



PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS

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October 14, 2016

Dear Commissioners:

Welcome to the 133rd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas! Thank you for your service to your congregations and to the church and a big thank you to First Presbyterian Harrison for hosting our meeting.

This is the “Presbytery Meeting Packet.” It includes nearly all of the documents and resources you will need for the meeting. The packet is laid out in the order of the meeting and follows the flow of the docket. Occasionally business has to be added at the last minute during the days leading up to the presbytery meeting. In the event there is last minute business, it will be available to you in hard copy form at the registration table.

There is one section in the packet that may not be familiar. At the 133rd and 134th Stated Meetings, we will be considering business referred from the 222nd General Assembly. Each amendment to the constitution requires the ascent of a majority of the 172 presbyteries. To save space in the packet, only the actual text of the amendments is included in the packet. For more information or to read the full rationale for each amendment, you may visit http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/2016_proposed_boa.pdf The business referred from GA is different than that referred by presbytery committees. With each motion from the GA, the presbytery will take a simple yes or no vote. Because this business is being considered by all presbyteries at the same time, the motions may not be amended. The process for considering this business will be more fully explained at the meeting in Harrison.

This meeting will also feature two theological conversations. On Friday evening, we will have a conversation about proposed changes to the Book of Order concerning the Lord’s Supper. Following our conversation, we will gather at the table during evening worship. Saturday will feature a conversation on issues of mental health and how congregations can be advocates in their communities. Information for Friday’s conversation can be found in Section K of this packet.

Please take some time to review the materials in the packet and make note of any questions you would like answered about the business before the presbytery. If you have any questions about the meeting packet itself, please don’t hesitate to contact me at robert@presbyteryofarkansas.org I look forward to seeing you in Harrison next week!

Peace,

The Rev. Dr. Robert Wm Lowry
Stated Clerk

Stewart Smith
General Presbyter

Kenneth Rich
Director of Mission Support

NiAnn Thompson
Resourcing Center Director

Robert W. Lowry
Stated Clerk

Britton Varn
Youth Ministry

Michael Vinson
Vital Congregations



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September 14, 2016

Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings from Harrison, the Gateway to the Buffalo National River! We at First Presbyterian are excited to share our home with you during one of the most beautiful seasons of the year. From the "Grand Canyon of Arkansas" in Jasper to the free-ranging elk of Ponca, our area boasts some of the most amazing sights in our wonderful state (and we believe in the whole world). While you are here, we hope you will take some time to leaf peep and explore the Buffalo National River area.

The members are busy preparing everything for your arrival. Our worship service will feature hymns from *Glory to God* that reflect sounds from around the world. From the resolute sounds of African American spirituals to the fervent rhythms of Latin America, we will sing praises to our God as a family. Once the Word is read and proclaimed, we will feast together at the Lord's Table. We are praying that this worship service will prepare your hearts and minds to do the Lord's work for our church and the Church Universal with a trusting heart.

Our preparations include making sure everyone is comfortable and have all the tools necessary to participate fully in the service of worship and meetings. We have hearing devices for those who need them. We have a nursery for children 0 to 4 years-old planned for the entire time you are here. Please make sure to reserve your child's place by calling the church office no later than **October 19th**. We will be serving lunch on Saturday. The menu will include Pulled Pork sandwiches, baked beans, potato salad, and cookies for dessert. If you have any dietary requests, please feel free to contact our office and we will accommodate any restrictions. You will find a list of area hotels in this packet, the hotels listed will give you their very best prices if you reserve using the code: "Presbytery of Arkansas." Also, if you book under that code, the Chamber of Commerce will place a goody bag in your room! We want you to enjoy your time in our area, if we can do anything to make your stay more pleasant, please let us know.

Blessings,

Rev. DC Adams
Pastor

REV. DC ADAMS
PASTOR

EMAIL dc@fpcharrison.org

First Presbyterian Church
Harrison
October 21-22, 2016

133rd Stated Meeting

The Presbytery of Arkansas

Next Meetings

134th Stated Meeting
Univ. of the Ozarks,
Clarksville
February 17-18, 2017

135th Stated Meeting TBD

136th Stated Meeting TBD

Meeting Schedule

Friday

- 3pm Exhibitor Set-up
- 3pm Clerk of Session Training
- 4pm Registration Opens
- 6:45pm The Presbytery Convenes
- 7pm Theological Discussion
- 7:45pm Worship including the Lord's Supper

Saturday

- 8:30am The Presbytery Reconvenes
- 8:35am Morning Prayer
- Noon Lunch

Presbytery Leadership

Moderator TE Lacy Sellers
Vice-Moderator RE Ruth Hamilton
Moderator of CT RE Ed Wilkinson
General Presbyter TE Stewart Smith
Stated Clerk TE Robert Lowry
Moderator of Administration
TE Catherine Alsbury
Moderator of CCM TE Dari Rowen
Moderator of CLD TE Kade Curry
Moderator of Future of the Church
RE Leah Shell
Moderator of Church & Its Mission
RE Kelley Pearson
Moderator of Youth, Campus & YA
RE Mary Shaw
Moderator of Nominations
TE Elizabeth Gabbard

Docket

Friday October 21

We Gather in God's Name

- 6:45 pm Call to Order
Opening Prayer
Report of Enrollment and Declaration of Quorum
Adoption of the Docket
Seating of Corresponding Members and Granting of Privilege of the Floor/Voice
Welcome to First Time Commissioners
Introduction of Presbytery Staff
Welcome from Host Church
Adoption of Consent Agenda (Section A)
Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings (Section S)

We Encounter God's Word

- 7:15 pm Order of the Day-Theological Discussion on the Lord's Supper (Section L)
8pm Worship including the Lord's Supper

Saturday October 22

We Respond to God's Call

- 8:30 am Call to Order
Morning Prayer
Report of the Stated Clerk (Section B,N,P)
Report of the Coordinating Team (Section C)
Report of the General Presbyter
Report of the Administration Ministry Area (Section D)
Report of the Committee on the Church's Ministries (Sections E and R)

- Report of the Committee on Leadership Development (Section F)
Report of the Committee on Nominations (Section G,N)
Report of the Future of the Church Ministry Area (Section H)
Report of the Mission of the Church Area (Section J)
Report of the Subcommittee on Disaster Preparedness (Section K)
- 11am Order of the Day-Theological Discussion on Mental Health Issues
Minute Announcements
- Noon Lunch
- 12:45 pm Order of the Day-Report of the Polity Committee (Section M)
Report from Youth Triennium
Report of the Presbyterian Women
New Business
- a.
 - b.
 - c.
- Report of the Leaves of Absence Committee

We Are Sent in God's Service

Closing Prayer Service

Presbyterian to English Cheat Sheet

From time to time abbreviations and acronyms will be peppered through the meeting. The following is a quick primer on Presby-speak. If you have questions about any of these terms or the way they fit into the larger picture of the life of the church, feel free to ask the Stated Clerk!

- **AC-** An **A**dministrative **C**ommission is a group of Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders given specific responsibilities and authority to act on behalf of the presbytery between meetings. They are typically formed to ordain and/or install pastors, perform the tasks associated with dismissing, closing, or merging congregations, deal with difficulties in a particular church, or assist a church in times of transition.
- **Board of Pensions-** The General Assembly agency charged with overseeing the benefits plans for pastors and some other church employees.
- **Candidate-** A person in the latter portion of the ordination process for the ministry of Teaching Elder.
- **CCM/COM-** The **C**ommittee on the **C**hurch's **M**inistries (formerly Committee on Ministry) provides oversight and advocacy for congregations and teaching elders. It receives teaching elders from other presbyteries, approves calls for pastoral services, oversees congregations without pastors, dissolves pastoral relationships, dismisses teaching elders to other presbyteries, determines of the criteria for validating ministries of non-parish clergy, and oversees Commissioned Ruling Elders serving congregations.
- **CLD-** The **C**ommittee on **L**eadership **D**evelopment oversees the process of preparation for the ministry of Teaching Elder, training of Commissioned Ruling Elders, and the process of certification for Christian Educators.
- **Council-** In the context of Presbyterian polity and governance, a council is a governing body of the church. The councils of the PC(USA) are the session, the presbytery, the synod and the General Assembly.
- **CT-** The Coordinating Team of the presbytery acts on the presbytery's behalf on routine matters between stated meetings, coordinates the ministries of the presbytery, and

- **GA-** The **G**eneral **A**ssembly of the PC(USA) is the highest council of the church. It meets in even numbered years for approx. 12 days. The 2016 meeting will be held in late June in Portland, Oregon.
- **HR- H**onorably **R**etired is a designation for Teaching Elders retired from active service to the church who remain in good standing with the PC(USA).
- **Inquirer-** A person in the initial phase of the process of preparation for ministry as a Teaching Elder.
- **MIF-** A **M**inistry **I**nformation **F**orm is the standardized format for advertising certain church professional positions through the PC(USA) Church Leadership Connection.
- **Moderator-** The Moderator is the person elected to keep order and chair the meetings of the presbytery. The pastor or CRE of a local congregation serves as the moderator of the local session.
- **NCD-** **N**ew **C**hurch **D**evelopments are new ministries of the presbytery engaged in a formal process to work toward establishing a new congregation.
- **PDA-** Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is an agency of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Mission Agency. PDA assists communities coping with natural and human-caused disasters.
- **PJC-** Permanent Judicial Commission implements the disciplinary procedures required by the Book of Order. There is a Judicial Process Manual which gives details on these duties.
- **PMA-** The Presbyterian Mission Agency is part of the larger PC(USA) and is located at national church headquarters in Louisville, KY.
- **PNC-** Pastor Nominating Committee is a search committee elected by a congregation to seek, interview, and recommend a new pastor.
- **RE/Ruling Elder-** Ruling Elder is a lay member of a congregation who has been elected, ordained and installed to serve on the session of a church. Ruling elders are eligible for election as commissioners to presbytery, synod and General Assembly.
- **Stated Clerk-** Stated Clerk is the officer elected by the presbytery to maintain the official records, provide extracts when asked, prepare the docket for presbytery meetings, and answer questions about the records, Presbyterian polity, policies, procedures and history. The Stated Clerk is authorized to certify ministers and

congregations are in good standing and qualify under the tax exemption of the PCUSA.

- ***Synod of the Sun***- The governing body council which includes all the presbyteries in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. It coordinates the work of the PCUSA in this region.
- ***TE/Teaching Elder***- Teaching Elder is an ordained Presbyterian minister member of the clergy.
- ***TPF***- Texas Presbyterian Foundation is a financial service organization for Presbyterian members, councils and institutions. It invests funds and provides bookkeeping services for Grace Presbytery.
- ***Validated Ministries***- Positions served by chaplains, professors and other teaching elders who are not currently serving a congregation. Sometimes they are referred to as non-parish clergy.

Tips for Commissioners on Procedure and Parliamentary Practice

Parliamentary procedure enables the presbytery to become a deliberative assembly, to seek the will of God and to witness to our faith in Jesus Christ. It is never an end in itself. Parliamentary gamesmanship is never appropriate.

The will of the majority shall prevail, but the rights of the minority shall always be protected. Parliamentary principles balance individual conscience with the will of the majority. It takes seriously the following rights of individual members: (1) the right to know (due notice); (2) the right to speak (rules of debate); (3) the right to vote (membership); and (4) the right to hold office (fair representation).

The Moderator represents the unity of the body. The Moderator preserves decorum and protects the rights listed above.

Parliamentary procedure allows discussion of a subject only when a motion about that subject has been made. To speak during the meeting, first go to a microphone. When recognized by the Moderator, state your name, church, city and status – such as ruling elder or Honorably Retired. You may speak to a pending motion or ask a question. The person making the motion will have first opportunity to speak to the motion. Only motions coming from individuals need a second. A motion made on behalf of a committee already has a second: the majority vote of the committee.

Only commissioners may speak and vote on motions. It is advisable to speak only once on a subject, but you may seek to speak a second time only after everyone who wishes to speak has spoken. All remarks during debate shall be addressed to the Moderator. Questions seeking information from a person who has the floor shall be addressed to the Moderator. Speeches to an individual or the whole presbytery are not permitted during debate. Reading reports or documents out loud requires the permission of the body. In debate, remarks shall be confined to the pending motion. Remarks shall not impugn another commissioner or that person's motives.

Commissioners' names shall not be used.

To end debate, a commissioner must go to a microphone and, when recognized by the Moderator, state: "I move the previous question." It is not appropriate to call the question without going to a microphone.

If you offer a substitute motion or a new item of business, you should give the Moderator and Stated Clerk advance notice and written copy. An electronic copy is preferred – using Microsoft Word on a memory stick or thumb drive. Not only will this help these officers facilitate the work of presbytery, they may also be able to help you with suggestions as to how and when it would be appropriate to make the motion. The Stated Clerk and the Moderator are available to advise commissioners on the wording of any motion so that it can clearly express the concerns of the commissioner. When in doubt, ask. The Moderator and the Stated Clerk are eager to help you understand and use the process.

Section A

Consent Agenda

Stated Clerk TE Robert Wm Lowry

NB: In the past, actions of the General Committee have been included on the Consent Agenda. Because the Coordinating Team (and formerly General Committee) is a commission of the presbytery, only certain actions require affirmation by the presbytery.

1. That the Synod Minutes Review report be received and that the presbytery minutes reflect appreciation to NiAnn Thompson for her work on preparing the year-end minutes.
2. That the presbytery affirm that current insurance coverage for the presbytery is adequate and instruct the Stated Clerk to include a summary of coverage upon the minutes of this meeting.
3. That the presbytery affirm that sexual misconduct and child and youth safety policies are in effect in the presbytery and instruct the Stated Clerk to include copies of both upon the minutes of this meeting.

Section B

Report of the Stated Clerk

TE Robert Wm Lowry
Stated Clerk

For Information:

1. The Synod of the Sun has reviewed 2015 minutes and reported only minor exceptions. The exceptions noted will be corrected in the next reporting period.
2. All Teaching Elders (including those who are Honorably Retired-Active) are reminded that a condition of continued employment and membership in the Presbytery of Arkansas requires periodic background checks. ALL Teaching Elders must complete a background check Authorization and Release form (found in Section M of the packet) and forward \$10 for the cost of the background check. All releases must be received by February 1, 2017. Congregations employing Teaching Elders are encouraged to cover the cost of the background check.
3. All Teaching Elders must complete and return to the Stated Clerk an Acknowledgement of Receipt of the presbytery's Sexual Misconduct Policy (found in Section M of the packet). Completed Acknowledgements of Receipt must be returned to the Stated Clerk no later than February 1, 2017.
4. Moderators and Clerks of Session are reminded that Church Record and Session Minutes reviews are to be completed no later than December 1, 2016. Reading assignments and checklists are included in Section N of the packet and Appendix C of the Clerks Manual. Please contact the Stated Clerk with any questions or concerns.
5. Urgent correspondence has been received from the Board of Pensions concerning new Board of Pension changes. ALL institutions utilizing or planning to utilize the Board for employee benefits (this includes ALL congregations whether or not they currently have a Teaching Elder) must submit certain information for the plan. An informational flyer is included in Section N in this packet. The electronic version contains live links to the appropriate websites.

For Action:

1. The revision of the map of regions by the Coordinating Team necessitates changes to the Organization and Structure of the presbytery to accommodate the reduced number of regions for nominations. In order to prevent disruption of ministry work and in an effort to simplify the process of nominations, the Stated Clerk recommends the following actions:

- a. That the presbytery declare all committee, subcommittee, and ministry positions formerly designated as Region 5 as “at-large.”
- b. That the Organization and Structure be amended as follows (text to be deleted indicated by a ~~strikethrough~~ and text to be added indicated by *italics*):
 - i. 5.B.1 One member from each of the ~~five~~ regions...up to ~~three~~ *four* at-large
 - ii. 5.C.a.1 ~~Four~~ *five* additional at-large...
 - iii. 5.C.b.1 ~~Eight~~ *ten* additional at-large...
 - iv. 5.D.1 Two members from each of the ~~five~~ regions...Up to ~~three~~ *additional five* at-large
 - v. 5.D.3 ideally one from each of the ~~five~~ regions
 - vi. 5.E.1 Two members from each of the ~~five~~ regions
 - vii. 5.F.1 Two members from each of the ~~five~~ regions and ~~four~~ *six* at-large
 - viii. 5.H.1.b ~~Five additional members shall be elected from the presbytery (one from each region.)~~ Five at-large members shall be elected from the presbytery (no more than two from any region.)
- c. That the Committee and Ministry Duties section be amended to reflect the changes to the Organization and Structure.

Section C

Report of the Coordinating Team

RE Ed Wilkinson
Good Shepherd, Greenwood

For Information:

The Coordinating Team took the following actions on behalf of the presbytery at their Stated Meeting August 31, 2016:

1. Approved three requests concerning the October Stated Meeting of the Presbytery:
 - From Second, Little Rock a request to include a flyer and registration information on an Eneagram workshop
 - From Presbyterian Pilgrimage to include information on upcoming pilgrimage events.
 - From TE Marie Mainard O'Connell to present a short video introduction of the new PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteers at Ferncliff.
2. Revised the presbytery region map to eliminate current Region 5 (east Arkansas) and reduce the number of regions to four. The churches from Region 5 have been reassigned as follows:
 - Faith, First, and Central Pine Bluff and First McGehee move from Region 5 to Region 3
 - All other churches in Region 5 move to Region 4
3. To balance the remaining regions, the following churches have been reassigned:
 - Central, Russellville and Memorial, Atkins move from Region 4 to Region 2
 - Yellville and Bull Shoals move from Region 4 to Region 1
4. On the advice of the Nominating Committee, named Jennifer McCracken (Wynne) to an unexpired term in the class of 2016 on the Ministry with Youth, Campus, and Young Adults.
5. On the advice of the Nominating Committee, named TE Ike Brighton (member at-large) to an unexpired term in the class of 2016 on the Subcommittee on Disaster Preparedness.
6. On the advice of the Nominating Committee, named TE Paul Fulks (First, Heber Springs) to an unexpired term in the class of 2016 on the Church and Its Mission ministry.
7. The Moderator of Coordinating Team was asked to communicate with the Moderator of Nominations to ensure that the at-large positions on CT are filled in

keeping with the needs of the CT. It was noted that two current members, TE Ruskin Falls and RE Laura Pierce, rotate off at the end of 2016.

8. The Nominating Committee asked the CT for guidance concerning volunteers willing to serve on committees and ministries where there was no vacancy. It was decided that by reducing the number of regions and eliminating the difficulty with finding Region 5 representatives, this was no longer a pressing concern.
9. The Stated Clerk informed the CT that declines in membership in next year's statistical reporting may drop the presbytery below the threshold for GA Commissioners. Since it is not necessary to elect commissioners until next year, it was suggested that Nominations not bring those names to the presbytery until it is clear how many commissioners we will need.
10. The Stated Clerk presented the corrected minutes of the 130th Stated Meeting. The CT was asked to approve the revised minutes so they may be presented to the Synod of the Sun for review. A motion was made and seconded to approve the revised minutes.
11. The CT returned to the discussion begun in May concerning the scope, design, frequency, location, and purpose of presbytery meetings.
 - Data gathered during the Restructure process was presented along with some statistics on attendance and past experience with various locations for presbytery meetings.
 - The relative advantages and disadvantages of different potential models were discussed.
 - Following a lengthy conversation, it was decided that for the near term, the presbytery will continue with its current meeting schedule. Attention will be paid to the flow and content of the meetings in October, February, and June. The CT will return to the questions of logistics, timing, etc. at the October 1 meeting.
 - The Stated Clerk asked for guidance in seeking a host for the June 2017 meeting. A preference was expressed during the Restructure for meeting around tables if possible. The CT was in general agreement with that preference but did not act to make it a requirement. The Stated Clerk was instructed to seek a host for the June 2017 meeting in accordance with current criteria with a preference (but not requirement) for meeting space allowing for table gathering.
12. Decided that the topic for primary theological discussion at the October meeting will be issues surrounding mental health and that TE D.C. Adams be charged with coordinating it. After lengthy discussion, it was decided that a second discussion concerning the new Directory for Worship and the proposed changes to language

concerning admittance to the Lord's Supper will be a second theological discussion if time permits. TE Ruskin Falls will coordinate the second discussion.

13. At the request of the Stated Clerk, adopted the following policy as a Standing Rule (numbered as Standing Rule #1) for the filing of business for presbytery meetings.
 - All business to come before the presbytery must be submitted in writing to the Stated Clerk no later than 21 days prior to the date of the stated or called meeting.
 - Business not submitted by the deadline is treated as new business. It is the responsibility of the maker of the motion to provide hard copies for all commissioners.
 - The Stated Clerk will post the docket and all relevant documents no later than 7 days prior to a Stated Meeting.
14. Decided that due to conflicting existing policies, the CT determined that the host congregation (First, Harrison) shall plan worship for the October Stated Meeting.
15. The Stated Clerk informed the CT of a referral made by the presbytery at the 130th Stated Meeting. The referral reads:
 - *“That our General Committee (now Coordinating Team) study, discuss, and propose to our presbytery and its congregations action and strategies by which we may be “salt” and “light” amidst a culture increasingly violent, to include but not be limited to issues of the proliferation of fire arms, the treatment and care of the mentally ill, alienation among younger generations, racism, and poverty.”*
 - The CT chooses to begin answering the referral with the Theological Discussion on mental health at the 133rd Stated Meeting. The Stated Clerk will include in his October report to presbytery communication acknowledging this ongoing consideration.
16. The Stated Clerk is working on completion of the revised Policies and Procedures section of the Presbytery Ministry Manual. Two presbytery policies in need of revision are the Emergency Loans to Pastors and the Emergency Loans to Congregations policies. Those policies were referred to the Administration Ministry with a request that they report back to the CT by December.
17. TE Roper raised the issue of how the families of former pastors relate to congregations. She noted that there is a policy for former pastors but no guidance for their families. The question was referred to the CCM with instructions to consider the issue and report back no later than November 30, 2016 with any policy recommendations.

The Coordinating Team took the following actions on behalf of the presbytery during a called conference call September 9, 2016:

1. The Stated Clerk presented the referral from the CCM concerning formation of an Administrative Commission with power to assume original jurisdiction to inquire into difficulties and work with the congregation and Session of First Presbyterian Church of Little Rock. The General Presbyter and TE Leslie Belden (CCM representative to CT) described the situation and referral from CCM. Members discussed the timing of the AC, the scope of its business, and the proposed membership.
2. The CT adopted the following motions:
 - a. That the Presbytery of Arkansas elect an Administrative Commission to counsel with the Session and congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Little Rock in discerning God's future for the church and its effective witness to the community. The Administrative Commission shall have the power to assume original jurisdiction.
 - b. Elect the following members of the AC:
 - i. TE Bill Bailey Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village
 - ii. TE Debbie Freeman First, Jacksonville
 - iii. TE David Dyer Westminster, Little Rock
 - iv. RE Ruth Hamilton Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village
 - v. RE Cyril Hollingsworth Second, Little Rock
 - vi. RE Mike Szabo First, Searcy
 - c. That the AC appointed to work with First Presbyterian Church of Little Rock be charged with reporting back to the Coordinating Team no later than November 10, 2016. The Stated Clerk is instructed to forward the report to the CCM and Future of the Church Ministry prior to their November retreat. In addition to reports of any actions taken by the AC on behalf of the presbytery, the report shall include at least answers to the following:
 - i. Shall the Session continue as presently constituted?
 - ii. Is there a viable remnant to move forward?
 - iii. If the answer to question 2 is yes, what necessary steps need to be taken in budgeting and relationships with current and former staff to prepare the remnant church for the future?

The Coordinating Team took the following actions on behalf of the presbytery during a stated meeting via conference call on October 1, 2016:

1. A motion was made and seconded naming the following as the slate for at-large membership on the Nominations Committee:

- RE Susie Wright (Westminster, HS)
 - RE Mike Harden (First, Arkadelphia)
 - RE Matt Curry (First, Jonesboro)
 - RE Kathy Rogers (First, Bentonville)
 - The Stated Clerk was instructed to contact the list in this order.
 - The slate will be presented to the presbytery at the 133rd Stated Meeting.
2. A motion was made and seconded to present the following to the presbytery for adoption as a Standing Rule:

In an effort to engage diverse voices from across the presbytery and honor the commitment of time and energy of ministry members, individuals may not serve concurrently on more than one of the following committees and subcommittees: CCM, CLD, Mission, Youth, Campus, and Young Adults, Campus Ministry subcommittee (except those automatically assigned to Youth, Campus, and Young Adults), Administration, Future of the Church, or Disaster Preparedness.

An exception is made for those who are automatically members of more than one ministry, committee or subcommittee by virtue of office or role in the presbytery.

3. The docket for the 133rd Stated Meeting was distributed before the meeting. Based on requests for time from committees, the needs of the host church, and discussion on the best way to ensure flow for the meeting, a motion was made and seconded to set the docket as discussed. (*NB: Due to the later than usual start time and the addition of theological discussion on Friday night, the CT chose not to have a reception following worship on Friday night.*)
4. The date and length of the June 2017 meeting (135th Stated Meeting) was discussed. The Mission Ministry shared that there is at present no leader for the 2017 PLACE event. The possibility of combining the PLACE event with the June meeting was discussed at length. It was decided that since the June docket is normally light, combining the two would be possible and potentially beneficial to the presbytery. In anticipation of this possibility, the Stated Clerk was instructed to secure a host church with sufficient facilities to host PLACE as well as the meeting. The consensus of the group was to abide by the tradition of holding the June meeting in central Arkansas.
5. The 2017 contract with Wellspring Renewal Center was presented for approval. Following a lengthy discussion about the contract and the program of providing referral services for church professionals and their families, the CT took the following actions:
- Approved the 2017 contract.

