

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
October 8, 2016

New Business

Action:

We move that, in keeping with the *Book of Order* G-3.0109 b (5) and G-2.0904, the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina authorize the Chair of the Full Commission on Ministry, the Chair of the Central COM, and the General Presbyter/Stated Clerk to appoint an Administrative Commission to inquire into and settle the difficulties reported at Graves Memorial Church in Clinton and that this Administrative Commission have the power, if they deem it warranted, to take original jurisdiction of the congregation (i.e. become the session of the church) and/or to dissolve the pastoral relationship if the church's mission under the Word imperatively demands it.

Mr. Jay Bender, Chair of Full Commission on Ministry
Rev. Jim Randall, Chair of Central Community Commission on Ministry

Background:

Over the past month members of the session and of the congregation of Graves Memorial Church in Clinton have reported to the General Presbyter and to the chairs of the Commission on Ministry that there are signs of a growing conflict within the session and among members of the church and that, partially as a result of this conflict, that the financial stability of the church is in danger. We, together with the General Presbyter, have held two meetings with the session of Graves Memorial and talked with a number of other persons. It is our conclusion that the session needs help in dealing with this conflict and in making good decisions about the future of the congregation. It is our hope and prayer that with the participation of fellow teaching and ruling elders who will make up the proposed Administrative Commission that the session can resolve these issues and continue the fruitful ministry for which Graves Memorial is widely known. However, given the seriousness of the situation, we ask that the Commission be granted the power to assume original jurisdiction and the power to dissolve the pastoral relationship without having to come back to either a called meeting of the Presbytery or wait until the March, 2017, meeting.