



PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS

9221 North Rodney Parham Road

Little Rock, Arkansas 72227

501.663.2424 • 501.224.2429 FX

www.presbyteryofarkansas.org • info@presbyteryofarkansas.org

May 15, 2017

Dear Commissioners:

Welcome to the 135th 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 Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, 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. Another packet with financial information, fliers, and other information will be posted to the presbytery’s website a week prior to the meeting. In the event there is last minute business, it will be available to you in hard copy form at the registration table.

There will not be internet/wireless capabilities in the Sanctuary at Second Presbyterian Church, so if you plan to use a laptop or tablet to follow the docket and read reports please download documents prior to arrival Saturday morning. The docket and reports will be projected onto a screen in the front of the sanctuary to make it easier to follow the flow of business.

This is our annual one-day meeting held each summer in Central Arkansas. We hope that the format of the meeting allows for commissioners who wish to drive to and from the meeting in one day to do so. We also are providing additional fellowship time, complete with trivia contest, for those who come and stay overnight Friday evening at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, as well as a workshop led by Rev. Michael Vinson that afternoon titled “Fostering a Life-Nurturing Environment in Your Congregation” at 1 pm. If you did not reserve a room to stay overnight on Friday please refer back to the “Lodging and Meal” document in the Host Information packet posted online for this meeting.

Meetings of the Presbytery of Arkansas are not merely business meetings but are an opportunity for the Body of Christ to discern God’s will, to grow in faith, and to be filled with God’s Holy Spirit. To that end we will feature a special theological conversation on the value of children in the church and the importance of protecting our children. Then on Saturday afternoon we will have the opportunity to consider an Overture on excluding campaigning in the church and will also hear about the implications of Arkansas’s new conceal carry law on our congregations.

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 leslie@presbyteryofarkansas.org. I look forward to seeing you in Little Rock!

Peace,

The Rev. Dr. Leslie Frances Smith Belden
Temporary Stated Clerk

Stewart Smith
General Presbyter

Kenneth Rich
Director of Mission Support

NiAnn Thompson
Resourcing Center Director

Leslie Smith Belden
Temporary Stated Clerk

Britton Varn
Youth Ministry

Michael Vinson
Vital Congregations

Second, Little Rock
June 3, 2017

Next Meetings

136th Stated Meeting
Graham Memorial, Forrest City
October 6-7, 2017

137th Stated Meeting
Lyon College, Batesville
February 2018 (date TBD)

135th Stated Meeting

The Presbytery of Arkansas

Meeting Schedule

Friday, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center

- 1:00 pm Workshop for those Pre-Registered – Dining Hall
- 7:00 pm Fellowship Trivia Contest
- 8:00 pm Deadline for Submission of New Business
in the hands, or email box, of Stated Clerk

Saturday, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

- 8:30am Exhibitor Set-up – Wings of Narthex
- 9:00am Registration - Narthex
- 9:45am The Presbytery Convenes - Sanctuary
- 10am Morning Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:30am Order of the Day – Great Hall
- 12:30pm Lunch – Great Hall
- 2pm Order of the Day – Sanctuary

Presbytery Leadership

Moderator RE Ruth Hamilton

Vice-Moderator TE Leslie Roper

Moderator of CT TE Lacy Sellers

General Presbyter TE Stewart Smith

Temporary Stated Clerk TE Leslie Belden

Moderator of Administration
RE Jan Enke

Moderator of CCM TE Dari Rowen

Moderator of CLD TE Kade Curry

Moderator of Future of the Church
RE Leah Shell

Moderator of Mission of the Church
RE Kelly Pearson

Moderator of Representation
RE Ledridge Davis

Moderator of Nominations
TE Elizabeth Gabbard

Docket

Saturday June 3

We Gather in God's Name

- 9:45 am 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
Appointment of Tellers and Leaves of Absence Committee
Adoption of Consent Agenda (Section A), including Minutes of Feb. 17-18, 2017
(Section K)