- A motion was made and seconded to instruct the Committee on the Church's Ministries to review the program with attention to the following:
 - Rates of utilization
 - Whether the program as it stands meets the needs of the presbytery
 - Report back their findings to the CT prior to the April 2017 CT meeting.
6. A request was received from the Ozark church for permission to sell vacant land and use the proceeds to make essential repairs to the church building. The AC assigned to Ozark agreed with the request. Following lengthy conversation about the context of the situation including Ozark's financial position and the fact that the congregation is pursuing dismissal from the PC(USA), a motion was made and seconded to:
 - Approve the sale of the property with proceeds earmarked for repairs to the church building.
 - Require that any sale be approved by the Ozark Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission prior to sale.
 7. Dissolved the Woodlands Presbyterian Church (HSV) Administrative Commission with the thanks of the presbytery. The AC was dissolved because litigation is pending with WPC.
 8. The report from the Administration Ministry Area distributed before the meeting was discussed. GP Smith offered insights into the history of the budget and the unrestricted mission giving to Synod and GA above and beyond per capita giving.

Smith explained the financing of the presbytery office building and the repayment plan to the NCD fund of the presbytery.

A lengthy conversation followed focused on the following:

- The need to interpret the mission of the PC(USA) and the funding streams (per capita vs. mission giving) within the church to congregations.
- The need to evaluate our giving priorities in light of changing budget demands and lower levels of income. (NB: GP Smith will address this and other financial issues in his report to the presbytery at the 133rd Stated Meeting)
- The need to evaluate our budget in light of presbytery priorities.

After the discussion focused on next steps, the sense of the CT was expressed that RE Jan Enke (Moderator, Administration), RE Leah Shell (Moderator, Future of the Church), and GP Smith should begin a process of conversation addressing the issues above. No formal motion was made, however Enke and Smith indicated their willingness to begin this conversation soon and report back to the CT on progress.

For Action:

1. The Coordinating Team recommends that the presbytery adopt the following as a Standing Rule (numbered as Standing Rule #2):

Committee Membership

In an effort to engage diverse voices from across the presbytery and honor the commitment of time and energy of ministry members, individuals may not serve concurrently on more than one of the following committees and subcommittees: CCM, CLD, Mission, Youth, Campus, and Young Adults, Campus Ministry subcommittee (except those automatically assigned to Youth, Campus, and Young Adults), Administration, Future of the Church, or Disaster Preparedness.

An exception is made for those who are automatically members of more than one ministry, committee or subcommittee by virtue of office or role in the presbytery.

Section D

Report of the Administration Ministry Area

TE Catherine Allsbury
Second, Little Rock

For Information:

1. Income & Expense as of June 2016:
 - a. As approved in February, the budget anticipated a **shortfall of \$133,928** – to be met by taking funds from the Presbytery investments (to meet the total budget of \$885,428).
 - b. Interest income is higher than expected, (+ **\$20,000**) as of June 2016.
 - c. Giving by local congregations is slow, but will be close to budget (**\$615,000**) by the end of December 2016.
 - d. Some discretionary spending has been more conservative than budgeted, which will bring us closer to a balanced picture at the end of the year.
2. Areas of Greatest Expense for 2017
 - a. Administration of the Presbytery Office (costs of personnel, building and equipment).
 - i. The General Presbyter and the Administration Ministry Area will be scrutinizing this portion of the budget for potential savings.
 - ii. This section includes repayment to the Presbytery of \$36,000 annually:
 1. \$2,000/month for New Church Development;
 2. \$1,000 to a Building Maintenance & Repair fund; fund currently has a balance of \$100,000. *Administration Ministry has voted to suspend those payments.*
 3. The presbytery could save money if the debt to the NCD fund were forgiven, or payments reduced.
 - b. Commitments to the Greater Church
 - i. Total giving to G.A. and Synod is nearly 16% of expected giving from churches. *Currently, we are giving a tithe in addition to the Per Capita tax.*
 - ii. We believe the original intent was to model good stewardship by tithing to the greater church, in faith that churches of the presbytery would follow that example by tithing to presbytery.
 - iii. The Administration Ministry is seeking guidance from other bodies in this Presbytery, in the form of theological or missional statement of intent for support of the Greater Church.
 - c. Expenses for Committees and Ministry Areas

- i. Traditionally, we have tried to balance the budget by asking each committee to trim their expenses by a flat rate. We have reached a point where asking the Committees on Nominations (\$360 annually) and Representation (\$45 annually) will not bear much fruit.
 - ii. The groups spending the most are those that are driving the mission of our Presbytery: Mission of the Church; Future of the Church; Ministries of the Church; Youth Collegiate and Young Adults.
 - iii. These areas of mission are at the heart of what we believe the church is called to do.
 - iv. *We encourage those Ministry Areas to carefully consider the financial resources available, and the most fruitful use of those resources. We cannot continue business as usual.* The Administration Ministry does not intend to micromanage by suggesting line item cuts, but we believe there is room for saving.
 - d. Payments on Loan for Ferncliff
 - i. The two loans totaling \$1,000,000 continue to be a source of distress.
 - ii. Interest-only payments have been **\$32,304.00 annually** since 1/1/2015. Reducing or eliminating those payments would be a big step forward in balancing our budget.
 - iii. To date, no relief in the form of property sales have arrived.
3. Funds from sale of Presbytery owned property.
 - a. The long standing policy has been that sale of property (either donated, or from churches that close) automatically goes into an endowment for New Church Development. We find ourselves in a time when New Church Development is rare.
 - b. The Administration Ministry suggests that it is time to revisit that position. Perhaps it could be reshaped to say that funds will be used where the *greatest need or call to mission presents itself*.
 - c. This would give the Presbytery greater flexibility in responding to areas of need, and calls to mission (locally and abroad).

Section E

Report of the Committee on the Church's Ministries

TE Dari Rowen
First, Benton

For Information:

- TE Gordon Garlington was granted Honorably Retired status effective July 31, 2016.
- TE David Gill was granted Honorably Retired status effective January 31, 2017.
- The membership of TE Debbie Spangler was transferred to Grace Presbytery.
- The CCM will henceforth use the following terminology for pastoral relationships:
 - Pastor/co-Pastor/Associate Pastor;
 - Transitional Pastor;
 - Stated Supply Pastor;
 - and Pulpit Supply.
- The CCM will no longer use the terms:
 - Temporary Supply
 - Designated Pastor/Associate Pastor/coPastor
 - Interim Pastor/Associate Pastor/co-Pastor
 - *NB: the Parish Associate designation will continue to be used.*
- The CCM will present a key-ring on the 5-year anniversary of ordinations, certifications, and commissionings, at the October presbytery meeting, and that subsequent anniversaries will be appropriately commemorated by an announcement in the October CCM report.
- TE Jeremy Wilhelmi was announced as the new chaplain of the University of the Ozarks.
- TE Carol Clark was approved as the Transitional Pastor of Park Hill Presbyterian Church, effective August 1, 2016 through August 1, 2017, with the following terms of call:
 - Salary \$38,679
 - Pension/Medical 21,790
 - ½ Social Security 4,301*
 - Travel 1,550
 - Housing 19,125
 - Continuing Ed 600
 - Total compensation \$86,045

- The CCM requested that the Presbytery, through the Coordinating Team, elect/appoint an Administrative Commission to work with the Session and congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Little Rock in moving toward God's future for the church, with the power to assume original jurisdiction. *(NB: The details of the AC are included in the Coordinating Team report.)*
- Rev. Don Hubbard resigned as the Transitional Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith, effective September 30, 2016, to take the position of Transitional Pastor of First Christian Church, Fort Smith. Rev. Hubbard is an ordained pastor in the Disciples of Christ denomination.
- Central Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith, First Presbyterian Church of Springdale, and First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro were granted permission to elect Pastor Nominating Committees.
- The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, was granted permission to serve as that congregation's Pastor Nominating Committee.
- The CCM re-constituted appropriate members for a subcommittee that will establish guidelines for (1) Transitional Pastors, and (2) the needs of our congregations to have pastoral leadership and the lack of available PC(USA) Teaching Elders, including (3) how will we work with those who are not ordained as a PC(USA) Teaching Elder and what we will require of them.

For Action:

1. Motion to approve the call of TE Karen Akin as Pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church Little Rock for a designated term of 3 years with the following terms of call:
 - a. Effective Salary
 - i. Cash Salary: \$29,154
 - ii. Housing Allowance: \$18,000
 - b. Benefits
 - i. Full medical, disability, and death benefit coverage under the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
 - ii. Paid Vacation (6 weeks including 3 Sundays)
 - iii. Paid Continuing Education (2 weeks including 2 Sundays)
 - c. Reimbursable Expenses (by voucher)
 - i. Mileage (\$0.54 per mile): \$1200
 - ii. Business/Professional Expenses: \$0
 - iii. SECA Supplement (up to 50%): \$0
 - iv. Continuing Education: \$3500

2. Motion to approve the following details concerning the Installation Service of TE Karen Akin as Pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church:
 - a. Date and Time of Installation: November 20, 2016 at 3:00 pm
 - b. Offering Recipient: Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center
 - c. Members to serve on the Administrative Commission to include:
 - i. TE Lacy Sellars, Moderator of the Presbytery, to moderate and propound the Constitutional Questions
 - ii. TE David Gill, Director, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, to preach,
 - iii. TE Lindy Vogado, Associate Pastor, Second Presbyterian Church, to charge the congregation
 - iv. RE Cyril Hollingsworth, elder, Second Presbyterian Church, to charge the pastor
 - v. RE Betty Glenn, elder, Westover Hills Presbyterian Church
 - vi. TE Anne Russ, pastor, First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock
 - vii. RE Betty Winter or Jerry Herbert, Grace Presbyterian Church

3. Motion to approve the call of TE Paul Fulks as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Heber Springs with the following terms of call:

4. Motion to approve the following details concerning the Installation Service for Paul Fulks:
 - a. Date and Time of Installation: November 6, 2016 at 3:00 pm
 - b. Offering Recipient: Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center
 - c. Members to serve on the Administrative Commission to include:
 - i. TE Lacy Sellars to Moderate and Propound Constitutional Questions
 - ii. TE Stewart Smith to Preach
 - iii. TE Dari Rowen
 - iv. TE Carol Clark to Charge the Pastor
 - v. TE Kade Curry to Charge the Congregation
 - vi. RE Ruth Hamilton, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village
 - vii. RE Carolyn Buchanan, First, Batesville
 - viii. RE Anton Bucher, First, Heber Springs
 - ix. Sitting with the Commission: TE Milton Davis RE David Clark, First, Heber Springs

5. Motion to approve the call of Rev. Jai Deok Kwak as Pastor (part-time) of Central Presbyterian Church of Pine Bluff with the following terms of call:
 - a. Effective Salary

- i. Cash Salary: \$15, 867.78
 - ii. Housing Allowance: \$12,000
 - iii. Deferred Compensation: \$11,652.54
 - b. Benefits
 - i. Full medical, disability, and death benefit coverage under the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
 - ii. Moving Expenses (negotiated)
 - iii. Paid Vacation (3 weeks including 3 Sundays)
 - iv. Paid Continuing Education (2 weeks including 2 Sundays)
 - v. Clergy Renewal Leave (3 months including Sundays) with continued salary and benefits following the seventh year of service.
 - vi. *NB: This position is ¾ time and is therefore exempt from presbytery minimum requirements for leave.*
 - c. Reimbursable Expenses (by voucher)
 - i. Mileage (\$0.54 per mile): \$1200
 - ii. Business/Professional Expenses: \$0
 - iii. SECA Supplement (up to 50%): \$0
 - iv. Continuing Education: \$1200
6. Motion to approve the following details concerning the Installation Service of Jai Deok Kwak: *(NB: details to be distributed at the presbytery meeting.)*
7. Motion to receive the Rev. Jai Deok Kwak as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas. Rev. Kwak's statement of faith is below:

Statement of Faith

Rev. Jai Deok Kwak

I believe in One God, the triune God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, three divine persons in one God. Three distinctive beings, yet One God for they are in same substance and share the eternity together. They suffer together, and sacrifice together to give new life to humanity and the renewing of the creation. They share the everlasting, uninterrupted love relationship forever.

I believe the divinity of the Son, Jesus Christ. I believe that through Christ, the Trinity God reveals Himself to humanity. Jesus is the most comprehensive and substantial revelation of the Triune God to humanity. His birth, His Baptism, His teachings, His miracles, His Crucifixion, and His resurrection display the identity and the works of three divine beings. I believe that the truth -- that there is only ONE God -- means that the Creator of the Universe, and the incarnated Son, and the one who indwells within the believers and do the work of sanctification are the same

“ONE God.” Though there are peculiarities in the work each person does, they work together for the salvation of humanity.

I also confess that I believe Jesus is a man. The Second person of the Trinity became a human being in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. He took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by mean of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the “just seed of David,” the very Messiah promised. In His humanity, the promises of God, the Prophecies of the Old Testament Prophets were fulfilled. In His humanity, Jesus became the Lamb of God, the suffering servant for the whole world. Through the humanity of Jesus Christ, the power of God made perfect in weakness. As a man Jesus experienced every human needs and limitation. He also was tempted to sin, and yet lived a sinless life. In the mystery of “incarnation,” the Creator (God) became the created (human). In this union, the fallen humanity sees the way of salvation, the way of reconciliation to God and others. In this sense, Jesus is the perfect link between two quiet distinct beings, God and humanity. For Christ is both God and human, not partially but in perfect form, Jesus can be one and only Mediator between God and man. In Him, God is really with us. Humanity of Jesus Christ exhibits God’s genuine love toward the humanity. In Jesus Christ, human life was accepted, and reconciled to God. God embraces who we really are. I believe that I am a beloved child of God, and God called me out of this world to live a Christ-like life. I believe that God desires the reconciliation of the world through Jesus. For this work of reconciliation, God called Christians out of darkness and placed the Spirit of Christ in them. Just as the Christ was predestined to be the mediator between the God and the Humanity, Christians are predestined to be the agents of the Christ to bring the world back to the Christ. I was formed in His image. I am called to be in likeness of Christ. I find my value and purpose of my life only in Him.

8. Approve the renewed CRE covenant between Kenneth and Claire Rhodes and the congregation of West End, Arkadelphia. (NB: A copy is included in Section

Section F

Report of the Committee on Leadership Development

TE Kade Curry
First, Searcy

For Information:

The Committee on Church Leadership Development of Arkansas Presbytery met at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center at 9:30 am on Saturday, September 3, 2016. A quorum was present.

The process for examining the candidates was discussed prior to their joining the meeting. Because of the number of candidates, there will be a group interview process where all candidates may participate and also hear other answers. This will be followed by individual interviews. Time will be flexible based on the needs of the Candidates/Inquirers.

It was suggested that the Mentors be given a schedule to enforce for candidates to turn in paperwork and to move the process forward. It will be the responsibility of the Candidates/Inquirers to enforce their own schedules.

Two Liaisons are being assigned for each Candidate/Inquirer. Some Liaisons who have begun the process but are no longer on the Committee will continue with their assignments. Kathy White will set up a file of all the documents and status of each Candidate/Inquirer. The *Book of Order* has no rules as to how long a person must be in each stage of the process, but the total time between acceptance as Inquirer and Ordination should be at least three years.

Liaison assignments:

- Katherine Norwood – Susan Anderson and Lynn Condra
- Molly DeWitt – Susan Rose and Kade Curry
- Krista Denne – Debbie Freeman and Sherry Miller
- Brittany Fiscus Van Rossum – Kade Curry and Debbie Freeman
- Stacey Hammons – Debbie Freeman and Kathy White
- David Mills – Mike McCrackin and Debbie Freeman
- Jordan Akin – Susan Anderson and Bill Henning
- Max Hill – Debbie Freeman and Lynn Condra

A repository will be developed on the Presbytery website to contain our forms. Kade Curry will arrange for this. He will also send an e-mail to each Candidate with copies to Liaisons to establish communication.

Interview Process

The Candidates joined the meeting, and the entire group participated in an icebreaker activity.

Group interview then began. Questions which were discussed included:

- What created the desire or urge to look into becoming a minister?
- How will ordination as a Teaching Elder enhance your opportunities to serve God?
- How can creative and bi-vocational ministry opportunities be developed?

Individual Interviews

Jordan Akin

Jordan indicated that she sees the Inquiry status as definitely a time for discernment for her as she begins her seminary studies. She has spent two years as a YAV which has given her insight into possibilities for ministry. She has spent two weeks at Louisville Seminary in an introductory course. She hopes this committee will be there to support her through her time of discernment. She was encouraged to develop new mentors in her new situation. Louisville Seminary offers field placements during the summer which Jordan plans to take advantage of. She was informed that the pastoral internship required by this committee can generally be coordinated with seminary requirements. Jordan was given information on her liaisons. Motion was approved to accept Jordan Akin as an Inquirer. Kade offered prayer for this relationship.

Stacey Hammons

Stacey has already graduated from seminary and is transferring from another denomination which did not allow ordination of women. She is currently working as a Chaplain at Presbyterian Village. She had graduated from seminary without a church but established a relationship with Karen Akin of Second Presbyterian. When Stacey first attended Second, she worried about how her theology would mesh with Presbyterianism. She was very comfortable with the encouragement to ask questions and ability to be accepting. She doesn't always agree with Calvin, but she is becoming more able to live with ambiguity. The committee discussed educational requirements which she needs to complete ordination requirements. She has to complete Hebrew and Greek language requirement. The committee does not want to require any unnecessary classes, but some study in Reformed theology and polity would be helpful. She hopes to start her studies as soon as possible. The committee agreed that she needs to concentrate on what is needed to pass her ordination exams. There has been a question as to whether Stacey can officiate at the Sacrament of Communion under her current status. She has not been ordained as a Ruling Elder in the PC(USA) and therefore cannot officiate at the monthly Sunday Sacrament of Communion at Presbyterian Village under the *Book of Order* but that she can participate in a service led by a minister of another denomination. Stacey was given information about her liaisons. Motion was approved to accept Stacey Hammons as an Inquirer. Kade offered prayer for this relationship.

David Mills

David indicated that he is still deciding on whether to work on a Masters or to go to seminary. He has toured several seminaries and is also considering studying in Northern Ireland. He is currently serving as Interim Director of Youth Ministries at Second in Little Rock. This position will allow him to save money for school during this year and to work through his options for the next year. David had discussed with his pastor Steve Hancock as to whether he should apply for Inquirer status or wait until he decides whether he is going to seminary. David shared some of his experience in growing up in a small church and how he vacillated in a leadership roll. He indicated that helping others has always been a part of his life. Motion was approved to accept David Mills as an Inquirer. Debbie offered prayer for this relationship. He was given information about his liaisons.

Max Hill

Max indicated that he had gone through a process of wanting to avoid organized religion to deciding that he would be attending seminary. He had been turned off by the narrow-minded view of Christianity he had grown up with and their lack of acceptance of him as a gay person. His family encouraged him to search out other religions which he did. He eventually became involved with UCM at the University of Arkansas and was accepted for who he was. He became very involved there, finally becoming president and student director. He will be starting at Princeton Seminary next week. He has received scholarships to Princeton and is currently involved in the “1001 Worshipping Communities” movement. Motion was approved to accept Max Hill as an Inquirer. Lynn offered prayer for this relationship. He was given information about his liaisons.

Katherine Norwood

Katherine has been an Inquirer for a while, but this is the first time she has met with the committee in person. She indicated that her studies at Louisville Seminary are going well. The seminary has a good mix of older and traditional students. She is starting her field studies next year at Central Presbyterian in Louisville, an urban church. It was agreed that a semester rather than quarterly report from her supervisor would be adequate. She has completed her Hebrew and Old Testament exegesis courses. She will be doing Greek and New Testament next year. Katherine was reminded that this committee requires a field internship that her seminary field study will satisfy. Katherine is looking as possibilities of campus ministry but is open to other possibilities. She will fill out the required paperwork. Kade is working on an outline of the Candidacy process to post on the Arkansas Presbytery website. Liaisons will work on planning the ordination exams with the candidates. Taking these exams can be spread out over the Candidacy stage. Katherine may apply to become a Candidate whenever she feels ready; she needs to ask the Session of her home church to approve her application so it can be presented to Presbytery for approval. Forms will be available on the Presbytery web site. Stewart Smith offered a prayer for this relationship.

Molly DeWitt

Molly has found an advocate at her seminary to see that she is able to have the courses she needs for ordination. She is now placed as a pastoral intern at a small church with an older membership, a change from the youth emphasis she has had working in a camp situation. She is looking at a CPE internship as the next stage in her preparation. She is currently on a three-year program. She is having to be creative in planning for her language courses. She has not yet talked with her liaison about applying for candidacy and planning for her ordination exams. The camp where she is employed is actively working to build bridges to churches who disagree with the denomination. The process for becoming a Candidate was explained to Molly. She indicated that she is weak in Bible knowledge and will need to work very hard to pass the ordination exams. Molly may apply to become a Candidate whenever she feels ready; she needs to ask the Session of her home church to approve her application so it can be presented to Presbytery for approval. Forms will be available on the Presbytery web site. Debbie Freeman offered a prayer for this relationship.

Brittany Fiscus-van Rossum

Brittany has completed four of her ordination exams and needs to pass Bible Content. She is entering her last year of seminary at Columbia and will be doing an internship in CPE. She should meet all requirements for ordination by the end of the school year. As soon as she passes Bible Content, she hopes to start looking for a church. There is a possibility of continuing at the church where she is doing supervised ministry which serves the homeless, but she would also like to explore other possibilities. It was noted that she does not have to appear before Presbytery when she is approved to receive a call. When she receives a call, she will be examined by the Presbytery where the call is issued. It was recommended that she begin work on her PIF so that she can seek a call as soon as she completes ordination requirements.

Krista Denne

Krista has completed two of her ordination exams. She will complete her required seminary classes in January but does plan to take additional classes the next semester. She has been working as an Intern at First Presbyterian in Clarksville and would consider staying there if possible. She would also consider going overseas. It was noted that she does not have to appear before Presbytery when she is approved to receive a call. When she receives a call, she will be examined by the Presbytery where the call is issued. It was recommended that she begin work on her PIF so that she can seek a call as soon as she completes ordination requirements.

For Action:

1. That Jordan Akin (Second, LR) be enrolled as an Inquirer.
2. That Stacy Hammons (Second, LR) be enrolled as an Inquirer.
3. That David Mills (Second, LR) be enrolled as an Inquirer.
4. That Max Hill (Second, LR) be enrolled as an Inquirer.

Section G

Report of the Committee on Nominations

TE Elizabeth Gabbard
First, Arkadelphia

For Information:

The form to self-nominate or nominate someone from your congregation is in packet Section M (Forms and Registration Documents).

For Action:

1. The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following persons for a two-year term, Class of 2018
 - a. Coordinating Team (at-large members):
 - i. TE Ruskin Falls, Pulaski Heights, Little Rock
 - ii. TE Mike McCracken, Wynne Presbyterian
 - b. Commissioner to Synod of the Sun:
 - i. RE Emily Laurel, First, Benton
 - c. Committee on Representation:
 - i. RE Ledridge Davis, First, Malvern
 - ii. RE Jeannie Maples, First, Harrison
 - iii. RE Barry Matthews, First, Jacksonville
 - iv. Ms. Yuri Hernandez, Barr Memorial, Norman
 - d. General Assembly Young Adult Advisory Delegate
 - i. Ms. Emma Gillaspay, First, Conway/Lyon College

2. The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following persons for three-year terms, Class of 2019:
 - a. Stated Clerk:
 - i. TE Robert Lowry, at-large
 - b. Counselor-at-law:
 - i. RE Ed McCorkle, First, Arkadelphia
 - c. Committee on Administration:
 - i. TE Catherine Allsbury, HR, Second, Little Rock
 - ii. TE David Dyer, HR, Westminster, Little Rock
 - d. Committee on the Church and Its Ministries:
 - i. TE Phil Butin, First United, Fayetteville
 - ii. RE Don Eilbott, Trinity, Little Rock

- iii. RE Sue Johnston, First, Batesville
 - iv. RE Jim Pedersen, First, Rogers
 - e. Committee on the Church and Its Mission:
 - i. TE Paul Fulks, First, Heber Springs
 - ii. RE Kelly Pearson, First, Dardanelle
 - iii. RE Marty Shepherd, First, Dardanelle
 - f. Committee on Leadership Development:
 - i. TE Kade Curry, First, Searcy
 - ii. RE Mike Easley, Graham Memorial, Forrest City
 - iii. TE Debra Carl Freeman, First, Jacksonville
 - g. Committee on the Future of the Church:
 - i. TE Phil Blackburn, First, Fort Smith
 - ii. TE Brian Brock, Central, Russellville
 - iii. TE Steven Frazier, First, Morrilton
 - iv. TE Marie Mainard O'Connell, at-large
 - h. Committee on Youth, Campus, and Young Adults:
 - i. RE Justin Clark, First, North Little Rock
 - ii. Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Wynne Presbyterian
 - iii. Ms. Carolyn Ward, First, Batesville/Lyon College
 - i. Subcommittee on Disaster Preparedness
 - i. TE Ira "Ike" Brighton, HR, at-large
 - ii. RE Betty Powell, Park Hill, North Little Rock
 - iii. TE David Schaller, Faith, Horseshoe Bend
 - j. Readers of Theological Exams:
 - i. TE Steve Hancock, Second, Little Rock
 - ii. RE Sherry Miller, First, Hot Springs
 - iii. RE Wendell Phillips, Park Hill, North Little Rock
 - iv. TE Ward Rudolph, at-large
 - k. Alternate Reader of Theological Exams:
 - i. TE Katie Cummings, First, Bentonville
- 3. The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following for one-year terms in Class of 2017:
 - a. RE Jan Enke, First, Van Buren, moderator, Committee on Administration
 - b. TE Dari Rowen, First, Benton, moderator, Committee on Church and Its Ministries
 - c. RE Kelly Pearson, First, Dardanelle, moderator, Committee on Church and Its Missio
 - d. TE Kade Curry, First, Searcy, moderator, Committee on Leadership Development
 - e. RE Ledridge Davis, First, Malvern, moderator, Committee on Representation
 - f. RE Leah Shell, Second, Little Rock, moderator, Committee on the Future of the Church

- g. RE Krista Denne', First, Clarksville, moderator, Committee on Youth, Campus and Young Adult
- h. TE Lacy Sellars, First, Hot Springs, moderator, Coordinating Tea
- i. TE Ira (Ike) Brighton, HR, at-large, moderator, Disaster Preparedness Subcommittee
- j. RE Ruth Hamilton, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village, moderator, Presbytery of Arkansas

Section H

Report of the Future of the Church Committee

RE Leah Shell
Second, Little Rock

For Information:

The Future of the Church committee met twice since the last Presbytery meeting. The first meeting was on June 9, 2016 while the second meeting occurred on August 11, 2016. A summary of both meetings is noted below.

