Catawba Tresbytery

Associate Reformed

Tresbyterian Church

2021-2022

Volume III

June 7, 2022 - Stated Meeting - Bonclarken Chapel, Flat Rock, NC

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Catawba Presbytery Stated Meeting Bonclarken Chapel, Flat Rock, NC June 7, 2022 10:00 .A.M.

Catawba Presbytery met for a Stated Meeting at the Bonclarken Chapel, Flat Rock, NC on June 7, 2022 t0:00 A. M. Moderator John M. Rogers called the meeting to order and constituted the meeting with prayer.

Jeremiah Thomas, Credentials Commission Chair, introduced Andrew George to preach his Middler sermon. Mr. George used as his scripture Galatians 3:15-25.

Guy H. Smith, Stated Clerk/Administrator, moved the adoption of the Minutes of the Called Meeting of November 28, 2021, the Minutes of February 22, 2022 of the Executive Committee Acting in Behalf of Presbytery, and the Stated Meeting of October 8, 2022 as circulated. The motion was ADOPTED.

Reading Clerk Mark E. Ross presented the program as emailed. The program was ADOPTED as follows:

Call To Order John M. Rogers. Moderator **Presbytery Constituted with Prayer John M. Rogers, Moderator Middler Sermon Andrew George Guy H. Smith, Stated Clerk Adoption of the Previous Minutes Presentation of the Program Mark E. Ross, Reading Clerk **Roll Constituted** Guy H. Smith, Stated Clerk Visitors Welcomed John M. Rogers, Moderator

Unfinished Business:

- 1. Report of the Commission to Sell the Hardeeville Property Tom Roper, Chm.
- L. Calvin Draffin, Chm. 2. Report of the Committee to Close the Hope Church

3. Report of the Committee on Nominations

Clint Davis, Chm.

New Business:

- Report of the Stated Clerk/Administrator
- 2 Report of the Executive Committee
- 3 Report of the Treasurer
- 4 Reports of the Standing Committees
 - a. Committee on Church Extension
 - b. Credentials Commission on the Minister and His Work
 - c. Shepherding Commission on the Minister and His Work
- 5. Other New Business

Introduction of New Moderator John M. Rogers, Moderator Introduction of New Vice Moderator/Moderator-Elect John M. Rogers, Moderator Introduction of New Stated Clerk/Administrator John M. Rogers, Moderator Place for October 11, 2022 Meeting Westminster Church, Conway, SC -10:00 AM Announcements

Presbytery Recesses to Adjourn with the Meeting of Synod

"Christian Unity" 280 **Bible Song

**Closing Prayer and Benediction John M. Rogers, Moderator

**Presbytery Stands

The roll was constituted by Guy Smith, Stated Clerk/Administrator, from the email registration and a quorum was declared present.

Unfinished business was considered.

Jeremiah Thomas a member of the Commission to sell the Hardeeville property reported that negotiations to sell the property are continuing.

Calvin Draffin, Chairman of the Committee to sell the Hope, TX property reported that the fence issue had been settled, a new survey done and now the sale should be able to move forward.

The Report of the Committee on Nominations was presented and ADOPTED as follows:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

The Nominations Committee submits the following nominee for the Shepherding Commission – 2022-2025 [Elder] Rex Casterline Mr. Casterline will move from Nominations to the Shepherding Commission.

Respectfully,
Clint Davis, Chairman

Mr. Davis then requested that the Committee be empowered to act to fill the other vacancies. The motion was made and ADOPTED for the Committee to fill these vacancies and report the name sat the next meeting.

Nominations Committee-	2022-2025 {Elder}	
Nominations Committee-	2022-2025 {Elder}	
Christian Education	- 2021-2024	
Commitment & Finance	2022-2025 [Minister]	

New business was considered.

The Report of the Stated Clerk/Administrator was presented and ADOPTED as follows:

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK/ADMINISTRATPR

Information:

- ➤ The Installation Service for Rev. Sean Henderson as an Associate Pastor at First Columbia was held at First Columbia at on Sunday, April 10, 2022 6:00 pm. The Service was conducted by a Commission of the Presbytery consisting of Moderator John Rogers, Chairman, Rev. Bryan Bult, Dr. Derek Thomas, Rev. Neal Mathias, Rev. David Lauten, along with Elders from First, David Taylor, Robert Belding, John Bunge, and Ed Schooler from Grace and Larry Stokes from Centennial. Also participating is Rev. Matt Kuiken, Chairman of the Board of World Witness. The order of service is included in Appendix B.
- ➤ The organization Service for the Arsenal Hill Mission as a particular congregation was on Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. The Service was conducted by a Commission of the Presbytery consisting of Moderator Rev. John Rogers along with Dr. Mark Ross; Rev. Ben Carver; Rev. Benjamin Glaser along with elders Rick Bradley {Centennial}. John Tyler {Grace} and Ken Wingate [First Columbia]. T the service is included in Appendix C.
- ➤ Rev. Matthew D. Awtrey, Sr. resigned as Mission Developer at King's Church Mission effective April 27, 2022.

Presbytery Communication:

- Attorney Eric Ruschky, attorney for Mr. Jeffrey Prato filed with the Stated Clerk an "Objection to the Records". [APPENDIX D]
- Attorney Henry Foster also copied the Stated Clerk on "Supplement Appeal" in the Prato Case filed with the Synod. [APPENDIX E]
- Attorney Henry Foster also copied the Stated Clerk on an "Objection to the Executive Committee Action" filed with the Synod. [APPENDIX F]
- Presbytery also received a Proposal from Synod [See Below] concerning the new plan for RUF Ministry Oversight. The Proposal is attached and a response made by July 1, 2022. As a reference the Minutes of Presbytery 2016-2017, Volume 3 page 10 contains these words: "In this arrangement, Presbytery will call Scott as a campus minister; however, it will not be responsible for meeting the financial terms of his call. Scott will be responsible for raising 100% of the financial support necessary to fund this ministry."

After consultation with the Executive Committee and the Parliamentarian the "Objection to the Records, the "Supplement Appeal" and the 'Objection to the Executive Committee Action" are attached. A recommendation is included below.

Recommendations:

- 1. That the "Objection to the Record" be forwarded to the General Synod to be added to the material already being appealed.
- 2. That the Supplemental Appeal and the Objection to the Executive Committee Action be received as information.
- 3. That Presbytery give direction as to who shall sign the Proposal from Synod and who is to be designated as the Presbytery contact for RUF Ministry Oversight.
- 4. That the report be received as information and included in the Minutes.

Respectfully,

Guy H. Smith, Jr., Stated Clerk/Administrator

The Proposal from Synod in relation to the RUF minister was approved and the following designations were made: Moderator John Rogers is to sign the document and Shepherding Commission Chairman Buzzy Elder is to be the contact person for the Shepherding Commission that the ARP Center can communicate with if there is a problem.

The Report of the Presbytery Executive Committee was presented and ADOPTED as follows: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Synod's Committee on Administration sent an inquiry to the Presbytery concerning the release of all files in the case of Prato vs. the Session of First Columbia when the Synod papers are distributed in early May. After consideration, the Executive Committee determined this to be a matter that our Executive Committee would need to act in behalf of Presbytery in that this was an "urgent matter." We agreed unanimously that this was an "urgent matter" under our Rules of Procedure. We also unanimously agreed to submit to the Committee on Administration in behalf of Presbytery the statement below in bold print as our response to their request.

Catawba Presbytery has been asked by Dr. Kyle Sims, on behalf of the Committee on Administration for General Synod that is charged with preparing the packet of reports to be distributed to the delegates for General Synod, whether Catawba Presbytery had any objection to including in the packet a link to all the files that have been referenced in the matter of the two appeals coming from Eric Ruschky and Henry Foster. The two appeals will be included in full to the delegates of Synod, but the question from the committee

concerns whether the additional link to all the files of the case be included with the appeals.

The Committee on Administration has raised this question because in these files there is much personal information about the people concerned, especially personal text messages and emails. The Committee on Administration had a concern about whether such personal information should be made available to all Synod delegates, fraternal delegates, etc.

After consultation by the Executive Committee of Catawba Presbytery, we provide the following response to the question from the Committee on Administration:

The Executive Committee of Catawba Presbytery does have an objection to a general distribution of all the files connected with the two appeals against the presbytery. These files contain not simply the records of presbytery's actions in handling the cases which have been brought before it, but much personal information contained in text messages and emails between two individuals around whom this case originated. It is not in the best interests of these persons to have all this personal information shared in a general way, and it is not at this stage required for Synod's decision on whether to take up these appeals. The appeals themselves already contain sufficient information for the initial decision on whether Synod should take up these appeals and determine the method for their adjudication. If Synod decides to take up the appeals, those in the court can then receive all the information that is necessary for their consideration.

Recommendation:

1. That the action of the Executive Committee be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

The Executive Committee of Catawba Presbytery

The Report of the Treasurer of Catawba Presbytery was presented and RECEIVED AS INFORMATION as follows:

REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF CATAWBA PRESBYTERY

Income and Expense Statement (UNAUDITED)

04/04/2022 09:18 PM	Consolidated -	January 202	22 - March 2022		Page: 1
INCOME		4000			
CONTRIBUTION INCOME	Ξ	4010			
UNRESTRICTED		4020			
Presbytery Fees: 2° \$32,614.65	7%	4025	\$16,132.49	\$8,153.67	
Presbytery Ch Ext:	73%	4030	43,617.51	22,045.08	88,180.35
Synod Endowment	Int	4045	0.00	2,363.49	9,454.00
"Friends & Family"	of OBC	4062	0.00	24.99	100.00

Subtotal Contribution Income 130,349.00	4010	59,750.00	32,587.23
TOTAL INCOME		59,750.00 130,349.00	32,587.23
EXPENSES	5000		
FIXED EXPENSES	5010		
PRESBYTERY GROUP EXPENSE	5310		
Senior High	5311	\$4,000.00	\$2,000.01 \$8,000.00
Middle School	5312	4,000.00	2,000.01 8,000.00
Christian Education Works	5313	0.00	249.99 1,000.00
Children's Work	5314	0.00	249.99 1,000.00
Adult Ministries	5315	1,000.00	249.99 1,000.00
Clerk/Admin Honorarium	5321	900.00	900.00 3,600.00
Office Expense	5322	58.59	200.01 800.00
Printing & Mailing	5324	131.28	399.99 1,600.00
Internet	5325	230.00	230.01 920.00
Liability Insurance	5326	0.00	412.50 1,650.00
Treasurer's Honorarium	5332-050	600.00	600.00 2,400.00
1099 misc. tax form	5332-075	24.06	25.00 25.00
Treasurer's Postage	5332-100	58.00	27.51 110.00
Treasurer's Printer Ink	5332-200	0.00	18.75 75.00
Treasurer's Printer Paper	5332-300	0.00	6.00 24.00
Treasurer's Checks & Env.	5332-400	0.00	24.99 100.00
Travel Pres Committees	5333	32.08	699.99 2,800.00
Chaplain Fees - Shepherd	5335-300	0.00	600.00 2,400.00
Students Under Care C.C.	5335-700	0.00	999.99 4,000.00
Session Records	5336	0.00	62.49 250.00
Subtotal Expenses	5000	11,034.01	9,957.22 39,754.00