We Encounter God's Word

- 10 am Worship

We Respond to God's Call

- 10:45 am Report of the General Presbyter
Greetings from Rev. Steven Copley, Interfaith Arkansas
Report of the Stated Clerk (Section B)
Report of the Treasurer
Report of the Coordinating Team (Section C)
11:20 am Break to Move to the Great Hall
11:30 am Order of the Day-Really Welcome: A Conversation on Children, Safety, and
Responsibility
12:30 pm Lunch

- 1:15 pm Report of the Committee on Representation (Section D)
Report of the Committee on Nominations (Section E)
Report of the Committee on the Church's Ministries (Sections F)
Report of the Future of the Church Ministry Area (Section G)
- 2 pm Order of the Day-Overture: On Excluding Campaigning in the Church (Section H)
Report of the Mission of the Church Area (Section I)
Report of the Committee on Leadership Development (Section J)
Conceal Carry Legislation and the Implications for Churches

Minute Announcements

New Business

- a.
- b.
- c.

Report of the Leaves of Absence Committee

We Are Sent in God's Service

Commitment to God's Call-Referrals

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

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**dmistrative **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 2018 meeting will be held in late June in St. Louis, Missouri.
- **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 Arkansas 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

Temporary Stated Clerk TE Leslie Smith Belden

1. That the presbytery approve the minutes of the 134th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, February 17-18, 2017, held at the University of the Ozarks, Clarksville, AR. (Section K)
2. That the presbytery receive the final report of the Siloam Springs Administrative Commission, which referred the dispersal of funds received from First Presbyterian Church of Siloam Springs to the Future of the Church Area, and dismiss the members of the Administrative Commission with thanks.
3. That the presbytery receive the final report of the Chenal Property Administrative Commission and dismiss the members of the Administrative Commission with thanks.
4. That the presbytery approve the following to serve on the Board of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center: Martin Kasten, Class of 2018 and TE Becky Purcell, First, Prairie Grove, Class of 2019.
5. That the presbytery receive the final report of the Carpathian Basin Water/Solar Project Governing Board, included as Exhibit 1 at the end of Section A, and dismiss the members with thanks, keeping the account open for maintenance of existing systems.

Section A - Exhibit 1

CARPATHIAN BASIN WATER/SOLAR PROJECT

The Carpathian Basin Water/Solar Project in Ukraine was the result of the Presbyterian Women Global Exchange (GX) to Eastern Europe in 2008. Arkansas Presbytery PW Mary Beth Lysobey, and other members of that group, could not forget the terrible conditions of the Roma (Gypsy) population they visited and the fact that only 2 of the 108 villages in this southwestern area of Ukraine had safe drinking water. After much prayer, a plan evolved, and today 10 of the 108 villages now have one well where citizens can get jugs of clean water at least 5 days a week, thanks to the Presbyterian outreach of Solar under the Sun (SUTS) and Living Waters for the World (LWW) and to Reformed Church (our Presbyterian first cousins) leaders in these small Ukrainian villages.

Mary Beth and David Lysobey, Kathy and Joseph Angi, PCUSA mission workers in Hungary, and two Ukrainian Reformed Church leaders have taken the SUTS and LWW classes and Mary Beth raised funds by sharing the need for clean water for the people in the Carpathian Basin to Presbyterian Women throughout the Synod of the Sun. Including a \$5000 grant from Synod of the Sun, since March 2011 Presbyterian Women from throughout our synod and across the USA have raised over \$71,000. This money was used to install eleven water systems and one solar system and some funds to maintain them in this “third world” country in Europe. A core group was also trained to install the water systems and to maintain them. The Lysobeys from Arkansas and the Angis now living in Ohio were on site for the first 8 systems’ installation.

The AR Presbytery Carpathian Basin Water/Solar Project Governing Board asks to be dissolved. However, the Presbytery of AR will keep the account open because money will always be needed for maintenance (\$465 in account). And other groups may be led to continue this ministry.

Send donations to Presbytery of AR, 9221 N. Rodney Parham Road, Little Rock, AR 72227. Designate that it is for the Carpathian Basin Water Project.