- Peg Falls-Corbitt and Ted Belden serve on the Coordinating Team as representatives for the Future of the Church. Ted Belden will serve for two years on this committee while Peg Falls-Corbitt will roll off the Coordinating Team at the end of 2016.
- During our August meeting a discussion of current and anticipated budget constraints was led by Stewart Smith. A motion was made and seconded to reduce portion of the 2017 FOTC budget by \$15,000. The committee will work on allocation of the anticipated budget during our retreat on the 18th and 19th of November in Russellville, AR.
- **Property:** Melanie Gibson, the listing agent for the Chenal Property reports interest from a developer for the possible use as a site for senior living community. A formal offer has not been submitted. Ted Belden is arranging to have some preliminary engineering work done to aid with marketing efforts. An Administrative Commission was formed during the June Presbytery meeting for the purpose of marketing and selling the Crossover Property. Ted Belden and Leah Shell are the representatives from FOTC for this Commission. The Commission has met via two conference calls and an appraisal of the Crossover Property was ordered and prepared. The Commission is in the process of listing this property.
- We are working on a celebration of life of the Gravette Church.
- **Technology:** Stewart Smith has encouraged our committee to look outside the Presbytery for answers to some of our technology needs. A discussion of virtual meeting platforms was discussed.
- **Community Resourcing:** Brian Brock continues to work with the Van Buren Church to look for ways to fund the needed repairs to their building. He has reached out to others within this committee for aid. We are continuing to work on developing new policies for grant request and procedures for awarding funds to congregations.

- **Visioning and Vitality:** A motion was made and seconded to fund a portion of the Food with Family Program at the Argenta Church. A motion was made and seconded to fund 12 weeks at \$125 per week plus the salary for the intern. The total voted to be paid from Small Church Miscellaneous – Account 7500-28-1-000 is \$2460. We continue to reach out to the churches that the FOTC helps support yearly to find out if the level of support is needed and what the funds will be used for in the future.
- **New Worshipping Communities:** Marie Mainard O’Connell gave us a report on the Mercy Church, a congregation whose focus is the homeless population in downtown Little Rock. She also gave us a report on the Walnut Grove Church. The former intern from United Campus Ministries is now attending Seminary and is no longer involved with this congregation. A motion was made and seconded to **approve UCM’s adding liability-only insurance for Walnut Grove to the UCM policy, to be paid for through UCM’s grant funding. Motion was seconded and passed.**
- **Visioning:** The First Presbyterian Church in Beebe has approach the FOTC. They desire some help with some steps their congregation can make. Mike Vinson, who serves as the Staff Liaison from the Presbytery for the FOTC expressed a desire to work on visioning projects within the Presbytery.
- Members of the Future of the Church continue serving on several Administrative Commissions. These include Lonoke, Rogers and Ozark.
- The FOTC has scheduled a retreat on the 18th and 19th of November in Russellville Arkansas.

Section J

Report of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area

RE Kelly Pearson
CRE First, Dardanelle

For Information:

- A letter from Journey into Hope

To: Committee on Mission Presbytery of Arkansas

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

Members and a friend of Faith Presbyterian Church, Horseshoe Bend, Arkansas, have recently completed our third mission trip to the Dominican Republic in July and August of 2016, to work with Journey into Hope.

Journey into Hope is a mission that works with Haitians in the town of Sabaneta de Yasica, Dominican Republic. Haitians in the DR are the “poorest of the poor” in our hemisphere. The mission includes community nutrition support through a soup kitchen (serving up to 60 children per day), spiritual support through the New Life Christian Church, basic medical service through an on-site clinic (when medical staff are available), housing support through several residences, job training, education support through scholarship and uniform assistance for kindergarten through medical & nursing school students, assistance in securing passports and work documents, and general encouragement and support.

Journey into Hope, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) private charitable foundation, dedicated to serving the desperately poor in Latin America and the Caribbean. Richard Taylor, the foundation's director, is a professional luthier (guitar builder). Several years ago he accompanied a medical mission team to Sabaneta, DR as a translator, where he was introduced to a small community of Haitians. That meeting turned into a calling.

Haiti and the Dominican Republic share the Caribbean island of Hispanola. But since Haiti was formed in 1804 following a slave revolt, the relationship between the two sides of the island have been rocky. Haitian agricultural workers have been brought into the DR since the early 20th century. Many Haitians in the DR today are descendants of those early sugar cane workers. But according to new laws in the DR, they do not qualify for citizenship, either in the Dominican or Haiti.

Journey into Hope has worked closely with a private elementary school in the neighborhood for several years. In 2014 JIH constructed a building for the school on their compound. Intentionally bi-racial and bi-cultural, the school is heavily subsidized by scholarships, in an effort to raise a generation of

Haitian and Dominican children who can live and work comfortably together.

Faith Presbyterian, along with several other congregations of various denominations around the country, has been instrumental in the construction of residences, a soup kitchen, the church, clinic and school, both through the donation of funds, and on-site work over the past several years. In 2016 this small congregation in north central Arkansas raised over \$7000 toward an addition to the elementary school building. Along with a \$2000 contribution from the Presbytery of Arkansas, this was enough to construct the addition, as well as security walls around the compound. Our team of five had the privilege of putting the finishing touches on the school addition, allowing an expansion to 150 students.

Please visit www.journeyintoahope.org or Journey into Hope on Facebook for a more close-up and personal view of the work of this ministry.

*In Christ,
Faith Presbyterian Church
David Schaller, Pastor Horseshoe Bend, AR
870.750.0028*

- Since the presbytery meeting in June, the Church and Its Mission ministry-area has met twice to allocate missional funds and provide educational opportunities.
- The P.L.A.C.E. was held on August 6th, making this the third consecutive annual venue in our presbytery. Our gracious thanks are given to Christian Educator Kristi Button, of FUPC-Fayetteville, who was this year's coordinator. A task-force has been established to ascertain options on how to provide an *en masse* venue(s) for Christian education, spiritual development, and/or evangelistic skills/tools in 2017.
- The mission of the presbytery has included the Disaster and Response Permanent Subcommittee sponsoring two mission work-weeks in McGehee to repair homes damaged from Spring flooding. One trip was in August and the other the first full week of October. Your presbytery made a grant for the initial trip of \$2,500 to assist in buying materials.
- Other grant recipients have or will include: Stop Hunger Now--\$2,000; The Food-pantry/meal ministry of FPC-Van Buren--\$1,000; Arkansas Interfaith--\$5,600(\$2,000 for 2015); Journey into Hope (Dominican Republic), mission-trip sponsored by Faith PC-Horseshoe Bend--\$2,000; the Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage--\$1,800 for two 4-day retreats; Vera Lloyd--\$2,520; Solar Under the Sun--\$2,500; Evergreen Ministries Flood-damage repairs--\$1,000; and, FPC-McGehee's backpack ministry--\$1,500.
- The ministry-area made the decision in July to trim its 2017 budget request by 17%, to then approve the budget-lines in its September meeting to equal the \$70,000 figure. Believing that most ministry-areas will face major cuts, the Church and Its Mission ministry-area anticipates

a significant reduction in outgoing grants even for this year.

- Though committed to reducing expenditures, monies remain for which we encourage interested congregations to apply, especially for these two purposes:
 - Because expenditures for evangelism have not been made this year, grant-requests will be considered for up to \$500 to help five churches needing assistance with an evangelism-endeavor, such as: improving signage, updating or creating a website, running newspaper or other media advertisements; and,
 - The notice again is being announced for grant-requests from congregations having or wanting to do ministries for the vulnerable, “*especially among the very young and very old.*”
 - A grant request, along with ministry explanations/purpose, participant numbers, and/or specific planned use(s) of the grant money, may be sent to the email of Moderator Kelly Pearson: ktpearson@suddenlink.net.
- It is anticipated that at our presbytery meetings next year we shall have reports from officials of Arkansas Interfaith and Vera Lloyd, that we may stay current on these ministries in our state which the presbytery supports.
- Trusting that the oversight of donations given by the presbytery’s churches and allocated for the purposes of Christian Education and Mission of the Church are being administered with diligent stewardship, we solicit not only the continuation of faithful financial giving but prayers. We give thanks to God for those who volunteer to be traveling agents of God’s love to places like McGehee, Honduras, south Louisiana, and the Dominican Republic. As well, we give thanks for the witness of Christ through the entities and partnerships hereto unnoted: the Arkansas Black Presbyterian Caucus, Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center, and the Presbyterian Women.

Section K

Subcommittee on Disaster Preparedness

For Information:

March 10, 2016, McGehee, AR received over 15 ½” rain in a very short time. As you may know, there is nothing but flat land in McGehee, AR; and the rain drenched the first floor of a lot of houses. Very few people in the flooded area had flood insurance.

About 32 houses came to the attention of the McGehee Disaster Recovery Committee (a committee appointed by the mayor of McGehee). With United Methodist Church layperson Gen. Wesley Jacobs in charge, the committee has used a case management process to determine needs not met by insurance or other personal resources. The committee is using volunteer work teams to meet needs that the homeowners themselves cannot meet: restoring flooring, insulation, dry wall, and paint in the houses.

The Presbytery of AR, led by Susie Wright, organized two mission trips, Aug. 8-12 and Oct. 3-7, to help with repairs. The first week, 24 people from 6 different churches collaborated to restore 4 houses and to offer emotional and spiritual care to the homeowners. Oct. 3-7, 16 people from 3 different churches worked on 3 more houses in McGehee. Thanks to donations from AR churches, the DPRS was able to contribute \$5,000 toward a materials fund. According to Gen. Jacobs, community recovery could be finished by winter. A mission trip report is attached.

On August 6, 2016, at the P.L.A.C.E., the DPRS brought Heath Whorton, the Director of Emergency Management at AR Tech University, to lead two workshops on dealing with an active shooter situation. About 40 people attended.

The committee is working on a committee protocol for response to low-impact events within the presbytery and on a disaster response protocol for congregations.

The DPRS has provided \$1,500 in support of Katie McGee, the PDA Young Adult Volunteer at Ferncliff for 2016-17, and \$1,500 to help Ferncliff purchase 10 emergency radios for use on campus. The radios have already proven to be valuable.

On Oct. 26, in a PDA-led training at Ferncliff, three Presbyterian women from the Presbytery of AR will be trained as congregational preparedness trainers. The DPRS wants to know that each congregation is prepared for the worst. Please tell us who your disaster contact will be.

Thank you for your support of disaster preparedness and response in AR.

Section L

Theological Discussion on the Lord's Supper

It is the policy of our presbytery that stated meetings “regularly include in their order of business an adequate block of time for a presentation, discussion, and/or debate of a theological nature regarding some matter of ecclesial, confessional, doctrinal, moral, political, spiritual, or otherwise theological importance to our life, thought, and work together as Christians and as Presbyterians.”

Among the amendments to the Book of Order proposed by the 222nd General Assembly (2016), is the following:

16-G. Access to the Lord's Table On Amending W-2.4011a. and b.

Our presbytery will be voting on this amendment at its February meeting. We are taking it up as a topic for theological discussion ahead of time, in order to allow and invite a wider sharing of insights into and consideration of the issues involved, than we'll have time and opportunity for, when the matter is debated in February.

This proposed amendment would strike and replace two paragraphs in the current Book of Order pertaining to the invitation to the Lord's Supper in member congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). *The central change would be to no longer make baptism a requirement for admission to the table.*

In the present Book of Order, *W-2.4011* reads as follows:

(Who May Receive)

- a. The invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended to all who have been baptized, remembering that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. In preparing to receive Christ in this Sacrament, the believer is to confess sin and brokenness, to seek reconciliation with God and neighbor, and to trust in Jesus Christ for cleansing and renewal. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may come to the Table in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Christ Jesus.

(Baptized Children)

- b. Baptized children who are being nurtured and instructed in the significance of the invitation to the Table and the meaning of their response are invited to receive the Lord's Supper, recognizing that their understanding of participation will vary according to their maturity. (W-4.2002)

The proposed replacement for that wording reads as follows:

(Theology of the Lord's Supper)

- a. The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding. If some of those who come have not yet been baptized, an invitation to baptismal preparation and Baptism should be graciously extended. Worshipers prepare themselves to celebrate the Lord's Supper by putting their trust in Christ, confessing their sin, and seeking reconciliation with God and one another. Even those who doubt may come to the table in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

(Welcoming to the Table)

- b. In cases where baptized children who have not yet begun to participate in the Lord's Supper express a desire to receive the Sacrament, the session should provide an occasion to welcome them to the table in public worship. Their introduction to the Lord's Supper should include ongoing instruction or formation in the meaning and mystery of the Sacraments.

Again, we will not be voting on this amendment at the October meeting. Rather, in advance of and in preparation for the vote to be taken in February, we are offering an open forum for discussing important issues concerning the Lord's Supper, and for voicing personal hopes, concerns, and views regarding these issues. We trust that YOU will be moved to participate!

Section M

Polity Committee

For Action:

NB: Business referred to the presbyteries by the General Assembly may not be amended. The referrals must be voted on as presented.

1. 16-A. Child and Youth Protection Policy On Amending G-3.0106

Shall the fourth paragraph of G-3.0106 of the Form of Government be amended as follows? [Text to be inserted is shown as italic.]

“All councils shall adopt and implement a sexual misconduct policy and a child and youth protection policy.”

Polity Committee Recommendation: Approve

2. 16-B. Parity in Committees On Amending G-3.0109

Shall the second paragraph of G-3.0109 of the Form of Government be amended as follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“A committee shall study and recommend action or carry out decisions already made by a council. It shall make a full report to the council that created it, and its recommendations shall require action by that body. Committees of councils higher than the session shall consist of both teaching elders and members of congregations, with at least one half being members of congregations in numbers as nearly equal as possible.”

Polity Committee Recommendation: Approve

3. 16-C.1. Ministers of the Word and Sacrament On Amending F-3.0202

Shall F-3.0202 be amended as follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“This church shall be governed by presbyters, that is, ruling elders and teaching elders (also called ministers of the Word and Sacrament). Ruling elders are so named not because they ‘lord it over’ the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure guide in its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Teaching elders Ministers of

the Word and Sacrament shall be committed in all their work to teaching the faith in word and in deed and equipping the people of God for their ministry and witness.”

Polity Committee Recommendation: Approve

4. 16-C.2. Ministers of the Word and Sacrament On Amending G-2.0102

Shall the third paragraph of G-2.0102 be amended as follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“Ordination to the ministry of ~~teaching elder, ruling elder, or~~ *deacon, ruling elder, or minister of Word and Sacrament (also called teaching elder)* is unique to that order of ministry.”

Polity Committee Recommendation: Approve

5. 16-C.3. Ministers of Word and Sacrament On Amending G-2.0301

Shall G-2.0301 be amended follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God’s Spirit and governance of God’s people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they ‘lord it over’ the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with ~~teaching elders~~ *ministers of the Word and Sacrament*, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. When elected by the congregation, they shall serve faithfully as members of the session. When elected as commissioners to higher councils, ruling elders participate and vote with the same authority as ~~teaching elders~~ *ministers of the Word and Sacrament*, and they are eligible for any office.”

Polity Committee Recommendation: Approve

6. 16-C.4. Ministers of the Word and Sacrament On Amending G-2.05 and G-2.0501

Shall G-2.05 and G-2.0501 be amended as follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with a strikethrough; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“G-2.05 ~~Teaching Elders~~ *Ministers of the Word and Sacrament*: The Ministry of ~~the Word and Sacrament~~ *Teaching and Pastoral Care*

“G-2.0501 ~~Teaching Elder~~ *Minister of the Word and Sacrament* Defined “~~Teaching elders (also called ministers of the Word and Sacrament)~~ *Ministers of the Word and Sacrament (also called teaching elders and pastors)* shall in all things be committed to teaching the faith in word and deed and equipping the saints for the work of ministry (Eph. 4:12). They may serve in a variety of ministries as authorized by the presbytery. When they serve as preachers and teachers of the Word, they shall preach and teach the faith of the church, so that the people are shaped by the pattern of the gospel and strengthened for witness and service. When they serve at font and table, they shall interpret *and ‘show forth’* the mysteries of grace ~~and lift in word and action, lifting~~ the people’s vision toward the hope of God’s new creation. When they serve as pastors, they shall support the people in the disciplines of the faith amid the struggles of daily life. When they serve as presbyters, they shall participate in the responsibilities of governance, seeking always to discern the mind of Christ and to build up Christ’s body through devotion, debate, and decision.”

Polity Committee Recommendation: Approve

7. 16-C.5. Ministers of the Word and Sacrament On Amending G-2.0701

Shall G-2.0701 be amended as follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with a strikethrough; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“Ordination to the ordered ministry of ~~teaching elder~~ *minister of Word and Sacrament* is an act of the whole church carried out by the presbytery, setting apart a person to ordered ministry. Such a person shall have fulfilled the ordination requirements of the presbytery of care and received the call of God to service to a congregation or other work in the mission of the church that is acceptable to the candidate and to the presbytery of call.”

Polity Committee Recommendation: Approve

8. 16-C.6. Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Commissioned Pastors On Amending G-3.0307

Shall the second paragraph of G-3.0307 be amended as follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“G-3.0307 Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor to ~~Teaching Elders~~ *Its Pastors* and Congregations “Presbyteries shall be open at all times to communication regarding the life and ministry of their congregations.

“Each presbytery shall develop and maintain mechanisms and processes to serve as pastor and counselor to ~~teaching elders~~ *its pastors, both ministers of Word and Sacrament and ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service (also called commissioned pastors (also known as commissioned ruling elders))*, as well as the and certified Christian educators of the presbytery; to facilitate the relations between the presbytery and its congregations, ~~teaching elders, ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service, pastors~~ and certified Christian educators; and to settle difficulties on behalf of the presbytery where possible and expedient.”

Polity Committee Recommendation: Approve

9. 16-C.7. Minister of the Word and Sacrament and Commissioned Pastor On Amending the Directory for Worship and the Rules of Discipline

Shall the Directory for Worship and the Rules of Discipline be amended so that the terms “ruling elder commissioned to particular pastoral service” or “ruling elder commissioned to pastoral service” and “teaching elder” shall be replaced with its former terms, “*commissioned pastor (also known as commissioned ruling elder)*” or “*minister*” or “*minister of Word and Sacrament*”, respectively?

Polity Committee Recommendation: Approve

10. 16-C.8. Minister of the Word and Sacrament On Amending W-4.4001a

Shall W-4.4001a. be amended as follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“a. In ordination the church sets apart with prayer and the laying on of hands those who have been called through election by the church to serve as deacons, ruling elders, and teaching elders. (W-2.1005) In installation the church sets apart with prayer those previously ordained as deacons, ruling elders, and ~~teaching elders~~

ministers of Word and Sacrament (also called teaching elders), and called anew to service in that ministry.”

Polity Committee Recommendation: Approve

11. 16-D.1. On Amending G-2.0509 (Item 06-10, Recommendation 1)

Shall the fourth paragraph of G-2.0509 be amended as follows: [Text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“Whenever a former teaching elder has renounced jurisdiction in the midst of a disciplinary proceeding as the accused, that former teaching elder shall not be permitted to perform any work, paid or volunteer, in any congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) unless and until the person rejoins the church, comes forward and resubmits to the disciplinary process.”

Polity Committee Recommendation: Approve

12. 16-D.2. On Amending D-10.0401

Shall D-10.0401 be amended by adding new section “d.” to read as follows: [Text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“d. For instances where a former teaching elder comes forward in self-accusation to undergo a disciplinary process to regain permission to perform work under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (G-2.0509), no time limit from the time of the commission of the alleged offense to the filing of charges shall apply. Charges based on all accusations that had been made by the time that the former teaching elder had renounced jurisdiction may be brought regardless of the date on which any such offense is alleged to have occurred.”

Polity Committee Recommendation: Approve

13. 16-E. Certified Service Requirements On Amending G-2.1101

Shall G-2.1101 be amended as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“Persons may be certified and called to service within congregations, councils, and church-related entities, serving in staff positions. These individuals endeavor to

reflect their faith through their work and to strengthen the church through their dedication. They should be encouraged by their session and presbytery to meet, or be prepared to meet, the certification requirements ~~in a handbook provided~~ of by of a national certifying body approved by the General Assembly. Names of those who have earned certification through a national certifying body shall be transmitted to the appropriate body of the General Assembly, which will forward them to the stated clerk of the presbyteries in which those persons labor.”

Polity Committee Recommendation: Approve

14. 16-F. The Ministry of Members On Amending G-1.0304

Shall G-1.0304 be amended as follows? [Text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“G-1.0304 The Ministry of Members “Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ’s mission. A faithful member bears witness to God’s love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ’s Church. Such involvement includes:

“proclaiming the good news in word and deed,
“taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,
“lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,
“studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,
“supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,
“demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,
“responding to God’s activity in the world through service to others,
“living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,
“working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,
“caring for God’s creation,
“participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and
“reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one’s membership, and considering ways in which one’s participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.”

Polity Committee Recommendation: Approve with comment

If approved the following correspondence will be sent to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly with the presbytery’s recorded vote:

*The Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson
Stated Clerk
Office of the General Assembly
Presbyterian Church (USA)
100 Witherspoon Street
Louisville, KY 40202*

Dear Dr. Nelson:

Grace, mercy, and peace to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

At its 133rd Stated Meeting, the Presbytery of Arkansas voted in favor of item 16-F (on amending G-1.0304) referred from the 222nd General Assembly. The presbytery instructed me to forward the following comment with our recorded vote.

The Presbytery of Arkansas applauds the General Assembly's attention to the importance of our Christian calling to be stewards of God's creation. While we concur that care for creation is an important part of faithful living, we are concerned that the addition of such specific language may leave the impression that the Ministry of Members is an exhaustive list of requirements of membership rather than a descriptive picture of faithful discipleship. We encourage future General Assemblies to proceed with care when considering amending G-1.0304.

On behalf of the Presbytery of Arkansas, I extend congratulations on your election as Stated Clerk. We join our brothers and sisters throughout the church in prayer for you and your ministry. We hope to welcome you to the Presbytery of Arkansas soon.

I am,

Yours in Christ,

*The Rev. Dr. Robert Wm Lowry
Stated Clerk*

For Information:

The Polity Committee recommends approval of items 16-G and 16-H. These items will be discussed and voted on at the 134th Stated Meeting in February 2017. All items of business can be found at:

http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/2016_proposed_boa.pdf

Section N

Forms and Registration Documents

INFORMATION FOR NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

2017

PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS

Each year the Presbytery Committee on Nominations invites you, the pastors and current members of all committees and Sessions, to provide names of qualified persons who will feel it is a privilege and joyous responsibility to serve on a presbytery committee. Thank you for your willingness to suggest these leaders to serve in 2017 through 2019 or fill vacancies as they arise.

Your Church and City/Town: _____

OFFICES, MINISTRY AREAS, AND COMMITTEES OF PRESBYTERY

Administration Ministry Area

Committee on Leadership Development (CLD) (Teaching and Ruling Elders Only)

Committee on the Church's Ministries (CCM) (Teaching and Ruling Elders Only)

Church and Its Mission Area

Sub-Committee of Disaster Preparedness

Moderator of Presbytery

Ministries with Youth, Campus, and Young Adults

Future of the Church Ministry Area

Committee on Representation (Teaching and Ruling Elders Only)

Permanent Judicial Commission (Teaching and Ruling Elders Only)

Nominating Committee (Teaching and Ruling Elders Only)

Please return to:

Presbytery of Arkansas

9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd.

Little Rock, AR 72227

Attention: Nominating Committee

Or Email: robert@presbyteryofarkansas.org

INDIVIDUALS RECOMMENDED

FOR PRESBYTERY MINISTRIES

Name: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home or Cell Phone: _____

Ruling Elder: (Yes)(No): _____ Gender: _____ E-mail address: _____

Committees for Consideration:

Comments:

Name: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home or Cell Phone: _____

Ruling Elder: (Yes)(No): _____ Gender: _____ E-mail address: _____

Committees for Consideration:

Comments:

COMMISSIONER TO SYNOD AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY (must be teaching or ruling elder)

Name: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home or Cell Phone: _____

Gender: _____ E-mail address: _____

Comments:

YOUTH ADVISORY DELEGATE TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Home or Cell Phone: _____ Gender: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Comments:

Sexual Misconduct Policy of the Presbytery of Arkansas

... tend the flock of God, that is your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it, not for sordid gain, but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock.

