

129th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas Saturday, June 6, 2015 First Presbyterian Church Benton, AR

DOCKET AND REPORTS

The Presbytery of Arkansas 129th Stated Meeting June 6, 2014 First Presbyterian Church, Benton, Arkansas

8:30 a.m.	Registration and displays, in Fellowship Hall
9:45 a.m.	Call to Order, Business Session, in Sanctuary
10.00	\ \ \ \ - \ \ - \ \ - \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \

10:00 a.m. Worship

12:00 noon Lunch in the Parish Hall of St. Mary of the Springs Catholic Church

12:45 p.m. Resume Business Session

PROPOSED DOCKET FOR THE 126th STATED MEETING

(New Business should be placed in the hands of the Assistant Stated Clerk no later than 9:15 a.m.)

OPENING SESSION OF BUSINESS	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Call to Order	Stated Clerk Dari Rowen Stated Clerk Moderator Moderator Moderator Stated Clerk Stated Clerk
10:00 a.m. Morning Worship	
11. Restructure ProposalTE F 12. General Committee (addenda packet)TE 6 13. Committee on Ministry (page 3 & addenda packet)TE 14. Committee on Nominations (addenda pack)TE Carl 15. Committee on Representation (page 9)RE Jo	Clare Kelley Dari Rowen McCormack

12:00 noon Recess for Lunch and Honoring of Bill Galbraith 12:45 p.m. Resumption of Business 16. Report of Congregational Care and Development Committee (page 13).....RE Leah Shell 1:00 p.m. Theological Discussion......Dr. Rodger Nishioka 17. Committee on Mission (page 14).....RE Kim Danehower 18. Report from Presbyterian Village......Melissa Jenkins 19. Committee on Christian Education......CCE Linda LeBron 20. Committee on Administration......TE Catherine Allsbury 21. Report on the Synod of the Sun...... RE Emily Laurel 21. Minute announcements 22. Report of Leaves of Absence Committee Acting Stated Clerk 23. New Business a. b. C. Other Business a.

Closing Prayer

UPCOMING PRESBYTERY MEETINGS:

130th Stated Presbytery Meeting, Friday-Saturday, October 9-10, 2015, Central Presbyterian, Russellville 131st Stated Presbytery Meeting, Friday-Saturday, February 12-13, 2016, Lyon College, Batesville

NOTE ON PACKETS: Other packets also posted on the presbytery website are: host information, preliminary information and minutes of previous meeting. Five portions of the Restructure Proposal are also on the website. Three packets (addenda reports, financial statements and informational flyers) will be posted separately on the presbytery website on June 2, so that commissioners may download and print out only those items they need for the 129th Stated Meeting. Blessings on you all.

PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY Report to the 129th Stated Meeting June 6, 2015

Recommendations from the March 3, 2015 and May 5, 2015 Committee on Ministry Meetings

Motions Before the Presbytery

- 1. Motion to dismiss TE Cathy Ulrich to the Presbytery of Denver, where she has been received, effective January 27, 2015.
- 2. Motion to enroll TE Marilyn Rausch, HR, as a member-at-large of the Presbytery of Arkansas, and request that the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois dismiss her. Marilyn lives in Fort Smith, and her name has been added to the pulpit supply list.
- 3. Motion to approve the call of TE Bryan Bond as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Van Buren, effective March 15, 2015, with the following terms of call:

Cash (\$38,000) & Housing (\$12,000 for manse)	\$50,000			
Continuing Education	\$ 2,200			
Professional Reimbursable Expenses	\$ 3,600			
(Vouchered reimbursement for mileage, books, etc.)				
Board of Pension - Full Family (2015 36.5%)	\$18,250			
Vacation	4 weeks paid			
Continuing Education Time	2 weeks paid			
Parental Leave	6 weeks paid			
(Parental leave is required paid time off for each clergy member				
of the Presbytery of Arkansas at the birth or adoption of a child.)				
Sabbatical in the 7th year, or as agreed upon (with COM's				
approval).				
Total package	\$74,050			

With the Installation Service to be held June 14, 2015 at 3:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church of Van Buren, the offering recipient to be, and with the following to serve on the Administrative Commission:

TE Elizabeth Gabbard, to charge the congregation

TE Tasha Blackburn, to preach

TE Phil Butin

TE Bill Galbraith, to charge the pastor

RE Ed Wilkinson, Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Greenwood, to Moderate and propound the constitutional questions

RE Rusty Myers, First, Van Buren

RE Dawn Dvoracek, First, Clarksville

And to enroll him as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and request that he be dismissed from Geneva Presbytery. The offering recipient will be The Farmer Food Pantry at the Van Buren Church.