OLD BRICK CHURCH 5400

O.B.C. Liability Ins.	5400-060	0.00	161.49	646.00
OBC Fire Insurance	5400-075	450.00	450.00	450.00
OBC Pest Control	5400-500	0.00	206.25	825.00
Lawn Maintenance	5400-600	500.00	875.01	3,500.00
Subtotal Old Brick Church	5400	950.00	1,692.75	5,421.00
CHURCH EXTENSION	5500			
Operating expenses	5520			
Committee Travel Expenses	5523	0.00	1,250.01	5,000.00
Contingencies	5524	30,000.00	2,750.01	11,000.00
Church Revitalization	5525-100	0.00	7,500.00 3	30,000.00
Iglesia Biblical Latino	5530			
Property Insurance	5531	3,533.00	875.01	3,500.00
Subtotal Operating Expenses	5520	33,533.00	12,375.03	49,500.00
Subtotal Church Extension	5500	33,533.00	12,375.03	49,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		45,517.01	24,025.00 9	94,675.00
EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES		\$14,232.99	\$8,562.23	
		\$35,674.00		

Financia	al Statement a	s of 3/31/2022	
Unrestricted Catawba Funds		Restricted Catawba Funds	
Account x20		Account x86 - Catawba Children	
Checking	\$ 38,947.98	Business Checking	\$ 4,820.20
Shares	\$ 5,251.76	Shares	\$ 35.75
Account X81		Account x85 - Middle School	
Money Management	\$ 21,365.45	Business Checking	\$ 7,430.77
Shares	\$ 1,089.87	Shares	\$ 39.63
Loyalty Select	\$ 139.46		
Reserve CD Matures 1/30/23 @.650 %)	\$ 32,618.32	Account x91 - Senior High	
		Business Checking	\$ 4,646.65
Account x93		Shares	\$ 20.24
Money Management	\$ 64,643.40		
Shares	\$ 2,991.68	Investments:	
Loyalty Select	\$ 281.52	Founders LPL	
Sub-Total	\$ 167,329.44	Church Extension	\$505,052.13
Designated OBC Gift	20,000		
Total Unrestricted	\$ 147,329.44	Morgan Stanley	
		OBC Endowment	\$ 33,287.00
		OBC Cemetery	\$ 89,301.00

Respectfully, Jamey Dagenhart, Treasurer

The Report of the Committee on Church Extension was presented and ADOPTED as follows:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHURCH EXTENSION

The Committee on Church Extension met once since the Spring meeting of Presbytery, with a second coming after the sending of this report, and before the Summer meeting of Presbytery, though no business is expected to come from the second meeting.

We met with a member of the provisional session of King's Church-Irmo (Elder Rick Bradley), elder candidates (Robert Keisler, Foster Christy), Rev. Dr. Mark Ross, Rev. John Rogers, as well as church planter Rev. Matt Awtrey, and Intern Josh Smith. We met separately with Rev. Justin Brickey and a representative from IBL.

The first order of business was to meet with Rev. Brickey and IBL to hear a report on where they were in regards to what we had discussed at our previous meeting. There is a desire that they reengage in the work IBL was originally chartered to do, and that in order to move in that direction a mission developer be found. After much discussion it was moved, seconded, and passed that IBL be encouraged to find a man suitable to the work and they report back to Church Extension when that person is found.

The second order of business was first to review with Rev Dr. Mark Ross and Rev. John Rogers their scheduled meetings with Rev. Awtrey, and to hear from all present about the current situation at King's Church. Taking first Dr. Ross and Rev. Rogers we heard of their times together with

Rev. Awtrey. After that discussion we then met with the provisional session, the elder candidates, and Rev.'s Awtrey and Intern Josh Smith, to each in turn give their understanding of where things were. After much discussion the Church Extension committee concurred with the provisional session that Rev. Awtrey and Intern Josh Smith work together for the benefit of Christ's church, and especially King's Church. The meeting was closed in prayer by committee member elder Kirk Irwin.

After this meeting there were several more meetings between Rev. Awtrey, Josh Smith, the provisional session, and the elder candidates from King's Church. There remained contested questions as to how, and whether, Rev. Awtrey and Josh Smith would work together and under what conditions, especially as it related to the work of the elders and Rev. Awtrey. At their meeting on April 27th Rev. Awtrey tendered his resignation from the King's Church mission and it was accepted by the provisional session. At a future meeting of Church Extension the plan moving forward will be discussed for King's Church, and separately future ministry opportunities for Rev. Awtrey in Catawba Presbytery.

Recommendations:

- That Presbytery receive the resignation of Rev. Matt Awtrey as Mission Developer of King's Church.
- 2. That Presbytery pause to pray for Rev. Matt Awtrey, Josh Smith, and the King's Church Mission.
- 3. That Presbytery pause to pray for Rev. Justin Brickey and IBL, and if the way be clear to hear from Rev. Brickey on the status of his work at IBL.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Benjamin Glaser, Chairman

Prayer was offered by Church Extension Chairman Benjamin Glaser for Mr. Brickey and those connected with King's Church.

Matthew Awtrey spoke briefly thanking the Presbytery for his time at King's Church and for those who prayed for him and gave him counsel.

The Report of the Credentials Commission on the Minister and His Work was presented and ADOPTED as follows:

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMISSION ON THE MINISTER AND HIS WORK

The Credentials Commission thanks you for your continued prayers. Please consider the following items of update/business.

- 1. In late April, the Commission undertook an examination for the transfer of Tim Wohlers. The commission voted to recommend his examination on the floor of presbytery for transfer into Catawba Presbytery.
- 2. Take note of the high likelihood of a supplemental report for the purposes of recommending a student come under care.

Recommendations:

- 1) That if the way be clear, Tim Wohlers be transferred into Catawba Presbytery.
- 2) That this report be received as information.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeremiah Thomas The Report and Supplemental Report of the Shepherding Commission on the Minister and His Work were presented and Presbytery CONCURRED with 2 1nd 3 in the main report and ADOPTED the reports as follows:

REPORT OF THE SHEPHERDING COMMISSION ON THE MINISTER AND HIS WORK

The Commission met with Rob Turner concerning particularizing Arsenal Hill Church for the purpose of calling Mr. Turner to be their full time pastor. The Commission approved the request for Mr. Turner's call contingent upon Arsenal Hill particularizing, and fulfilling all other requirements concerning the movement.

Recommendations:

- 1. That the call for Rob Turner be accepted at the appropriate time during the particularizing service of Arsenal Hill Church.
- 2. The Shepherding Commission is recommending that no action be taken concerning a letter submitted to the Executive Committee that was handed down to us. There can be no action taken because the matter has been concluded. We find no reason to pursue the matter any further at this time. We have received the report from the Executive Committee as information. While the report made many statements concerning the Shepherding Commission and the ARPC, we have no control over what others outside our Synod write or say.

Church Proverbs 19:9 teaches that "a false witness will not go unpunished and he who utters lies will perish." The Shepherding Commission believes that if we do the right thing, and the Commission certainly tried and went overboard to do so during all of that situation, that God will honor that. He will take care of our reputation, just as He did with His Son Jesus. Matthew 26:63 tells us Jesus was silent in the face of all of the comments made against Him. His only comment talked about what God would do for Him to restore His reputation. We stand on those words and those actions by our Savior

3. That Barry Dagenhart, John Tyler and John Rogers be recognized for their work on the Minister and His Work commission, now named the Shepherding Commission. Rev. Dagenhart and Mr. Tyler will be rotating off of the Commission and Rev. Rogers was the former Minister and His Work chairman.

In Christ, Buzzy Elder, Chairman Shepherding Commission

The Supplemental Report of the Shepherding Commission was presented and ADOPTED as follows:

SPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF THE SHEPHERDING COMMISSION

The Commission met with the Pulpit Nominating Committee from Good Shepherd Church and their candidate Rev. Tim Wohlers, a member of the Ohio Presbytery, PCA. After examination for a transfer everything was found to be in order. The Commission then reviewed the call from Good Shepherd which was also found to be in order. Recommendations:

- 1. That Tim Wohlers be examined for transfer and if the way is clear that he be received pending receipt of his transfer from the Ohio Presbytery, PCA
- 2. That the call from Good Shepherd be read and approved and if approved presented to Mr. Wohlers for his acceptance.

3. That once he has been officially enrolled in our Presbytery that a Commission approved by the Chairman of the Shepherding Commission be appointed to conduct his installation.

Respectfully, Buzzy Elder, Chairman

Jeremiah Thomas, Commission Chairman, examined Mr. Wohlers for transfer from the Ohio Presbytery, PCA. The examination was sustained and Mr. Wohlers was received effective June 7, 2022.

The Call for Timothy J. Wohlers as pastor of Good Shepherd was read and approved with terms to begin August 1, 2022 as follows:

- 1. When a housing allowance is provided it may be divided to the best interest of the minister and shall provide:
 - 1) Basic Compensation: \$78,500
 - a. Base Salary \$33,500
 - b. Housing Allowance \$45,000
- 2. Pay your moving expenses
- 3. Pay into the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan as prescribed by the Synod.
- 4. Pastor waives medical and dental coverage under Synod's group policy for himself and his dependents who are covered under the spouse's group policy.
- 5. The Church provides the cost of Life, Long Term Disability and Accidental Death Coverage as provided by and required by the General Synod.
- 6. Two weeks annually to be away for evangelistic or other church related meetings.
- 7. One week and expenses for continuing education
- 8. Review with you annually the adequacy of this compensation. As part of the review the Church shall be encouraged to consider an increase to the previous year's base compensation.
- 9. Grant you an annual paid vacation of 4 weeks.
- 10. Expenses for the meeting of General Synod.
- 11. In the event of total disability, as defined in the Synod's insurance program, we promise:
 - a. To continue for a minimum of three months the provisions of this call awaiting commencement of benefits from Synod's insurance program.
- 12. In the event of death during the terms of this call, we promise:
 - a. To continue the provisions of this call dealing with annual salary, housing, and group insurance for a minimum of three months

The Moderator presented Mr. Wohlers the call from Good Shepherd and he accepted the call.

There was no other new business.

The Moderator expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Executive Committee for their support and work during the past year.

The Moderator introduced T. C. S. [Buddy] Lever, Jr, elder from First Lancaster, as the new Moderator. Bryan Bult was introduced as the new Vice Moderator/Moderator-elect and Benjamin Glaser as the new Stated Clerk/Administrator.

Mark Ross expressed appreciation to the Moderator for all the different things he has dealt with as moderator.

Guy H. Smith, Stated Clerk/Administrator, announced the place for the October 11, 2022 meeting at Westminster Church, Conway, SC at 10:00 a.m.

The Moderator expressed his thanks to Guy H, Smith, Jr. as he retires after 42 years of service as Stated Clerk/Administrator for the Presbytery. Mr. Smith was given a rising vote of thanks, presented a resolution that was read and will be sent to the ARP Magazine and a hand-made table made by Presbytery member Paul Pepin. Members of the Presbytery were invited to sign the bottom of the table. Mr. Smith expressed his appreciation.