For further information, contact Mary Beth Lysobey, Barr Memorial Presbyterian Church in Norman at 870-223-2724. lysobeym@windstream.net

CARPATHIAN BASIN WATER/SOLAR PROJECT

March 2011-November 2014

Kigyos: Reformed Church Elementary School March 2011 – LWW System

Fornos: Public School March 2011 – LWW System

Bulcsu: Reformed Church Nursing Home October 2011 - LWW System

Csonkapapi: Public School April 2012 – LWW System

Szernya: Reformed Church Roma Primary School April 2012 LWW System

Beregszasz: Roma Health Center near “Village of the White Wall”: dug well, installed hot water heater and building heating system, May 2013 LWW System

Mezovari: Reformed Church Roma Primary School May 2013 LWW System

Nagydobron: Reformed Church Nursing Home May 2013 SUTS System and hot water heater for bathing of residents

Rat: Reformed Church Conference Center/Summer Camp and nearby Reformed Church Kindergarten School June 2013 LWW System

Nagydobron: Gezi Neni’s Roma Kindergarten School LWW System funded by Winnetka Presbyterian Church, Winnetka, Illinois June 2013

Nagydobron: Orphanage; a new building to house orphans who are about to get too old to be in the regular orphanage. This transitional home prepares them to live in the real world and to get jobs. LWW System Nov. 2014 (This system was paid for out of the Carpathian Basin Water/Solar funds, but was planned, built, and will be maintained by Reformed faith people from the community. (The leaders were trained in the USA at LWW and SUTS.)

Mezőgecse: Reformed Faith pre-school in a village located on the Tisza River. The water is contaminated in all the village wells, except for this one; the LWW system was planned, installed and will be maintained by the Ukrainian people, the system being paid for out of Carpathian Basin Water/Solar Fund. LWW System Nov. 2014

Section B

Report of the Stated Clerk

TE Leslie Smith Belden
Temporary Stated Clerk

For Action:

The Administrative Commission charged with working with Walnut Grove Presbyterian Church, Farmington, and Cane Hill Presbyterian Church, Cane Hill, brings the following recommendation to the presbytery for action:

The Administrative Commission recommends that the funds from the sale of the Walnut Grove Presbyterian Church building and grounds be invested in a fund to be named the “Walnut Grove Commissioned Ruling Elder Fund” for the purpose of assisting with the training and support of Commissioned Ruling Elders.

See Section B – Exhibit 1 below. RE Ted Belden, First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, to speak.

For Information:

1. All active members of the Presbytery of Arkansas, which means Ministers of the Word and Sacrament, Commissioned Ruling Elders, and Certified Christian Educators who are Ruling Elders, as well as Certified Christian Educators who are not Ruling Elders, and other ministers serving within the bounds of the presbytery with the exception of non-active honorably retired clergy are subject of the presbytery’s Sexual Misconduct Policy and are included in the Presbytery of Arkansas’s Background Check Policy. This means that everyone in these categories must sign the acknowledgement of the Sexual Misconduct Policy and must also sign the Disclosure and Release Form and submit \$10 to the presbytery to cover the cost of the background check. **There are 45 members of presbytery who we had not received forms for on the date that this report was posted to the presbytery’s website.** Those who have not done so are encouraged to fill out the forms during the presbytery meeting and remit the \$10. The last date to turn in forms and money is June 10, 2017.
2. The Temporary Stated Clerk completed filing the presbytery’s annual reports with the Office of the General Assembly as required by GA rules (the Governing Body Costs Report, the Salaries and Benefits Report, and the Summary of Church Changes Report were reported prior to the February 17-18, 2017 meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas):
 - a. **Minister Summary**
 - i. Necrology 2
 - ii. Dismissed to another Presbytery 8
 - iii. Dismissed to another Denomination 0

iv. Other Removals	0
v. Ordained	0
vi. Received from another Denomination	0
vii. Restored	0
viii. Received from another Presbytery	4
ix. Minister Total as of 1/1/2016	148
x. Losses	-10
xi. Gains	+4
xii. Ministers on Roll as of 12/31/2016	142
xiii. In Transit	4

b. Per Capita Apportionment 2016

Total \$95,543.28*

* Presbyteries in the Synod of the Sun do not report their “per capita” in the same manner as presbyteries in other synods. We report ours as the total amount the presbytery pays rather than the amount we pay per person.