- 4. Motion, on behalf of the Hispanic New Church Development Administration Commission, that the Hispanic New Church Development Administrative Commission be dissolved.
- 5. Motion that the former Hispanic New Church Development Administrative Commission be reconstituted as a commission of presbytery with the following responsibilities:
 - that it support Comunidad Presbiteriana Hispana through oversight of the remaining restricted funds designated for the ministry;
 - that it encourage support of the ministry by congregations in the Northwest Arkansas region;
 - that it offer counsel and support to the pastor and session of First Presbyterian, Springdale for the success of the ministry;
 - and that it work with the session of First Presbyterian, Springdale to provide long-term financing for Comunidad Presbiteriana Hispana.
- 6. The Committee on Ministry further moves on behalf of the former Hispanic New Church Development Commission:
 - that the commission be composed of one member from each of the interested congregations in Northwest Arkansas;
 - that two current elders from the First Presbyterian, Springdale session serve as members;
 - that the commission recommend to the Congregational Care and Development Committee, or the most appropriate entity of presbytery, of presbytery nominees to the commission from interested congregations in Northwest Arkansas, when members of the commission need to be replaced.

Necrology

TE Lloyd O. DeLong, HR, resident of St. Petersburg, FL, passed away on October 8, 2014. Blessed are those who die in the Lord.

TE Jimmie Thames, HR, resident of Texas, passed away on April 6, 2015. A memorial service was held in Rogers, AR on April 18, 2015 for both Jimmie and Ailene Thames. Blessed are those who die in the Lord.

For Information Only

1. The Committee on Ministry approved the request by the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Harrison to grant permission to RE Ed Milburn and RE Eddie Holt (trained in the Lay Academy) to administer the sacrament of

- the Lord's Supper at First Presbyterian Church of Harrison in the absence of the pastor, TE DC Adams, if the elders are properly trained in consultation with the COM. The approval is for one year.
- 2. The Committee on Ministry accepted the letter of resignation of TE Jim Miller, HR, from his service on the COM with sincere thanks for service rendered.
- 3. The Committee on Ministry appointed TE Susan Rose as Moderator of the Community Church of Elkins.
- 4. The Committee on Ministry approved the Stated Supply relationship of TE Dan Wooley and Mount Comfort Presbyterian Church, and the covenant between TE Dan Wooley and First Presbyterian Church of Lincoln and Mt. Comfort Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville. The relationship is effective February 1, 2015 through January 31, 2016, at which time it may be renewed. TE Wooley will remain the installed pastor at First, Lincoln at 2/3 time and be the Stated Supply for Mt. Comfort at 1/3 time. The total terms of call are:

Annual Cash Salary	\$19,640
Housing, Utilities	\$19,500
Pension/Medical/Death	\$15,860
Professional Expenses	\$5,000
Total	\$60,000
Continuing Education	2 weeks (may accrue for 3 years)
Vacation Leave	4 weeks

Total for First, Lincoln \$40,000; Total for Mt. Comfort \$20,000.