Following the singing of "Christian Unity", the meeting was then recessed to adjourn with the meeting of Synod on June 9, 2022. The Moderator John Rogers closed the meeting with prayer and pronounced the benediction

Respectfully, John M. Rogers, Moderator Guy H. Smith, Jr., Stated Clerk/Administrator

APPENDIX A CATAWBA PRESBYTERY OFFICIAL ROLL [a] = Absent

Arsenal Hill	Robert D Turner	Greg Cunningham
Bethany	Benjamin P. Glaser	Jimmy McGill
Bethel	James W. McManus	[a]
Blacksburg	VACANT	[a]
Calhoun	David J. Winburne [a]	{a}
Cayce	Brad A. Anderson	Steve Isbell
Centennial	Jeremiah A. Thomas	Rick Bradley
Chester	Clint H. Davis	Matt McCrorey
Clover	Mark J. Miller	Bruce Bodenstein
Associate	Jonathan A. Williams	
Columbia, First	Derek W. H. Thomas [a]	Jerry Brewer
Associate	David H. Lauten	2. Norman Kent
Associate	Joshua A. Squires [a]	3. Ken Wingate
Associate	Bryan F. Bult	4. Lanny Lambert
Associate	David C. Henderson	5. Elliott Powell
Associate	Sean M. Henderson	6. Steve Folks
		7. [a]
		8. [a]
		9. [a]
		10. [a]
		11. [a]
Crossings Community	Evan B. English	Steve Childers
Ebenezer, Fairfield	VACANT	NONE

Associate	Ebenezer, York	Matthew T. Allison	1. Joe Kirkpatrick
Edgemoor		I.	
Effingham Joseph M. Crump Billy Hunt Faith VACANT [a] Faith Fellowship Stephen R. Woods [a] Jim Liptrap Associate David B. Huang [a] Bill Wolfe Good Shepherd Timothy J. Wohlers Bill Wolfe Grace Ranson D. Kent Steve Pink Hickory Grove VACANT David H. Mitchell, Jr. Hill City VACANT [a] Hope, LA Dean M. Rydbeck [a] [a] Hopewell VACANT [a] Hopewell VACANT NONE King's Church Mission VACANT NONE Lancaster, First Kyle E. Sims T.C.S. Lever Lemira VACANT [a] Mayesville Brian C. Peake Heath Watson Neely's Creek Matthew J. Joidersma 1. Buddy Auten 2. Jerry Ranson 2. Jerry Ranson New Hope VACANT [a] Oak Ridge David S. Huffman Mark Caskey Rock Hill, First J. Barry Dagenhart 1. Ken			
Faith VACANT [a] Faith Fellowship Stephen R. Woods [a] Jim Liptrap Associate David B. Huang [a] Bill Wolfe Good Shepherd Timothy J. Wohlers Bill Wolfe Grace Ransom D. Kent Steve Pink Hilcory Grove VACANT David H. Mitchell, Jr. Hill City VACANT [a] Hopewell VACANT [a] Hopewell VACANT [a] Hopewell VACANT NONE King's Church Mission VACANT NONE Lancaster, First Kyle E. Sims T.C.S. Lever Lemira VACANT [a] Living Waters VACANT [a] Mayesville Brian C. Peake Heath Watson Neely's Creek Matthew J. Joldersma 1. Buddy Auten 2. Jerry Ranson 2. Jerry Ranson New Hope VACANT [a] Oak Ridge David S. Huffman Mark Caskey Nock Hill, First J. Barry Dagenhart 1. Ken Hill			
Associate			
Associate	Faith Fellowship	Stephen R. Woods [a]	Jim Liptrap
Good Shepherd Timothy J. Wohlers Bill Wolfe Grace Ransom D. Kent Steve Pink Hickory Grove VACANT David H. Mitchell, Jr. Hill City VACANT [a] Hope, LA Dean M. Rydbeck [a] [a] Hopewell VACANT Thomas A. McKeown Iglesia Biblica Latinoamericana VACANT NONE King's Church Mission VACANT NONE Lancaster, First Kyle E. Sims T.C.S. Lever Lemira VACANT [a] Living Waters VACANT [a] Living Waters VACANT [a] Mayesville Brian C. Peake Heath Watson Neely's Creek Matthew J. Joldersma 1. Buddy Auten 2. Jerry Ranson 2. Jerry Ranson New Hope VACANT [a] Oak Ridge David S. Huffman Mark Caskey Rock Hill, First J. Barry Dagenhart 1. Ken Hill Associate Johathan M. Oliphant 2. John Barron Rogers Memorial VACANT			
Grace Ransom D. Kent Steve Pink Hickory Grove VACANT David H. Mitchell, Jr. Hill City VACANT [a] Hope, LA Dean M. Rydbeck [a] [a] Hopewell VACANT Thomas A. McKeown Iglesia Biblica Latinoamericana VACANT NONE King's Church Mission VACANT NONE King's Church Mission VACANT NONE Lemira VACANT [a] Lemira VACANT [a] Lemira VACANT [a] Living Waters VACANT [a] Mayesville Brian C. Peake Heath Watson Neely's Creek Matthew J. Joidersma 1. Buddy Auten 2. Jerry Ranson 1. Buddy Auten 2. Jerry Ranson New Hope VACANT [a] Oak Ridge David S. Huffman Mark Caskey Rock Hill, First J. Barry Dagenhart 1. Ken Hill Associate Jonathan M. Oliphant 2. John Barron Rogers Memorial VACANT	Good Shepherd	Ŭ	Bill Wolfe
Hill City		Ransom D. Kent	Steve Pink
Hill City	Hickory Grove	VACANT	David H. Mitchell, Jr.
Dean M. Rydbeck [a]		VACANT	
Hopewell VACANT		Dean M. Rydbeck [a]	
NONE			Thomas A. McKeown
Lancaster, First	Iglesia Biblica Latinoamericana	VACANT	NONE
Lemira	King's Church Mission	VACANT	NONE
Lemira	Lancaster, First	Kyle E. Sims	T.C.S. Lever
Living Waters	· ·		[a]
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Leland R Beaudrot Samuel W. Cotten Eric Ruschky		_	
,		Samuel W. Cotten	Eric Ruschky
	Roy E. Beckham [a]		Good Shepherd:

Jerry W. Berry [a]	Mark E. Ross	Mrs. Bill Wolfe
J. Allen Derrick [a]	Jonatan C. Simons[a]	
J. J. Diaz [a]	Frank P. van Dalen [a]	Grace: Henry Foster
L. Calvin Draffin	Mark G. Witte	Neely's Creek:
William H. Elder	Brooks D. Willet [a]	Josh Valentine
S. Barry Eller		Evan Frazier
Robert M. Ferguson [a]	MINISTERS: OTHER	King's Church;
	MINISTRIES	James Stands
Sinclair B. Ferguson [a]	Scott P. Andes	Robert Keisler
William A. Fitzhenry [a]	Andrew K. Arrington [a]	David Campbell
Billy O. Fleming	C. Michael Burgess [a]	1st Lancaster: Joel Haan
Denny W. Hieber [a]	Mark R. Levine	Oak Ridge: Clinton Dix
	OUT OF BOUNDS	Centennial:
H. Neely Gaston		Rex Casterline
Douglas O. Jones [a]	Mathew D. Awtrey, Sr.	
Michael A. Kelly [a]	Mark R. Hering [a]	
Ray A. King [a]	James L. Klukow	
Chester H. Lanious [a]	J. Michael Lashley [a]	
Neal R. Mathias	Mark I. McDowell [a]	
James D. McLurkin [a]	W. David Stover	
Alan A. Morrow [a]	Martin L. Taylor [a]	
Andrew J. Nix [a]		
Kim S. Payne [a]	LICENTIATES:	
Dwight L. Pearson [a]	Ben N. Alexander	
Paul A. Pepin	Joshua D. Smith	
Robert J. Robinson		
John M. Rogers	STUDENTS OF THEOLOGY:	
David L. Rowe [a]	Charles Brandon Auten [a]	
Jan P. Sattem [a]	Troy A. Cash [a]	
David W. Setzer	Nathaniel T. Cesky [a]	
Guy H. Smith, Jr.	F. Gregory Delleney, Jr.	
Gregory C. Slater	Mark J. Donald	
Aaron R. Swartz	Andrew F. George	
Calvin W. Todd	Ryan L. Gladden	
Glenn C. Welsford [a]	Charles Gavin Hodges [a]	
J. Rogers White [a]	Daniel B. Mick [a]	
R. Boyce Wilson	Matthew B. McFarling [a]	
TI. DOYCE WIISOIT	Beck R. Otersen [a]	
	-	
	Filip Janusz Sylwestrowicz [a] Joshua W. Thomas [a]	
	Joshua VV. Hiomas [a]	

DIVINE WORSHIP 6:00 P.M.

Exial him, all peoples!
For grout is his sheadfast love toward in,
and the fattiffusion of the LORD endores forever, Praise the LORD, all national Praise the LORD!

(Pinles 137:3-2, ESV)

VOLUNTARY: Rundian

Jean-Joseph Mouset

Lenora Morrow Jeffcoat, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The service will now proceed without further announcements

Rev. John Rogers

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

CALL TO ORDER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Mett Kuiken

HYMN 453: All Authority and Power

MERCATER

All authority and power, every status and domain,
Now belongs to him who suffered our redemption to obtain, Angels, demons, kings and rulers, over all shall Jesus reign!

How are men to call upon him if his name they have not heard? Therefore go and make disciples, preach his gospel, spread his word. All the nations owe bits worship, every tongue shall call him Lord;

In the Gospel words and symbols, saving truth to us conveyed. All the clear commands of Jesus must be heeded and obeyed; Full provision for our weakness in his teaching he has made;

With his own believing people, who keep steadfast in his ways, God the Father, Son, and Spirit, bless us, and to him the praise! All the time he will be with us, always, to the end of days,

+ PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Bryan Bult

READING OF OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES

Genesis 12:1-2

Mr. David Taylor

PRESENTATION OF EVENING OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: My Faith Lack: Up to The

em. Karl Osterland

READING OF NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES Philippians 2:12-18

Dr. Robert Belding

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 20: 10-04 (Few Bible page 835, Children's Bible page 1063)

SERMON:
"A Mission Statement"

HYMN 44: How Great Thou Art

O STORE OCD

Dr. Durek W.H. Thomas

Thy pow'r thro'out the universe displayed!
Then sing my mul, my Suciae Cod, to then
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sing my mul my Surine Cod, to then: Consider all the worlds thy hands have made, O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,

How year then art, how great then arth

Pion great than art, how great then art! How great than art, bow great than ard Then sings my sout, my Saviar Sout, to thes: When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, When thro' the woods and forest glades I wander Then sings my soul, my Surror God, to thee: And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,

That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing. He bled and died to take away my sin. Then dign my such my Sarbor Cod, to then: How great thou art! Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in, How great them art, how great them art! Then sings my wall, my Sarrier God, to thee: And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,

And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art. Then sight my said, my Savier God, to their. Then sight my and, my Savier God, to their. How great thou art!
Thus may my said, my Savier God, to their How great thou art! And take me home, what joy shall fill my heard When Chest shall come with shout of acclamation Then I shall how in humble adoration,

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

Rev. John Rogers

Renewal of Ordination Vows

Questions of Installation

The Declaration of Ordination and Installation

CHARGE TO THE MINISTER

Rev. Neal Mathias

Mr. John Bunge

INSTALLATION PRAYER

CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Rev. David Lauten

DUNE STREET

HYMN 7: From All That Dwell below the Sein

Through every land, by every conque Let the Redocmer's name be sung Let the Creator's praise arise; firom all that dwell below the skies

In every land begin the song. To every land the strains belong. And EII the world with joyful praise In cheerful sounds all voices raise

Till sums shall rise and set no more Your persise shall sound from shore to shore Eternal truth attends your word liternal we your mercies, Lord;

BENEDICTION

Rev. Scan Henderson

+ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

May the Pewe (Benediction) Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

And the grace of Christ the risen Son, And the fethowship of God the Spirit Keep our hearts and minds within his love. And so him be praise for his glorious reign, from the depths of earth to the beights of heav'n; We declare the name of the Lamb once thin, Christ elevant, the King of kings. May the peace of God nor heavisly Father,

CCLI No. 393170

VOLUNTARY: Fresh! Processional on "Christ Shall Have Dominion" acr. Samuel Metager



The Particularization of Arsenal Hill Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and

Installation Service of Rev. Rob Turner

May 1, 2022, 4 p.m.

