministerial Relations							
Presbyterian Reformed Commission on Chaplains	375	375	375	375	1,500	100%	1,500
Total Ministerial Relations	375	375	375	375	1,500	100%	1,500
Total Missions Expense	13,325	14,025	12,425	14,306	54,081	101%	50,636
(11,686)							

South Texas Presbytery
Presbyterian Church in America

Reporting 2023-12.xlsx

Category	Quarter Ended				YTD through Dec-23		Actl Dec-22
	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Actual	% Budg	
Campus Ministries							
RUF Texas Area Coordinator	863	863	863	863	3,450	100%	3,450
Texas A&M University College Station RUF	1,040	1,040	1,040	1,040	4,159	100%	4,159
Texas A&M University College Station, RUF Intl.	1,040	1,040	1,040	1,040	4,159	100%	4,159
Texas A&M University Corpus Christi RUF	1,040	1,040	1,040	1,040	4,159	100%	4,159
Trinity University RUF, San Antonio	1,040	1,040	1,040	1,040	4,159	100%	4,159
University of Texas at Austin, RUF	1,040	1,040	1,040	1,040	4,159	100%	4,159
University of Texas at Austin, RUF Intl.	1,040	1,040	1,040	1,040	4,159	100%	4,159
University of Texas at Austin, RUF Intl. Farre	450	450	450	450	1,800	100%	-
University of Texas San Antonio RUF	1,152	1,152	1,152	1,152	4,609	100%	4,159
Total Campus Ministries	8,703	8,703	8,703	8,703	34,813	100%	32,563
Designated Ministry							
Rev. Isaias Uc, Retirement Account	750	750	750	750	3,000	100%	3,000
Barnabas Fund	-	-	-	-	-	--%	-
Cano Family Support	25,732	-	-	-	25,732	--%	-
Total Designated Ministry	26,482	750	750	750	28,732	718%	3,000
Candidates and Credentials							
Candidate Meal Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	--%	-
Total Candidates and Credentials	-	-	-	-	-	--%	-
Total Expenses	49,863	23,928	23,586	24,210	121,587	124%	89,087
Giving less Expenses	(16,206)	2,442	3,050	2,193	(8,520)		22,722

Attachment C

Minutes of
South Texas Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America
One Hundred Fifty-third Stated Meeting
Southside Community Church
3346 Airline Road, Corpus Christi, Texas 78414
January 26-27, 2024

Whereas, the qualifications for elders and deacons include being “above reproach” (1 Tim. 3:2 and Titus 1:7), “self-controlled” (1 Tim. 3:2 and Titus 1:8), “not violent but gentle” (1 Tim. 3:3), “not ... quick-tempered” (Titus 1:7), and “prove themselves blameless” (1 Tim. 3:10); and

Whereas, the qualifications for elders includes being “well thought of by outsiders” (1 Tim. 3:7); and

Whereas, the qualification of every believer is to “keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable” (1 Pet. 2:12); and

Whereas, our confession warns leaders against the “careless exposing, or leaving [those in their care] to wrong, temptation, and danger” (*WLC* 130); and

Whereas, under the *Book of Church Order* church courts are to perform “a careful examination” of church officers including as to their “personal character” (21-4.c; 24-1.a) and “Christian experience” (13-6); and

Whereas, the report of the Ad Interim Committee on Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault to the ~~Forty-Ninth~~ 49th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America (the “DASA Report”) implores that “Churches protect their members with policies that take into consideration the most vulnerable in the congregation,” including “Presbyteries enacting policies to require background checks and abuse training for all ordinands and transfers, and policies to protect whistleblowers against retribution” (*M49GA* [2022], 965, 965 n.11); and

Whereas, the DASA Report further recommends, “Candidates for the gospel ministry and others employed for spiritual oversight (Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, etc.) should be examined carefully to determine their godly character. Presbyteries and Sessions are encouraged to carefully investigate a candidate for leadership roles including but not limited to the candidate’s knowledge of theology. *Background checks*, social media checks, and careful reference checks should be used to screen for abusive leadership” (*ibid.*, 1183); and