- 5. The Committee on Ministry approved the Stated Supply relationship of TE Jeff Cranton and First Presbyterian Church of Gurdon, effective March 1, 2015 through February 29, 2016, for \$12,000 per year salary, and \$3,000 per year mileage.
- 6. The Committee on Ministry approved the Transitional Pastor relationship of TE Mike Seitz, HR, and Westminster Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs, effective November 16, 2014 through October 31, 2015, with the following terms of call:

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Salary	\$36,000
Post Retirement Service Dues (12%)	4,320
SECA (7.65%)	2,754
Reimbursement of Ministry Expenses including:	
Automobile at IRS rate (reimbursed as used)	3,500
Cell Phone (reimbursed as used)	1,000
Continuing Education (reimbursed as used)	2,500
Vacation 1 week per quarter	
Continuing Education 1 week every six months	
Total	\$50,074

7. The Committee on Ministry approved the Transitional Pastor relationship of TE Don Hubbard, ordained pastor of the Disciples of Christ denomination, and

Central Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith, effective May 6, 2015 through November 5, 2015, with the following terms of call:

Salary \$45,000 Housing \$15,000

Mileage Reimbursement IRS rate, up to \$2,400 Vacation 4 weeks per year

Continuing Ed 2 weeks per year (trans. training)

8. The Committee on Ministry approved the Transitional Pastor relationship of TE Bill Seitz, and First Presbyterian Church of Mena, effective June 11, 2015 through May 31, 2016, with the following terms of call:

Salary \$34,000
Housing \$10,200
Pension and Med. \$16,133
Moving Expenses 50/50 share
Vacation 1 week per quarter

Continuing Ed \$1,200 and 1 week every six months
Automobile IRS rate of per mile (reimbursed as used)

- 9. The Committee on Ministry approved TE David Gill, Director of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, as a Parish Associate of Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock.
- 10. The covenants of TE David King, HR, as Transitional Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, Pine Buff, and Susie Wiggins as Transitional Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Pine Bluff, were renewed.
- 11. The Committee on Ministry granted TE Carl McCormack permission to labor outside the bounds of the Presbytery of Arkansas as he serves as the Transitional Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Graham, Texas, in Palo Duro Presbytery.
- 12. The Committee on Ministry now requires that quarterly Transitional Pastor reports be made before covenant renewals are approved.

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NECROLOGY

REV. LLOYD O. DELONG

--Word has reached the presbytery of the death of Rev. Lloyd O. DeLong, 84, honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, on Oct. 8, 2014 in St. Petersburg, FL. Christian sympathy goes to his family. He was ordained in 1958 and came to AR from TX where he was a member of Tres Rios Presbytery. DeLong was pastor of Holly Grove Presbyterian Church from 1988 until his retirement in 1992 and served on the presbytery's Christian Education Committee. His memorial service was held on Oct. 18 at Maximo Presbyterian Church in St. Petersburg.

NECROLOGY

Rev. JIMMIE D. THAMES

Teaching Elder Jimmie D. Thames, 84, an honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, died April 6, 2015 in Fort Worth, TX. A native of Wichita Falls, TX, Jimmie graduated from the College of the Ozarks (Clarksville, AR) and University of Dubuque Theological Seminary (IA). He was ordained in Wichita Falls, TX in 1956 and first pastored Vaughn, Bentonville and First, Gravette in AR, before leading congregations in OK and TX. He was received by the Presbytery of AR in 1989 where he served on Committee on Ministry, Witness, Church Development and was a commissioner to Synod and General Assembly. He retired in 1996 after seven years as pastor of First, Jacksonville, where he was named their pastor emeritus, and later served as interim pastor at First, Heber Springs.

He and his wife of 35 years Ailene lived in Pangburn, Rogers and Bentonville before moving to Fort Worth in 2014 where she died on Nov. 12. A joint service for Ailene and Jimmie was conducted on Saturday, April 18, at 11 a.m. at Stockdale-Moody Funeral Home, 2898 West Walnut in Rogers. Survivors include six children, 11 grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Jimmie D. Thames Memorial, University of the Ozarks, Clarksville.