Prelude

Welcome Rev. Rob Turner
Greetings from Catawba Presbytery
Statement of Purpose Rev. John Rogers
Call to Worship Elder Ken Wingate

Hymn

Invocation Elder Ken Wingate Scripture Acts 1:1-11 Rev. John Rogers Sermon "The Lord's Plan for the Spread of the Gospel"

Rev. John Rogers

Special Music

Service of Particularization

Presentation of Petitioners Rev. Ben Glaser
Question to Organize the Church Rev. John Rogers

"Do you in reliance on God's grace, solemnly promise and covenant that you will walk together as an organized congregation, according to the Constitution of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, working toward the purity and unity of the Church?"

Declaration of Organization
Prayer of Organization
Call to Order of Congregation
Rev. John Rogers
Elder Rick Bradley
Elder Rick Bradley

Congregational Meeting

Report of Nominating Committee Rev. John Rogers

Election of Elders and Congregational Officers
Service of Ordination and Installation of Elders
Rev. John Rogers
Rev. John Rogers

Prayer of Ordination Dr. Mark Ross
Declaration of Ordination Rev. John Rogers
Report on Call for a Pastor Elder Bob Taylor
Election of the Pastor Rev. John Rogers
Presentation of Call for Acceptance Rev. John Rogers
Questions for Installation Rev. John Rogers

Declaration of Installation
Prayer of Installation
Charge to the Pastor
Charge to the Congregation
Recognition of Provisional Session
Rev. John Rogers
Rev. Ben Carver
Dr. Mark Ross
Elder John Tyler
Rev. Rob Turner

Closing Song

Benediction Rev. Rob Turner

APPENDIX D

Catawba Presbytery Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

In re: Appeal of Jeffrey Prato

OBJECTION TO RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Appellant Jeffrey Prato, by his undersigned counsel, objects to the Record of proceedings submitted by Chairman Rex Casterline to Catawba Presbytery on March 24, 2022, in that the Record does not appear to include the following:

- 1. the full and complete record of proceedings of the Rogers Commission;
- an explanation for the meeting on February 11, 2020, between the Presbytery Commission on the Minister and His Work and a committee of the Session of First Presbyterian Church; and
 - 3. the 52-page "Threat Assessment" prepared by the Human Intelligence Group. In support of this Objection, I make the following representations:
- 1. On December 19, 2018, at the direction of the Security Commission of the Session of First Presbyterian Church, the business manager of FPC issued a notice to Jeffrey Prato, a member in good standing, that if he entered any property of FPC Mr. Prato would be arrested for the crime of trespassing. This notice is the equivalent of excommunication. However, the Session of FPC did not exercise discipline and did not afford Mr. Prato the opportunity to confront his accusers, to question the justification for the trespass notice, or to defend himself. Mr. Prato was served with the trespass notice on January 3, 2019.
- 2. The Session of FPC has always admitted that the trespass notice was issued based on the opinion and recommendation of C. Joshua Villines, Executive Director of the Human Intelligence Group, an agency in Atlanta, Georgia which provides training and consulting services on topics including threat assessment. Elder Folks claims that Villines provided an oral report on December 13, 2018, but his written report was dated January 14, 2019.
- 3. On March 6, 2019, Jeffrey Prato filed three pleadings with Catawba Presbytery, as follows: first, a Complaint that the Session had acted contrary to Confession of Faith Chapter XX, ¶ 4 by

issuing a trespass notice instead of exercising church discipline; second, a Request that Catawba Presbytery review the records of the Session for "unrecorded neglect and/or irregularities," pursuant to *Book of Discipline* X, B; and third, a Report that the Session had violated the Ninth Commandment by committing sins forbidden in the Ninth Commandment (*Larger Catechism Q&A* 145).

4. On March 10, 2019, Catawba Presbytery referred these three pleadings to the Presbytery's Commission on the Minister and His Work, chaired by Rev. John Rogers, who is now Moderator of Catawba Presbytery. The members of that Commission were then constituted a Special Commission (hereinafter the Rogers Commission). (See minutes of Catawba Presbytery.) The Rogers Commission met on April 1 and April 30, 2019, and received a letter dated March 21, 2019, from Elder William R. Folks, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee formed by the Session "to investigate the situation arising regarding Jeffrey Prato." On May 21, 2019, the Rogers Commission reported that it was taking no action until the Session's Ad Hoc Committee concluded its work. (See minutes of Catawba Presbytery.) Upon information and belief, on July 1, 2019, Rev. Rogers rotated off as Chairman of the Commission on the Minister and His Work, and Rev. Buzz Elder became Chairman of the Commission on the Minister and His Work.

5. However, there appears to be some confusion about who was doing what. At the stated meeting of Catawba Presbytery on March 10, 2020, Tev. Buzzy Elder, the new Chairman of the Commission on the Minister and His Work, reported that on February 11, 2020, the Commission had met with a Session committee "to discuss potential options for them to move forward in the situation concerning a member of FPC [presumably Mr. Prato]. They are making recommendations that will have to be approved by the Session of FPC as soon as is possible as to how to proceed with the matter. Much has been done and they are moving forward." (See minutes of Catawba Presbytery.) Rev. Elder did not explain why he and the Commission on the Minister and His Work, instead of the Rogers Commission, was involved in this meeting.

¹ The one-year anniversary of the forming of the "Rogers" Commission, which decided to do nothing.

6. Meanwhile, Mr. Prato was pressured into participating in mediation with Presbytery Vice-Moderator Elder Greg Delleney on October 4, 2019. Representatives of the Session asked Mr. Prato to submit to a psychological evaluation to "counter" the "threat assessment." Mr. Prato rejected that proposal, because he thought that would be like "consulting with the Witch of Endor." (See 1 Samuel 28) The attempt at mediation failed.

 On April 9, 2020, a Complaint was filed with Catawba Presbytery concerning the inaction of the Rogers Commission.

8. On May 6, 2020, the Moderator of Catawba Presbytery appointed a Judicial Commission with Elder Tom Roper as Chairman (hereinafter the **Roper Commission**), in effect dissolving and replacing the **Rogers Commission**. There is no information that the "full and complete record" of the "proceedings" of the **Rogers Commission** were ever submitted to Catawba Presbytery, as required by *Form of Government* 13.8 B. (*See* minutes of Catawba Presbytery.) The three Pleadings filed by Mr. Prato were obviously transmitted from the **Rogers Commission** to the **Roper Commission**.

- 9. On August 27, 2020, the Roper Commission appointed me as counsel for Jeffrey Prato.
- 10. On February 26, 2021, counsel for the Session submitted to the Roper Commission a copy of the "Threat Assessment" written by C. Joshua Villines, Executive Director of the Human Intelligence Group. With the "Threat Assessment," counsel submitted a "Motion for Protective Order," in which counsel stated that he "intends to call Joshua Villines as an expert to testify regarding his opinions, which go to the heart of the Complaint pending before this Commission."
- 11. On May 11, 2021, the **Roper Commission** was dissolved and replaced by another Commission chaired by Elder Rex Casterline (hereinafter the **Casterline Commission**). (See minutes of Catawba Presbytery.) However, there is no information that the "full and complete record" of the "proceedings" of the **Roper Commission** were ever submitted to Catawba Presbytery, as required by Form of Government 13.8 B. Instead, it appears that the "record" of the **Roper Commission** "proceedings" was transmitted to the **Casterline Commission**.
 - 12. On March 21, 2022, Chairman Casterline admitted in an email that "[t]he threat

assessment was made available through a link but was never accessed. I had no intention of

reviewing it in camera until it was absolutely necessary."

I agree with counsel for the Session, that the "Threat Assessment" goes "to the heart of the

Complaint pending before this Commission." The Session relies on the "Threat Assessment" to

justify the all-property trespass notice issued on December 19, 2018, which is enforced by the power

of the civil magistrate. Mr. Prato relies on the "Threat Assessment" to prove the following violations

of the Ninth Commandment by the Session:

a. it passed an unjust sentence, that is, the trespass notice which in effect excommunicated

Mr. Prato, a member in good standing;

b. it concealed the truth, that is, that Mr. Prato does not in fact pose a potential threat to

Campbell Johnson and the congregation;

c. it slandered Mr. Prato, that is, that Mr. Prato posed a potential threat to Campbell Johnson

and the congregation, all the while hypocritically and self-righteously claiming that it was protecting

Mr. Prato's reputation;

d. it misconstrued intentions, that is, that Mr. Prato wanted to marry Miss Johnson, not harm

her; and

e. it stopped its ears against a just defense, that is, the Session never allowed Mr. Prato to

confront the accusation against him or to defend himself.

Because the "Threat Assessment" was made available to the Commission, the "Threat

Assessment" should be included in the Record of proceedings of the "Casterline" Commission. In

addition, the minutes of, and correspondence to and from, the Rogers Commission should be

included in the record of proceedings of the Casterline Commission, as well as the minutes of the

February 11, 2020, meeting of the Commission on the Minister and His Work.

Respectfully submitted.

Eric Wm. Ruschky,

Counsel for Jeffrey Prato

March 28, 2022

cc: Principal Clerk, General Synod

APPENDIX E

22

HENRY DORROH FOSTER, JR.

4815 PORTOBELLO ROAD COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29206

TEL: EMAIL: (803) 960-6806 fosterhd@aol.com

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 by USPS and by email

Rev. Kyle E. Sims, Clerk General Synod Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church 918 S. Pleasantburg Dr., Suite 127 Greenville, SC 29607 (pastorkyle@comporium.net)

RE:

Complaint of Jeffrey Prato concerning the Session of First Presbyterian Church

of Columbia, SC

Dear Mr. Clerk,

Attached is my SUPPLEMENT TO APPEAL (dated today), which supplements my APPEAL (dated March 14, 2022 and mailed to you on the same date) in the above-captioned matter which is being appealed from Catawba Presbytery to our General Synod. Please acknowledge receipt of this filing.

Very truly yours,

Henry Dorrold Foster, Jr.

enclosure (one-page document)

cc:

Cindy Scott (email)

Guy Smith (email) Ken Wingate (email)

Eric Ruschky (email)

Jeffrey Prato (email)



in the General Synod, Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

In re: Complaint of Jeffrey Prato Concerning the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, SC

SUPPLEMENT TO APPEAL of March 14, 2022

When I filed my APPEAL TO THE GENERAL SYNOD on March 14, 2022, the "full and complete records of the Commission's proceedings" had not yet been filed with the Clerk of Catawba Presbytery. I now submit this SUPPLEMENT to my APPEAL, based on the Record as submitted to the Clerk of Catawba Presbytery on March 24, 2022, by Mr. Rex Casterline, Chairman of the Presbytery's Judicial Commission. I reserve the right to further supplement my Appeal if additional records are filed and after I have had ample opportunity to examine them. I am not represented by counsel, and I am not counsel for anyone else. For the sake of clarity I will hereinafter refer to First Presbyterian Church of Columbia by its ARPC appellation of "ColumbiaFirst" and to its session as "the Session."