I Peter 5:2, 3 (NRSV)

I. Introduction

The Presbytery of Arkansas (“Presbytery”) believes and proclaims that all people are created by God who intends that everyone -- children, women, and men -- have worth and dignity in all relationships. Our sexuality is a gift from God and when rightly expressed leads to the wholeness of life which God intends for all people. In addition, the Presbytery desires to maintain the integrity of the Church at all times. The Presbytery also recognizes that sexual misconduct can have devastating effects on the victim, his or her family, the Church community at large, and all individuals involved. Therefore, the Presbytery adopts this Sexual Misconduct Policy (“Policy”), in accordance with G-3.0106 to present guidelines for responding to allegations of Sexual Misconduct.

II. Reporting of Sexual Misconduct

A.) When an Ecclesiastical Mandated Reporter has Reasonable Suspicion of Sexual Misconduct, a written report should be submitted to the Stated Clerk. If the Accused is the Stated Clerk, the written report should be submitted to the General Presbyter.

B.) The Stated Clerk (or General Presbyter) must then file a written report in accordance with the procedures outlined in the *Book of Order* D3.000 – D10.000 (ff), as amended from time to time, and notify the moderator of Committee on Ministry (“COM”). C.) Persons having ecclesiastical reporting responsibilities under this Policy may also have reporting requirements to secular authorities and must comply with all such requirements. Nothing in this document shall be construed to abrogate or modify the duty of any person under any law of the United States or the State of Arkansas.

III. Response Coordination Team

Whenever notification is made in accordance with II.B, the moderator of COM shall name a Response Coordination Team (“RCT”) to ensure a caring response is made to all impacted by the allegations of Sexual Misconduct. The RCT shall strive to extend to all such persons the love and care of Jesus Christ. Its responsibilities shall include but not be limited to a needs assessment and identification and coordination of resources.

A.) Each RCT shall be composed of three to five persons making all efforts to be diverse with respect to gender and ethnicity. The membership shall be comprised, to the extent possible, to reflect expertise and professional experience in the following areas:

- 1) Psychological counseling
- 2) Child advocacy
- 3) Conflict management and resolution

B.) The COM shall maintain a list of all those who meet the qualifications listed above and who are willing to serve as needed. Individuals shall be on the list no less than three (3) years in staggered terms. The moderator of the COM shall appoint a RCT from the list of qualified individuals within 10 days receipt of notification pursuant to II.B. The RCT shall elect its own moderator, and the administrative costs shall be borne by the Presbytery.

C.) The task of each RCT shall be to ensure, as much as possible, the competent pastoral care of all persons impacted by an allegation of Sexual Misconduct as described in *Section IV Meeting the Needs of All Involved*.

D.) Each RCT on its own initiative and in its own judgment will decide when the need for care is ended. The RCT will inform the COM if the need for care extends beyond twelve (12) months. The RCT shall prepare a summary report of its actions and submit to the Stated Clerk.

IV. Meeting the Needs of All Involved

When there are allegations of Sexual Misconduct, there are needs that have to be met for the good of all persons, groups, and entities. The RCT will not investigate the allegation or in any way function as an investigating committee for disciplining an Accused, but should confine itself to coordinating a process that will meet the specific needs of Victims and their families (if any), the Accused and family (if any), employing entities, congregations, and councils:

A. The Needs of the Victim

The RCT should assure that adequate treatment and care are available for the Victim and the Victim's family. Sometimes, the Victim or family is so angry and alienated from the church that offers of help may be perceived as insincere or as attempts of a cover-up. If the Victim or family at first refuses, the RCT should continue to offer help.

The extent of the damage to Victim will vary from person to person and is influenced by such factors as the degree or severity of abuse, the age and emotional condition of the Victim, human dynamics, and the importance of the Victim's religious faith. The RCT is to assume in all cases that the Victim has been wounded by the experience.

Feelings of guilt, shame, anger, mistrust, lowered self-esteem, unworthiness, and feelings of alienation from God, self, the religious community, and family are frequent injuries suffered by a Victim. It is important for the RCT to be sensitive to the Victim's pain and need for healing and to act by making appropriate pastoral care available.

The following may be needs of the Victim:

1. To be heard and taken seriously.

From the time that Reasonable Suspicion exists, the Victim should receive immediate attention and serious consideration from all church representatives.

2. To receive pastoral and therapeutic support.

The Victim may require spiritual and professional assistance as a result of Sexual Misconduct. The RCT should offer to help arrange for such support from a teaching elder and/or therapist, if the Victim desires. Discussions with such people would be confidential, privileged conversations.

3. To be informed about church process and progress with regard to the accusation.

One member of the RCT should be the church contact person for the Victim. Frequently, this contact person will give the victim information as to what is happening in the church as a result of the allegation of Sexual Misconduct and disclose the progress of the discipline process to the extent possible.

B. The Needs of the Accuser

Attention should also be paid to the needs of the Accuser by applying the steps listed above as needed.

C. The Needs of the Accused

The RCT shall offer treatment and care for the Accused and the Accused's family as well as the Victim and the Victim's family. Feelings of guilt, shame, anger, mistrust, lowered self-esteem, depression, unworthiness, and feelings of alienation from God, self, the religious community, and family are often experienced by the Accused. In addition, there may be fear of job loss, incarceration, and indignation if an allegation is false.

When a person is found not guilty of charges of Sexual Misconduct, it is important for the RCT to see as widely as possible within their power that the decision is disseminated unless doing so would further injure the Accused.

1. Personal Care

Whether the allegations about the Accused are eventually found to be true or not, the Accused deserves to be treated with Christian kindness and respect. The RCT may suggest that the Accused seek spiritual support or professional counseling. People in staff positions should not engage in personal counseling of the Accused because of their potential involvement in the disciplinary process.

2. Economic Security and Care for the Family of Accused

When an allegation of Sexual Misconduct has been made, the economic security of the Accused is directly threatened, along with reputation, career, and family relationships. The Committee on Ministry can be of assistance. The RCT may alert the Committee on Ministry to the possible spiritual, emotional, and financial needs of the family of the Accused and recommend expert resources.

D. The Needs of a Congregation or Employing Entity in a Context of Sexual Misconduct

The RCT should be aware of the problems a congregation or employing entity may experience following allegations of Sexual Misconduct. The allegations may polarize the congregation or employing entity, damage morale, create serious internal problems, and even limit the trust a congregation may place in succeeding teaching elders. Efforts should be taken to recognize and identify the problems and heal any damage that may be done to the congregation or employing entity.

1. Pastoral Care

Members and staff of the congregation will need pastoral care. The teaching elder of the congregation, if not previously trained in this specialty area, should consult with denominational specialists who will advise how to proceed and any anticipated problems. The RCT should provide information regarding appropriate denominational specialists to all teaching elder(s) of the congregation except any teaching elder who is an Accused.

2. Information About the Case

Members of the congregation may need opportunities both to receive and give information, and the RCT should facilitate such opportunities. Such opportunities may include appropriate meetings with individuals, small groups, or with the whole congregation. Such meetings should provide information about Sexual Misconduct in general, Presbyterian polity and judicial processes, and how others who may have been victimized may be heard and ministered to. A teaching elder may perform these functions as long as that teaching elder is not the Accused. At such meetings, one may expect members to vent their feelings. An opportunity for this to happen should be provided. If this venting does not take place, then it may create serious problems for the future of the congregation, for future teaching elders, and for the council.

3. Resource Persons

In light of the above needs, the RCT may recommend persons whose services would be valuable to a congregation in the context of Sexual Misconduct: a trained interim pastor, a Committee on Ministry representative knowledgeable in polity and the effects of Sexual Misconduct in the church, and/or a consultant or therapist with knowledge and experience in dealing with Sexual Misconduct.

V. Risk Management

A. Insurance

The Presbytery shall regularly consult with its liability insurance carriers about coverage for the activities and programs it operates or sponsors and the duties and responsibilities of officers, employees, and volunteers.

B. Employment Practices

1. Record Keeping

Accurate record keeping is an essential part of the hiring and supervision practices of churches, councils, and related entities. The Presbytery should maintain a personnel file on all Covered Persons. The file should contain employment questionnaires and criminal background checks.

2. Prescreening Applicants

The Presbytery shall establish thorough and consistent hiring practices. If an applicant is unknown to the Presbytery, the Presbytery should confirm the applicant's identity by requiring photographic identification such as a driver's license. The Council should perform a background check on all Covered Persons, including a national criminal background check. Part of pre-employment

screening should include specific questions related to discovering previous allegations of Sexual Misconduct.

3. References

The employing council or entity is responsible for contacting references for prospective teaching elders, employees, or volunteers. A written record of conversations or correspondence with references should be kept in the teaching elder's or employee's personnel file.

If false or misleading information is given by the applicant, or relevant information is withheld, the applicant should be eliminated from consideration.

Applicants should be informed of negative comments regarding Sexual Misconduct and shall be given an opportunity to submit additional references or to give other evidence to correct or respond to harmful information obtained from a reference.

The person within any council or entity authorized to give a reference for any person shall, if asked to give such a reference, give truthful and complete information regarding allegations, inquiries, and administrative or disciplinary action related to Sexual Misconduct of the applicant.

VI. Educating and Training—Awareness

The Presbytery shall appoint appropriate committees to regularly train and educate Covered Persons using educational materials or courses on preventing, identifying and responding to Sexual Misconduct.

Definitions

Accused

Covered Person against whom an allegation of Sexual Misconduct is made.

Accuser

Person claiming knowledge of sexual misconduct by a Covered Person.

Child Sexual Abuse

Any contact or interaction between a child (a person under the age of 18) and an adult when the child is being used for the sexual stimulation of the adult person or of a third person. The behavior may or may not involve touching. Such contact or interaction between a child and an adult is always considered to be Child Sexual Abuse regardless of whether consented to by the child or not.

Commissioned Ruling Elder

Ruling elder commissioned to limited pastoral service (G-2.1001)

Council

In this Policy, Presbytery serving as a corporate expression of the church within a certain district and composed of all the congregations and teaching elders within that district. (G-3.0301)

Covered Person

Any teaching elder, commissioned ruling elder, certified Christian educator, or Employee.

Ecclesiastical Mandated Reporter

All Covered Persons are designated by the Presbytery as Ecclesiastical Mandated Reporters.

Employee

Persons who are hired or called to work for salary or wages by the Presbytery.

Reasonable Suspicion

A subjective criterion that refers to a belief or opinion based on facts or circumstances that are sufficient to cause a prudent person to believe that an act of Sexual Misconduct may have been committed.

Response Coordination Team

A body constituted by the Presbytery to respond to the needs of persons impacted by allegations of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Harassment – Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or a condition of an individual's employment or their continued status in an institution;
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual or;
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance by creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

Sexual Misconduct

A comprehensive term used in this Policy with respect to the following actions by a Covered Person with respect to an individual with which such Covered Person has a professional, ministerial, or employment relationship:

1. Child Sexual Abuse, as defined above.
2. Sexual Harassment, as defined above.
3. Rape or sexual contact by force, threat, or intimidation.
4. Sexual conduct (such as offensive, obscene or suggestive language or behavior, unacceptable visual contact, unwelcome touching or fondling) that is injurious to the physical or emotional health of another.
5. Sexual Malfeasance, which is defined as sexual conduct within a ministerial, employment or professional relationship. Sexual Malfeasance includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. This definition is not meant to cover relationships between spouses, nor is it meant to restrict church professionals from having normal, social, intimate or marital relationships.
6. Sexual Abuse as defined in *Book of Order*, D-7.1100, as amended from time to time.

Teaching Elder

Minister of the Word and Sacrament (G-2.0501)

Victim

A person who is alleged to have been the object of Sexual Misconduct.

Sexual Misconduct Policy of the Presbytery of Arkansas

Acknowledgement of Receipt

I hereby acknowledge that I received on _____ (date) a copy of the “Sexual Misconduct Policy of the Presbytery of Arkansas.”

Signature

Printed Name

Date

Presbytery of Arkansas Background Check Policy

Adopted February 18, 2012

Who is included?

- All active members of the Presbytery of Arkansas and other teaching elders who are serving within the bounds of AR Presbytery with the exception of non-active honorably retired clergy.
- All persons seeking membership into the Presbytery of Arkansas. (Completion necessary before face-to-face with a nominating committee.)
- All paid staff members of the Presbytery of Arkansas
- It is incumbent on all member churches to follow prudent procedures with their own staff and for persons who work with youth and other vulnerable populations.

What is included?

- National and state criminal records including the sex offender registry.

What is the procedure?

- Current and prospective members of the presbytery are asked to complete a self-reporting form indicating any prior felony convictions and to give written permission to the presbytery to initiate the criminal background check process.
- All results of background checks will be sent to the General Presbyter or designated presbytery staff. If any irregularities appear, the GP will contact the Consultation Committee to determine if any further action is necessary. This Consultation Committee will ordinarily consist of the GP, the Stated Clerk and the Moderator of the Committee on Ministry. Care will be taken to assure fair representation. The GP and the Consultation Committee will make determination about the most appropriate pastoral response.
- Criminal background check records will be kept in a separate personnel file accessible only by the GP, the GP's designee and the Consultation Committee. Each individual upon whom a background check has been done will have access to his or her own background check results. Under normal circumstances, the presbytery office will only indicate that a background check has been done and a clearance has been given.
- Background checks are to be done on all members of the presbytery every five years.

What is the cost?

- Costs associated with the background check for current members of the presbytery will ordinarily be borne by congregations and costs for presbytery staff will be borne by the Presbytery of Arkansas.
- Costs associated with the background checks for incoming presbyters will be borne by the calling congregation.
- For initial and ongoing checks of presbytery members-at large or those in validated ministry, costs will be borne by the individual or the employing agency.

Refusal to give consent to run a background check will disqualify a person for consideration for membership in the Presbytery of Arkansas, or employment by the Presbytery of Arkansas.

**PRE-EMPLOYMENT AND CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT/VOLUNTEER DISCLOSURE
AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE**

I understand that in connection with my application for Employment, Volunteer Services, and/or Continuous Employment, and/or Volunteer Services the Presbytery of Arkansas, its consultant in, IntelliCorp, their agents or employees may be performing, requesting, obtaining or conducting a background check on me. This background check may include an inquiry into my Employment History, Education, General Character or Reputation, Work Experience, Volunteer Experience, Driving, and/or Criminal History. If my position involves handling money and/or having access to monies and/or other transferable monetary instruments, my Credit History may also be checked.

I understand that the Presbytery of Arkansas may rely on any part of all of this Information in determining whether to extend an offer of Employment / Volunteers' duties to me. I further understand that if any adverse action is taken by the Presbytery of Arkansas, or if the Presbytery of Arkansas chooses not to extend an offer of Employment / Volunteer duties to me based upon the Information, that I will be provided a copy of such Information along with a summary of my rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

I understand that the background check, which may be performed by Investigators, is being performed as part of the process to evaluate me prior to Employment / Volunteer assignments, and is not conducted for any purpose other than in connection with my Application for Employment, Volunteer status and/or my eligibility for Continued Employment / Volunteer Duties.

I have read this Pre-Employment and Continued Employment / Volunteer Disclosure and by signing below, hereby authorize Investigators to conduct a background check as described herein in conjunction with my application for employment/volunteer duties. I hereby release any and all Investigators, including the Presbytery of Arkansas, from any and all liability related to the procurement or disclosure of any information provided by me or obtained about me in connection with my Application with Employer / Organization to the Synod of the Sun and its affiliated churches, agencies and institutions. I further direct and authorize Investigators to conduct the background check and further authorize any third parties who may be the custodians of or in possession of the requested Information, to disclose such Information to Investigators in connection with this background check.

Although furnishing your Social Security Number is not optional, it shall be used for NO other purpose than to make the process for conducting a background search more accurate. It shall not be sold, or in any way transferred to a third party except for the express purpose of conducting the background check.

Applicant Signature	Date		
Printed Name (Complete name: First – Middle – Last)	Social Security Number		
Date of Birth	Former Last Name(s) <i>if applicable</i>		
Current Address:			
Street	City	State	Zip
Former Address:			
Street	City	State	Zip

Section P

Reference Documents and Reports



“Annual Enrollment ... This Means You!”

What? If you currently receive benefits from the Board of Pensions, and want to continue to receive these benefits in 2017, **you must select the benefits during Annual Enrollment.** Even if you are not making any changes, even if you have never done so before, and especially if you think the benefits offered by your church/ employing organization will be “automatic”!

Who? Annual Enrollment requires the action of **all plan members** - *including pastors!*

When? The Annual Enrollment period is **October 17 – November 11, 2016.**

How? Annual Enrollment is **only available online!** Use **Benefits Connect** https://benefitsconnect.pensions.org/_layouts/15/BenefitsConnect/Login.aspx on pensions.org to access and make your **benefits elections for 2017.**

Help? The **Annual Enrollment Guide** <http://bit.ly/2d8R9Ko> was sent to the current home address on file of every plan member.

It is highly recommended that members also prepare for enrollment by using the **Annual Enrollment E-learning Module** <http://pensions.adobeconnect.com/annualenrollment>

Additional, pertinent information is available on the **Board of Pensions home page** <http://www.pensions.org/Pages/default.aspx>

Finally, you always may consult **Member Services** at [1-800-773-7752](tel:1-800-773-7752).



Valerie L. Young
Stated Clerk &
Acting Synod Leader
valerie.young@synodsun.org

Reading 2015 Presbytery Minutes

October 6, 2016

To: Rev. Robert Lowry, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Arkansas
From: Valerie L. Young, Stated Clerk, Synod of the Sun

Earlier this year the Presbytery Stated Clerks within the Synod of the Sun began a process of reading 2015 Presbytery minutes. A Review Sheet for each Presbytery was submitted to the Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Sun and the results of this process for your Presbytery are set forth below.

PRESBYTERY: Arkansas

EXCEPTIONS:

- None Noted
- Recognizing transition of staff and minutes requirements.

COMMENTS:

- Very good minutes, and good work in pulling the October minutes together.
- It was noted on the Guideline that the Financial Audit report was not received in time to record in minutes but results are recorded in 2016 minutes. I did not include as an exception as presbytery has no control over outside auditors.
- Very well done, especially Child Safety Policy.

Reviewed by: Rev. Ruth Clendenin, Stated Clerk, Palo Duro Presbytery
Kay Long, Stated Clerk, Tres Rios Presbytery

Valerie Young
Acting Synod Leader
& Stated Clerk

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Session Minutes and Congregational Records

Reading Assignments 2016

Congregation	Reading	Reader
Alma, First	Van Buren	Van Buren
Amity, Alpine		Arkadelphia, First
Arkadelphia, First	Arkadelphia, West End Amity, Alpine	Arkadelphia, West End
Arkadelphia, West End	Arkadelphia, First	Arkadelphia, First
Atkins, Memorial		Central Russellville
Batesville, First	Jonesboro, First	Jonesboro, First
Beebe, First	Searcy, First	Searcy, First
Bella Vista, PC of	Bentonville, First	Bentonville, First
Benton, First	Malvern, First	Malvern, First
Bentonville, First	Bella Vista, First Bentonville, Vaughn	Bella Vista, First
Bentonville, Vaughn		Bentonville, First
Brinkley, First		Wynne
Bull Shoals, PC of	Holiday Island	Holiday Island
Cane Hill		FUPC
Clarksville, First	Central Russellville	Central Russellville
Clarksville, Harmony	Dardanelle, First	Dardanelle, First
Conway, First	Hopewell, First Heber Springs, First	Heber Springs, First
Dardanelle, First	Clarksville Harmony	Clarksville Harmony
Elkins		Rogers, First
Eureka Springs, First	Yellville, First	Yellville, First
Fairfield Bay, Kirk of the Hills	Morrilton, First	Morrilton, First
Fayetteville, First United	Cane Hill, Rogers First	Springdale, First
Fayetteville, Mt. Comfort	Lincoln, First	Lincoln, First
Forrest City, Graham Mem.	Wynne, Marianna	Wynne
Ft. Smith, Central	Ft. Smith, First	Ft. Smith, First
Ft. Smith, First	Central, Ft. Smith	Central, Ft. Smith
Gamaliel, One o One		Harrison, First
Gravette, First		Rogers, First
Greenwood, Good Shepherd	Mountainburg	Mountainburg

Gurdon, First		Malvern, First
Hardy, Spring River	Horseshoe Bend	Horseshoe Bend
Harrison, First	Mt. Home	Mt. Home
Heber Springs, First	Conway, First	Conway, First
Helena, First	Cleburne Ave.	Cleburne Ave.
Holiday Island	Bull Shoals	Bull Shoals
Holly Grove	Stuttgart	Stuttgart
Horseshoe Bend, Faith	Hardy, Spring River	Hardy, Spring River
Hot Springs, First	HSV, Kirk	Hot Springs, Westminster
Hot Springs, Westminster	Hot Springs, First	HSV, Kirk
Hot Springs Village, Kirk	Hot Springs, Westminster	Hot Springs, First
Huntsville, First	Pea Ridge	Pea Ridge
Jacksonville, First	Westminster, LR	Westminster, LR
Jonesboro, First	Batesville, First Paragould	Batesville, First
Lincoln, First	Fayetteville, Mt. Comfort	Fayetteville, Mt. Comfort
Little Rock, Allison	Westover, LR	Trinity, LR
Little Rock, First		Westover, LR
Little Rock, Grace	Pulaski Heights, LR	Second, LR
Little Rock, Pulaski Heights	Second, LR	Grace, LR
	Lonoke, First Trinity, LR Grace, LR	
Little Rock, Second		Pulaski Heights, LR
Little Rock, Trinity	Allison, LR	Second, LR
Little Rock, Westminster	Jacksonville, First	Jacksonville, First
Little Rock, Westover	First, LR	Allison, LR
Lonoke, First		Second, LR
	Benton, First Gurdon, First	
Malvern, First		Benton, First
		Graham Memorial, Forrest City
Marianna, First		
McGehee, First	Pine Bluff, Faith	Pine Bluff, Faith
Mena, First	Barr Memorial	Barr Memorial
Morrilton, First	Fairfield Bay, Kirk	Fairfield Bay, Kirk
Morrilton, Hopewell		Conway, First
Mountain Home, First	Harrison, First	Harrison, First
Mountainburg, First	Greenwood, Good Shepherd	Greenwood, Good Shepherd

Newport, First	Walnut Ridge, First	Walnut Ridge, First
Norman, Barr Memorial	Mena	Mena
NLR, First	Park Hill	Park Hill
NLR, Park Hill	NLR, First	NLR, First
Paragould, First		Jonesboro
Pea Ridge, Mt. Vernon	Huntsville, First	Huntsville, First
Pine Bluff, Central	Pine Bluff, First	Pine Bluff, First
Pine Bluff, Faith	McGehee	McGehee
Pine Bluff, First	Pine Bluff, Central	Pine Bluff, Central
Prairie Grove, First	Mt. Comfort, Fayetteville	Mt. Comfort, Fayetteville
Rogers, First	Elkins, Gravette, Springdale, First	FUPC
Russellville, Central	Memorial Atkins, Clarksville, First	Clarksville, First
Searcy, First	Beebe, First	Beebe, First
Springdale, First	FUPC	Rogers, First
Stuttgart, First	Holly Grove	Holly Grove
Van Buren, First	Alma	Alma
Walnut Ridge	Newport, First	Newport, First
West Helena, Cleburne Ave.	Helena, First	Helena, First
Wynne	Brinkley, First Graham Mem, Forrest City	Graham Mem, Forrest City
Yellville, First	Eureka Springs	Eureka Springs

Records Review Checklist

THE SESSION
Is each meeting opened & closed with prayer? (G-3.0105)
Is a quorum present for each meeting? (G-3.0203)
Did session hold stated meetings at least quarterly? (G-3.0203)
Is a budget prepared & adopted annually? (G-3.0205)
Are periodic reports of all financial transactions made to the session? (G-3.0205c)
Did session annually provide for a full financial review of all financial books & records? (G-3.0113)
Are commissioners to Presbytery elected for each meeting, or, preferably, for one year? (G-3.0202)
Did session receive reports from its commissioners of presbytery? (G-3.0202a)
Do the minutes reflect "a full & accurate record of its proceedings?" (G-3.0107)
Are rolls kept of baptized members, active members & affiliate members? (G-3.0204a)
Does the session have a Manual of Administrative Operations that addresses the following issues?(G-3.0106)
The definition of a quorum for Congregational Meetings? (G-1.0501)
Is the " <i>minimum notification</i> " for Congregational Meeting defined? (G-1.0502)
Is the length of the term of office for the Clerk of Session defined? (G-3.0104)
Is the length of the term of office for the Treasurer defined? (G-3.0205)
Is a procedure in place to assure that all offering shall be counted & recorded by at least two duly appointed persons or by one fidelity bonded person? (G-3.0205a)
Are the financial books & records open at reasonable times to all persons authorized by the session?(G-3.0205b)
Are committees of the session listed & their duties described along with who is eligible to serve, how many members are appointed & the length of service? (G-3.0109)
Does the session have a sexual misconduct policy? (G-3.0106)
Has the session taken actions consistent with G-3.0202b-f that will be for the good of the whole church? (G-3.0202)
THE CONGREGATION
Did the congregation hold an annual meeting, & was a quorum determined to be present? (G-1.0501)
Did the congregation provide for election of a Nominating Committee? (G-2.0401)
Did the congregation elect church officers? (G-2.0401)
Did the Session instruct, examine, ordain, & install officers? (G-2.0402)
Is the congregation incorporated? (G-4.0101) If yes – date:
Who is designated as trustees of the Corporation? (G-4.0102) ___The Session ___A Separate Body
PRESBYTERY'S RECOMMENDATIONS
Are called & stated meetings of the session so indicated?
Are the minutes of session meetings signed by the Clerk of Session?
Do the minutes of session reflect the approval of the Annual Statistical Report?
Has the Session considered the Presbytery's Mission Askings?
Are called & annual meetings of the congregation so indicated?
Are the minutes of congregational meetings signed by the Secretary & the Moderator?
Is the name of the church on the front of the session records book?