Committee on Representation

2015 Statistical Report Report to 129th Stated Meeting of Presbytery--June 6, 2015

The Presbytery's Committee on Representation met by conference call on Wednesday afternoon, April 29, 2015 with a quorum present and examined the following statistics:

- 1) Number of persons elected and serving Presbytery as of March 1, 2015: **185**
- Persons counted have been nominated by the Committee on Nominations **or** elected by geographic regions of congregations **or** nominated to commissions by committees as officers, members of committees or commissions of the Presbytery or to fulfill specific tasks of the Presbytery. (Ferncliff Board and Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team, self-perpetuating groups; Youth Advisory Team, filled by application process; and all subcommittees, populated by invitation, are not included.)
- One (1) administrative commission and two search committees are in place this year as compared to two ACs last year.
- This number (185) includes **twenty (20) persons who serve in more than one position**; they are counted multiple times once for each chair they fill. (This is an improvement from last year's twenty-four (24) persons in dual roles. There are 165 <u>different people</u> participating, the same number as last year.)
- 2) Number of different churches represented by persons elected: **64 of 87 churches** (This is the same as participated last year, however, the Korean Fellowship has withdrawn from the PC(USA) and the Hispanic New Church Development is now part of First, Springdale)
- 74% of churches are participating in the work of the Presbytery.
- Persons counted above in more than one position include twelve (12) active Teaching Elders, six (6) ruling elders and two (2) laypeople.
- 23 churches that do not have any staff or members serving (the same number as last year) are as follows, with new region numbers replacing last year's cluster numbers:
 - a) Amity, Alpine (Region 2)
 - b) Arkadelphia, First (2)
 - c) Beebe, First (4)
 - d) Fayetteville, Mount Comfort (1)
 - e) Gamaliel, 101 (4)
 - f) Gravette, First (1)
 - f) Gurdon, First (2)
 - h) Hardy, Spring River (4)
 - i) Helena, First (5)
 - j) Hot Springs Village, Woodlands (2)
 - k) Huntsville, First (1)
 - 1) Lonoke, First (5)
 - m) Marianna, First (5)
 - n) McGehee, First (5)
 - o) Ozark, First (5)
 - p) Paragould, First (5)

- q) Pine Bluff, Faith (5)
- r) Pocahontas, First (5)
- s) Prairie Grove, First (1)
- t) Stuttgart, First (5)
- u) Walnut Ridge, First (5)
- v) West Helena, Cleburne Avenue (5)
- w) Yellville, First (4)

Note: Four (4) of the above churches either have members or staff serving on subcommittees (but not elected) or now serving on committees since March 1. Four (4) additional churches above are now under Administrative Commissions and may be dissolved. Many of the churches above are pastorless.

NOTE: Only 37 of the 87 congregations in the presbytery submitted statistical reports to General Assembly for 2014 by the deadline so comparison of ages, genders, and races to those elected to serve is only minimally possible.

3) There was a slight increase in the 25 and under and the 26-35 age group from previous years--67% of the elected persons, 1% less than last year, are age 56 or older. (Observation: The Youth Advisory Team, a 40-member subcommittee of presbytery's Christian Education Committee, comprised predominately of young adults and youth, is not in this count since subcommittees are appointed, not elected. YAT is, however, invited to submit names to Committee on Nominations.)

Age Group	# Persons	% of Total Group
25 & Under	5	3%
26 - 35	14	8%
36 - 55	41	22%
56 - 64	60	32%
65 and Up	65	35%

4) Gender of persons and percentage of elected group (There is no change from last year percentages of 49% male and 51% female)

Gender	# P	ersons	% of Total Group
Male		91	49%
Female		94	51%
5)	Ethnic heri	tage of per	sons and percentage of group
Ethnicity		ersons	% of Total Group
African Amer	ican/Black	5	3% (1% less than last year)
Caucasian/Wh	nite	178	96% (2% more than last year)
Hispanic		2	1% (1% less than last year)

(Note: Of the presbytery's churches that did report to General Assembly earlier this year about their 2014 statistics, racial ethnic breakdown included: Asian, Middle Eastern, Native American, White, Black/African American, African, and Hispanic)

6) Type of ordination represented by number of persons and percentage of group			
Ordination	# Persons	% of Total Group	
Teaching Elder	77	42% (1% more than last year)	
Ruling Elder	97	52%	
Non ruling elders (deacons or mer	nbers) 11	6% (1% less than last year)	

- 7) Number of persons with disabilities
- This category is defined as hearing, sight, and mobility.
- **Fifteen (15) persons** reported themselves as having a disability: ten related to hearing, five to mobility. This is six more people than last year and a good improvement toward inclusion.