I was ordained and installed an elder on January 10, 1982. I was instrumental in guiding ColumbiaFirst into the ARPC in 1983 and since then have attended most presbytery and Synod meetings, including the legendary "Snow Synod." The pastoral care of those in the church of which I was a member for 52 years and my wife for 74 years was our true passion. We both spent our adult lives at ColumbiaFirst joyfully teaching Sunday school, Bible studies, and discipling and counseling individuals.

Arising out of a deep interest in the discipleship of young men and my affinity for creative people, I have for years operated an art studio/library/music venue in downtown Columbia known as the CLIMB. Young men have felt safe there to express themselves, study the Bible, ask questions, and grow in maturity. Many have been active in the "Young Professionals" group at ColumbiaFirst. I had a very good perspective on what was going on in that group. In fact, at some point Miss Campbell Johnson had visited and asked me if dating two members of the group at the same time would damage her reputation. She explained that she wanted to make one specific man in the group jealous.¹

When ColumbiaFirst hired Jeffrey Prato's best friend, Thomas Russell, as its new organist, Mr. Russell and his wife persuaded Mr. Prato to follow them to Columbia, where they reintroduced him to Miss Campbell Johnson. The four of them shared a love of music. Mr. Prato dove into active participation in the Friday Morning Men's Bible Study taught by Dr. Mark E. Ross. He also pursued group activities such as music at church, shag dancing, and the Young Professionals events. When he was admitted to membership at ColumbiaFirst on March 19, 2018, I was asked by Rev. David Lauten, minister for pastoral care, to serve as Mr Prato's shepherding

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¹ This other man was incorrectly identified in the "Threat Assessment" as "former boyfriend of Johnson." This same man also wrote to Elder Folks to provide information about how the rumors about Mr. Prato got started. He requested to meet with the committee investigating the rumors about Mr. Prato because he was "a person aware of that rumor, and quite possibility [sic] how it originated." He was never allowed to meet with the committee.



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elder. I already knew him, and I gladly accepted the role and responsibilities because I had already seen his creative character and eagerness to integrate into the activities of his new church. I knew that he was committed to living his life according to Reformed doctrine. He was "all in."

During the years of 2017 and 2018 I observed the Young Professionals at ColumbiaFirst. At the end of 2017 Mr. Prato became interested in Miss Johnson, and they began a robust mutual texting conversation.² They never went on a date, but he was interested in courting her. At first it appeared that she might be interested in him as well. She responded to Mr. Prato in a flirtatious manner³ and invited him to the a Years Eve party. Mr. Prato was encouraged by her attentions.

When Miss Johnson rejected and abruptly ceased communicating altogether⁴ with Mr. Prato in February of 2018, he was dumfounded and sought explanations from her as to what had happened and how the two of them could be reconciled. He spent much time at the CLIMB, and I could see that he was struggling. As he sought reconciliation with Miss Johnson, he asked me and others to help him, including Rev. Derek Thomas (who declined altogether because she was his secretary) and Rev. Josh Squires (who met with him several times).

For some meetings Mr. Prato asked me to go with him as a "listener." I was present at a meeting on March 1, 2018, (before Mr. Prato joined ColumbiaFirst) when Rev. Squires instructed Mr. Prato not to contact Miss Johnson, and that he should discreetly excuse himself from any room when she entered it. He advised Mr. Prato that it would be at least another year before they could sit down together to discuss any reconciliation. Miss Johnson, though younger than Mr. Prato, was an adult woman. As the personal secretary of Rev. Thomas she was presumably capable of handling difficult and confidential matters. By this point Mr. Prato was no longer seeking to court Miss Johnson; he just wanted to understand and clear the air. He had already apologized profusely. To help him process what was going on, I arranged for and encouraged Mr. Prato to get professional counseling at the First Presbyterian Church Counseling Center, which he did.⁵

Meanwhile the Young Professionals group was abuzz with rumors about Mr. Prato's alleged conduct. A staff member responsible for the group told Mr. Prato that he was too old to participate in the group, and he was expelled from the Young Professionals. Mr. Prato and Miss Johnson shared mutual friends and interests in the same circles at ColumbiaFirst, which resulted in some

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² A copy of the string of mutual text messages is a part of the Record.

³ On April 17, 2018, Rev. Josh Squires admitted to me that he thought Campbell Johnson was "flirtatious."

⁴ The Urban Dictionary identifies the current practice of ending a relationship by abruptly cutting off all forms of communication or contact as "ghosting."

⁵ In a spirit of transparency, (which he has demonstrated during the past three years) he provided the Counseling Center notes to Catawba Presbytery in March of 2019. Those notes from his counselor at the Center state that there was "No evidence of acute risk of harm to self or others." This professional opinion directly contradicts the self-serving opinion of the Atlanta security firm interested in selling ColumbiaFirst additional security services.

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in the General Synod, Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

awkward encounters. To compound matters, Miss Johnson apparently widely claimed that Mr. Prato was stalking her, which fueled the rumors about him.

In mid-April Mr. Prato, by then a member of ColumbiaFirst, was seen in the sanctuary during the evening worship service seated with hundreds of other worshipers, when Miss Campbell Johnson entered the room and seated herself a couple of rows in front of him. Mr. Prato did not leave the sanctuary as he had been instructed earlier by Rev. Squires. With this act, Mr. Prato was in very hot water with Rev. Squires for not following the minister's directives. I heard about the incident and was concerned that tensions might escalate. Therefore I met with Rev. Squires seeking to de-escalate the situation. Instead, I got a feel for what was coming.

On April 25, 2018, I spoke on the phone with Rev. Squires about a meeting he was organizing to be held at the law office of Elder Ken Wingate. I encouraged Rev. Squires to follow church discipline, but he told me he had already gotten the approval of the Executive Committee of Session, and he was going to "teach the man a lesson." The meeting occurred later that morning as planned. Mr. Prato, not knowing what was going to happen, took a letter to the participants of the meeting asking them to tell him under what authority they were meeting and what he had done wrong. The only explanation given him was his "continued unconsented contacts" with Miss Johnson. Mr. Prato was given a notice that he would be arrested for the crime of trespassing if he entered the church building known as the Bridge. He was threatened with jail time if he did not comply. Only an hour after this meeting I spoke with Deacon Les Wiser, a retired FBI agent who had conducted the meeting. He admitted to me that the purpose of the meeting was to intimidate Mr. Prato.

Neither the Session nor Miss Johnson has yet presented any evidence that would support a criminal charge of harassment or stalking. (See South Carolina Criminal Code, paragraph 16-3-1700.)

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⁶ The questions in the letter were ignored at the meeting and were never answered. A copy of the letter is in the Record.

⁷ The Bridge is a ColumbiaFirst building on its two-block campus which houses church offices, library, book store, and a coffee shop with WiFi where many young adults gather to study and socialize. Mr. Prato, like other singles, would spend Sunday afternoons there between the morning and evening services.

⁸ On February 25, 2021, Elder Ken Wingate, counsel for the Session, gratuitously submitted to the Roper Commission a Notebook containing documents which are not authenticated. Among the documents is an unsigned after-action memo, purportedly prepared by Deacon Les Wiser concerning the meeting on April 25, 2018. In the memo, Wiser claimed he was "acting under the authority of Teaching and Ruling Elders [not identified] of First Presbyterian Church. The purpose of the meeting was to inform Mr. Prato of concern by church officials [not identified] regarding unwanted contacts by Mr. Prato and an unwanted attempted relationship with Ms. Campbell Brown [sic], a member and employee of First Presbyterian Church. Mr. Prato was advised that this matter involved neither church discipline nor wellness; rather, this was a discussion focused on the law and the criminal justice system. Mr. Prato was informed that no criminal complaint had been filed against him, including with respect to the crime of Harassment, but he should understand that continued unconsented contacts with Ms. Campbell [sic] could result in a criminal complaint."



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With this action alone ColumbiaFirst had not only intentionally violated ARPC Standards by resorting to the power of the civil magistrate before exercising church discipline - but they had done it with a vengeance. Then things got worse.

Concerned about what was happening, I recruited my friend Elder Eric Ruschky, a retired federal prosecutor (who was then working on revising the ARPC Book of Discipline), to assist Mr. Prato in questioning the propriety of ColumbiaFirst issuing a trespass notice enforced by the police without first exercising church discipline. Mr. Prato appealed the injustice of the trespass notice to the Session. His appeal was not seen or heard by the Session as a whole. Instead, it was turned down by the Pastoral Care Committee, acting without authority to do so. Shortly after the denial, Mr. Ruschky and I, both elders of ColumbiaFirst and concerned for the proper shepherding of the members of our church, filed with the Clerk and Moderator of Session a Complaint to the Session about the departure from ARPC Standards and the treatment of Mr. Prato and calling for correction. Our Complaint was also kept from the Session as a whole. In response to our Complaint, Mr. Ruschky and I were visited at the CLIMB a few days later by the Session Clerk and the ColumbiaFirst lawyer, who told us "this is terrible" and asked us "how do we make this go away?"

Over the next weeks of back-and-forth discussion with the Clerk and the church lawyer, we were able to develop a proposed resolution they would present to the Session: ColumbiaFirst would acknowledge its error, apologize, rescind the trespass notice, and move forward toward reconciliation and resolution between the parties. When the Session met to consider the resolution, they went into executive session, from which Mr. Ruschky and I were excluded. Apparently the Session rejected the proposed resolution which the four of us had mutually worked to develop. Later the Session appointed an *Ad Hoc* Committee chaired by Elder Randy Folks to review what was called in the Session minutes "an ongoing issue."

During the following year, as Mr Prato, Mr. Ruschky, and I sought to work with various elders and the Session's leadership, I had the opportunity to meet with and talk with many of the players; I sat in on very crucial meetings. Mr. Prato had petitioned the Session to investigate rumors that were damaging his reputation. The Petition did not make it to the Session as a whole. Instead, the Ad Hoc Committee, acting contrary to the Book of Discipline, Chapter V, A.6, assumed responsibility for conducting the investigation. Later I was asked to be a listener at an investigatory meeting of that committee during which Elder Folks, who was conducting the meeting, so berated and bullied Mr Prato that it was necessary to stop the meeting and ask Elder Folks to restrain himself. He apologized, but nothing good came from that meeting.

Experiencing the Session's failure to resolve the issue, Mr. Prato turned to Catawba Presbytery for help. On March 6, 2019, he filed three pleadings with Catawba Presbytery, citing how the Session had violated ARPC Standards and asking for relief and correction.

MR. PRATO'S ORIGINAL THREE PLEADINGS of March 6, 2019, are very clear concerning how the actions committed by the Session of Columbia First depart from our ARPC Standards.

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in the General Synod, Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

- 1. In his first pleading (Complaint /Appeal) Mr. Prato alleged that ColumbiaFirst had violated ARPC Standards (Confession of Faith, Chapter XX, paragraph 4) by resorting to the power of the civil magistrate without conducting proper church discipline. He showed evidence of what ColumbiaFirst had done and asked that the Presbytery instruct the Session to remove the trespass notice and correct the wrongs done. The Record does not reflect any denial by ColumbiaFirst as to its actions.
- 2. In his second pleading (Request for Review of Records) Mr. Prato alleged that the Session minutes contained irregularities. Mr. Prato gave at least two specific examples and asked that Presbytery make a close examination of the minutes. The Record does not reflect that such an examination was made.
- In his third pleading (Report of Offense) Mr. Prato alleged that the Session had slandered him and asked that the presbytery investigate and prosecute if necessary. The Record does not indicate any such investigation.