Insurance Coverage

Mutual Company
Nonassessable Policy

CHURCH MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

3000 Schuster Lane, P.O. Box 357, Merrill, WI 54452

UMBRELLA LIABILITY POLICY DECLARATIONS PAGE EXCESS INSURANCE

POLICY NUMBER: 0082460-81-882118

ITEM 1. NAMED INSURED AND ADDRESS:

PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS
9221 N RODNEY PARHAM RD
LITTLE ROCK AR 72227-6201

ITEM 2. POLICY PERIOD: FROM 04/07/16 TO 04/07/17
12:01 A.M. STANDARD TIME AT YOUR ADDRESS SHOWN ABOVE.

0082460-81-791947
(RENEWAL OF)

ITEM 3. THE NAMED INSURED IS: DENOMINATIONAL OFFICE

ITEM 4. LIMITS OF INSURANCE:

GENERAL AGGREGATE LIMIT - (ANNUAL)	\$ 1,000,000
EACH OCCURRENCE LIMIT- (BODILY INJURY AND PROPERTY DAMAGE COMBINED) (ANNUAL)	\$ 1,000,000
PERSONAL AND ADVERTISING INJURY LIMIT - (COMBINED)	\$ 1,000,000
SELF-INSURED RETENTION (EACH OCCURRENCE OR OFFENSE NOT COVERED BY UNDERLYING INSURANCE)	\$ 10,000

ITEM 5. FORMS AND ENDORSEMENTS WHICH APPLY TO THIS POLICY:

UMB 8000(02-88)	MUTUAL POLICY CONDITIONS
UMB 8001(01-04)	UMBRELLA LIABILITY POLICY
UMB 8111(01-98)	EXCLUSION - PROPERTY DAMAGE LEGAL LIABILITY CHURCH SERVICES LOCATED AT 100 SOUTH GUTENSOHN ROAD, SPRINGDALE, AR.
UMB 8115(02-88)	NUCLEAR ENERGY LIABILITY EXCLUSION - BROAD FORM
UMB 8117(02-88)	ASBESTOS
UMB 8121(09-94)	EXCLUSION - LEAD LIABILITY
UMB 8124(01-15)	CAP ON LOSSES FROM CERTIFIED ACTS OF TERRORISM
UMB 8131AR(01-15)	AR EXCL OF PUN DAMAGES RELATED TO A CERT ACT OF TERROR
UMB 8133(05-03)	WAR LIABILITY EXCLUSION
UMB 8134(04-06)	FUNGI OR BACTERIA EXCLUSION
UMB 8138(01-15)	EXCL OF CERT NUC, BIO, CHEM, RAD ACTS OF TERROR; CAP
UMB 8203(02-88)	COUNSELING PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY
UMB 8204(02-88)	EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY - FOLLOWING FORM
UMB 8208(02-88)	UNINSURED/UNDERINSURED MOTORIST
UMB 8210(03-03)	ACQUIRED AUTOMOBILES ENDORSEMENT
UMB 8214(12-06)	AMENDATORY ENDORSEMENT - PERSONAL INJURY
UMB 8215(12-07)	BODILY INJURY DEFINITION
UMB 8216(12-07)	CORPORATE ENTITY ENDORSEMENT
UMB 8512(09-11)	AMENDATORY ENDORSEMENT - ARKANSAS
UN 914(01-15)	NOTICE - DISCLOSURE OF TERRORISM PREMIUM



UMB D (09-99)

1

ISSUED DATE: 03/03/16

POLICY NO.: 0082460-81-882118

ITEM 6. SCHEDULE OF UNDERLYING INSURANCE (SEE ATTACHED SCHEDULE):

ITEM 7. PREMIUM: IN RETURN FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PREMIUM, AND SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS IN THIS POLICY, WE AGREE WITH YOU TO PROVIDE THE INSURANCE AS STATED IN THIS POLICY.

\$500.00 DUE AT INCEPTION

**** SUMMARY OF ADDITIONAL CHARGES (INCLUDED IN ANNUAL PREMIUM) ****

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE: \$.00 ANNUAL CHARGE

ITEM 8. AGENT: 11-067
BRADLEY CATES
SOUTHERN DIVISION
CHURCH MUTUAL INS CO
3000 SCHUSTER LN
MERRILL, WI 54452
(800) 554-2642

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UMB D (09-99)

2

ISSUED DATE: 03/03/16

**CHURCH MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY
 UMBRELLA LIABILITY POLICY
 SCHEDULE OF UNDERLYING INSURANCE**

POLICY NUMBER: 0082460-81-882118

<u>TYPE OF INSURANCE</u>	<u>LIMIT OF INSURANCE</u>
GENERAL LIABILITY	\$ 3,000,000 GENERAL AGGREGATE
	\$ 1,000,000 PRODUCTS/COMPLETED OPERATIONS AGGREGATE
	\$ 1,000,000 EACH OCCURRENCE (BODILY INJURY AND PROPERTY DAMAGE)
	\$ 1,000,000 PERSONAL AND ADVERTISING INJURY

COMPANY PROVIDING THE INSURANCE: CHURCH MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY
POLICY PERIOD: 04/07/15 TO 04/07/18

COUNSELING PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY	\$ 1,000,000 EACH CLAIM
	\$ 3,000,000 AGGREGATE

COMPANY PROVIDING THE INSURANCE: CHURCH MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY
POLICY PERIOD: 04/07/15 TO 04/07/18

HIRED AND NONOWNED AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY	\$ 1,000,000 EACH OCCURRENCE
	\$ 3,000,000 AGGREGATE

COMPANY PROVIDING THE INSURANCE: CHURCH MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY
POLICY PERIOD: 04/07/15 TO 04/07/18

WORKERS' COMPENSATION	STATUTORY EMPLOYERS LIABILITY
	\$ 500,000 BODILY INJURY BY ACCIDENT-EACH ACCIDENT
	\$ 500,000 BODILY INJURY BY DISEASE-EACH EMPLOYEE
	\$ 500,000 BODILY INJURY BY DISEASE-POLICY LIMIT

COMPANY PROVIDING THE INSURANCE: CHURCH MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY
POLICY PERIOD: 04/07/16 TO 04/07/17



POLICY NO.: 0082460-81-882118

AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY

\$ 1,000,000 EACH ACCIDENT OR LOSS

COMPANY PROVIDING THE INSURANCE: CHURCH MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY
POLICY PERIOD: 04/14/16 TO 04/14/17

UNINSURED MOTORIST

\$ 1,000,000 EACH ACCIDENT OR LOSS

COMPANY PROVIDING THE INSURANCE: CHURCH MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY
POLICY PERIOD: 04/14/16 TO 04/14/17

Prayer List for Congregations, Presbytery of Arkansas – 2017

Jan.	1	First, Clarksville	Park Hill, North Little Rock
Jan.	8	Mt. Vernon, Pea Ridge	First, Huntsville
Jan.	15	First, Benton	Active Ruling Elders
Jan.	22	University of the Ozarks, Clarksville	Faith, Horseshoe Bend
Jan.	29	First, McGehee	Inquirers and Candidates for Ministry
Feb.	5	First, Lincoln	First, Heber Springs
Feb.	12	Synod of the Sun	Church Musicians
Feb.	19	First, Jacksonville	Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Feb.	26	Woodlands, Hot Springs Village	Holiday Island Presbyterian
Mar.	5	Second, Little Rock	First, Yellville
Mar.	12	Directors of Children's Programs	First, Mena
Mar.	19	First United, Fayetteville	Lyon College, Batesville
Mar.	26	First, Harrison	First, North Little Rock
Apr.	2	Mt. Comfort, Fayetteville	First, Dardanelle
Apr.	9	Good Shepherd, Greenwood	Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista
Apr.	16	Central, Fort Smith	Active Deacons
Apr.	23	Alpine Church, Amity	Cleburne Avenue, West Helena
Apr.	30	First, Lonoke	Vaughn, Bentonville
May	7	First, Hot Springs	Ministries to Hispanic Persons
May	14	Westover Hills, Little Rock	Allison Memorial, Little Rock
May	21	Holly Grove Church, Holly Grove	First, Alma
May	28	Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village	First, Searcy
June	4	Mission Trip Participants	First, Fort Smith
June	11	Pulaski Heights, Little Rock	Harmony Church, Clarksville
June	18	New Worshipping Communities	First, Pine Bluff
June	25	Graham Memorial, Forrest City	Elkins Church, Elkins
July	2	Grace, Little Rock	First, Malvern
July	9	Barr Memorial, Norman	Hopewell Church, Morrilton
July	16	First, Mountain Home	First, Newport
July	23	First, Little Rock	Presbytery Staff
July	30	Trinity, Little Rock	Spring River, Hardy
Aug.	6	First, Bentonville	Westminster, Little Rock
Aug.	13	First, Conway	First, Prairie Grove
Aug.	20	First, Morrilton	First, Springdale
Aug.	27	Wynne Church, Wynne	Commissioned Ruling Elders
Sept.	3	Faith, Pine Bluff	First, Beebe
Sept.	10	Central, Pine Bluff	Church Camp Ministries
Sept.	17	First, Brinkley	First, Jonesboro
Sept.	24	First, Gurdon	Churches in Presbyteries in Honduras

Oct.	1	Cane Hill Church, Cane Hill	Active and Retired Educators and Youth Directors
Oct.	8	First, Van Buren	First, Batesville
Oct.	15	First, Eureka Springs	Central, Russellville
Oct.	22	First, Helena	West End, Arkadelphia
Oct.	29	Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals	First, Arkadelphia
Nov.	5	Campus Ministries	Hospital Chaplains and Counselors
Nov.	12	Church Nursery Workers	First, Rogers
Nov.	19	First, Marianna	Westminster, Hot Springs
Nov.	26	First, Paragould	Church Custodians
Dec.	3	Mountainburg Church, Mountainburg	Active and Retired Ministers
Dec.	10	Laotian Ministry, Fort Smith	First, Stuttgart
Dec.	17	Memorial Church, Atkins	First, Walnut Ridge
Dec.	24	Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay	One-O-One Church, Gamaliel;
Dec.	31	Church Pre-Schools	Prison Ministries

Section Q

Flyers and Announcements

In 2016 Arkansas Presbytery will give the Cents-Ability Offering as follows:

1/3 to Bar Memorial Presbyterian church in Norman to help with their Saturday morning breakfast and food program. This is one of the most depressed areas of our state. Each Saturday they feed up to 100 people a full hot breakfast plus give out bags of groceries to as many as 250 families.

1/3 to STOP HUNGER NOW for the **national** food program

1/3 to STOP HUNGER NOW for the **international** food program

The food packaging will be done by volunteers at Ferncliff. Stop Hunger Now is an international hunger relief non-profit organization that coordinates the packaging and distribution of food and other life-saving aid to people in developing nations.

If your church has a suggestion for the Cents-Ability offering for 2017, please send your suggestions to: Maryann Sweeney, 1 Bugle Lane, Bella Vista AR 72714.
Or email with subject line: Cents-Ability to jwsweeney@cox.net.

Working together we can make a difference. Just a few cents a day will help alleviate hunger. This is a churchwide offering, not just a PW one. Please do your part through your congregation and send your gifts to the Presbytery office.





CONTACT

Rev. Susan Rose
ucm_chaplain@yahoo.com

902 W. Maple Street
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Facebook: UCM at the UofA

Twitter: @ucmuofa

Instagram: @ucmuofa

Website: www.ucmuofa.org

Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter using the "contact us" tab on the website.



ABOUT US

Located at the **University of Arkansas**, UCM is an ecumenical campus ministry of the of the Presbyterian Church (USA), in partnership with First Christian Church in Fayetteville.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Monday: Fellowship Lunch 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Drop-in lunch between classes for all students and friends of the ministry.

Thursday: Dinner & Discussion 5:30 - 7:00 pm
A home cooked meal followed by discussion over a topic of students' choosing.

SUPPORT UCM

Visit the UCM website: www.ucmuofa.org and find the online giving form under the "support UCM" tab.



Austin Seminary Alumni & Friends Gathering

Gathering at Arkansas Presbytery
Friday, October 21, 2106
(When the presbytery meeting recesses for the day)

Please join us for a time of
fellowship, conversation &
Seminary news.

Brick Oven Pizza of Harrison

814 Highway 62-65 North | Harrison, AR 7260
870-741-0012

See you there!



Section R

Supplemental CCM Documents

A COVENANT Between a Session and a Ruling Elder To Commission or Recommission to Particular Pastoral Service

The Presbytery of Arkansas

This Covenant governs the relationship between the Session of the WEST END Presbyterian Church of ARKADELPHIA and Kenneth + Claire Rhoads Ruling Elders certified by the Committee on Ministry as eligible to serve as ~~a~~ Commissioned Ruling Elders. It establishes the guidelines related to the provision of pastoral services to the Church by the CRE. This relationship shall be effective from 1 January 2017 until 31 December 2019 (first time commissioning up to 12 months, recommissioning for up to 36 months), at which time it may be renewed with the concurrence of the CRE, the Church Session, and the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

It is understood that the Terms of Covenant will be in accord with the provisions found in the PCUSA Book of Order. There shall be an annual evaluation of the work of the CRE by the Session of the Church, along with an annual evaluation by the CRE Oversight Subcommittee of the Committee on Ministry. At that time this covenant may or may not be renewed at the discretion of the Session, the CRE, or the Committee on Ministry.

The CRE shall be provided 4 weeks vacation (including Sundays) annually (four weeks for full time CREs). The CRE shall also be provided two (2) weeks study leave (including Sundays) annually (for all CREs). The Session agrees to pay the CRE \$ 16,000- per year (or month) with a review of the compensation annually. In addition, the Session agrees to reimburse the CRE \$ 0.39 cents per mile for mileage driven to and from the Church and in the execution of other duties for the Church. The CRE is expected to fulfill the following agreed upon duties as initialed by both the Clerk of Session (as the designated representative of the Session) and the CRE.

Clerk	CRE	
_____	✓	Preach regularly on Sundays and at special services
_____	✓	Lead worship on Sundays and for special services
_____	✓	Officiate at funerals/memorial services as requested and as available
_____	✓	Moderate meetings of the Session
_____	✓	Administer the Sacraments (to this congregation only)
_____	✓	Provide pastoral care for the congregation
_____	✓	Make new member and evangelistic visits
_____	✓	Teach Elder training
_____	✓	Teach Confirmation classes
_____	✓	Teach a regular Bible Study class
_____	✓	Participate regularly in meetings of Presbytery
		Other duties as listed:

It is understood that the CRE will ordinarily work no more than 15 hours per week for the Church. If the CRE should exceed those hours in any given week, she/he is entitled to take compensatory time in one of the next few weeks. This time is to be negotiated between the Session and the CRE. If the work exceeds 20 hours per week the Session should strongly consider the possibility of providing Pension and Major Medical for the CRE.

Should the CRE be asked to move to the community in which the Church is located the Church shall provide full moving expenses and a housing allowance or manse.

Anneth Rhodes
Clare Rhodes
Commissioned Ruling Elder

9/24/16
9/24/16
Date

John A. Wright
Clerk of Session

9/27/16
Date

Date of initial commission Sept 2004
Number of Years of this Commission 12 years
Date this commission expires 31 Dec 2017

Approved by the Committee on Ministry _____
Date

Approved by the Presbytery of Arkansas _____
Date

A copy of this covenant should be kept by the church's session with additional copies being provided to the Commissioned Ruling Elder, the CRE Oversight Subcommittee, and the Presbytery office.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

200 North Second Street
Dardanelle, AR 72834

www.firstpresbyteriandardanelle.org

September 12, 2016

The Reverend Dari Rowen,
Moderator of the Committee on Church Ministries
Office of the Presbytery of Arkansas
9221 N. Rodney Parham Road
Little Rock, Arkansas 72227

Dear Ms. Rowen:

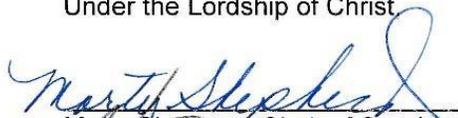
The Session and Kelly Pearson, CRE, are informing you of the decision to renew the covenantal relationship for the three years of 2017-19.

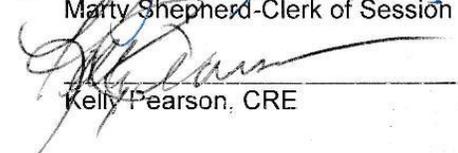
The Session in its meeting of July 6th voted to this and the congregation did so on Sunday, August 21st.

We are asking that the Committee on Church Ministries consider our request that the Presbytery of Arkansas concur to this with us.

Included is a copy of the written covenantal agreement. If any additional information is desired, do not hesitate to contact either of us.

Under the Lordship of Christ


Marty Shepherd-Clerk of Session


Kelly Pearson, CRE

9.10.16
Date

COVENANT WITH COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER(CRE)

First Presbyterian Church of Dardanelle, Arkansas and **Kelly W. Pearson, CRE**, covenant a pastoral-relationship for 01-01-17 until 12-31-19, *renewed* with concurrence of congregation, session, CRE, & COM of the Presbytery of Arkansas. The annual evaluations may make changes to duties, compensations, if agreeable by both parties.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CRE(desired by congregation, session, and agreed to by CRE):

- Lead worship and preach a minimum of 47 times during year.
- Administer the Sacrament of Lord’s Supper, to the congregation in worship and to the home-bound, those in nursing homes, or otherwise unable to attend regular services of worship and sacraments, so desiring.
- Administer the Sacrament of Baptism
- Moderate session meetings.
- Have a voice/vote in meetings of presbytery
- Other duties as listed in the Job Description.

TIME EXPECTATIONS(*minimum* average hours per week) 35hrs (per Bd of Pensions)

SPECIFIC DAYS IN MINISTRY Monday thru Friday, Sunday

GENERAL DAYS IN MINISTRY Any day/night when called upon or needed

COMPENSATION(effective 1-01-17)

Cash salary \$22,202/yr Books/Resources/Etc.: \$ 250 /yr*

Housing Allowance/ Utility Allowance } \$ 14,000/yr Mileage @ \$ IRS rate up to \$2,500/yr.*

Life Ins. Supplement \$ 594/yr ??? 4 wks Paid Vacation time;

Cont. Ed. -----\$ 250/yr(roll-over)* Up to 5 Sundays off
Up to 7 days Continuing Educ.

Social Security \$ 3000**

Full Annuity/Disability & Medical Insurance for pastor

*denotes reimbursement by accountable plan

**less than half of Soc. Sec./Medicare, therefore, uncountable toward “effective salary”

So signed as agreed upon and certified by the following parties this 11th day of 2016:

Commissioned Ruling Elder Kelly W. Pearson

Clerk of Session Marty Stephens Presbytery COM(chair) Paul Rowen

Section S

Minutes of Previous Meeting

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SECOND STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS

JUNE 4, 2016

Call to Order/Opening Prayer

The 132nd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was called to order at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday, June 4, 2016 in the sanctuary of Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock. Teaching Elder Lacy Sellars, presbytery moderator, lit the Christ candle, read scripture, and gave the opening prayer.

Declaration of Quorum/Report of Enrollment

At the time of the gavel, 27 Teaching Elders and 38 Ruling Elders were enrolled, which is a **quorum** as declared by the Moderator.

TEACHING ELDERS: Bill Bailey, Leslie F. Belden, Joy Carrington, D. Breckinridge Castleman, Carol Clark, Katie Cummings, Fern M. Davis, Ruskin Falls, Debra Carl Freeman, Paul Fulks, Elizabeth Gabbard, David E. Gill, Steve Hancock, “Chip” Hatcher, Chris Jones, Clare Martin Kelley, Young Doo Kim, Courtney Bacon-Latina, Frank LeBlanc, Robert Lowry, Larry Mitchell, Marie Mainard O’Connell, Dennis, Ritchie, Leslie Bethell Roper, Dari Rowen, Cindy Saul, William Seitz, Lacy Sellars, Rebecca Spooner, Michael Vinson, Lindy Vogado, Elizabeth R. (Liz) Wagner. **Honorably Retired Teaching Elders:** Catherine L. Allsbury, Ben H. Bateman, William W. Branch, Ira Brighton, David H. Dyer, Sally Johnson, Lance Jones, David S. King, Richard Shinkle, Rita Wilson. **Non-Active Honorably Retired Teacher Elder:** Marilyn Rauch

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS FROM CONGREGATIONS: West End, Arkadelphia, Mable Buckley; First, Batesville, Shelly Moser; Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, Ronnie Prevost; First, Benton, Joan B. DuBois; First, Bentonville, Chris Rogers and Cathy Rogers; First, Clarksville, Linda Castleman; Harmony, Clarksville, Cindy Lanphear; First, Dardanelle, Marty Shepherd; First, Eureka Springs, Katie Johnsonius; Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay, Betsy Slaughter; First United, Fayetteville, Tom Verdery and Fred Shefte; Central, Fort Smith, Linda Riley and Charles Cook; First, Harrison, Harry Cikawek; First, Heber Springs, Scott Rezabek; Holiday Island Presbyterian, Mary Diehl; Faith, Horseshoe Bend, George Jackson; First, Hot Springs, Frances Bateman; Westminster, Hot Springs, Judy Coleman; Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village, Dennis Zymboly and Jerral Johnson; First, Huntsville, Nancy Marsh; First,

Jacksonville, Margot Sheets; Allison, Little Rock, Dorothy Nayles; First, Little Rock, Sherry Joyce; Pulaski Heights, Jana Barfield; Second, Little Rock, Julie Honeycutt, Diedra Gaskalla, Melinda Raley; Westminster, Little Rock, Danny Thomas; Westover Hills, Little Rock, H. K. Stewart; First, Malvern, Tom Poston; Barr Memorial, Norman, Noah Williamson; Park Hill, North Little Rock, Jim Clyde; Mount Vernon, Pea Ridge, Ronnie L. David; Central, Pine Bluff, Betty Coles; First, Rogers, David Webb; First, Siloam Springs, Nell Bryant; First, Springdale, Mary Shaw; First, Yellville, Claudia Brigham.

AT-LARGE COMMISSIONERS: Ex-Officio Members of Coordinating Team: Ruth Hamilton, Vice Moderator and Bob Boehmler, Treasurer; Ruling Elder Members of Coordinating Team, Ted Belden, Justin Clark, Emily Laurel, Patty Minga; Moderators of Presbytery Ministry Areas/Committees: RE Ledridge Davis, Representation; CRE Kelly Pearson, Church and Its Mission Ministry area; RE Leah Shell, Future of the Church Ministry Area; Moderator, Presbyterian Women, Jeanne Lloyd; Moderator, Coordinating Team, Ed Wilkinson.

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS: Commissioned Ruling Elders: G. Hartley Jones, Barr Memorial, Norman; Chuck Olson, Memorial, Atkins; Claire Rhodes and Kenneth Rhodes, West End, Arkadelphia.

CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS: Kristi Button; Jeannie Ford; Linda LeBron retired; Nancy Irving Smith, retired; NiAnn Thompson.

CERTIFIED ASSOCIATE CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS: None present

VISITORS: 34 enrolled.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS: TE Rick Young, Texas Presbyterian Foundation, Grace Presbytery; RE Catherine Lowry, Administrative Commission member, Second Presbyterian, Little Rock; TE E. W. “Bo” Lewis, HR, Sierra Blanca Presbytery.

TEACHING ELDERS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE (known to office or out of bounds): Nancy Benson-Nicol, Bryan Bond, Lance Clemmons, Jeff Cranton, Lewis R. Donelson IV, James J. Farley III, Robert Hadley, Al Henager, Jennifer Lord, Emmett Powrs, Rachel Shepherd, Shauna Silmon, Debbie Spangler, Harry Young.

TEACHING ELDERS ABSENT (WITH OR WITHOUT EXCUSE): d. c. Adams, Karen Kokles Akin, Phillip Blackburn, Tasha Blackburn, Robert Brian Brock, Janet B. Butin, Philip W. butin, Mark Clark, Kris Crawford, Kade Curry, Clifton P. Ford, Steven Frazier, Gordon F. Garlington III, John Gibson, Susan Gray, Marion A. Humphrey, Libby Lizarraga, Ray McCallas, “Mike” McCracken, Jeff Parker, jeff Price, Rebecca Purcell, Timothy C. Reeves, Susan Rose, Ward Rudolph, Anne Russ, David Schaller, Patricia Schaller, Georgia Senior, Terry Tallent, Michael Ulasewich, Marci Ward, Susan Carter Wiggins, Robert Williamson, Daniel Wooley.

Honorably Retired Active Teaching Elders Absent with excuse: Bill Galbraith, Nancy Taylor.