Whereas, the 42nd General Assembly resolved that churches prevent types of abuse “by screening staff and volunteers” (*M42GA* [2014], 59); and

Whereas, the 42nd General Assembly resolved that churches “must cooperate with those authorities as they ‘bear the sword’ to punish those who do evil ‘in such an effectual manner as that no person be suffered . . . to offer any indignity, violence, abuse, or injury to any other person whatsoever” (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-14; *WCF* 23.3)” (*ibid.*); and

Whereas, our confession's instruction that "there are some circumstances concerning ...
government of the Church, common to human actions and societies, which are to be
ordered by the light of nature and Christian prudence" (WCF 1.6) includes the wisdom
and prudence of background checks; and

Whereas, our confession does not require submission to unlawful or unbiblical standards (WCF
23.4) nor thereby require the government's involvement in the business of the church
(WCF 23.3); and

Whereas, presbyteries and sessions of the PCA are called to order and conduct all trials and
examinations of candidates for church office utilizing their own discretion and wisdom
due to the authority and right of their office (BCO 13, 21, and 24);

Therefore, be it resolved that BCO 13-6 be amended by inserting the following at the end of
the section:

13-6. . . .

A Presbytery shall order and review a background check on each candidate,
administered under the specific rules and policies of the Presbytery, as part of its
examination of the candidate's Christian experience (if seeking admission from another
Presbytery in the Presbyterian Church in America) or acquaintance with experiential
religion (if seeking admission from other denominations [see BCO 21-4.c.(1)(a)]). The
candidate shall be permitted to address the content of the background check.

Be it further resolved that BCO 21-4.c.(1) be amended by inserting the following unnumbered
paragraph at the end of the subsection:

21-4.c.(1) . . .

A Presbytery shall order and review a background check on each candidate,
administered under the specific rules and policies of the Presbytery, as part of its
examination of a candidate's experiential religion (BCO 21-4.c.(1)(a)). The candidate
shall be permitted to address the content of the background check.

Be it further resolved that BCO 24-1 be amended by inserting the following unnumbered
paragraph immediately after subsection e. and before the unnumbered paragraph that begins,
"Notwithstanding the above . . .":

24-1.e. . . .

A Session shall order and review a background check on each candidate, administered
under the specific rules and policies of the Session, as part of its examination of a
candidate's Christian experience (BCO 24-1.a.). The candidate shall be permitted to
address the content of the background check.

Be it further resolved that Presbyteries and Sessions are hereby encouraged to adopt policies for conducting mandatory background checks on every candidate for office. The following is an example of a policy that could be adopted or amended by a Presbytery to adhere with local laws and regulations:

Prior to any candidate coming before the Presbytery for examination for ordination or transfer of credentials, the [insert committee name] Committee shall order a background check on the candidate ordinarily at the cost of the Presbytery. The report of the background check shall only be received by the Committee in executive session. The candidate shall be furnished with a copy of the background check and given the opportunity to respond to any content in the background check. The Committee shall report to the Presbytery (1) that it has received the report of the background check, and no concerns were raised; (2) that it has received the report of the background check, and potential concerns were satisfactorily explained by the candidate without reflecting negatively on his *BCO* 13-6 or 21-4.c.(1)(a) examination; or (3) that it has received the report of the background check, and potential concerns should be weighed by the Presbytery in the candidate's *BCO* 13-6 or 21-4.c.(1)(a) examination. Any details of possible concerns found in the background check may be disclosed only to the Presbytery and/or the Session of the church calling the candidate when in executive session. Such details may be disclosed outside the Committee only at the Committee's discretion or upon the request of the Presbytery or Session properly seeking the information.

The following is an example of a policy that could be adopted by a Session:

Prior to any candidate coming before the Session for examination for the office of Ruling Elder or Deacon, the Session shall order a background check on the candidate at the cost of the Session. The report of the background check shall only be received by the Session in executive session. The candidate shall be furnished with a copy of the background check and given the opportunity to respond to any content in the background check. Information learned should ordinarily only be considered as part of the Session's examination of the candidate's personal character under *BCO* 24-1.a. and should not ordinarily be disclosed to the congregation.