THE PRESBYTERY'S INVESTIGATION was inadequate.9

I have intimate knowledge of the facts and issues in this case, but I was never called or allowed to appear before any of the several commissions of Presbytery appointed to resolve the "ongoing issue." I am aware that Mr. Ruschky was appointed to be Mr. Prato's counsel by the Presbytery commission known as the Roper Commission, and I know that my name was on a list submitted by Mr. Ruschky of material witnesses (along with 35 others) to be questioned before or by the Commission concerning Mr. Prato's three pleadings. No one on the list was called. Mr. Prato has not been called to testify, face his accusers, or defend himself before any of the Commissions. Much of the information provided herein is not found in the Record - not because it did not happen but because the Presbytery and its commissions never interviewed anyone. For some reason, they never investigated.

Instead of relying on testimony subject to examination and cross-examination, the three Presbytery commissions appear to have based their failure to act on unverified information gratuitously provided to them by the Session and its counsel. Most notably is the matter of the unsigned draft of a letter dated March 21, 2019,¹⁰ from Elder Folks, Chairman of the Session Ad Hoc Committee, to Rev. John Rogers, Chairman of Catawba Presbytery's Special Commission. The Special Commission later claimed in a report to the Presbytery that it relied on that letter as a basis for taking "no action ... until such time as the ad hoc committee formed by the Session of First Presbyterian Church has completed its investigation and taken whatever action it deems

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⁹ See Luke 1:1-4.

¹⁰ The letter was dated only eleven days after the Special Commission had been appointed by Presbytery.



in the General Synod, Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

- 1. In his first pleading (Complaint /Appeal) Mr. Prato alleged that ColumbiaFirst had violated ARPC Standards (Confession of Faith, Chapter XX, paragraph 4) by resorting to the power of the civil magistrate without conducting proper church discipline. He showed evidence of what ColumbiaFirst had done and asked that the Presbytery instruct the Session to remove the trespass notice and correct the wrongs done. The Record does not reflect any denial by ColumbiaFirst as to its actions.
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appropriate."11 In fact, the Session's committee did not finish its work until March of 2020. By that time the *Ad Hoc* Committee had been in existence for 18 months and had done nothing. The contents of this letter were not disclosed to Mr. Prato or his counsel until almost two years later, when it was included in the contents of a Notebook submitted to the Roper Commission on February 25, 2021, by Elder Ken Wingate, counsel for the Session. By then, there was no opportunity to challenge the representations made by Elder Folks, which include the following:

- 1. Elder Folks represented that "Mr. Prato claimed that he had a mental disorder which made it difficult for him to respect boundaries." This is a total misrepresentation. Mr. Prato never claimed he had such a mental disorder, and Mr. Prato did, in fact, respect the boundaries set for him by Miss Johnson and the Session.
- 2. Elder Folks represented that "Two non-sitting Elders, Mr Henry Foster and Mr Eric Ruschky, have intervened in the process at many points on Mr Prato's behalf, and in particular by acting on Mr. Prato's behalf to decline a possible settlement of the matter discussed in negotiations in July and August 2018." In truth, it was the Session which declined the settlement recommended by the church lawyer and agreed to in advance by Mr. Prato and Elders Ruschky and Foster.
- 3. Elder Folks represented that the church had obtained a "Threat Assessment ... conducted by Mr. C. Joshua Villines, Executive Director of the Human Intelligence Group." Elder Folks thought it important to include Villines' curriculum vitae. It is also important for this Court to know just to whom it is that the Session, at the recommendation of its secular lawyer, has given personal information about one of its members and turned for advice on the proper pastoring of church members and thereby preserve the peace and purity of the church. 12 Elder Folks goes on to quote the 13 "potential indicators of violence" upon which Mr. Villines based his opinion that Mr. Prato "poses a potential threat to Ms. Johnson, or possibly to others who he might consider responsible for perceived injustices." 13 In his letter Elder Folks then admits that he "reported these findings and

On March 5, 2020, almost a year to the day on which Mr. Prato filed his three pleadings with Catawba Presbytery, the *Ad Hoc* Committee filed its Final Report to the Session, having taken no action.

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¹¹ See Presbytery minutes for Stated Meeting of May 21, 2019.

¹² On May 30, 2019, Mr. Villines identified himself on his personal website as being "a past regional spokesperson for The Religious Coalition For Reproductive Choice ... advocating for ... a woman's right to terminate her pregnancy." An examination of his personal blog reveals much more disturbing information about this man and his values which are contradictory to those of the ARPC. See also https://villines.com/cjvbio.php; and https://blog.villines.com/2019/05/regarding-abortion-forced-birth-activists-and-hypocrisy/; and https://blog.villines.com/2012/12/first-sunday-in-advent/.

¹³ The leading "potential indicator of violence" noted by Mr. Villines was Mr Prato's "Inability to Abide by Clear Boundaries." At the time of Mr. Villines' opinion (and continuing to the present), Mr. Prato was assiduously living in compliance with the restrictions of the first trespass notice issued on April 25, 2018, with Miss Johnson's personal "no-contact" directives issued on April 25 and July 30, 2018, and with Mr. Russell's attorney's "no-contact" directive issued on September 25, 2018, all of which are in the Record furnished to the Presbytery by Mr. Prato on March 6, 2019.

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recommendations to the Session in executive session" on December 17, 2018. A review of the unsigned, 52 page "Threat Assessment" reveals that the opinion stated therein is not based on the standards of personal examination and review that are advertised on the organization's website, but on notes from a private investigator hired by ColumbiaFirst's lawyer from outside the church. The date on the "Threat Assessment" is January 14, 2019 - almost a month after the Session's issuance of the second trespass notice.

THE RECORD as submitted by Chairman Casterline, containing so many documents not properly authenticated, and lacking others that should have been included, leads a reasonable person to conclude that a proper investigation was not conducted by Catawba Presbytery or by its commissions. A dispassionate review of the Record leaves the reader asking, "Three years, ...and that's all the presbytery did? They didn't ask any questions when a man's reputation hangs in the balance?"

An examination of the Record submitted by Chairman Casterline to be forwarded to this Court reveals that the Record is sometimes wrong and certainly incomplete:

- 1. The Record does not appear to contain any information from the first commission appointed by Catawba Presbytery.¹⁴
- The Record does not appear to contain any information from the standing Presbytery Commission on the Minister and His Work, chaired by Rev. Buzzy Elder, which apparently injected itself into this case by having a meeting with a ColumbiaFirst Session committee on February 11, 2020.¹⁵
- 3. The Record does not contain a report from Presbytery Vice Moderator Greg Delleney, who on October 4, 2019, unsuccessfully attempted to mediate a resolution, after the Presbytery pressured Mr Prato into participating in the mediation.
- 4. The Record contains drafts of Session minutes that lack the proper authentication of the signatures of the Moderator and Clerk.
- 5. The Record contains letters from Counsel for the Session that contain statements that are not factually accurate and have not been verified.
- 6. The Record includes a large notebook containing documents gratuitously provided by Elder Wingate, Counsel for the Session, to the Roper Commission. In anticipation of a future hearing in which both counsel would appear, Chairman Roper requested that counsel submit a list of documents they proposed to offer at the future hearing. Elder Wingate

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¹⁴ On March 10, 2019, Catawba Presbytery referred Mr. Prato's three pleadings to the Commission on the Minister and His Work, chaired by Rev. John Rogers, which was then constituted as a Special Commission. The Rogers Commission purposely chose to do nothing. On May 6, 2020, it was replaced by a Judicial Commission chaired by Elder Tom Roper. On May 11, 2021, the Roper Commission was replaced by a Judicial Commission chaired by Elder Rex Casterline.

¹⁵ See Catawba Presbytery minutes.

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submitted documents themselves, which documents have not been verified for accuracy. The hearing never happened.

- 7. The Record does not adequately explain what Mr. Prato <u>did</u> to deserve the treatment he received. In fact, Mr. Prato <u>did</u> anything, because the Record establishes that "there are no disciplinary actions to be taken against Mr Prato for his actions prior to [September 4, 2018], and that censures based on disciplinary action for his behavior subsequent to [September 4, 2018] are not appropriate."¹⁶ Instead, the Record establishes that the Session relied on a flawed opinion that Mr. Prato poses a potential threat because of what he <u>might do</u> in the future. The Record contains no evidence that Mr. Prato threatened anyone or that there was any reasonable basis for fear. In fact Mr. Prato's professional counselor at the FPC Counseling Center noted in his file that Mr. Prato was not a danger to himself or to others.
- 8. The Record contains minutes of commission meetings that are not accurate.¹⁷
- 9. Finally, and most significantly, the Record does not contain the so-called "Threat Assessment" relied upon by the Session to justify the all-property trespass notice issued on December 19, 2018. This second notice expanded the boundaries of the original trespass notice issued on April 25, 2018, for the Bridge. The "Threat Assessment" has been kept under wraps, apparently for fear that, as one of ColumbiaFirst's elders (a licensed attorney) exclaimed, to reveal it would be to commit slander. In an email sent on March 21, 2022, Chairman Casterline explained that he omitted the document from the Record because, although the commission had access to it, he himself did not read it. There is no indication whether any other commission member read the document in toto, however Elder Folks did quote the "Threat Assessment" extensively in his letter to Rev. Rogers of March 21, 2019, which is a part of the Record. I have had an opportunity to read the "Threat Assessment." I was not allowed to see the underlying information which was the basis for

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¹⁶ Final Report of Session Ad Hoc Committee, March 5, 2020.

¹⁷ The Minutes for the August 27, 2020, Commission meeting state, "Mr. Ruschky indicated that Prato desires reconciliation with Mr. (Henry) and Mrs. (Marshall) Foster despite their having a lawyer who has asked that communication cease." The Fosters are not in conflict with Mr. Prato. In fact, Mr. Ruschky had stated that Mr. Prato sought reconciliation with Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Russell.

The Minutes for the December 28, 2021, Commission meeting state, "Strong doubts were echoed regarding the role which Mr. Prato now plays in this case in view of his purported recent relocation outside the boundaries of the State of South Carolina." On June 1, 2021, Elder Wingate represented to the Commission that Mr. Prato had "recently requested that the U.S. Post Office change his permanent mailing address to Idaho." In fact, he never requested a change in his permanent address and had already returned to South Carolina from his Idaho trip by March of 2021. Thus, Elder Wingate presented information to the Commission which was false. The Commission wrongly relied on the information without verifying it. More importantly, the residence of Mr. Prato is not relevant to the issues raised in this case.

¹⁸ Miriam-Webster Dictionary defines slander as "the utterance of false charges or misrepresentations which defame and damage anther's reputation." Legally, truth is a defense to slander. Per the Larger Catechism, slander is a violation of the Ninth Commandment.



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the opinion expressed therein. Even a cursory reading will show that the opinion is based on unBiblical presuppositions contradictory to what should be taught from ARPC pulpits.

IN STARK CONTRAST, what is most complete in the Record are the allegations of Mr. Prato's original three pleadings concerning the actions of the ministers and elders of ColumbiaFirst. Unlike the documents referred to above, Mr Prato's pleadings include a narrative, signed under oath, with documents attached to support his claims.