Summary of statistics:

- 1) Fewer people are serving in two or more positions than were last year (11% vs. 13%), and most of these are in short-lived tasks or seasonal responsibilities. We thank Nominations for this improvement.
- 2) Age ranges of people serving are generally known
- 3) Diversity of ethnic heritage is slightly changed from last year with 96% white this year vs. 94% last year. (Our goal is to mirror the stats from the churches, which is a challenge when we have so few of the churches' reports.)
- 4) Ruling elder and laity form a majority of those serving (58% vs. 42% teaching elders)
- 5) Gender %s are unchanged from last year.

Areas of concern:

- 1) A large number of churches (26%) are still not represented among elected persons though this year the reasons are more evident and even since March, improvement has been made.
- 2) 67% of those serving are age 56 and above. (We hear that weekday meetings present a challenge to younger members, and we applaud committees/groups that include conference calls, video conference, etc. to involve people at a distance.)
- 3) The absence of reports to General Assembly from 57% of our congregations is an embarrassment and an obstacle to Representation's work.

Recommendations from the Committee on Representation to Stated Clerk and/or Committee on Nominations for the latter's work in 2015:

- 1) New Stated Clerk should follow up with churches that did not report to General Assembly for 2014.
- 2) Committee on Nominations should contact churches in NW AR to solicit names of Hispanic persons for service on committees and should encourage all churches with diverse congregations to submit names of youth, younger adults and minorities to serve on committees.

Note: Statistics on disability of elected persons is for information only.

Respectfully submitted, Ruling Elder John Alderson Moderator, Committee on Representation

Committee on Representation 2015

Report of the Congregational Care and Development Committee

The Congregational Care and Development Committee met as a full committee March 17, 2015 and May 12, 2015 at First Presbyterian Church in Conway, Arkansas.

Routine business of the committee has been conducted including items pertaining to property and financial matters, church vitality and New Church Development and New Worshipping Communities.

The Chenal Property continues to be listed by Melanie Gibson at Colliers. She has reported that there is some interest from a developer who is in the beginning stages of determining if the site would be feasible for a development. A formal offer has yet to be made on this property.

Since the announcement of Brick and Mortar grants at the Presbytery Meeting in Clarksville in January, five congregations have submitted requests for this money. The Congregational Care and Development 2015 budget has \$40,000 appropriated for these grants. Year to date, requested funds of \$76,275 have been submitted by four congregations with \$32,500 awarded to these congregations. The Brick and Mortar grant application has been added to the website.

The annual Spring Retreat was held on March 5-7 at Ferncliff. Jane Wolfe, the director of Bog Chapel, a spiritual health and fitness center in Woodstock, Vermont, led the retreat. The Retreat was titled "Unlocking the Door: A Lenten Journey of Spiritual Renewal". Plans are being formulated for the Spring Retreat on March 3-5, 2016 at Ferncliff. Brochures will be available at the next Presbytery meeting.

Matching funds for local new worshipping communities have not been awarded in 2016 as the General Assembly is reworking funding issues for this project. A New Worshiping Community, the Mercy Church, was submitted in January and is pending the funding of a Seed Grant.

The Congregational Care and Development Committee continues to support several congregations around Arkansas. Those include the Black Caucus, West End, and the Laotian Ministry.

Administrative Commissions were formed for the following congregations: Pocahontas, Ozark, Walnut Grove, Cane Hill and Gravette.

Respectfully submitted:

Leah Shell, Moderator of Congregational Care and Development

Presbytery of Arkansas 129th Presbytery Meeting First Presbyterian Church - Benton Mission Committee Report

The Mission Committee is composed of Teaching and Ruling Elders from congregations of the Arkansas Presbytery. As a group, we meet to discern God's will in furthering the mission work and evangelism of our Presbytery through distribution of funds, recognition of noteworthy mission activities and by increasing awareness of the needs of others in and outside the borders of our Presbytery.