Attachment D

Minutes of
South Texas Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America
One Hundred Fifty-third Stated Meeting
Southside Community Church
3346 Airline Road, Corpus Christi, Texas 78414
January 26-27, 2024

C&C Proposal

Evaluation

The Candidates and Credential Committee of the South Texas Presbytery is regularly the busiest committee of the presbytery. There are responsibilities the committee is performing well and some that need improvement.

Looking forward to the continuing growth of the presbytery, there are three particular elements that could impact the committee's work: character exams, background checks, and increase in interns and candidates.

Character Exams and Background Checks

In 2022, the STP adopted a Character Exam that would be administered to all candidates that come before the presbytery. The C&C committee has decided to implement this exam both at the beginning and conclusion of a candidate's time before the committee (when it is appropriate for both). This important exam has added to the committee's agenda.

Further, the future possibility of a background check policy will add administrative tasks and reviewable materials to the committee. The importance of both practices highlights two distinct and important points of emphasis for the current committee: relational knowledge of the candidate and theological examination of the candidate.

Recognizing that both of these are crucial, some presbyteries have two committees that specialize in their respective emphasis. The addition of the character exam and possible addition of a background check makes the creation of a separate candidates committee something the presbytery should consider to improve its evaluation of candidates.

Increase in Interns and Candidates

Along with the increase in exams, STP has been blessed with growth. New and growing churches increase the number of candidates, transfers, and interns. This growth has been felt in the number of total candidates and exams that have come through the C&C committee.

The requirements for interns are laid out explicitly in the BCO (19-7 through 19-16). Among these requirements, interns are to bring a report to the presbytery every year and the committee tasked with overseeing them is to bring a report on all interns at every stated meeting (19-12). This is a task the C&C committee of STP is seeking to improve.

This task needs to be added without rushing reports. This would be a disservice to interns and candidates both from a relational standpoint and from a theological examination standpoint. A

specialized candidates committee would specialize in the specific role and responsibility of mentoring interns and keeping reports of their progress.

Details of Changes

The responsibilities of filling vacated pulpits will reside solely with Ministerial Relations. This duty already resides with them and they are the proper committee to contact ministers in the presbytery who are available for pulpit supply. It is being removed from the new Candidates Committee and the Credentials Committee.

The candidates committee will focus on the Christian experience and inward call exam as well as the first Christian character exam that should be given before Licensure. They will be responsible for receiving regular updates from interns and providing those reports to the Presbytery.

The candidates committee will not receive transfer exams from ministers transferring into the presbytery. That responsibility will remain with the credentials committee—though it could also be extended to Ministerial Relations. The candidates committee will not address changes of views for teaching elders.

Finally, the credentials committee will relinquish all duties connected to internships. This belongs properly to a candidate committee.

The Proposal in Summary

In conclusion, the STP as it continues to grow would be better served by two committees dedicated to its different points of emphasis. A stand alone candidates committee will be better equipped and provided more time to meet with interns, provide reports, and perform the Christian experience, inward call, and character exams. The stand alone credentials committee would be provided more time for thorough examination of the candidate's theology.

This proposal optimizes the unique gifts of the men in our presbytery. It would also provide two committees—hopefully each consisting of the same size as the present committee—more face to face time with candidates as they come before our presbytery. The outcome should be candidates that the presbytery knows better and candidates that better know the presbytery they are joining.

Presbyteries with similar setups include Potomac, Central Florida, Westminster, Tennessee Valley, North Texas, Calvary, Covenant, Missouri, Philadelphia, Evangel, Central Carolina, Wisconsin, and Gulf Coast.

The Original Standing Rules

Candidates and Credentials Committee

Purpose

The purpose of the Candidates and Credentials Committee is to assist vacant churches, oversee ministers and licentiates, conduct requisite examinations, oversee candidates for the Gospel ministry, and direct internship programs for candidates within the presbytery.