THE COMMISSION'S RULING leaves no doubt that the Presbytery, acting through its commissions, did not do its homework. In <u>not sustaining</u> the appeals to the Ruling that were made, Catawba Presbytery leaves no doubt that it chose not to tackle such a serious, weighty, and egregious issue involving the presbytery's largest, wealthiest and most influential church. It leaves unresolved the "ongoing issue" which has resulted in continued disunity (Psalm 133) and disharmony (Phil 4:2). In all honesty, this saga begs the question of whether, if not corrected now, future personal conflicts will be handled in the same way.

An examination of the Ruling submitted by Chairman Casterline to Catawba Presbytery reveals a sharp departure from reason and logic:

- 1. The Ruling states first that "there is insufficient evidence to substantiate the charges in the Complaints." However, nowhere in the Ruling does Chairman Casterline lay out just what the "charges" are to which he is referring. The Record shows that over a period of almost three years not one commission heard from even one material witness. With no hearings, no examination and cross-examination of material witnesses, no open examination of documents supplied to the commissions, and no extension of due process, there is no way to evaluate whether the evidence offered was sufficient or not. The Record demonstrates no apparent interest in resolving these significant issues. The question for this Court is whether this level of disinterest and neglect of duty is to be tolerated in the ARPC or is to become the new ARPC standard.
- 2. The Ruling states second that "the charges in the Complaints, if proven, would not constitute censurable offenses." This Ruling is wrong. Mr. Prato presented evidence of "unrecorded neglect and/or irregularities" in the minutes of the Session. The former Book of Discipline Chapter X, B.6 states that "unrecorded neglect and/or irregularities" are censurable. Mr. Prato also presented evidence that the Session had violated the Ninth Commandment; violating the Ninth Commandment is censurable. The question for this Court is whether it will enforce its own Standards.
- 3. The Ruling states third that "prosecuting the Complaints would not advance . . . the peace, purity and prosperity of . . . the Church." This Ruling has things reversed. To <u>not prosecute</u> the complaints only advances the disharmony and disunity at ColumbiaFirst. Mr. Prato is still under two trespass notices and subject to "no contact" directives from Miss Johnson and Mr. Russell's attorney. The peace and purity of the church does not rest on obfuscation, cover-up, deceit, bullying or any other vice seen in the Record. Instead, it

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rests on truth, openness, repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation. The question for this Court is whether it will allow the Session of ColumbiaFirst to continue in its failure to exercise the ministry called for in Scripture and our ARP Standards.

The Casterline Commission's Ruling to just drop everything and go home, which Catawba Presbytery endorsed without discussion, leaves all parties where they were three years ago without resolution. To allow the decision to stand will cause great damage to the reputation of the ARPC - not to mention the serious harm to Mr. Prato, his reputation, and to the body life of ColumbiaFirst.

IN SUMMARY, the Record shows that the Presbytery did not give the serious allegations the respect due them; the Record fact that none of the several presbytery commissions involved ever interviewed any material witnesses. They never even met with Mr Prato. This jaw-dropping revelation cries out that Catawba Presbytery's commissions failed to access material information accessible to them about the case; they turned a deaf ear to the truth and stopped their ears against a just offense. The stunning revelation by Chairman Casterline that he had been given access to the "Threat Assessment" but did not read the document that is the virtual "smoking gun" in this "ongoing issue" underscores that Catawba Presbytery, through its commissions, turned a blind eye to the truth. The Commission and the Presbytery erred in dismissing Mr. Prato's pleadings.

Mr. Prato has suffered through a long ordeal by innuendo at the hands of the Session. This ordeal has been enabled by Catawba Presbytery for some reason (either because of ineptitude, intimidation or manipulation). The Session claims to have acted quietly to protect Mr. Prato. In fact, the "Prato Matter" is a notorious public matter, the effects of which are widespread. The secrecy practiced heretofore has only worked to conceal the pastoral misconduct in the organization - not to resolve it. To make matters worse, the sin of the Session in excommunicating one of its members without exercising church discipline is exceeded only by the failure of Catawba Presbytery to address and correct the sin of the Session.

This ordeal is now in its fifth year. Mr. Prato is still banned from the church which counts him as a member in good standing while impugning his character. He has still not been allowed to face his accusers and defend himself. It is time to set aside Mr. Prato's bureaucratic imprisonment by the Session and make a decision - so that the man can pull together what little reputation he has left, shake off the dust from his shoes and move on with his life to a church that will more willingly and pastorally shepherd him and where he can find the true "tov"²¹ of Scripture, where the sheep are properly fed and tended rather than bullied and intimidated. To do

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¹⁹ See Larger Catechism Q & A 145.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ See: McNight, Scott and Barringer, Laura, *A Church Named Tov, Forming a Goodness Culture*, Tyndale Momentum, 2020.

See also: DeGroat, Chuck, When Narcissism Comes to Church, InterVarsity Press, 2020.

See also: Tice, Rico, Faithful Leaders: and the Things That Matter Most, God Book Company, 2021.

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less only deepens the shame of the "ongoing issue" that is ours in the ARPC from this adventure to realms outside the bounds of ARPC polity.

THE ACTION OF CATAWBA PRESBYTERY did not vindicate ColumbiaFirst or its Session. It merely signaled that Catawba Presbytery either could not or would not deal fairly with the matters presented to it.

THE ISSUE BEFORE THIS COURT is not really what Miss Johnson did - or what Mr Prato did or might do. The matter before this Court is what the Session of ColumbiaFirst allowed its ministry staff and committees to do in violation of ARPC Standards, what the Session did in trying to cover up or justify those actions, and what Catawba Presbytery did not do when the issue was rightly brought to them. The issue before this Court is whether the General Synod will allow its Standards to be knowingly violated and covered up.

Therefore, I ASK THE GENERAL SYNOD to recognize that this is a matter that must not be ignored, "swept under the rug," or sent back to the organization or Presbytery that has handled it so poorly for more than three years. The deliberations and actions of Catawba Presbytery's commissions and the Presbytery's failure to sustain Appeals made, have not worked to resolve this "ongoing issue." Instead, they merely appear to be an attempt to avoid the issues raised. I ask that the General Synod at this meeting:

- 1. Sustain this Appeal;
- 2. Set aside the judgment of the lower Court;
- 3. Note that the Record does not show Mr. Prato to be any danger to himself or to others, that he has not violated the trespass notices, and immediately set aside the two trespass notices imposed on him, remove any other restrictions imposed on him, and restore him to full rights and privileges of all members in good standing of an ARPC congregation.
- 4. **Appoint a Special Judicial Commission** to investigate and pursue the propriety of the actions of the Session of ColumbiaFirst.

OUT OF A DEEP LOVE FOR CHRIST'S KINGDOM, and for ColumbiaFirst and its people and for the peace and purity of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, I make my request of the General Synod.

Being aware of the solemnity of taking an oath as set out in the Confession of Faith, Chapter XXII, I call upon God as my witness that what I have presented to the General Synod in this document is true and accurate, so help me God (I Samuel 12:3-6).

Respectfully Submitted,

Henry Dorroh/Foster, Jr.

April 19, 2022

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HENRY DORROH FOSTER, JR.

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Saturday, April 30, 2022 by USPS and by email

Rev. Kyle E. Sims, Clerk General Synod Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church 918 S. Pleasantburg Dr., Suite 127 Greenville, SC 29607 (pastorkyle@comporium.net)

RE:

Complaint of Jeffrey Prato concerning the Session of First Presbyterian Church

of Columbia, SC

Dear Mr. Clerk,

Attached is my OBJECTION (dated today) in the above-captioned matter which is being appealed from Catawba Presbytery to our General Synod. Please acknowledge receipt of this filing.

Very truly yours

Henry Dorgoh Foster, Jr.

enclosure (one-page document)

cc: Cindy Scott (email)

Guy Smith (email)

Ken Wingate (email)

Eric Ruschky (email)

Jeffrey Prato (email)

in the General Synod, Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

In re: Complaint of Jeffrey Prato Concerning the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, SC

OBJECTION

As a recognized party to the above-captioned action, I object to the refusal of the Executive Committee of Catawba Presbytery to provide the members of the General Synod immediate and full access to the Record of the Presbytery's actions in the above-captioned matter.

My APPEAL TO THE GENERAL SYNOD on March 14, 2022, and My SUPPLEMENT TO APPEAL on April 19, 2022, (which pleadings perhaps might have been more correctly entitled "Complaint") are based on what is or is not in the Record which is required by our ARPC Standards to be provided to Synod by Presbytery. Preventing those delegates of the Synod who want to review the Record before making a considered vote at Synod has the following harmful effects:

- The Presbytery Executive Committee's action unnecessarily obstructs a more serious understanding of my Appeal, which is based on the contents of the Record itself; and
- The Presbytery Executive Committee's extraordinary action effectively denies Synod delegates the opportunity to understand the enormity of the issues involved in considering whether or not to sustain my Appeal at the upcoming annual meeting of the General Synod; and
- 3. The Presbytery Executive Committee's action implies that the Record reveals emails or text messages between Mr. Prato and another individual that would prove embarrassing to them if made public. The truth is that Mr. Prato has already been greatly embarrassed by the steady barrage of unsubstantiated accusations and innuendo leveled against him by the Session and its actions. All of the messages either to or from Mr. Prato are his to make public if he chooses, and in his efforts to defend himself, he has chosen to act with openness and transparency by making his correspondence public and providing it to the Presbytery and to its various commissions. He has done the same with his counseling records. There is no reason to keep the Record secret. At this point the only parties to be shielded by withholding from Synod delegates the complete Record are the ministers and Session of ColumbiaFirst and Catawba Presbytery whose actions and cover-ups constitute the true core of this whole mess.

I remain unrepresented by counsel, and I am not counsel to any other parties in this matter.

Therefore, I REQUEST that the Clerk of the General Synod be directed to immediately make full access of the Record available to the Synod delegates. We presently have the technology to bypass printing and provide each delegate with a simple emailed digital link. This would allow each delegate to make his own considered decisions at Synod considering this matter.

Henry Dorroh Foster, Jr.

Respectfully Submitted,

April 30, 2022

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***Indicates chairman who serves as a representative on a corresponding board or committee of Synod.