Honorably Retired Active Teaching Elders Absent with or without excuse: Donald K. Campbell II, Milton B. Davis, Guy Delaney, Heinrich B. Eiler, Alan Ford, Orin M Frank, Howard H.

Gordon, William F. Henning, Robert Hyatt, John E. King, Mark Lenneville, Carlos Lopez, James B. Miller, Richard H. Miller, Jerry Rice, C. Michael D. Seitz, Frederick A. Taylor, W. Kennedy Upham, Don Wardlaw, Darwin Wolfe.

SESSIONS ABSENT (with or without excuse): First, Alma; Alpine, Amity; First, Arkadelphia; Memorial, Atkins; First, Beebe; second commissioner, Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista; Vaughn, Bentonville; First, Brinkley; Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals; Cane Hill; First, Conway; Elkins Federated; Mount Comfort, Fayetteville; Graham Memorial, Forrest City; Second commissioner, Central, Fort Smith; second commissioner, First, Fort Smith; One-O-One, Gamaliel; First, Gravette; First, Gurdon; Spring River, Hardy; First, Helena; Holly Grove Presbyterian; Woodlands, Hot Springs Village; First, Jonesboro; First, Lincoln; Grace, Little Rock; fourth commissioner, Second, Little Rock; Trinity, Little Rock; First Lonoke; First, Marianna; First, McGehee; First, Mena; First, Morrilton; Hopewell, Morrilton; First, Mountain Home; Mountainburg Presbyterian; First, Newport; First, North Little Rock; First, Ozark, First, Paragould; Faith, Pine Bluff; First, Pine Bluff; First, Pocahontas; First, Prairie Grove; second commissioner, Central, Russellville; First, Searcy; second commissioner, First, Springdale; First, Stuttgart; First, Van Buren; First, Walnut Ridge; Cleburne Avenue, West Helena; Wynne Presbyterian.

AT-LARGE MEMBERS ABSENT: Ruling Elder Members of Coordinating Team: Ken Coker, Jan Enke, Peg Falls-Corbitt, Karene Jones, Laura Pierce. Committee moderators: RE Elizabeth Branch; Ruling Elder Commissioner to General Assembly, Mary Beth Lysobey,.

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE: Carolyn Beane.

COMMISSIONER RULING ELDERS ABSENT WITH OR WITHOUT EXCUSE: Jim Keyes, 101, Gamaliel; Rita Manske, Cane Hill; Harlis Wright, Faith, Pine Bluff.

CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE: Lynn King, retired.

ASSOCIATE CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS ABSENT: Lynn Condra, retired; Sheila Reddig; Theresa Spragins; Susie Wright.

Adoption of Docket

Stated Clerk announced the following amendments to the docket: approval of Oct. 2015 and Feb. 2016 minutes delayed so that commissioners could pick them up and review them and moved to new business; removal of Austin Seminary greetings; two additional motions from both Committee on Nominations during their report and from Committee on Church and Its Ministries will be presented where docketed rather than under new business. **Amendment to docket was approved. Main motion to approve the docket as amended was approved.**

Seating of Corresponding Members/Granting Privilege of Floor/Voice

The following corresponding members were welcomed and granted privilege of the floor with voice: TE Rick Young, Texas Presbyterian Foundation, Grace Presbytery; TE E. W. “Bo” Lewis, HR, Sierra Blanca Presbytery; and RE Catherine Lowry, member of the Administrative Commission, Second, Little Rock..

Welcome to First-time Elder Commissioners

Fifteen first-time teaching or ruling elder commissioners stood, were introduced individually and welcomed by the moderator.

Introduction of Presbytery Staff

The following staff members working in the Little Rock office were introduced: General Presbyter TE Stewart Smith; Stated Clerk TE Robert Lowry; Resourcing Director and Recording Clerk NiAnn Thompson; Director of Mission Support RE Kenneth Rich; Staff for Youth Britton Varn; and in Conway, Staff for Vital Congregations TE Michael Vinson.

Welcome from Host Churches

TE Ruskin Falls welcomed commissioners and gave housekeeping information as well as the history of Pulaski Heights, Little Rock. TE David Dyer spoke about Westminster, Little Rock.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

Stated Clerk TE Robert Lowry, Harmony, Clarksville moved the following:

NB: In the past, actions of the General Committee have been included on the Consent Agenda. Because the Coordinating Team (and formerly General Committee) is a commission of the presbytery, only certain actions require affirmation by the presbytery.

- 1. Approve the dates for Communion of the Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage for 2017, as: April 26th-30th (ARPP 26), May 13th (Ultreya), October 25th-29th (ARPP 27), and November 8th (Ultreya).**
- 2. Receive the report of the Committee on Representation (included farther down in these minutes).**

The consent agenda was approved.

Appointment of Standing Committees: Leaves of Absence and Tellers

Moderator Sellars appointed the following:

Tellers: RE Joan DuBois, First, Benton; TE Leslie Belden, FUPC, Fayetteville; TE Bill Seitz, First, Mena; RE Frances Bateman, First, Hot Springs.

Leaves of Absence: RE Jerral Johnson, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village; RE Claudia Brigham, First, Yellville; RE H.K. Stewart, Westover Hills, Little Rock; CRE Hartley Jones, serving at Barr Memorial, Norman.

Order of the Day: Presbytery at Worship

A brief worship service based on Morning Prayers was led by the host pastors and including the commissioning of youth going on presbytery-sponsored summer trips and the commissioners to General Assembly. CRE Claire Rhodes was recognized as a member of the search committee for the new Stated Clerk of the denomination.

Report of the Stated Clerk

TE Robert William Lowry, Stated Clerk gave the report.

For Information:

1. Issued advice on interpretation of the new structure to the Nominations Committee. A copy of that advice is included in the Documents Section of the packet (Section P)
2. With the General Presbyter, met with GA Commissioners to review procedures and preparation for GA in Portland June 17-25.
3. Represented the presbytery at the closing of the Pocahontas property.
4. Consulted with Presbytery counsel on pending Administrative Commissions business.
5. Consulted with the Office of the Stated Clerk and Office on Mid-Council Relations on judicial and constitutional questions.
6. Consulted with all current ACs on their progress.
7. Completed presbytery statistical reporting for 2015. The full report will be published in the minutes of the General Assembly this summer. The summary of data collected and forwarded to General Assembly:

- a. Congregational Totals
 - 1. Total Members (2014) 13419
 - a. Total Gains 350
 - b. Total Losses 1297
 - 2. Total Members (2015) 12472
 - a. Average Attendance 3787
 - b. Age Distribution
 - a. 25 & Under 987
 - b. 26-45 1360
 - c. 46-55 1011
 - d. 56-65 1345
 - e. 66 & Over 3306

NB: Totals represent only those churches reporting statistics.

- 3. Total Contributions of members to their congregations \$14,198,323
 - b. 59% of congregations representing more than 75% of the membership of the presbytery posted statistics this year. This placed the presbytery in the lower middle of the national averages for presbytery participation.
 - c. The reduction in reported membership (“cleaning up the rolls”) will result in more than \$8000 in per capita savings in 2016.
- 8. Continued to prepare records of closed churches for deposit in the Presbyterian Historical Society archives.
 - 9. Began the process of assessing all active congregation files. *NB: Congregations will be notified of information or documents needed to complete the presbytery’s file.*
 - 10. Trained new Clerks of Session at 131st Stated meeting.
 - 11. Distributed new Clerk of Session manuals to all churches.
 - 12. Received referrals of business and forwarded them to relevant committees and commissions.
 - 13. On behalf of the presbytery and on instruction from the Administrative Commission, concluded the sale of the Pocahontas church property and deposited the proceeds with the presbytery. The records of the Pocahontas church are now closed and will be sent to the Presbyterian Historical Society for storage.
 - 14. Made editorial changes to the Organization and Structure (pursuant to 8.C) to correct errors in publication. The editorial changes are as follows:
 - a. Preface “will remain” changed to “remains”
 - b. 2.B Authority and Order “Ministry Guide” changed to “Ministry Manual”

- c. 3.D Membership “Standing Rules” changed to “Organization and Structure”
- d. 3.D.1 Attendance “except those honorably retired” changed to “except those honorably retired on inactive status”
- e. 5.A corrected names of ministry areas to “Administration, the Church and Its Ministries, the Mission of the Church, the Future of the Church, and Ministries with Youth, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry”
- f. 7.D All references to “General Committee” changed to “Coordinating Team”
- g. 8.A “Organization and Structure” changed to “Ministry Manual”
- h. *NB: Additional changes to the Ministry Duties will be brought in October.*

For Action:

1. (On referral from Future of the Church and Administration) That the presbytery authorize the sale of presbytery owned property in Washington County (Fayetteville) and that:

- a. **An administrative commission be formed with the power to:**
 - i. **enter into an agreement with a sales agent;**
 - ii. **on behalf of the presbytery, accept an offer for sale of the property;**
 - iii. **finalize the sale of the property.**
- b. **The members of the AC be:**
 - i. **TE Stewart Smith, General Presbyter**
 - ii. **TE Robert Wm Lowry Stated Clerk (Staff Resource)**
 - iii. **RE Ryan Holden Second, LR**
 - iv. **RE Ted Belden FUPC, Fayetteville**
 - v. **RE Leah Shell, Second, LR**

(NB: Smith and Lowry are legal signatories for the presbytery, Holden has worked with Administration on property issues, Belden and Shell are in the real estate business and serve on Future of the Church Committee).

- c. **The proceeds of the sale be deposited in the Presbytery of Arkansas General Fund and earmarked to reduce the principle of the “Ferncliff loan.” Motion was approved.**
- 2. That the presbytery approve the following editorial changes to the Organization and Structure:**
 - a. **3.C Special Meetings “meetings shall be held” changed to “meetings should be held”**
 - b. **3.D.f add the following text to the end of the section “serving at least ½ time”**
 - c. **5.H.1.c add Moderator and Vice-Moderator of Presbytery as ex-officio members of the Coordinating Team**
 - d. **5.H.1 change “16” to “17”**

e. Add new 5.H.1.c “The Moderator of the Coordinating Team shall be the most recent Moderator of the Presbytery. S/he shall serve with voice and vote. In the event the most recent past moderator is unable or unwilling to serve, the Nominations Committee shall bring a name to the presbytery to fill the role of Moderator of the Coordinating Team. The nominee will normally come from the roster of past moderators.” NB: Upon adoption of this change, present sections 5.H.1.c and 5.H.1.d will be renumbered as 5.H.1.d and 5.H.1.e respectively. Motion was approved.

Report of the Coordinating Team

Team moderator RE Ed Wilkinson, Good Shepherd, Greenwood, gave the report, pointing out the minutes that follow.

For Information:

DRAFT Minutes of the Coordinating Team Meeting May 7, 2016

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer at 12:58pm by RE Ed Wilkinson (CT Moderator).

TE Robert Lowry (Stated Clerk) took the roll of the meeting.

Members Present: RE Emily Laurel, RE Karene Jones, RE Laura Pierce, RE Peg Falls-Corbitt, TE Ruskin Falls, TE Mike McCracken, RE Patty Minga, RE Jan Enke, RE Kelly Pearson, RE Justin Clark, TE Leslie Roper, RE Ed Wilkinson

Ex-officio Present: RE Ruth Hamilton, TE Lacy Sellers, TE Stewart Smith, TE Robert Lowry, RE Bob Boehmler (via conference call)

Not Present (excused): TE D.C. Adams, TE Chris Jones, **Not Present (not excused): none**

A quorum was present and such was declared by the moderator.

The docket was approved with three additional items included in new business.

Overview of Coordinating Team Documents

- The Stated Clerk walked the group through the relevant duties and responsibilities of the Coordinating Team under the new presbytery structure.
- Members’ questions for clarification and explanation were answered.
- As requested by the Implementation Team, the CT discussed whether or not any changes were needed and determined that for now they will operate under the structure as originally passed by the presbytery. Most notably, the Moderator and Vice-Moderator of the presbytery will remain ex-officio members with voice but not vote.
- If, in the future, the CT feels it is important for them to have vote a recommendation to amend the Presbytery Ministry Manual will be sent to the presbytery.
- Some confusion was raised over terms for at-large members of the CT. The Stated Clerk will work with the Nominating Committee to clarify terms and update the directory for members.

Report of the General Presbyter

- TE Stewart Smith offered the report of the General Presbyter. He expressed hope that the CT can serve as a sounding board for ideas in the presbytery and a place where urgent issues can be discussed thoughtfully and prepared for presbytery consideration. He hopes that this can be a group that will “test the waters” on new ideas.
- Smith had just returned from Seattle and a meeting of new presbytery leaders. The gathering was part of a leader formation program. Smith noted how much energy and talent there is throughout the church.

□ Smith reports that the property of the Pocahontas church has been sold. Two churches are currently in the process of discernment for leaving the denomination- Siloam Springs and Woodlands HSV. Both are working with ACs appointed by the presbytery. He expressed his gratitude and confidence for the groups working with these churches.

Report of Stated Clerk

□ TE Lowry reported that the other current ACs (Ozark, Rogers) continue with their work and have no reports for the CT at this time.

□ Updated Ministry Manuals for all CT members will be sent following the presbytery meeting in June.

New Business

□ FUPC requests presbytery approval to sell real property left to the church in an estate. The monies will be used for the mission of the church.

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.

□ Nominating Committee nominations for three at-large positions were made for the following:

TE Terry Tallent Reg. 5

TE Robert Hadley Reg. 4

TE Marion Humphrey Reg. 3

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.

□ Nominating Committee nominations for alternate nominees in the event others decline were made for the following:

TE Mike McCracken Reg. 5

TE Patty Schaller Reg. 4

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.

□□ The Lonoke session requests that an AC be named to assist the church as it discerns its next steps. The AC is empowered to assist the church as it discerns its next steps and assume original jurisdiction of the church if necessary. Two members named by the Future of the Church Ministry and two by the Committee on the Church's Ministries to make up the AC as follows:

TE Lindy Vogado- CCM

RE Cyril Hollingsworth- CCM

TE Marie O'Connell- FC

TE Anne Russ- FC

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.

□ FPC Brinkley requests an exception from the Book of Order requirement for the rotation of Ruling Elders.

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.

□ The Presbytery of Arkansas Foundation requests ratification of a reconstituted Board of Directors. Per their by-laws those nominated for membership must be ratified by the Presbytery of Arkansas. (*NB: POA Foundation holds title to the property leased to Ferncliff Camp.*) After lengthy discussion of the history of the Foundation, its ongoing purpose, and the desire of the presbytery to ensure the continued health of Ferncliff, the motion was put before the CT to ratify the following members of the POA Foundation Board:

RE Jackson Farrow

TE Karen Akin

TE Gordon Garlington

RE Bob Boehmler

RE Mary Ellen Holder

RE Tony Booth (Ferncliff Board of Trustees representative)

TE Stewart Smith (ex -officio)

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.

□ A recommendation came from the Mission of the Church Ministry to designate the offering at the October Presbytery meeting to reduce the loan taken to make the \$1million gift to Ferncliff.

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND FAILED.

□ A secondary recommendation from Mission of the Church to designate the October offering to the Rice Depot Delta Initiative partnership was made.

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.

□□ TE Lowry presented data about Presbytery Meetings gathered by the Restructure Team as well as analysis of past meeting attendance. After lengthy discussion, the CT chose to take the information under advisement and return to it at a future meeting.

□ The Docket for 132nd Meeting was presented by TE Lowry. By consensus, the CT decided the following:

□□ Theological Discussion will be included in this meeting with TE David Dyer and TE Ruskin Falls to coordinate that conversation.

□□ Worship will include commissioning of General Assembly Commissioners and summer youth trip participants. TE Dyer and TE Falls will coordinate worship. TE Leslie Roper will assist with finding the commissioning of the youth trip participants. TE Smith will forward liturgy for commissioning of GA participants.

□□ Permission is granted for a representative of Austin Seminary to bring a short (5 minutes) greeting from the seminary.

□□ What has traditionally been the short welcome from the host church will instead be a time to highlight the ministries of the host churches (Pulaski Heights and Westminster, LR)

□□ The docket is approved to reflect the above.

□□ A recommendation to accept the invitation of First, Harrison to host the 133rd stated meeting October 21-22, 2016 with First, Bentonville as a back-up was considered.

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.

□ A recommendation to set the dates and location of the 134th stated meeting as February 17-18, 2017 at University of the Ozarks was considered.

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.

□ A recommendation to set the date of the next CT meeting as 10 am October 1 at Grace, LR was considered.

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.

□ A request was received from FUPC that the presbytery approve their grant request to General Assembly.

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.

There being no further business before the team, and a motion to adjourn being approved by consensus, the moderator closed the meeting of the Coordinating Team with prayer at 3:40pm.

Report of the Administration Ministry Area

Committee moderator TE Catherine Allsbury, HR, Second, Little Rock gave the report.

Information:

Proposed change in job description for the Stated Clerk:

David Dyer resigned as Assistant Stated Clerk, effective February 29, 2016. The Administration Ministry Area is proposing that this position be eliminated, duties transferred to the position of Stated Clerk. At the May committee meeting, a new job description was approved, which combined the duties of Assistant Stated Clerk and Stated Clerk, with the exception of taking minutes for meetings of the Presbytery. A recording clerk will be hired to take minutes at each meeting, to be paid a stipend.

Administration recognizes that this presbytery is in transition – from the old structure to the new; from the previous General Presbyter to the current G.P. This change in job descriptions marks another transition. These job descriptions could be reevaluated at the end of the term of the current Stated Clerk (February, 2017).

Loans taken for the Ferncliff Capital Campaign

- Presbytery continues making payments on interest only on both the larger and smaller loan.
- The Administration and Future of the Church areas are having conversation about the possibility of selling other property in order to pay down this debt.
- It appears that the property on Chenal Blvd. in Little Rock will not sell in time to help with debt reduction in this calendar year.

Financial Reports

See attached financial reports as of April 30, 2016. At their meeting Administration noted that interest income for the first four months has been higher than was anticipated for 2016.

For Presbytery Action:

- 1. That the presbytery adopt the revised Stated Clerk Job Description (below). Motion was approved.**
- 2. That Stated Clerk TE Robert Wm Lowry's compensation be revised as follows:**
 - a. Salary increased \$2400 to \$18,879.96 retroactive to January 1, 2016.**
 - b. Board of Pensions increased per salary change.**
 - c. Professional Expenses (travel, etc. line item 8400-13-1-000) increased \$2000 to \$6300. Motion was approved.**
- 3. That the position of Assistant Stated Clerk be suspended and unfilled for an indefinite period of time. Motion was approved.**

***PROPOSED REVISED* Job Description**

Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Arkansas

NB: Text to be added is indicated in *bold italic*. Text to be removed is indicated with a ~~strike through~~.

The Stated Clerk shall be a Teaching or Ruling Elder and shall be enrolled as a member of Presbytery. The Stated Clerk shall serve a term of three years (or a portion thereof for special elections) and is eligible for reelection by the Presbytery. The Stated Clerk shall function in accordance with the Book of Order (~~G-3.0104 and other relevant provisions of the Book of Order~~).

1) Duties related to Stated Clerk's training/continuing education:

- Attend denominational annual polity conference *when possible*.
- Attend General Assembly meetings ~~at least once during Stated Clerk's three year term.~~
- Maintain membership in the Stated Clerks' Association.

2) Duties related to training of others:

- Train Permanent Judicial Commission ~~as needed.~~
- Train administrative commissions assigned to churches ~~as needed.~~
- Facilitate the training of new General Assembly (GA) commissioners with General Presbyter and possibly former GA commissioners.
- Work with the current GA commissioners as the polity task force to advise Presbytery on votes on the proposed constitutional amendments.
- ~~In cooperation with the Christian Education and Nurture (CE&N) Committee, arrange *Lead* annual training of clerks of session.~~
- ~~Train the cluster records review teams prior to the June Presbytery meeting each year. *With the Coordinating team, establish a process for the regular review of session minutes and congregational registers.*~~

3) Duties related to legal signatory:

- Serve as one of the elected signers of legal documents for the Presbytery, along with the Moderator of Presbytery and the General Presbyter.
- Sign deeds, contracts, etc. as directed by presbytery authorization.
- Certify personal information forms from church professionals with Church Leadership Connection.

4) Duties related to staffing:

- Serve as staff resource to *the* Permanent Judicial Commission, *Coordinating Team, Nominating Committee, and, with the General Presbyter, Committee on the Church's Ministries. Other duties may be assigned by the General Presbyter.*
- In consultation with the Moderator of Presbytery ~~and the Moderator of the Committee on Ministry (COM),~~ appoint and train an Investigating Committee when an accusation has been filed.
- In consultation with the Moderator of ~~COM~~ *relevant presbytery committees* and the General Presbyter, define the scope of duties, the goals and name the members of an Administrative Commission to address issues in churches.
- ~~Communicate with the moderator of the Committee on Ministry (COM) prior to each stated COM meeting, participate in the annual COM training retreat and may attend COM meetings, if necessary. Serve as a member of the Presbytery Crisis Response Team. NB: Unnecessary if staffing the committee.~~

5) Duties related to ~~polity~~ **Constitutional Interpretation:**

- Make polity rulings and ~~do~~ *prepare* polity interpretations for churches, leaders, committees, boards, and councils of the Presbytery, in dialogue with the PC(USA) Stated Clerk and the Office of the General Assembly, when necessary.

6) Duties related to communications:

- Receive requests and communications from governing bodies, churches and individuals and as appropriate, refer them to committees of Presbytery or the Presbytery as a whole.
- Possess and use appropriate technological skills.
- ~~Maintain, publicize and adhere to set "office hours" during which the Presbytery may contact the Stated Clerk~~ *Be available to the presbytery for consultation on a regular basis.*
- Regularly participate in presbytery staff meetings and at least monthly update the General Presbyter ~~and Assistant Stated Clerk~~ on work completed and works pending related to the job description.

7) Duties related to Presbytery meetings:

- Act as parliamentarian for all meetings of the Presbytery, assisting the Moderator in the orderly conduct of the business of the council.
 - Work with the Moderator of Presbytery to perform the duties of the “presbytery meeting task force” for any special called meeting of presbytery.
 - ~~Coordinate with the Assistant Stated Clerk the responsibilities for staff resource for the presbytery meeting task force.~~
 - Work with Moderator of Presbytery (strike through) and Assistant Stated Clerk in preparing the Presbytery meeting packet and proposed docket.
 - Solicit, receive and report invitations to host Presbytery meetings, then respond with pertinent information to host to help them prepare for the meeting.
 - Receive display requests from “regular displayers” at Presbytery meetings ~~and report to host group at walk through. Refer extraordinary requests to General Committee in accordance with polity.~~
 - Receive, report and record requests for excused absences.
 - Meet with and instruct Leave of Absence committee and Tellers.
- 8) Duties related to General Assembly:
- Sign, as needed, any reports required of the Presbytery by the General Assembly ~~that the Assistant Stated Clerk may prepare.~~
 - Receive and report, as appropriate, all correspondence from the PC(USA) Stated Clerk and the Office of the General Assembly.
- 9) Duties related to record keeping:
- Maintain in the *Presbytery office* ~~on premise and provide to the Presbytery office~~ files of all official actions by Presbytery, commissions and the Stated Clerk.
 - Edit and file a full and accurate record of the minutes of the Presbytery, coordinating reading and revising of the minutes with the Presbytery Moderator, General Committee (Coordinating Team) Moderator and Stated Clerk within three weeks after each meeting.
 - Present each year properly attested copies of the Presbytery minutes to the Synod for its review (with table of contents, index, appendix in accordance with Synod’s requirements) and ~~shall~~ preserve 5 said copies as the official records of the Presbytery. One copy should be submitted to the Presbyterian Historical Society annually.
 - Make and keep accurate rolls of the Ministers, Certified Christian Educators, Commissioned Ruling Elders, and Candidates under care of the Presbytery.
 - Maintain files in the Presbytery office of all official actions by Presbytery, commissions and the Stated Clerk.
- ~~10) Supervise work of the Assistant Stated Clerk.~~
- ~~With the General Presbyter and the Personnel sub-committee, participate in the annual evaluation of the Assistant Stated Clerk.~~
- 10) Perform other duties as needed for Presbytery to abide by the Book of Order and the Presbytery of Arkansas Ministry Manual
- 11) Accountability and evaluation of the Stated Clerk shall be in accordance with the Presbytery’s Standing Rules. The Stated Clerk shall report to the General Presbyter and Personnel Subcommittee.

Report of the Committee on the Church's Ministries

Committee moderator TE Dari Rowen, First, Benton gave the report.

For Information:

- The CCM approved the Validated Ministries of TEs David Gill, Marie Mainard-O'Connell, Ray McCalla, Rebecca Spooner, and Susan Rose. The CCM also approved adopting a new policy of only needing to re-consider validated ministries if and when there are changes in the ministry.
- The CCM approved adopting a plan titled "Regional Teams of Connection"
- The CCM approved the membership transfer of TE Carl McCormack to Palo Duro Presbytery.
- The CCM approved the membership transfer of TE Liz Lindsey to Heartland Presbytery, to serve as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Higginsville, MO.
- TE Chris Jones was elected to serve as Vice Moderator of the Committee on the Church's Ministries.
- The CCM approved requesting the Board of Pensions to not require Second Presbyterian Church to pay vacancy dues on the newly vacated position of Associate Pastor (recently vacated by Rachel Shepherd in a temporary capacity and by Camille LeBron Powell in a called capacity), as this position is being eliminated.
- The CCM approved TE Sarah Strong of Mid-South Presbytery, as the Pulpit Supply of First Presbyterian Church of Marianna, Arkansas.