Duties and Responsibilities

VACANT CHURCHES

1. This committee shall assist vacant churches in securing supply preaching and interim supply.

MINISTERS

1. Churches desiring to call a minister may seek the committee's counsel.
2. The committee shall be responsible to present to Presbytery: transferring ministers, candidates for ordination, and licentiates seeking admission to South Texas Presbytery along with their credentials. The applications for admission to South Texas Presbytery must ordinarily be received one month prior to the Presbytery meeting at which the applicant will be examined.
3. This committee shall review all calls, examining them as to whether they are in order, before presenting them to Presbytery.
4. This committee shall instruct churches that a minister must be examined and approved by Presbytery before he can move on the field.
5. This committee shall transfer a minister's credentials only at a meeting of presbytery.
6. This committee shall hear and make recommendations to Presbytery concerning Teaching Elders who report changes in their views related to Ordination Vow #2 (BCO 21-5).

CANDIDATES

1. The committee shall oversee the candidates' course of study and practical training.
2. This committee shall have the oversight of all candidates for the Gospel ministry under the care of Presbytery still pursuing courses of preparation, keeping in touch with their progress and spiritual growth by annual reports from them.
3. It shall receive and consider all applications from persons seeking to become candidates for the Gospel ministry.

4. The committee shall recommend candidates eligible for a loan from funds administered by the Presbytery, or a seminary, when funds administered by the seminary require such recommendation and approval by the Presbytery.
5. This committee shall assist candidates and licentiates of the Presbytery in securing summer employment within the bounds of the Presbytery.
6. The committee shall provide guidance to sessions on the process of bringing a candidate under care of the session and Presbytery.
7. This committee shall hear and make recommendations to Presbytery concerning Teaching Elders who report changes in their views related to Ordination Vow #2 (BCO 21-5).

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EXAMINATIONS

1. The Candidates and Credentials Committee shall prepare and conduct a preliminary examination of those seeking licensure, ordination, and ministers seeking admission from another Presbytery or denomination according to the requirements of the *Book of Church Order* 21.4.
2. All candidate sermons shall be heard by the committee on behalf of the Presbytery and shall report their recommendation to the Presbytery.

INTERNSHIPS

1. Approve all intern programs.
2. Approve all intern mentors.
3. Receive reports from interns and mentors.

The Proposed Standing Rules

Candidates Committee

Purpose

The purpose of the Candidates and Credentials Committee is to assist vacant churches, oversee ministers and licentiates, conduct requisite examinations pertaining to Christian character and experience, oversee candidates for the Gospel ministry, and direct internship programs for candidates within the presbytery.

Duties and Responsibilities

~~VACANT CHURCHES~~

- ~~1. This committee shall assist vacant churches in securing supply preaching and interim supply.~~

~~MINISTERS~~

- ~~7. Churches desiring to call a minister may seek the committee's counsel.~~
- ~~8. The committee shall be responsible to present to Presbytery: transferring ministers, candidates for ordination, and licentiates seeking admission to South Texas Presbytery along with their credentials. The applications for admission to South Texas Presbytery must ordinarily be received one month prior to the Presbytery meeting at which the applicant will be examined.~~
- ~~9. This committee shall review all calls, examining them as to whether they are in order, before presenting them to Presbytery.~~
- ~~10. This committee shall instruct churches that a minister must be examined and approved by Presbytery before he can move on the field.~~
- ~~11. This committee shall transfer a minister's credentials only at a meeting of presbytery.~~
- ~~12. This committee shall hear and make recommendations to Presbytery concerning Teaching Elders who report changes in their views related to Ordination Vow #2 (BCO 21-5).~~

~~CANDIDATES~~

- ~~8. The committee shall oversee the candidates' course of study and practical training.~~
- ~~9. This committee shall have the oversight of all candidates for the Gospel ministry under the care of Presbytery still pursuing courses of preparation, keeping in touch with their progress and spiritual growth by annual reports from them.~~

