

**Report of the CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
SUNCOAST FLORIDA PRESBYTERY (SFP)
Providence Christian Church
May 9, 2023**

- I. Business Referred from last Presbytery: NONE**
- II. Licensure Examination for Mr. Bill Martin**

1. Approve Bill's testimony of Christian experience and his call to preach the gospel.
2. Approve Bill's exam with regard to his knowledge of biblical doctrine.
3. Approve Bill's exam with regard to his practical knowledge of bible content.
4. Approve Bill's exam with regard to his basic knowledge of our form of government as defined by the Book of Church Order.
5. Approve Bill's written sermon as satisfying the requirements of BCO 19-2 d.
6. Approve Bill's stated differences as more than semantic but not striking at the vitals of the system of doctrine set forth in the Westminster Standards.

WCF 21.6 states that the Sabbath day is to be kept holy not only by preparation of heart, ordering common affairs beforehand, and observing “an holy rest all the day” from worldly engagements, but also by the day being “. . .taken up, the whole time, in the public and private exercises of His worship, and in the duties of necessity and mercy.” This language seems to me to restrict lawful, restful, and re-creational activities like sharing time with family and friends around a meal, enjoying creation, or taking a nap. Such activities may be suited to the joy of Sabbath as a feast in keeping with Nehemiah 8:9-10 and celebration of Christ as our Jubilee (Luke 4:16-21) and redemptive rest (Hebrews 3-4). To be sure, worship and spiritual rest that points backwards to creation and forwards to eschatological fulfilment are my priorities in keeping the Sabbath. The Lord is my delight! Also, works of necessity and mercy take precedence over my personal enjoyments (Isaiah 58:13). Notwithstanding, historical Puritan practices such as six-hours of public worship and civic measures to restrict certain specific recreations, practices which were seen as necessary to further reform the church and civil life do not seem to apply normatively to contemporary Sabbath observance.

7. Approve Bill's exam in its entirety.

III. Committee Members Present

| Church | Member |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| North Fort Myers Presbyterian | TE Dann Cecil |
| North Fort Myers Presbyterian | RE Dennis Royall |
| North Fort Myers Presbyterian | RE Dick Marting |
| Providence Church | TE Brent Lauder |
| Oak River Presbyterian | TE Mike Cosner |