Unified Mission Emphasis

We, as a committee, receive delegated funds to award as grants for a *Unified Mission Emphasis*. A group or need is designated as the unified mission emphasis with a minimum life cycle of three years. For the past six years, we have highlighted Hunger as our emphasis. Churches and members of our congregations wholeheartedly embraced this an important mission to "feed God's sheep". While we have not eradicated this injustice, we have provided thousands of meals to those who are food deprived!

For the 2016-2018 Unified Mission Emphasis cycle, the Mission Committee presents to the Presbytery for recommendation that we expand our focus to *mission work focusing on the most vulnerable segment of our population, from children to older adults.* The expansion of our focus would allow those who so choose to continue the very needed mission work dealing with the food deprived or to look to other ways to nurture and provide for the needs of those struggling - such as with the difficulties of aging with inadequate fixed incomes, health issues for themselves or as caregivers, or tutoring programs for youth, or shelters for victims of domestic abuse.

International Missions

We as a committee recognize that the need to provide help and to continue God's work does not stop at the borders of our Presbytery, state or country. Congregations in our Presbytery have successfully sought out ways to reach others internationally. Congregations in the northwest and central parts of our state have partnered together with presbyteries in Tampa and Carlisle to focus on Honduras. The congregation at Horseshoe Bend has been very active with the non-profit organization, *Journey Into Hope* that works with the population of Dominican-Born Haitians living in Dominican Republic who are not as citizens of either country. We as a committee recognize both groups and their efforts although in different ways:

- Today's offering is designated to assist *Journey Into Hope in their mission efforts.*
- We as a committee wholeheartedly endorse and recognize the endeavors of our congregations involved with the Honduras mission efforts and encourage congregations and individuals interested in these efforts to participate.

Unified Mission Grants distributed for 2015

To date in 2015, the Mission Committee has awarded the following grants to further the mission emphasis of hunger:

- \$5,000 to the Stop Hunger Now program at Ferncliff
- \$1,500 to the Central Elementary 4H USA Community and Learning Garden, Forrest City, AR

Lastly, as a committee, we want to remind our congregations of the wonderful work done through our Cents-ability program. We ask congregations to encourage our members to donate change during potlucks, Christian Education activities such as Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. Each year we distribute the monies collected over the year to an organization located in the state, one that serves a national population and an international mission.

Thank you for allowing us to represent you on this committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim P. Danehower Moderator

Celebration and Recognition of Anniversaries of Ordination, Certification and Commissioning of Church Professionals in the Presbytery of Arkansas

Continuing a practice begun in 2004, the Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals will recognize at the 130th Stated Meeting on October 9-10, 2015 all Teaching Elder members of the presbytery who this year celebrate anniversaries in <u>five-year</u> increments. The Presbytery will also recognize currently serving Commissioned Ruling Elders and active and retired Certified Christian Educators and Certified Associate Christian Educators celebrating anniversaries in <u>five-year</u> increments. The list below is based on information compiled in the office. Please check to make sure the information is correct and notify the Presbytery of any changes (501.663.2424 or email niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org)

The following Church Professionals are Receiving Engraved Keyrings as First-time Honorees:

Teaching Elders 10 Years

Ira (Ike) Brighton, honorably retired

"Katie" Cummings

Elizabeth "Liz" Lindsey

Ward Rudolph

Church Professionals who were first honored in 2010 in the sixth year of the celebration of five-year increments will this year receive a certificate

10 Years	45 Years	Certified Christian Educators
Susan Gray	Burle Mattingly, HR	
Dari Rowen		15 Years

Danie		
	50 Years	Jeannie Ford
15 Years	Howard Gordon, HR	

John Gibson John King, HR <u>35 Years</u>
Jeff Price Frank Young, HR Anna Bedford, retired

20 Years55 YearsLeslie Smith BeldenOrin Frank, HRCommissioned Ruling EldersRobert Cox, HRDon Trent, HRKris Crawford15 Years

Carl W. McCormack

Carl W. McCormack

60 Years

K. C. Chanthorn

Ken Upham, HR

Jennifer Lord

<u>65 Years</u>
Park Moore, HR

30 Years Thomas A. Ulrich

Mark Lenneville, HR

35 Years Lacy Sellars

40 Years Bill Bailey William F. Galbraith Ron Jones, HR