10. ~~10.~~ The committee shall receive and consider all applications from persons seeking to become candidates for the Gospel ministry, ensuring that the requirements of BCO 18-2 for church membership and session endorsement are met.
11. The committee shall recommend candidates eligible for a loan from funds administered by the Presbytery; or a seminary, ~~or~~ When funds administered by the seminary require such recommendation and approval by the Presbytery the committee is authorized to act as a commission with respect to such approvals.
12. This committee shall assist candidates and licentiates of the Presbytery in securing summer employment within the bounds of the Presbytery.
13. The committee shall provide guidance to sessions on the process of bringing a candidate under care of the session and Presbytery.
- ~~14. This committee shall hear and make recommendations to Presbytery concerning Teaching Elders who report changes in their views related to Ordination Vow #2 (BCO 21-5).~~

EXAMINATIONS

3. The Candidates and Credentials Committee shall prepare and conduct a preliminary examinations of Christian experience, inward call, and Christian character as necessary for those coming as candidates or seeking licensure or internships, ordination, and ministers seeking admission from another Presbytery or denomination according to the requirements of the Book of Church Order 21.4.
- ~~4. All candidate sermons shall be heard by the committee on behalf of the Presbytery and shall report their recommendation to the Presbytery.~~

INTERNSHIPS

4. Approve all intern programs.
5. Approve all intern mentors.
6. Receive reports from interns and mentors under BCO 19-12 the required annual report from interns and, if the intern is still in school, the annual report from his instructors and report at each stated meeting with respect to each intern.

Credentials Committee

Purpose

The purpose of the ~~Candidates and~~ Credentials Committee is to ~~assist vacant churches, oversee ministers and licentiates, and~~ conduct requisite examinations for licensure (BCO 19-2), ordination (BCO 21-4.c), and transfers (BCO 13-6).; ~~oversee candidates for the Gospel ministry, and direct internship programs for candidates within the presbytery.~~

Duties and Responsibilities

~~VACANT CHURCHES~~

- ~~1. This committee shall assist vacant churches in securing supply preaching and interim supply.~~

MINISTERS

13. Churches desiring to call a minister may seek the committee's counsel.
14. The committee shall be responsible to present to Presbytery: transferring ministers, candidates for ordination, and licentiates seeking admission to South Texas Presbytery along with their credentials. The applications for admission to South Texas Presbytery must ordinarily be received one month prior to the Presbytery meeting at which the applicant will be examined.
15. This committee shall review all calls, examining them as to whether they are in order, before presenting them to Presbytery.
16. This committee shall instruct churches that a minister must be examined and approved by Presbytery before he can move on the field.
17. This committee shall transfer a minister's credentials only at a meeting of presbytery.
18. This committee shall hear and make recommendations to Presbytery concerning Teaching Elders who report changes in their views related to Ordination Vow #2 (BCO 21-5).

~~CANDIDATES~~

- ~~15. The committee shall oversee the candidates' course of study and practical training.~~
- ~~16. This committee shall have the oversight of all candidates for the Gospel ministry under the care of Presbytery still pursuing courses of preparation, keeping in touch with their progress and spiritual growth by annual reports from them.~~
- ~~17. It shall receive and consider all applications from persons seeking to become candidates for the Gospel ministry.~~

- ~~18. The committee shall recommend candidates eligible for a loan from funds administered by the Presbytery, or a seminary, when funds administered by the seminary require such recommendation and approval by the Presbytery.~~
- ~~19. This committee shall assist candidates and licentiates of the Presbytery in securing summer employment within the bounds of the Presbytery.~~
- ~~20. The committee shall provide guidance to sessions on the process of bringing a candidate under care of the session and Presbytery.~~
- ~~21. This committee shall hear and make recommendations to Presbytery concerning Teaching Elders who report changes in their views related to Ordination Vow #2 (BCO 21-5).~~

EXAMINATIONS

5. The Candidates and Credentials Committee shall prepare and conduct a preliminary examination of those seeking licensure (BCO 19-2), ordination (BCO 21-4.c), and ministers seeking admission from another Presbytery or denomination (BCO 13-6) according to the requirements of the *Book of Church Order-21.4*.
6. All candidate sermons shall be heard by the committee on behalf of the Presbytery and shall report their recommendation to the Presbytery.