Necrology: TE Reinhold Schmidt, HR

Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Rev. Reinhold Schmidt, Jr., 83, who died on April 18, 2016 in Townsend, MT. He was an honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of AR.

A native of Chicago, "Reiny" earned a MA from the University of KS., BD and Th. D from San Francisco Seminary where he was part-time faculty. He was ordained in 1963 in Salina, KS. He served churches in Missouri and Kansas and came to AR in 1978 as pastor of Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock. Later he served as interim pastor at St. Andrews, Little Rock and Central, Pine Bluff, before retiring in 1998. He later served as interim at First, Benton. He is gratefully remembered for establishing the Laurence E. Schmidt Counseling Center through the Vera Lloyd Home to minister to church professionals and other individuals in need of therapy. He served on this presbytery's personnel committee and Committee on Ministry and with Presbyterian Family Services, after establishing the AR Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

At his request no memorial service was held, and his ashes were scattered near his home. He is survived by a son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren of Sherwood, AR.

For Action:

1. **Motion to enroll TE E. W. "Bo" Lewis, honorably retired, upon dismissal from Sierra Blanca Presbytery.** Lewis was introduced and spoke to the commissioners about his third time to be a member of this presbytery. **Motion was approved.**
2. **Motion to approve the call of TE Paul Fulks as pastor of First, Heber Springs, effective June 1, 2016, with the following terms of call:**

Effective salary	
Cash Salary	\$30,000
Housing Allowance	\$18,000
TOTAL	\$48,000
Reimbursable expenses (by voucher)	

Continuing Education \$1,200

Professional Expenses \$1,200

Vision Insurance Provided, Paid vacation – 4 weeks, Paid Continuing Education – 2 weeks, Paid Parental Leave – 6 weeks, Sabbatical plan to be approved by CCM at end of five years of full time ministry. Motion was approved.

Report of the Committee on Leadership Development

No report was given.

Theological Discussion

The topic for this meeting's Theological Discussion, "What does the Bible mean to you?" was introduced by TE Falls. Speakers were TE Debra Carl Freeman, RE H. K. Stewart and RE and Certified Christian Educator NiAnn Thompson. Speakers were then invited to the microphone for further comments.

Moderator Sellars called on TE Falls to pray God's blessings of the noon meal which was served in Fellowship Hall.

Presbytery Meeting Resumes

Meeting resumed at 1:15 p.m. and it was announced that the offering during worship for United Campus Ministry at UofA, Fayetteville totaled \$1,375.

Report of the Administrative Commission for First, Siloam Springs

TE Katie Cummings, member of the AC, reported on the history of the COM Task Force since 2014 related to the request for dismissal. (Full report in Appendix). The AC replaced the TF in October, 2015 and their work is documented in the report covering Jan through May. The congregation chose the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to which to be dismissed. Those who wish to remain in the PC(USA) have been given attention and care.

Motion that the Presbytery dismiss the First Presbyterian Church of Siloam Springs from the PC(USA) in order to be received by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. This dismissal is subject to the completion of all documents related to the financial settlement of \$250,000.

Motion was approved.

(This amount is appraised value of church property.) Pay period will extend from June 4, 2016 to June 4, 2021.

TE Breck Castleman, pastor, spoke in appreciation of the work of the AC which has represented the presbytery well with respect and no adversarial feeling, been respectful of FPC and spirit of mutual respect as the congregation moves to another denomination. He encourages consideration of using funds from the settlement for Hispanic NCD. Kelly Pearson asked about the relationship of TE Breck Castleman with presbytery. Castleman replied that he asked to be released to Evangelical PC and asked if a motion was appropriate now. Moderator referred him to CCM. Stated Clerk will work with him to take care of that process.

TE Rebecca Spooner grieves the loss of the congregation and asks where the funds will be going. Cummings said the AC has not discussed this matter. Moderator and SC agreed that there is no policy, SC said funds will initially go into general fund. TE Cindy Saul thanked the commission and asked what will happen if the church defaults on debt and who retains the name of the church.

Cummings answered that the church retains its name and that the default would not affect the presbytery. Sellars prayed for all involved in this departure. Spooner's motion will be received under New Business.

Report of the Administrative Commission for Woodlands, Hot Springs Village

TE Frank LeBlanc, clerk of the AC, gave the report. The AC was elected on Sept. 21, 2015, met with Session of WPC on October 5, 2015, and LeBlanc reported their discontent had gone on a long time. The discernment was unilateral without presbytery involvement. Presbytery offer was rejected. Counter offer was offered on May 12, 2016. AC presented a counter offer in the neighborhood of the amount of Siloam Springs' offer of \$250,000. WPC noted the 2008 quitclaim deed. AC have consulted with the Stated Clerk and counsel.

Motion is that the Presbytery DECLINE Woodlands Presbyterian Church's request to be dismissed to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church; and Reject as inadequate the financial offer of Woodlands Presbyterian Church in their letter of May 12, 2016, as set forth and direct the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Arkansas to correspond the presbytery's decision to the appropriate parties. Motion was approved.

Falls asked what issues were causing these congregations to seek dismissal to EPC rather than to any other religious body. Castleman replied that either one would be compatible with his congregation, but ordination of women was an issue with some other denominations.

RE Ruth Hamilton, vice moderator, moderated the next portion of the meeting.

Report of the Committee on Nominations

Committee Moderator TE Elizabeth Gabbard, First, Arkadelphia gave the report.

For Information:

The form to self-nominate or nominate someone from individual congregations is in packet and she invited nominations. (Section M (Forms and Registration Documents)).

1. **The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following persons to fill unexpired terms and begin service immediately:**
 1. **Ruling Elder Charlie Brown, Wynne Presbyterian (region 5), Committee on Church and Its Ministries, Class of 2018**
 2. **Teaching Elder Karen Akin, Second, Little Rock (region 3), Synod Commissioner, Class of 2017**
 3. **Ruling Marty Shepherd, First, Dardanelle (region 2), Committee on Church and Its Mission, Class of 2016. Vice Moderator called for nominations from the floor, and there were none. Nominees were elected.**

2. **The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following person:**

Teaching Elder Leslie Bethell Roper, First, Batesville (region 4), Vice Moderator of Presbytery, Class of 2017. Call for nominations from the floor. Nominee was elected.

Report of the Future of the Church Committee

Committee moderator RE Leah Shell, Second, Little Rock, pointed out the written report but gave no verbal report.

For Information:

The Future of the Church committee met on April 7, 2016. Committee duties were discussed in depth and subcommittees were formed. The following subcommittees now have title and members.

Property: This subcommittee deals with property like Chenal and the Crossover property in Fayetteville. This committee is also charged with maintaining property once congregations fold. Please reach out to either Leah Shell or Ted Belden with any questions pertaining to property issues.

Visioning and Vitality. This subcommittee is charged with reaching out to the congregations and ministries committee currently serve as well as to congregations who might need help in the future. Peg Falls-Corbitt is the chair of this subcommittee. Also serving with her are Steven Frazier and Suzanne Bethell.

New Worshipping Communities: This committee works with congregations and groups on new types of worshipping communities. Chairing this subcommittee is Anne Russ. Also serving on this committee are Anne Russ, Jeff Price, Dick Freer, Theresa Spragins and Mike Vinson.

Community Resourcing: This subcommittee works with congregations who are seeking support. Brian Brock is chairing this subcommittee. Some of the first work this subcommittee will be tackling is developing policies for grant requests.

Branding and Technology: This subcommittee is charged with using technology to lead change in organization work flow for ministries within this Presbytery. Chairing this subcommittee is Phil Blackburn. Also serving on this subcommittee is Becky Purcell.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to send 2 ministry members to serve on the presbytery Coordinating Team: Ted Belden (region 1) & Peg Falls-Corbitt (region 2).

Ted Belden made the committee aware of a conference in Irving, Texas on April 25th and 26th.

The title of the conference is “The Presbyterian Church in A Changing Landscaping”

Transportation costs will be paid with Future of the Church Funds. Ted Belden and Becky Purcell attended this conference.

Several members of the Future of the Church continue working on Administrative Commissions. These commissions include Rogers, Pocahontas and Ozark. Anne Russ and Marie Mainard O’Connell are also serving on the Lonoke Commission, but have yet to meet.

Other old business from the former CC&D was discussed. The Chenal Property continues to be listed by Melanie Gibson at Colliers. Ted Belden will meet with agents in Fayetteville to begin the process of listing the Crossover Property.

Ted Belden will work on a worship service to celebrate the Gravette Congregation.

Brian Brock will work with the Van Buren Church to apply for a historic designation for their church. The hope is to have new sources of funding for some of the needed repairs.

Ted Belden made the committee aware of the Uncommon Worship at the Walnut Grove Church.

Ted made a motion to approve UCM’s adding liability-only insurance for Walnut Grove to the UCM policy, to be paid for by through UCM’s grant funding. Motion was seconded and passed.

Committee meeting and reported ended.

Report of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area

Committee Moderator RE Kelly Pearson, CRE First, Dardanelle gave the report.

For Information:

The Church and Its Mission Ministry-Area is off and running. As a hybrid of the former Mission Committee and portions of the Christian Education Committee, it thus far has been a process of reviewing the past ministries of these two and the new policies to ascertain the present. With God's help they have begun to understand what the ministry-area is to be about in relation to the vision for the entire presbytery.

There have been two meetings for the Church & Its Mission: February 27th and May 3rd. There are eleven members, including the moderator. NiAnn Thompson of the presbytery staff is our resource. And her knowledge has been invaluable to this process of beginning anew.

The budget-items of the ministry-area have been reviewed. Some unpaid commitments from 2015 have been executed through the presbytery office. And there will be continued effort to establish priorities from the many needs in the mission and Christian education areas. And, of course, this takes place under the financial restraints placed upon all of the ministry-areas and work of the presbytery.

Arkansas Interfaith was sent its final support for 2015 to indicate the ministry area's good-faith and the presbytery's continued support to ecumenical relations.

The ministry-area immediately launched into examination of the covenanted partners and entities related to the Presbytery of Arkansas, seeking revisions of covenants (generally they are reviewed/revised every five-years); reports of activities and budgets, that are in turn relayed as reports to the presbytery. These partners and entities are: Presbyterian Women, Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center, the Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage(ARPP), the Honduras Ministry, the Presbytery Resource Center Advisory Board, and the Arkansas Black Presbyterian Caucus(ABPC). As well, the Disaster Preparedness (and Response) Committee is the ministry area's single "permanent sub-committee." And the single major event supported is The P.L.A.C.E. For its third year, it will again be held at Second-Presbyterian Church-Little Rock, on August 6, 2016. Kristi Button is the director of this year's event. All churches and all members are encouraged to participate.

Presently, the revised covenants of ARPP, ABPC, and Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center are before the presbytery for review and approval.

Future decisions and allocation of funds will regard such things as a Haiti mission-trip, allocations of the Centsability Offering, amidst the discernment of prioritizing former and new commitments. The offering received at the June Presbytery Meeting shall go to the United Campus Ministry of the University of Arkansas. This will symbolize not only the moral support via the new Church and Its Mission Ministry-Area, since it no longer reports to this portion of the former Christian Education Committee, but to the support from the entire presbytery for UCM.

The upcoming meetings for this ministry-area will be July 14th, 10:00, at the presbytery office conference room; and, November 1st, 10:00, with the meeting location undecided.

The Church and Its Mission ministry-area invites you to pray for its discernment to how best to serve God among so many opportunities and with decreasing budgets.

For Presbytery Action:

1. That the presbytery approve the reviewed and revised covenant between the Presbytery of Arkansas and the Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center (below). This was on page 27 of the original packet. **Covenant was approved.**

2. That the presbytery approve the reviewed and revised covenant between the Arkansas Black Presbyterian Caucus and Presbytery of Arkansas (below). This was on page 33 of the original packet. **Covenant was approved.**

3. That the presbytery approve the reviewed and revised covenant between the Presbytery of Arkansas and the Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage (below). This was on page 30 of the original packet. **Covenant was approved.**

**COVENANT BETWEEN FERNCLIFF CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER
AND
THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS**

(revised June 2016)

Nature of the Covenant

The covenant is a traditional document honored by people of faith. It represents a continuing agreement between Ferncliff and the Presbytery of Arkansas to affirm and support one another as distinct entities yoked in mutual mission. This covenant articulates commitments from and to each organization and seeks to perpetuate the good relations currently enjoyed. It is the hope of both parties that this document of faith will serve to bring even greater effectiveness and esteem to a positive and growing relationship.

Agencies in the Covenant

The agencies involved in this covenant agreement are the Presbytery of Arkansas PC(USA) and Ferncliff Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center represented by the Ferncliff Board of Directors.

Mission of the Agencies

The vision of the Presbytery of Arkansas is “to make visible the body of Christ. Called by Christ, we share the promise of our baptism and the hope of God’s coming realm. The Presbytery of Arkansas seeks to make visible the body of Christ in Word and Sacrament, through teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer and acts of compassion. Trusting the Holy Spirit’s guidance, we work to order our life together with glad and generous hearts.”

The mission of Ferncliff is “to make a positive impact in the world by opening eyes, minds, and hearts to God’s transforming love.”

History of the Relationship

In 1937 Ferncliff was purchased by a group Presbyterians ‘for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church in Arkansas.’ Through the years Ferncliff has been gradually developed into a camp and conference facility of service to Presbyterians in ministry and mission. With 1,209 acres, Ferncliff is one of the largest sites among the denomination’s 122 camps. In 1976 Presbytery voted to transfer title to the Presbyterian Foundation of Arkansas. In 1983 a long-term lease (99 years) was established between the Foundation and Ferncliff’s Board of Directors.

Governance

The reorganized Ferncliff Board of Directors, a 501(c)3 non-profit, had their first meeting in 1985. Ferncliff’s Board is comprised of 18 members in three classes. The Board elects its members, paying attention to diversity and representation, and with an eye to bringing together the gifts and talents to effectively manage such a significant asset and diverse program. New members are brought to the Presbytery for approval. At least one member of the Ferncliff Board shall also be serving concurrently as a member of the Board of the Presbyterian Foundation of Arkansas that holds title to the Ferncliff property. The General Presbyter is an ex officio member. Ferncliff’s minutes are sent to the Coordinating Team and regular reports given to the Church and Its Mission Ministry Area.

Commitments to One Another

In order to nourish this covenant, there is a mutual commitment to active and open communication.

Presbytery's Commitment to Ferncliff

1. The Presbytery understands that Ferncliff, like virtually all Presbyterian camps and conference centers, needs the financial support of the Presbytery, its churches and laypersons. Facilities, staffing and programs at Ferncliff will be considered among the priorities in the Presbytery annual budget.
2. The Presbytery and its professional staff will actively encourage and promote the use of Ferncliff by its churches, committees, adults and youth. In selecting locations for camps, conferences, retreats and meetings, the Presbytery will look to give preference to Ferncliff while maintaining the need for responsible financial stewardship and constituency concerns. This covenant document will be shared with new ministers and Christian Educators in their orientation to the Presbytery.
3. The Presbytery commits itself to prayer and spiritual support for the staff and programs of Ferncliff.
4. While Ferncliff is host site for events, it is also a valued partner in mission and the Presbytery commits itself to considering Ferncliff in strategic plans and visioning.

Ferncliff's Commitment to the Presbytery

1. Ferncliff commits to viewing the Presbytery (its churches, committees, laypeople, educators, ministers) as its primary constituency. In scheduling facilities, setting rates and selecting programs, Ferncliff will look to give preference to Presbyterians while balancing the need for financial sustainability, ecumenical relations and mission opportunities.
2. Ferncliff will seek to be a good steward of those material and natural resources entrusted to it. It will aim to be transparent in disclosing its finances and all decisions with regular reports to Presbytery and minutes available on request.
3. Ferncliff will work collaboratively with Presbytery, committees, staff and church professionals. Among services presently offered are one free weekend or two free nights annually to all ministers and Christian Education professionals for rest and relaxation; a pool of scholarship funds for campers needing financial assistance; a reduced rate to congregations of the presbytery, and to the presbytery and its committees; complimentary rooms for Presbyterians needing short term respite accommodations or attending to family members in hospitals.
4. Ferncliff will work to honor the denominational commitment to issues such as diversity, inclusiveness, peacemaking, sound ecological principles and social justice
5. Ferncliff is committed to connectionalism among other camps and conference centers. It will continue as an active participant in the Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center Association (PCCCA) and will meet the accreditation standards of the American Camp Association

Schedule for Reviewing the Covenant

The Presbytery of Arkansas and the Ferncliff Board of Directors will appoint two members each to work with the Ferncliff Executive Director and the General Presbyter no less often than every five years to review this covenant and make recommendations concerning the reformation of the covenant relationship.

Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage Program Covenant

The Relationship of Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage to the Presbytery of Arkansas

Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage (ARPP) is a lay led Spiritual Renewal Program Certified by the National Council of Presbyterian Fourth Day Movements. By virtue of this Certification and through this relationship, ARPP is guided and authorized to utilize the procedures and methodology of the Presbyterian Pilgrimage Program which have been modified to be consistent with the tenets of the Reformed Faith as interpreted by the Presbyterian Church (USA). ARPP is one of 24 such Presbyterian Programs in the USA. The ARPP Council is under the care of the Committee on the Church and Its Mission of the Presbytery of Arkansas for the purpose of support and accountability.

“Presbyterian Pilgrimage” is a “short course” in living the Christian Faith and is available to those who, as a part of their spiritual “journey”, are seeking an opportunity for renewal and growth in that “journey”. The initial phase of the Program is a three-day Pilgrimage Weekend which seeks to provide Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) members, those associated with the Presbyterian Church and committed Christians an opportunity to experience a closer and more personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, discussion, music, and just plain fun, participants in the Program are provided with the opportunity to explore and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. This normally deepens their faith, heightens their joy, and invigorates their life in Christ, expanding and deepening their leadership roles in the church.

The Weekend is only the beginning as the experience becomes a part of the participant’s life. In the second phase, the participants return to their environments with a new perspective and enthusiasm for expanded Christian action in their family, their local congregation, and their community. The Program also encourages participants to participate in weekly meetings of small informal groups where they support each other as they daily strive to live the Christian life and to continue growing in their spiritual “journey”. The combination of the Weekend experience and the continuing supportive relationship between those who have participated motivates them to share this new relationship with Christ with those around them and to do so in a non-threatening way.

The Vision of Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage:

ARPP seeks to glorify God through its programs and activities, which are guided by the Great Commission of our Lord, Jesus Christ “to proclaim the Gospel” of God’s grace and to encourage those who have participated to daily live the Christian life set by Christ’s example.

The Mission of Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage:

ARPP exists to make the Presbyterian Pilgrimage Program available to members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), those associated with the Presbyterian Church and committed Christians. The Pilgrimage Program is an intentional presentation and proclamation of the Gospel, providing the opportunity for participants to develop a greater consciousness and to generate a deliberate awareness of the presence of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in their lives at all times. The Program also provides them with support mechanisms for the conscious and deliberate living of the Christian faith daily, according to the example of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

How ARPP’s Mission helps the Presbytery fulfill its vision:

The Presbyterian Pilgrimage Program is uniquely designed and has demonstrated its ability to generate enthusiastic leaders for Christ and the church. As such, it is uniquely capable of supporting the Presbytery of Arkansas in the accomplishment of its Vision.

"The vision of the Presbytery of Arkansas is to make visible the body of Christ. Called by Christ, we share the promise of our baptism and the hope of God's coming realm. The Presbytery of Arkansas seeks to make visible the body of Christ in Word and sacrament, through teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer and acts of

compassion. Trusting the Holy Spirit's guidance, we work to order our life together with glad and generous hearts."

ARPP'S Commitment to the Presbytery of Arkansas

Under the care of the Committee on the Church and Its Mission, ARPP is prepared to make the Presbyterian Pilgrimage Program available to all individuals who are members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), those associated with the Presbyterian Church and committed Christians within the area covered by the Presbytery of Arkansas, as well as to those from other Presbyteries. The activities that ARPP would endeavor to provide under this Covenant would include:

1. To offer one or more weekends per year guided by the Cursillo Model that has been adopted by the National Council of Presbyterian Fourth Day Movements and is under their oversight.
2. To be guided by the National By-Laws, as well as the ARPP By-Laws which have been approved by the "Community" of participants (includes both lay and clergy participants) who have experienced a Weekend. This includes governance by a Council of up to 13 lay members, as elected by the ARPP Community.
3. To provide full or partial scholarships (except Registration Fee) to all who are guided by the Holy Spirit to participate in the Program, but unable to cover the cost of the Weekend. (The implementation of this scholarship program will be dependent on ARPP's ability to raise the necessary funds through private donations, church donations and scholarships, private scholarships, and funding from the Presbytery of Arkansas.)
4. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to administer, through the ARPP Council, the Weekend Programs and the support activities for the Community. This will include selection of lay Moderators to guide the Weekends and those who are led by the Holy Spirit to "staff" Weekends, the encouragement of members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) .), those associated with the Presbyterian Church and committed Christians to participate in Weekends as they may be guided by the Holy Spirit to do so, to conduct the fund raising activities needed to provide scholarships and cover costs not recovered in fees, and to guide and support those other activities which are consistent with the Presbyterian Pilgrimage Program.
5. Through the support programs, to encourage continued study, prayer, worship, and the seeking of the guidance of the Holy Spirit as those who have participated seek to live and share the Christian life in their local environments.
6. That annually, ARPP will request of the Presbytery, the authorization for Presbyterian pastors to serve Communion at ARPP Weekends and during other appropriate activities for the succeeding Calendar Year. The request will come through the Committee on the Church and Its Mission and the Coordinating Team.
7. The ARPP Council will report at least annually of its activities and plans to the Committee on the Church and Its Mission or more frequently if requested.

Presbytery of Arkansas Commitments to ARPP

The Presbytery will support ARPP in the implementation of its Presbyterian Pilgrimage Program in Arkansas. As such, the Presbytery of Arkansas would:

1. Recognize the Presbyterian Pilgrimage Program as one of the vehicles through which the Presbytery can achieve its Vision.
2. That ARPP can utilize the Banner, Presbytery Packets, the Presbytery Web Site, and other Presbytery communications vehicles (as approved by the editor or others responsible for those communications vehicles).

3. That, subject to periodic review by the Presbytery, ARPP would be granted permission to serve Communion (utilizing Teaching Elders) at official functions.
4. That the Presbytery would, to the extent possible, support ARPP financially.

Reviewing and Refining the Relationship

The Presbytery and the Coordinating Team Chair through the Committee on the Church and Its Mission will meet no less often than every five years to review this covenant and make recommendations concerning the reformation of the covenant relationship.

Report of the Arkansas Black Presbyterian Caucus

TE Joy Carrington, Hopewell, Morrilton gave the report, pointing out their budget and calendar.

Covenant Between

The Arkansas Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus

and

The Presbytery of Arkansas

The Arkansas Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, hereafter called A.B.P.C., hereby covenants with the Presbytery of Arkansas to work toward the overall enhancement of the Black Presbyterian congregations within the Presbytery (and State of Arkansas) through revitalization/redevelopment programming. With a cooperative effort of both parties, resources of people and funding, these churches will require less financial assistance from Presbytery, experience numerical and spiritual growth, become equipped to do more effective ministry, become a financial and resource asset to the Presbytery, develop lay and clergy leadership, and become more involved in the Presbytery's mission and ministry.

In order to make this covenant effective, both parties commit to the following:

A.B.P.C. Commits to:

- 1) Encourage each participating church to agree to and participate in A.B.P.C. revitalization/redevelopment, leader training development programs. Also to fulfill their overall commitments to Presbytery by becoming less dependent on financial assistance from Presbytery and more involved in the mission and ministry of Presbytery.
- 2) Encourage each participating church to follow through on all assignments made by the former Revitalization/Redevelopment Consultant.
- 3) Work with Presbytery in participating in events sponsored by PC(USA) governing bodies that promote leader training and development.
- 4) Report at a Stated Presbytery Meeting the status of A.B.P.C.
- 5) Provide Presbytery by way of The Church and Its Mission Ministry Area a schedule of events, seminars, etc. of A.B.P.C.
- 6) Forward Minutes and Financial Reports to the Presbytery by way of The Church and Its Mission Ministry Area.

The Presbytery of Arkansas Commits to:

- 1) Provide appropriate resources of people, materials, and funding within its budget to assist in the revitalization/redevelopment of A.B.P.C. churches within the Presbytery.

- 2) Appoint a representative to attend A.B.P.C. meetings to better understand and support its ministry and mission.
 - 3) Provide for dialogue between A.B.P.C. representatives and appropriate Presbytery staff.
 - 4) Provide opportunity for an A.B.P.C. representative to make a progress report during a Stated Presbytery Meeting and set up a display of A.B.P.C. activities as needed.
 - 5) Encourage all A.B.P.C. pastors and churches to take an active role in implementing their commitment to Presbytery.
 - 6) Recognize and affirm A.B.P.C. as a vital entity of The Presbytery of Arkansas and include their scheduled events on the Presbytery Calendar.
- Both parties covenant to review this relationship no less than every five years on or about the anniversary of its past review and approval.

