

# SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS

AUGUST 26, 2017

## COMMITTEE ON RELATIONAL MINISTRY SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

William Joseph Lowrance  
Biographical Sketch

I was born in the advent of December, the third son of a Homeconomics' High School teaching Mother who had been fully expecting a girl named Elizabeth. In what would no doubt be diagnosed as Post-Partum Depression my Mother distraught with another son was unable to nurse me; so there upon seeing that I was not immediately thriving and might surely perish; an older and quite wise nurse on the maternity unit sent my Father along with me to the home of this aging African American Grandmother living on the edge of the swamp; an entrepreneur who happened to raise goats with milk as rich as Solomon's wisdom. I say with no disrespect that my first mother was an Old Nanny Goat who sustained me. Two weeks after my birth, my Father entitled me with the name which I bear to this day and arranged for me to be baptized during a Christmas Eve Service. My Dad, confessing that my Mother did not attend would tease me by saying that the old nanny goat there!

I grew up in the nurture and admonition of Prospect Presbyterian Church in Mooresville, North Carolina attending Sunday school and participating in all aspects of the life of a rural Presbyterian community that included learning my catechism, being confirmed; attending Youth Night on Sunday nights and missing out on Watching Bonanza; and even attending a Presbyterian Camp during the summer; and let's never forget that I was able on more than one occasion to walk through the large cemetery behind the church on Halloween night while being blind-folded.

I attended the University of North Carolina at Charlotte where I majored in Religious Studies. It was there in college that I attended a class called Religious Odyssey Through Film and saw my first ever foreign film; Ingmar Berman's, "The Seventh Seal." I have been playing checkers with Death ever sense as chess was never offered as a part of my classical training in rural North Carolina. I attended Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, came under the care of my Presbytery during which time the Chair of Committee on Ministry stood up and told me that he would personally see that if I attended LPTS that I would receive no financial support from his Presbytery; telling me that the only respectable seminaries were Columbia in Decatur Georgia or Union in Richmond. After fifteen years I did manage to pay off my seminary loans during which time I completed an Interim two-year term as Director of Field Education, five years of service to a five church mission parish in Northwestern Wisconsin and seventeen years as an Associate for Congregational and Community Care in Virginia Beach, Virginia. During this time I completed my two year certification to become a Spiritual Director. Over the next year, I completed a training residency as a chaplain for Sentara Norfolk General Hospital; and then ten years as a Chaplain for PACE (Program for the All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly) During those years I completed my Doctor of Ministry Degree at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and completed my additional certification to become a Board Certified Clinical Chaplain and a Board Certified Pastoral Counselor. I transfer here as a member in good standing from the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia.

William Joseph Lowrance  
Statement of Faith

Guided by the witness of our Confessional traditions, renewed by the historical life and death struggles reflected in the foundations of our Book of Order, and directed by God's Holy and inspired Word as is found in scriptures, I believe in the Triune God, who in the goodness of love created the heavens and the earth and all that lies in between, which includes you and me. Through the grace of Jesus Christ, through the activity of God's love in this world, and through the living presence of the Holy Spirit, we walk together in this pilgrimage of life as the church, the body of Christ, celebrating Christ's saving message of Good News. Worship and prophetic deeds of scripture reflect God's forgiveness of our rebellion against God and also inspire our best attempts to love God and neighbor with mercy, tenderness and justice. Like a mother who gathers up her chicks, like a father welcoming the prodigal child home, my life rises from the waters of baptism, an outward sign of the inward mark of God's renewing claim on my life freed from the powers of sin. In the sacrament of Lord's Supper I share and remember with believers in every time and every place, a communion of hearts, minds, bodies and souls in which Christ's sacrifice for us all draws us out of darkness into the near light of Christ's keeping; in Christ nearness I am joined with Christians everywhere. To worship and adore the living Lord and to live out our days preaching the good news to the poor, blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the broken hearted, eating with the outcasts, calling all to turn away from sin, and live as one community The Holy Spirit gives us strength to unmask idolatries in church and culture and to live holy and joyful lives in our daily tasks of living, always being mindful as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS  
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

RECOMMENDATION:

That Presbytery elect the following to serve on committees:

Committee on Presbytery Administration

Class of 2019: Glenn Coleman, TE, Mossy Creek Interim and Kate Rascoe, TE, Trinity Parish Associate

Committee on Pastoral Transition

Class of 2018: Patrick Pettit, TE, At-Large (Patrick to begin as chair October 1, 2017)

Committee on Relational Ministry

Class of 2020: Kevin Hand, TE, Franklin and Ruddle and Betty Dax, TE, Honorably Retired

Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2021: Ann Massie, RE, Lexington

The Session of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg, Virginia urges the Presbytery of Shenandoah to endorse a statement decrying the sins of racism and white supremacy and confessing the ways in which we participate in sinful systems, beliefs, and behaviors:

As Christians living and serving in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, we stand in solidarity with the Charlottesville community, and with communities across the country that have experienced and are experiencing the physical, emotional, and spiritual violence of white supremacy and racism. It is easy to condemn the violence, but more difficult - and more necessary - to recognize our complicity in the sinful systems of white supremacy that have led to it.

We stand in solidarity with our neighbors, and we commit ourselves to eradicating this sin of racism in our lives and in society. We will educate ourselves, confess our sins of omission and commission, and pray for the softening of our hearts and minds to hear and respond to the communities who continue to experience oppression. We will listen to and learn from all members of our family in Christ, which transcends every barrier of race or division. We recognize that all of us are harmed by the hatred of white supremacy and the sin of racism, and we pledge our energies towards reconciliation, which must come through justice and equality for all of God's beloved children.

We further endorse and commend the statement from our denominational leaders:

We give thanks for the presence and faithful witness of church members who stand against white supremacy and racism. Individually and collectively the church, including Presbyterians, stood against hate in Charlottesville. Individually and collectively the church, including Presbyterians, works to disrupt racism and to build racial equity in places across the country. We grieve for Heather Heyer, who was killed while standing witness; we grieve for state police officers H. Jay Cullen and Berke Bates, who died in a helicopter crash while monitoring events in Charlottesville; we pray for the recovery of all who were injured.

We acknowledge that Scripture has been misused to justify white supremacy and racism. However, we proclaim that the Bible's message presents a far more consistent and insistent witness to God's love for diversity and justice. This may be observed in God's delight in the varied creation; heard in the words of prophets who reject oppression and commend justice as true worship; seen in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, who values all persons regardless of any aspect of their identity; and experienced through the work of the Holy Spirit, who consistently blows through all the divisions we create, to reveal God's love for all humanity.

White supremacy and racism stand in stark, irreconcilable contradiction to God's intention for humanity. They reject part of the human family and are utterly contrary to God's Word made incarnate in Jesus. They are idolatries that elevate human-created hierarchies over God's freely given grace and love. They are lies about the human family, for they seek to say that some people are less than other people. They are lies about God because they falsely claim that God favors some people over the entirety of creation.

But as we give thanks, we acknowledge the church's complicity in the creation of white supremacy and racism. We confess the church's failure in challenging and disrupting white supremacy and racism. Too often we have accepted the status quo. Too often we have stood silent in the face of injustice and oppression.

By God's grace may we remember the events in Charlottesville; repent of our acquiescence and failures; and renew our commitment to proclaim and live the good news of Jesus Christ. May that commitment

lead us to stand against, speak against and work against racism and white supremacy, this day and every day.

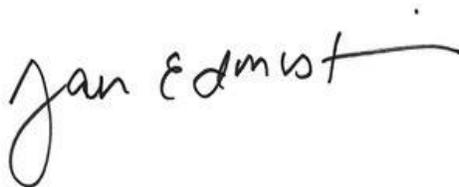
May it be so. Amen.

Handwritten signature of J. Herbert Nelson, II in cursive script.

Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II  
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Handwritten signature of Tony De La Rosa in cursive script.

Tony De La Rosa  
Interim Executive Director - Presbyterian Mission Agency

Handwritten signature of T. Denise Anderson in cursive script.Handwritten signature of Jan Edmiston in cursive script.

Rev. T. Denise Anderson & Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston  
Co-Moderators of the 222nd General Assembly (2016)