INTERNSHIPS

- ~~7. Approve all intern programs.~~
- ~~8. Approve all intern mentors.~~
- ~~9. Receive reports from interns and mentors.~~

Other Changes To The Standing Rules

- Update committee distinction in Table of Contents (pg 2)
- Split the committees under the "Structure" of the presbytery (pg 7)
- Clarify that both distinct committees may conduct exams electronically (pg 12)
- Split the committees under the list of committees (pg 14)
- Clarify that the candidates committee will not approve calls (pg 14)

Attachment E

Minutes of
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3346 Airline Road, Corpus Christi, Texas 78414
January 26-27, 2024

Creation of Study Committee on Exceptions

The presbyters discussed a proposal for the creation of a study committee on the issue of the need for exceptions to be taken by candidates for ordination. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to bring before the presbytery at its January stated meeting creation of a study committee on the issue of exceptions of candidates for ordination, in order to allow notice of the consideration of the matter and time for the perfection of a proposed charge to the study committee.

-from the minutes of the October 2023 Stated Meeting

Whereas our system of government requires candidates to state the specific instances in which they may differ with the Confession of Faith and Catechisms in any of their statements and/or propositions. (BCO 21-4.g)

And whereas the presbytery may grant an exception to any difference of doctrine only if in the court's judgment the candidate's declared difference is not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine because the difference is neither hostile to the system nor strikes at the vitals of religion. (BCO 21-4.g)

And whereas some exceptions to the Confession of Faith and Catechisms have become commonplace in our denomination.

And whereas questions have recently arisen in South Texas Presbytery as to the propriety of requiring an exception to be taken with regard to a non-calendar view of the Creation days.

And whereas our denomination undertook a study of such views and the 28th General Assembly deemed the diversity as covered in the study committee report acceptable as long as the full historicity of the creation account is accepted.

And whereas South Texas Presbytery has judged some exceptions to the Confession of Faith and Catechisms differently than other presbyteries.

Therefore, be it resolved that the South Texas Presbytery erect a study committee for the purpose of

- Reviewing the current practice of the presbytery, as well as any historical precedents or decisions regarding exceptions
- Identifying common exceptions to the standards

- Proposing changes to the practice of the presbytery and specifically giving direction to the Credentials committee with regard to a proper course of action regarding common exceptions including but not limited to how floor examinations are performed

The study committee should reflect the breadth of the views of the presbytery on these issues. Any costs incurred will be borne by the churches represented on the study committee.

Proposed Committee Members:

TE Tim Fox (Christ the King, Austin)
TE Mike Singstreu (Christ, Victoria)
TE Greg Ward (Emmanuel, Cedar Park)
RE Joshua Torrey (Redeemer, Austin)
RE Mike Simpson (Faith, San Antonio)
RE Alan Tysinger (Christ Church, San Antonio)

Proposed Alternates:

TE Wade Coleman (Westminster, Bryan)
RE Mike Gamble (Christ, New Braunfels)

The moderator and stated clerk will serve on the committee as ex-officio, non-voting members. The moderator will convene the committee and serve as its chair. He will also have the responsibility to cast a deciding vote in case of a tie. The moderator shall have discretion to fill any vacancies by an officer of the same order.

The study committee will endeavor to present a report at the October 2024 stated meeting of South Texas Presbytery. A minority report may be offered by two or more members of the committee. Committee members will have the opportunity to participate in any discussion or debate related to their report on the floor of presbytery.

Attachment F

Minutes of
South Texas Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America
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2023-2024
BCO AMENDMENTS SENT DOWN TO PRESBYTERIES
BY THE 50th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FOR VOTING, and for ADVICE AND CONSENT

NOTE: The Stated Clerk's Office sends the proposed amendments only in their final form, as approved by the General Assembly.