Arkansas Black Presbyterian Caucus

Calendar 2016

- March 17 ABPC Board Meeting Conference Call at 7pm
- March 25 Good Friday Services Faith Presbyterian Church Pine Bluff at 6pm
- May 5 ABPC Board Meeting Conference Call 7pm
- June 11 Youth Extravaganza Held in Arkadelphia 9am-3pm
- July National Black Presbyterian Conference TBD
- October 1 ABPC Board Meeting Holmes Chapel Monticello at 10am
- December 11 Annual Yuletide Musical Allison Presbyterian Church Little Rock at 4pm

Presbytery Sponsored Youth Camps

- April 1-3 Sr. High Youthquake Ferncliff Camp
- July 3-7 Junior High Jubilee
- July 7-10 Multi-Cultural Youth Conference
- July 9-14 Junior High Jubilee- Session II Mo Ranch
- July 23-30 Montreat Youth Conference (entering 9th grade to graduated 12th grade)

Report of the Arkansas Presbytery Presbyterian Women

RE Jeanne Lloyd, Second LR sent in the report.

APRIL 2015 – APRIL 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 18, 2016

A BIG THANK YOU to the Presbytery of Arkansas for its generous grant to the Presbyterian Women (PW) of the Presbytery of Arkansas, allowing the Arkansas PW to continue their many local, national and international ministries. The PWs of Arkansas Presbytery have maintained an impressive history of giving, not only financially, but in the dedication of their time and talents to further the commitment of Presbyterian Women throughout the world, a history that began in the early 1800s when the first Presbyterian women's "group" defied societal and church conventions to become its own "organization." The PW Birthday Offering (first in 1922) and the Thank Offering (first in 1888) are two examples of the impact Presbyterian Women have made in creating new and existing ministry projects around the world, that continue to this day.

Presbyterian Women began the 2015/2016 year with their 2015 Spring Coordinating Team meeting, conducted by Betty Glenn, Moderator, on Friday, April 10, at the Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Little Rock, Arkansas. The Spring Gathering followed on April 11, 2015, at First Presbyterian Church in Conway, Arkansas, assisted by the Mount Vernon Church in Pea Ridge, Arkansas. The theme for the gathering was "Refuse to Do Nothing." The Reverend Becky

Purcell, Pastor of Prairie Grove Presbyterian Church, led the worship, and the Mission Speaker was the Reverend Kathy Reeves, Mission Associate, PWPCUSA, who focused her presentation on Opportunities for Mission work with an emphasis on Human Trafficking. The Horizons Bible Study overview leader was Jen Bluestein. Other participants were Rev. Dr. Leslie Belden, who spoke about Honduras; Liz Branch, who spoke on Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and the PW-PDA collaboration on Preparedness Training; and Karene Jones, Treasurer for the PWPCT, who spoke on how our PW pledge money is used, an update from the PW Churchwide Gathering, and led a workshop on Officer Training. Officers for the 2016/2017 term were installed. Cluster 1 held their 2015 Fall Gathering on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015, at First Presbyterian Church in Rogers, Arkansas. Cluster 2 churches also participated in this gathering. Worship was led by Rev. Becky Purcell and Jen Bluestein led an overview of the 2015-2016 Horizon Study Come to the Waters by Rev. Judy Record Fletcher. A presentation on the mission in Honduras was led by Leigh Woodruff Harvey and her mom, Marsha Woodruff.

Cluster 4 held their 2015 Fall Gathering at Wynne Presbyterian Church in Wynne, Arkansas, on September 19. Worship was led by the Rev. Mike McCracken and the Bible Study Overview, "COME TO THE WATERS" was led by the Rev. Liz Lindsey. The Mission speaker, the Rev. Ann Hagler, presented a program on the Community of St. Therese of Lisieux (CSTL)—one of the recipients of the PW Birthday Offering in 2015. CSTL provides support and education to women who have survived lives of prostitution, trafficking, addiction, and life on the streets. The thirty-three in attendance included Cluster 3 PW ladies from Jonesboro.

Cluster 5 held their Fall Gathering at First Presbyterian Church in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Worship leader was Reverend Marci Ward, former pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Clarksville, Arkansas. Mary Beth Lysobey reported the following: "We hand-delivered over \$4500 to our Carpathian team to maintain and supply needed parts to the 12 completed projects. The water systems are all working and being used. The people of each village send their thanks for this continued blessing in a bleak time for Ukraine. Vinsa and Ibolya, the minister and wife who were at the 2009 Churchwide Gathering are still alive, but Krisztina, who had her Master's degree said he was, unfortunately, not their minister at the village of Kigyos now. I have asked for more info and hopefully will receive it before our synod CT meeting."

Cluster 6 held their Fall Gathering on November 7 at Central Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Cluster 7 joined Clarksville's Tablearama in place of a Fall Gathering this year.

Cluster 9 held their 2015 Fall Gathering on September 26 at Westover Hills Presbyterian Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. Rev. Marie Mainard O'Connell, Young Adult Volunteer Site Coordinator for Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, led the group in worship in a beautiful service on baptism. The Rev. Sally Johnson led an overview of the Bible study, "Come to the Waters." The 2015 fall PWPCT meeting was held at the Arkansas Presbytery Office in Little Rock on October 1, 2015. After the customary welcome and opening, the Christ Candle was lighted signifying the presence of Christ at this meeting. Susan Heily shared her experience in being a member of Mission United to Stop Trafficking (MUST), a group working to bring issues involving human trafficking to the legislature and publicizing the need for more public awareness of the human trafficking escalating problems in Central Arkansas. Conversation followed on involvement already in place by PW groups in assisting the F.B.I. and Little Rock Police Dept. with donations to help the victims of trafficking get medical help, food, clothing and other needed items.

The PWPCT met at 2:00 p.m. on April 15 at FPC in Bentonville, Arkansas. Jeanne Lloyd, Moderator, called the meeting to order. Cathy Rogers lit the Christ Candle signifying the presence of Christ at this meeting. Jeanne Lloyd gave the devotion, the agenda was approved as distributed, and the minutes of the October 1, 2015 Coordinating Team meeting were approved.

The Rev. Robert Lowry spoke on “Semper Reformanda: Reforming as Adapting in a Changed Church,” and noted that we are experiencing a cultural change in the life of the church similar in significance to the Protestant Reformation.

The PWPCT Treasurer, Karene Jones, distributed the following report on PW money from the Presbytery Budget, which has been used thus far in 016:

Funds which passed through the PW Presbytery Treasurer included the following:

Mission to Churchwide \$10,107.30

Mission to Synod 2,400.00

Thank Offering 8,733.00

Birthday Offering 10,470.10

Honorary Life Memberships 1,140

Least Coin 1,629.26

Memorial 25.00

Honorarium 75.00

TOTAL \$34,579.66

Wider Church Mission

Conway Cradle Care \$1,833.00

Goodland Home 215.00

Vera Lloyd Home 215.00

Centsability 823.92

Historical Society 15.00

Evergreen Home & Services 15.00

TOTAL \$4,117.00

TOTAL GIVING for 2015 \$37,696.66

Financial books for 2015 have been audited and found to be in order. The CT voted to continue to send \$2,400 per year to Synod PW.

The Historian’s report was given by Kathy White, and the Mission report given by Maryann Sweeney. The CT discussed potential divisions of churches among the clusters/regions, and it was noted that five Presbytery Divisions are called “Regions” and do not have the same dividing lines as the five PW clusters.

Dates for the 2017 PWPCT meeting and Spring Gathering will be at FPC, Hot Springs, on April 21 and 22.

Karene Jones led a Cluster Leader Training Workshop during the dinner hour. The Christ Candle was extinguished and Jeanne Lloyd closed the meeting with prayer.

The 2016 Spring Gathering was held at FPC in Bentonville on April 16, at 9:30 a.m. The attendees were welcomed by Ila Blackketter-Wolfe and Cathy Rogers, Co-Moderators of the PWPCT, and who also Co-Chaired the Gathering. The theme for the Spring Gathering was “Rejoice, Renew, Restore.” Opening worship was led by Rev. Katie Cummings, pastor of FPC Bentonville, Rev. Georgia Senor, Assoc. Pastor at FPC Bentonville, Rev. Laura Fleetwood, HR, Rev. Jan Butin and Rev. Susan Gray. The mission offering was donated to the food pantry of FPC, Bentonville, and In-Gathering donations of clothing, Wal-Mart gift or gas cards were given to the NW Arkansas Women’s Shelter.

There were 18 churches represented from Arkansas, three churches from Texas and one church from Missouri. A total of 122 ladies were in attendance.

Jeanne Lloyd introduced the Keynote Speaker, Joy Durrant, Synod of the Sun PW Moderator, who spoke on Presbyterian Women serving beyond the Presbytery. Reports were made by Maryann Sweeney, Mission/Peace/Justice Coordinator, on current projects; Mary Beth Lysobey on the Carpathian Water Project; and Rev. Dr. Leslie Belden on the Honduras Mission project. Minute Announcements were made by Rev. Dr. Rose E. Niles, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Development Officer; Melissa Hendricks on Vera Lloyd Pink Hat Day; Karene Jones, PWPCT Treasurer's Report; and Betty Jean Moore, Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Election and installation of the 2016-2017 PWP Coordinating Team was conducted by Rev. Georgia Senor.

The PWPCT will meet next at the Presbytery Office in Little Rock on October 10, at 10:00 a.m. The 2017 PWPCT and Gathering will meet at FPC, Hot Springs, on April 21 and 22.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Lloyd, Moderator, Arkansas PWP

Continuing the committee's report, Ronda Sanders reported on merger of AR Foodbank and AR Rice Depot, a ministry supported by this committee. TE Gordon Garlington is on the board. New name is AR Foodbank but new logo is for former AR Rice Depot.

TE Joy Carrington spoke on AR Black Presbyterian Caucus, their calendar and budget.

Committee member RE Emily Laurel spoke on The PLACE educational event on August 6 at Second, LR. She drew attention to this opportunity for workshops. There are 10 workshops in each of the three time slots. Pearson noted the deadline to register is July 27. Leadership for 2017 is needed, and online registration is encouraged.

Report of the Synod of the Sun

Commissioner to Synod RE Emily Laurel, First Benton gave the report on the Synod's Leadership Forum. Following is the text of her report:

The report consists of two parts: First, our 2016 Video Project, which we are calling "If it's worth doing, it's worth sharing," and, second, I'll provide an update on the Synod's grants and scholarships commission activities.

The Communications Subcommittee's Continuing Effort to Bring Mission to Life

We continue our effort to bring practical and up-to-date ways to facilitate connecting, equipping, and empowering the people of our synod. The work of the Communication Subcommittee of the Stewardship Committee is an important component of this effort.

Since the Communication Subcommittee began its work, we have sponsored two video challenges, and it is now my pleasure to tell you about our project for 2016, "If it's worth doing, it's worth sharing."

This project not only creates new ways to provide additional funds to congregations and presbyteries for mission activities, but also it will add videos for the Synod Video Bank on our YouTube channel, SynodSunPCUSA. An important reason for sponsoring the 2016 project is to encourage the sharing of mission or ministry activities that will inspire others. Here is part of our announcement:

If It's Worth Doing, It's Worth Sharing

Are there good, innovative, inspiring, Spirit-filled ministries happening in your congregation or presbytery? If so, the Synod of the Sun would like you to share it. We want to celebrate what the Holy Spirit is accomplishing in the life of our synod with you, the people of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

We hope that your videos will help inspire, encourage, and invite others to develop their own similar ministries; and where these similar ministries already exist, that you connect with one another to share ideas and issues in a way that will enable us to further develop these ministries. Videos are intended to be made available to the public for view on the Synod of the Sun's YouTube Channel, "SynodSunPCUSA" (*don't wait, subscribe now*).

Videos should be creative, informative, and under 3 minutes. Those submitted before September 15, 2016, will be eligible for an award in our 2016 "If it's worth doing, it's worth sharing" project. Videos must be submitted to Synod of the Sun Video Entry, 6100 Colwell Blvd., Suite 200, Irving, TX 75039. The application and related information are available on the synod's website, synodsun.org.

Synod Grants and Scholarships Commission Serves the People of the Presbytery of Arkansas

As moderator of the Synod Grants and Scholarships Commission, I see the benefits the people of our presbytery are reaping as a result of the investments Synod is making in mission and ministry. In February I reported to you that the commission approved \$5,000 for a program called "Dignity through Technology" for Presbyterian Village, \$2,500 for First Presbyterian's Seventh Street Elementary Food Program in Little Rock, and \$4,000 for Lyon College's mission trip to Romania. So you can see how valuable this resource is in obtaining funding for projects that support the mission and ministry of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

The next meeting of the Synod Grants and Scholarships Commission is scheduled for Thursday, July 13, 2016. Meanwhile, our summer sub-group is actively working with the applications of many young people planning their summer trips to places such as the 2016 Triennium at Purdue University in Indiana, Synod Youth Workshop, or MO Ranch.

It is important that Synod coordinate with the congregations and the Presbytery of Arkansas in considering applications for scholarships and grants. We will be exploring the best ways to manage our resources to optimize opportunities for members of our presbytery while managing our collective resources responsibly.

Meanwhile, I urge you to visit the Synod's website to familiarize yourselves with the Synod's most recent listing of grant and scholarship availability.

Report of the Youth, Campus, and Young Adult Ministry Area

Committee moderator RE Mary Shaw, First, Springdale gave the report. She spoke of the work on the new committee and their consultation with Professor Rodger Nishioka.

For Information:

Draft Minutes

April 16, 2016

In attendance were: Mary Shaw, Robert Lowry, Leslie Roper, Britton Varn, Nora Johnson, Susan Rose, Ray McCalla, Stewart Smith, Bill Seitz, Donna Ellison, Justin Clark, and Ashley Clark.

Mary Shaw opened our meeting with prayer. Bill Seitz was elected co-moderator.

The committee then had a "question and answer" time regarding the ministry and committee duties. There was discussion on whether we should change the membership requirements, specifically the wording that requires campus ministries to be UKirk sanctioned. After discussion

on campus ministry programs and research into what it requires to be UKirk sanctioned Leslie Roper made a motion to change the language in membership requirements from:

Original Statement: “Three members from each of the five regions of the presbytery shall be elected for a three-year term. Additionally, one member from each UKirk sanctioned campus ministry or congregation-based ministry within the bounds of the presbytery may elect one member with voice and vote. Two members of the permanent sub-committee on Youth Ministry shall be appointed to serve with voice and vote.”

Proposed Change: “Three members from each of the five regions of the presbytery shall be elected for a three-year term. Additionally, one member *from each UKirk registered* campus ministry or congregation-based ministry within the bounds of the presbytery may elect one member with voice and vote. Two members of the permanent sub-committee on Youth Ministry shall be appointed to serve with voice and vote.”

Susan Rose seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. There was also discussion on the committee’s desire to ultimately have college and young adult advisory teams similar to the Youth Advisory Team. Susan Rose volunteered to start and head a college advisory team. Ashley Clark volunteered to help with that. Mary Shaw, Donna Ellison and Leslie Roper agreed to start looking into young adult ministry and what some possible options for that might be.

Next, we began to brainstorm possible ways of reaching and connecting with college and young adults. Suggestions included:

- YAV’s at Ferncliff
- Use young adults already in the presbytery to guide us

Unanimously, we agreed that building relationships was key to any program development. Britton Varn will email the youth leaders throughout the presbytery asking them to enter information such as name and college for graduating seniors. This will at least give us a starting point.

The committee has been asked to send two members to serve on the Presbytery Coordinating Team. Justin Clark and Leslie Roper volunteered to serve on the CT.

Ray McCalla closed meeting with prayer.

For Action:

1. That the presbytery amend the Organization and Structure as follows:

a. Delete from 5.E.1 Membership “...one member from each UKirk sanctioned campus ministry...”

b. Add to 5.E.1 Membership “...one member from each UKirk registered campus ministry...”

c. Delete from 5.E.3.b “UKirk sanctioned”

d. Add to 5.E.3.b “UKirk registered”

e. Rationale: UKirk, the PC(USA) campus ministry office, has changed its process for recognizing campus ministries. This change reflects the change at the national level.

f. NB: Original referral corrected by the Stated Clerk to reflect text of final Organization and Structure document. Motion was approved.

Moderator resumed duties. He prayed for Woodlands, Hot Springs Village and the presbytery.

Committee on Representation

2016 Statistical Report

Report to 132nd Stated Meeting of Presbytery--June 4, 2016

Revised 4/20/16

The Presbytery's Committee on Representation examines and compares the statistics of who is serving in elected positions to the statistics reported to General Assembly by local churches of their membership and makes commendation and recommendations for wider inclusion and closer representation. **48 of the 86 congregations in the presbytery (56%) submitted statistical reports to General Assembly for 2015 by the deadline** so comparison of ages, genders, races, and disabilities to those elected to serve is more accurately done this year than last year when fewer churches reported. (We commend the churches and the Stated Clerk for this improvement which COR requested last year.)

The Presbytery's Committee on Representation met by conference call on April 14, 2016 with a quorum present of 6 of the 8 voting members and examined the following statistics:

- 1) **Number of persons elected** and serving Presbytery as of March 1, 2016: **193**. Active members reported by those churches which actually reported to G.A. by deadline totaled 12,472 and grand total of 13,247 adherents, including baptized (not confirmed) and other participants for the presbytery.
- Persons counted as elected have been nominated by the Committee on Nominations and approved by presbytery 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 which are populated by invitation are not included.)
- Nine (9) administrative commissions, one task force, and one support committee (for the General Presbyter) are in place this year as compared to two ACs and two search committees this time last year.
- This number (193) includes thirty-nine (**39**) **persons who serve in more than one position**; they are counted multiple times –once for each chair they fill. (This number of people serving in multiple positions (39) is sadly a major increase from last year's twenty (20) persons in dual or more roles. There are 140 different people participating, 25 fewer than last year, due to restructuring.)

2) **Number of different churches represented by persons elected: 60 of 86 churches**

(This is four fewer than participated last year. However, one committee [Ministries with youth, campus and young adults] is awaiting representatives of UKirks and congregation-based campus ministries to be appointed so this number may improve. Nine administrative commissions are also working with 8 churches at their request, and some of these are struggling churches which may be dissolved in the future.)

- 70% of churches within the presbytery bounds are participating** in the work of the Presbytery.
- Persons counted above in more than one position include eighteen (18) active Teaching Elders, eighteen (18) Ruling Elders and three (3) laypeople.

26 churches that do not have any staff or members serving (two more than last year) are as follows, followed by region numbers and AC (administrative commission):

- a) Amity, Alpine (Region 2)
- b) Arkadelphia, West End (2)
- c) Cane Hill (1) --AC
- d) Elkins (1)
- e) Eureka Springs, First (1)

- f) Fairfield Bay, Kirk of the Hills (4)
- g) Fayetteville, Mount Comfort (1)
- h) Gamaliel, 101 (4)
- i) Gravette, First (1) --AC
- j) Gurdon, First (2)
- k) Helena, First (5)
- l) Holiday Island (1)
- m) Horseshoe Bend, Faith (4)
- n) Hot Springs Village, Woodlands (2) --AC
- o) Little Rock, Grace (3)
- p) Marianna, First (5)
- q) McGehee, First (5)
- r) Mountainburg (2)
- s) Ozark, First (2) --AC
- t) Paragould, First (5)
- u) Pocahontas, First (5) --AC
- v) Stuttgart, First (5)
- w) Walnut Ridge, First (5)
- x) West Helena, Cleburne Avenue (5)
- y) Yellville, First (4)

Note: Five (5) of the above churches are under Administrative Commissions and may be dissolved or dismissed. Seven of the churches above are pastor-less.

3) **Age Groups:** There was a slight decrease in the 25 and under and the 26-35 age group from previous years but an increase in those age 36-55--**63% of the elected persons, 4% less than last year, are age 56 or older.**

(Observation: The Youth Advisory Team, a 40-member subcommittee of presbytery's Committee on Ministries with Youth, Campus and Young Adults 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 # of Persons Elected % of Total Elected Comparison to Report from Churches

25 & Under	4	3%	12%
26 -35	9	6%	17%
36 -55	42	30%	13%
56 -64	38	27%	17%
65 and Up	47	34%	41%

4) **Genders** of persons and percentage of elected group (There is no change from last two years' percentages of 49% male and 51% female)

Gender # Persons Elected % of Total Elected Group Comparison to Report from Churches

Male 69 49% of those elected 44% of reported members

Female 71 51% of those elected 56% of reported members

5) **Ethnic Heritage** of elected persons and percentage of group compared to reported members

Ethnicity # Persons Elected % of Elected Group % of Reported Members

African American/Black 5 4% (1% more than last year) 1%

Caucasian/White 133 95% (1% less than last year) 97%

Hispanic 2 1% (Same as last year) 2% all other ethnicities

Asian, Native American, Middle Eastern, African 0 combined

(Note: Of the presbytery's churches that did report to General Assembly earlier this year about their 2015 statistics, racial ethnic breakdown included: Asian, Middle Eastern, Native American, White, Black/African American, African, Other, and Hispanic)

6) **Type of Ordination** represented by number of persons and percentage of elected group

Ordination # Persons % of Total Elected Group

Teaching Elder 54 39% (3% less than last year)

Ruling Elder 77 55% (3% more than last year)

Non ruling elders (deacons or members) 9 6% (same as last year)

7) Number of persons with **Disabilities** who are elected

This category is defined as hearing, sight, and mobility.

Nine (9) persons elected to serve reported themselves as having a disability: 4 related to hearing, 4 to mobility, and 1 to sight. This is 6% of the people elected.

Comparison to disabilities reported by local churches: 1256, 9% of total membership, reported disabilities. (COR believes that this determination is made by those preparing the report rather than by the members themselves. It is also unclear whether churches are reporting those with "managed" disabilities. Presbytery figures are those who self-identify as dealing with a disability.)

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION ON SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FROM LOCAL CHURCHES AND FROM THOSE ELECTED TO SERVE IN PRESBYTERY:

1) More churches should report their correct statistics by the deadline since only having 56% report makes comparison a challenge. Stated Clerk is to be commended for diligent efforts to encourage timely reporting and is encouraged to use some or all of these tactics: continue to contact this year's non-reporting churches to report next year, move presbytery reporting deadline to earlier date, impart reasons why the statistics are so important and needed by announcing at presbytery meetings, involve pastors in this process, offer a workshop on statistical reports at The PLACE, allow churches to send in hardcopy report for Stated Clerk to input electronically since some clerks or ruling elders may be uncomfortable inputting data.

2) Committee on Nominations has done a good job in this, the first year of restructuring, in abiding by the mandates for regions, parity and representation set forth in the new documents.

3) Committee on Representation is grateful to all teaching elders, ruling elders and laity who stand for election.

Recommendations from Committee on Representation to Committee on Nominations for latter's work in 2016:

1) Encourage the participation of the youngest age group, age 25 and younger, in the work of the presbytery. One way to accomplish this was modeled by COR who contacted their college-age committee members and arranged the committee meeting to accommodate their schedule.

2) Continue to work to involve staff and members from more churches and to involve more minority members.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ruling Elder Ledridge Davis

Stated Clerk's Advice to the Committee on Nominations

5/24/2016

NB: The advice of the Stated Clerk is not constitutionally binding on the presbytery and is meant solely to give advice and guidance to presbytery committees and ministries.

Question Presented: Do term limits for members of committees and ministries of the presbytery carry over from the old structure to the new? (i.e. Do five years of service on COM count against the six year term limit on CCM?)

In my opinion, term limits do not carry over. The new structure is silent on the issue of whether or not past service should count toward current term limits.

Furthermore, the General Assembly, when adopting the present Form of Government in the Book of Order, chose to move from a more regulative to a normative form of governance in Church councils. Within a normative interpretive framework, that which the text does not explicitly forbid, is a permitted option for the council. That interpretive stance is legitimate for lower councils in interpreting their own governing documents. The presbytery may choose to toll past years of service for the purpose of establishing term limits, however it is not required to do so under the present structure.

My advice to the Nominations Committee is that all terms on committees and ministries, unless otherwise contradicted by the Book of Order, begin to toll January 1, 2016.

In Christ,

Dr. Robert Wm Lowry

Stated Clerk

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Minutes of previous presbytery meetings. Motion to approve the minutes of the October, 2015 presbytery meeting as printed passed. Motion to approve the minutes of the February, 2016 presbytery meeting as printed passed.**

TE Rebecca Spooner moved "In the interest of financial stewardship, the Presbytery of Arkansas shall direct all funds from the settlement of the church property in Siloam Springs be used to reduce the principle of the "Ferncliff debt." Motion was seconded. There was a question about spending money before it is received. A comment was made about how many years the settlement will take and that it is premature to be discussing using funds to be paid out. A statement was made that it would be wise to slow down on these decisions and realize what a shift such a vote would signal. Spooner said that payment should be paid quickly to avoid interest payment. A commissioner asked that the AC be given time to minister to those who want to remain in the PC(USA) and does not want all the proceeds to be tied up in debt repayment. TE Marie Mainard O'Connell asked if it is possible to table pending AC's final report. Stated Clerk gave opinion on polity. Motion was made to refer Spooner's motion to AC. Motion was approved. Spooner asked if her motion had been voted on and SC answered that it had been referred.

REPORT OF THE LEAVES OF ABSENCE COMMITTEE

Attendance was reported as Teaching Elders 53, Corresponding Members 3, Ruling Elder Commissioners 43; Other Voting Ruling Elders 12, Commissioned Ruling Elders 4, Certified Christian Educators 5; Visitors 34, Total number who signed registration sheets 154.

MINUTE ANNOUNCEMENTS

A number were made publicizing specific events and opportunities open to commissioners.

CLOSING PRAYER

Moderator gave the closing prayer with joys and concerns of the body. There being no further business before the Presbytery, a motion was made and seconded that the presbytery adjourn at 2:45 p.m. **Motion was approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Stated Clerk Robert William Lowry
Thompson

Recording Clerk NiAnn

Draft 3--7/5/16