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John Rogers

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Ex-Officio: Presbytery Treasurer

Jamey A. Dagenhart

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Email: Jamey.dagenhart@gmail.com

Advisory: Current Moderator

T.C.S.[Buddy] Lever, Jr. [2022-2023] 1787 Windsor Drive, Lancaster, SC 29720 H: 803-285-1450 Cell: 803-287-8411

E-mail: blevers@comporium.net

OTHER PRESBYTERY ADDRESSES

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President: Gene Bailey [Union]

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Email: gene bailey@ymail.com

Vice President Jeff Culp Neely's Creek

235 Grier Lesslie Road, Rock Hill, SC 29730

Sec. Treasurer: Daniel K. Felker [Centennial]

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Email: DanFelker@sc.rr.com

ELDERS' ASSOCIATION MEETING DATES

October 25, 2022 Union Church October 24, 2023 Neely's Creek

CATAWBA WOMEN'S MINISTRY PRESIDENT:

Mrs. Vicki Talbot

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MODERATORS OF CATAWBA PRESBYTERY

MODERATORIO DI DATAMBATRILOBITERI						
	1919	J. S. Moffatt		1958	April	J. E. Pressly
ORG	ANIZED					
1920	April	W. A. Kennedy			October	F. W. Sherrill
	October	W. W. Parkinson		1959	April	T. S. Watt
1921	April	R. C. Grier			October	R. E. Sherer
	October	R. D. Byrd		1960	April	R. E. Beckham
1922	April	S. J. Hood			October	R. B. Elliott, Jr.
	October	R. A. Lummus		1961	April	J. T. Stephenson
1923	April	A.K. Whitesides			October	W. P. Grier
	October	E. B. Hinson		1962	April	J. N. Bigger
1924	April	P. A. Pressly			October	J. B. Hendrick
	October	W. H, Stephenson		1963	April	C. E. Linderman
1925	April	N. E. Smith			October	W. O. Ragsdale
	October	W. S. Patterson		1964	April	J. R. Moss
1926	April	R. W. Bell			October	D. L. Pearson
	October	J. A. McKeown		1965	April	W. F. Blakely

1927	April	O. W. Carmichael	October	B. E. DeWitt
	October	H. T. Patterson	1966 April	J. C. Barker
1928	April	R. A. Willis	October	F. B. Edwards
	October	J. R. Miller	1967 April	V. F. Latham
1929	April	R. A. Rabb	October	R. J. Robinson
	October	R. C. Betts	1968 April	W. M. Kennedy
1930	April	R. L. Robinson	October	C. M. Coffey
	October	R. M. Stevenson	1969-1970	C. R. Beard
1931	April	B. D. White	1970-1971	F. L. Shannon
	October	J. P. Johnson	1971-1972	J. A. Derrick
1932	April	R. C. Grier	1973	G. F. Johnson
	October	E. Gettys	1974	R. W. Dickson
1933	April	A. S. Rogers	1975	D. L. Pearson
	October	J. G. Brawley	1976	C. A. Steele
1934	April	R. M. Stevenson	1977-1978	N. E. Parks
	October	Oliver Johnson	1978 [JulDec.]	C. T. Fincher
1935	April	A. R. Lotts	1979 [JanJune]	S. J. Anderson
	October	R. A. Lummus	1979-1980	G. H. Smith, Jr.
1936	April	J. L. Maloney	1980-1981	J. D. Lesslie
	October	E. B. Hunter	1981-1982	J. H. Boyce
1937	April	W. S. Patterson	1982-1983	D. E. Tribble
	October	J. L. Grier	1983-1984	F. J. Musselman
1938	April	R. C. Betts	1984-1985	J. P. Gettys
	October	S. W. Rabb	1985-1986	C. W. Todd
1939	April	F. B. Edwards	1986-1987	E. C. McNair
	October	J. H. Snell	1987-1988	J. R. Blevins
1940	April	W. R. Echols	1988-1989	F. H. Riley
	October	R. M. Bell	1989-1990	R. E. Beckham
1941	April	R. C. Grier	1990-1991	C. R. Burrell
	October	K. H. Patrick	1991-1992	R. A. King
1942	April	W. O. Ragsdale	1992-1993	J. W. McKeown
	October	Oliver Johnson	1993-1994	R. E. Herrmann
1943	April	R. A. Whitesides	1994-1995	Z. W. Abernathy
	October	R. W. Carson	1995-1996	W. M. Wardlaw
1944	April	Joseph Lindsay	1996-1997	W. L. Heinsohn
	October	F. W. Sherrill	1997-1998	D. O. Jones
1945	April	T. B. McBride	1998-1999	T. G. Earle
	October	S. A. Boyce	1999-2000	W. R. Roberts
1946	April	A. J. Ranson	2000-2001	M. W. Chappell
	October	D. B. Pressly	2001-2002	R. B. Wilson
1947	April	R. M. Kerr	2002-2003	T. B. Roper
	October	M. W. Griffith	2003-2004	A. K. Putnam
1948	April	C. E. Edwards	2004-2005	W. T. Clary
	October	R. A. Lummus	2005-2006	D. H. Lauten
1949	April	W. P. Grier	2006-2007	R. E. Patrick, Jr.
	October	J. R. Love	2007-2008	K. E. Sims
1950	April	A. B. Love	2008-2009	D.H. Mitchell, Jr.
	October	L. M. Allison	2009-2010	D. W. Setzer

1951	April	C. E. Edwards	2010-2011	J. S. Maloney
	October	J. H. Snell	2011-2012	B. O. Fleming
1952	April	A. M. Rogers	2012-2013	M. S. Evans
	October	J. M. Bigham	2013-2014	J. B. Dagenhart
1953	April	P. P. Patterson	2014-2015	D. K. Felker
	October	G. S. Lauderdale	2015-2016	A.A. Morrow
1954	April	F. L. Shannon	2016-2017	A.J. Broyles
	October	J. F. Heinsohn	2017-2018	L. C. Hammond
1955	April	W. J. Wylie	2018-2019	D. K. Duncan
	October	J. C. Smith	2019-2020	G. C. Slater
1956	April	J. G. Brawley	2020-2021	F. G. Delleny
	October	J. M. Bell	2021-2022	J. M. Rogers
1957	April	B. L. Hamilton	2022-2023	T.C.S. Lever, Jr
	October	H. S. Mace		

CATAWBA PRESBYTERY SUCCESSION OF PRINCIPAL AND STATED CLERK/ADMINISTRATORS PRINCIPAL CLERK

1919-1923	Dr. D. G. Phillips
1923	Dr. W. W. Parkinson
1923-1951	Dr. W. P. Grier, Sr.
1951-1958	Rev. W. P. Grier, Jr.
1958-1962	Rev. John S. Banks

STATED CLERK

1962-1970 Rev. Frank L. Shannon 1970-1973 Dr. James C. Barker

STATED CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

1974-1980 Mr. Bruce P. Robinson 1980- 2022 Dr. Guy H. Smith, Jr. 2022- Rev. Benjamin P. Glaser

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF SERVICE FOR CATAWBA PRESBYTERY MINISTERS

Ray A. King	June 4, 1958
C. Ronald Beard	April 16, 1963
Dwight L. Pearson	June 6, 1963
J. Rogers White	June 7, 1966
Robert J. Robinson	January 17, 1967
J. Allen Derrick	July 7, 1968
Guy H. Smith, Jr.	June 15, 1976
Roy E. Beckham	April 1, 1981
Mark E. Ross	March 24, 1985
Leland R. Beaudrot	March 21, 1987
Douglas O. Jones	January 26, 1988
David W. Setzer	March 19, 1988
Paul A. Pepin	April 9, 1989
David L. Rowe	September 5, 1989
Andrew E. Basham	June 11, 1990
Andrew K. Putnam	June 10, 1991
David H. Lauten	June 23, 1991

Glenn C. Welsford Alan A. Morrow John M. Rogers R. Boyce Wilson Neal R. Mathias Billy O. Fleming Jerry W. Berry J. J. Diaz Kyle E. Sims Gregory C. Slater Michael A. Kelly Martin L. Taylor Jan P. Sattem J. Barry Dagenhart J. Michael Lashley Scott P. C. Andes Brian C. Peake Denny W. Hieber Peter Frank Van Dalen Clinton H. Davis Evan B. English L. Charles Hammond Sinclair B. Ferguson Robert B. Elliott, III William A. Fitzhenry Robert M. Ferguson James D. McLurkin Juan Carlos Bonilla James L. Klukow Heiko E. Burklin Melvin M. Wines Derek W. H. Thomas David J. Winburne Dean M. Rydbeck Mark R. Hering George Paul Robelot Chester H. Lanious Jonatan C. Simons W. David Stover John G. Martin, Jr. James W. McManus Mark G. Witte Stephen E. Jordan H. Neely Gaston Robert W. Ackerman Calvin W. Todd Mark I. McDowell Joshua A. Squires S. Barry Eller

Andrew J. Nix

October 8, 1991 June 8, 1992 June 7, 1993 June 13, 1994 August 2, 1994 September 1, 1994 March 19, 1995 January 1, 1996 June 27, 1999 October 12, 1999 October 12, 1999 June 11, 2000 December 21, 2000 October 26, 2001 January 6, 2002 April 7, 2002 June 23, 2002 June 13, 2003 March 9, 2004 June 27, 2004 January 9, 2005 June 7, 2005 October 11, 2005 June 6, 2006 October 9, 2007 January 12, 2008 October 14, 2008 November 16, 2008 January 1, 2009 March 10, 2009 November 8, 2009 June 1, 2011 July 1, 2011 September 12, 2011 November 20, 2011 May 27, 2012 June 5, 2012 July 29, 2012 August 26, 2012 October 21, 2012 November 1, 2012 May 19, 2013 November 5, 2013 March 11, 2014 March 11, 2014 June 10, 2014 February 8, 2015 March 1, 2015 March 10, 2015 June 9, 2015

Benjamin T. Carver Matthew T. Allison Andrew K. Arrington Jeremiah A. Thomas Matthew J. Joldersma Robert D. Turner Matthew A. Awtrey, Sr. Watson M. Gunderson Justin D. Brickey William H. Elder Benjamin P. Glaser Mark J. Miller David S. Huffman Bryan F. Bult M. Jordan Bernard Joseph M. Crump Brooks D. Willet Aaron R. Swartz David B. Huang Ransom D. Kent James F. Mitchell Dean C. Franklin Jonathan M. Oliphant C. Michael Burgess Stephen R. Woods L. Calvin Draffin Jonathan A. Williams Brad A. Anderson Kim S. Payne Mark R. Levine Russell B. Harless Samuel E. Cotten Leonard R. Siems David C. Henderson Sean M. Henderson

Timothy J. Wohlers

July 5, 2015 August 1, 2015 March 8, 2016 April 10, 2016 June 7, 2016 June 7, 2016 June 7, 2016 July 31, 2016 October 23, 2016 October 10, 2017 October 15, 2017 October 22, 2017 November 12, 2017 March 13, 2018 June 17, 2018 June 24, 2018 August 10, 2018 October 9, 2018 October 28, 2018 January 1, 2019 March 12, 2019 June 2, 2019 June 30, 2019 July 2, 2019 July 23, 2019 August 1, 2019 September 8, 2019 August 23, 2020 November 19, 2020 November 19, 2020

March 7, 2021 June 6, 2021 July 1, 2021

November 28, 2021 March 8, 2022 June 7, 2022

CATAWBA PRESBYTERY ACTIVE SUPPLY LIST FROM THE COMMISSION ON THE MINISTER AND HIS WORK

THOSE IN BOLD ARE SERVING AS FULL TIME OR PART TIME STATED SUPPLIES. **ACTIVE SUPPLY LIST**

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	Greenville, SC 29609	Email: heikoburklin@gmail.com

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	29138	
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		-
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•	A-3	Email: rbeckham164@gmail.com
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Rev. Leonard R. Siems	31 Emery Hill Rd. Elgin, SC 29045	Phone: 814-806-9757 Email: siems@juno.com
Rev. Mark G. Witte	Urb. Entrepinos 13 Olias Del Rey (Toledo) 45280 SPAIN	Phone: 716-228-6710 Email: mgwitte34@yahoo.com

2022 CATAWBA PRESBYTERY EVENTS

September 2 3-25, 2022

Senior High Retreat – at Bonclarken

October 11, 2022

Catawba Presbytery meets at Westminster Church, Conway, SC - 10:00 a.m.

October 25, 2022

Catawba Elders' Association Union Church, Richburg, SC at 7:00 pm November 4-6, 2022

Catawba Middle School Retreat at Bonclarken

FUTURE MEETING DATES FOR CATAWBA PRESBYTERY

October 11, 2022 Westminster Church, Conway, SC March 14, 2023 Bethany Church, Clover, SC

June 6, 2023 Bonclarken Chapel

October 10, 2023 Bethel Church, Winnsboro, SC