ITEM 1: Amend BCO 7-3, regarding titling of unordained people, by the addition of a sentence (underlined).

[Overture 26 was answered in the affirmative as amended by the Overtures Committee.]

7-3. No one who holds office in the Church ought to usurp authority therein, or receive official titles of spiritual preeminence, except such as are employed in the Scripture. Furthermore, unordained people shall not be referred to as, or given the titles of, the ordained offices of pastor/elder, or deacon.

ITEM 2: Amend BCO 8-2 and 9-3, to require officers' conformity to Biblical standards for chastity and sexual purity in self-description, by the addition of the underlined wording.

[Overture 23 from Mississippi Valley Presbytery was answered in the affirmative as amended by the Overtures Committee. (Overtures 9, 16, 17, and 24 were answered with reference to Overture 23.)]

8-2. He that fills this office should possess a competency of human learning and be blameless in life, sound in the faith and apt to teach. He should exhibit a sobriety and holiness of life becoming the Gospel. He should conform to the biblical requirement of chastity and sexual purity in his descriptions of himself, and in his convictions, character, and conduct. He should rule his own house well and should have a good report of them that are outside the Church.

9-3. To the office of deacon, which is spiritual in nature, shall be chosen men of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly spirit, warm sympathies, and sound judgment, conforming to the biblical requirement of chastity and sexual purity in their descriptions of themselves and in their convictions, character, and conduct.

ITEM 3: Amend BCO 38-1, regarding confessions and offended parties, as follow (strike-through for deletions, underlining for new wording).

[**Overture 27** from Pacific Northwest Presbytery was answered in the affirmative as amended by the Overtures Committee.]

38-1. When any person shall come forward and make his offense known to the court, a full statement of the facts shall be recorded and judgment rendered without process. In handling a confession of guilt, it is essential that the person intends to confess and permit the court to render judgment without process. Statements made by him in the presence of the court must not be taken as a basis of a judgment without process except by his consent. In the event a confession is intended, a written Confession (i.e., a sufficient summary of the facts, the person's specific confession, and any expression or evidence of repentance) must be approved by the accused, and by the court, before the court proceeds to a judgment, and the co-signed document shall be appended to the minutes (regular or executive session). No other information may be presented without written consent from the accused and the court, and this prohibition includes individuals, prosecutors, committees, and commissions. A censured person has the right to appeal (*BCO* 42). The person has the right to be assisted by counsel at any point, in accord with the stipulations of *BCO* 32-19. [See Stated Clerk's note below.]

In any instances involving a personal offense (*BCO* 29-3), the court shall attempt to inform the offended person(s) of that part of the Confession the court deems pertinent to the offense against him or her. The court shall invite the offended person to provide the court comment on the Confession prior to final approval of the Confession by the confessor and the court. The court shall encourage the offended person to enlist the help of an advisor in preparing any such comments. In all instances, the court shall report the way such offended persons were informed of the parts of the Confession pertinent to them.

[**Stated Clerk's Note:** The last two sentences in paragraph one above are necessary because the 50th GA Overtures Committee adopted wording prior to the 50th GA's adopting Items 9 and 10 of the Amendments Sent Down to Presbyteries by the 49th GA, thereby amending the same section of the *BCO*. See below, note 7 of the Rationale accompanying Overture 27.]

Rationale #7 from Overture 27 to 50th GA:

7. Note: The 49th GA approved two amendments to *BCO* 38-1 and sent them to presbyteries for a vote. As of April 11, 2023, presbyteries had voted 77-1 & 78-0 in favor. If the 50th GA in Memphis also approves them, then the current final sentence in *BCO* 38-1 ("*The accused person has the right of complaint against the judgment*") will be revised to read: "A censured person has the right to appeal (*BCO* 42)." And an additional sentence will be added after it: "The person has the right to be assisted by counsel at any point, in accord with the stipulations of *BCO* 32-19." These two new sentences would not be touched or affected by this Overture.