c. Meeting Dates for 2017

- i. February 17-18, 2017; 6:45 pm – 9 pm Friday evening, 9 am – 3 pm Saturday; University of the Ozarks, Clarksville, Arkansas
- ii. June 3, 2017; 9 am – 4 pm Saturday; Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, Arkansas
- iii. October 6-7, 2017; 6:30 pm – 9 pm Friday evening, 9 am – 3 pm Saturday; Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church, Forrest City, Arkansas

3. Per recommendation from the Committee on Representation, the Temporary Stated Clerk will prioritize encouraging congregations to send in their statistical reports to General Assembly for 2017. The percentage of congregations turning in statistical reports for 2016 was dismally low: 42%. Clerks of Sessions can begin compiling information late in the year knowing that reports are due the first part of February.
4. NiAnn Thompson, the presbytery’s Resourcing Center Director, assisted the Temporary Stated Clerk by submitting the 2016 Minutes of the Meetings of the Presbytery of Arkansas, indexed, with a table of contents and appendix, to the Synod of the Sun for their review on April 5, 2017. NiAnn Thompson’s work on behalf of the Presbytery of Arkansas in the area of assistance to the Temporary Stated Clerk is to be commended by the presbytery.
5. The Temporary Stated Clerk attended training for the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission and presbytery stated clerks on March 29-30, 2017 at the Synod of the Sun office in Irving, Texas.
6. The Temporary Stated Clerk attended training for new stated clerks by the Office of the General Assembly on April 3-5, 2017 at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville, Kentucky.
7. The Temporary Stated Clerk attended the Synod of the Sun’s Event on Civil Conversations on April 20-21, 2017 at Woodhaven Presbyterian Church in Irving, Texas.

8. In the near future the Presbytery Ministry Manual will need to be edited to reflect recent changes in the presbytery. For instance, the presbytery was reduced from five to four regions, and Part I, Organization and Structure, states that the Coordinating Team shall have between 12 and 17 members, but at no time may more than three members come from the same region. With only four regions that would mean that the maximum number on the Coordinating Team could be limited to twelve, making it difficult to fulfill all of the other necessary criteria for membership on the CT, including representation from various ministry areas and committees.
9. The General Assembly records show that the following were transferred or removed by the former Stated Clerk:
 - TE Jeff Cranton to Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery
 - TE Chris Jones to Cherokee Presbytery
 - TE Rachel Jenkins Shepherd to West Virginia Presbytery
 - TE Breck Castleman has been removed
10. The General Assembly records show that the following were enrolled by the Presbytery of Arkansas:
 - TE Jeremy Wilhelmi, as Chaplain at the University of the Ozarks
 - TE Terry McLellan, HR
 - TE Jai Kwak, as Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, Pine Bluff
11. TE Liz Wagner, Associate Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of BellaVista, was named by the Committee on the Church's Ministries to serve on the Administrative Commission working with First Presbyterian Church of Clarksville, replacing TE Phil Butin.
12. We have received notification that the Session records of the following congregations have been reviewed. Please notify Temporary Stated Clerk Leslie Belden if your records have been reviewed and we do not have record of it.

First, Arkadelphia
 West End, Arkadelphia
 Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista
 First, Bentonville
 Vaughn, Bentonville
 First, Clarksville
 First, Conway
 Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay
 Central, Fort Smith
 First, Fort Smith
 First, Heber Springs

Holly Grove Presbyterian Church
 Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village
 First, Hot Springs
 Grace, Little Rock
 Pulaski Heights, Little Rock
 Second, Little Rock
 Westover Hills, Little Rock
 Barr Memorial, Norman
 Park Hill, North Little Rock
 First, Springdale
 Cleburne Avenue, West Helena

13. The following honorably retired teaching elders who are members of the Presbytery of Arkansas have earned and chosen the status of HR active, and all others within and beyond the bounds have the status of HR non-active for 2017.

Catherine L. Allsbury
Ben H. Bateman
William W. Branch
Ira "Ike" Brighton
Donald Campbell III
Danny Daniel
Joyce Daniel
Milton B. Davis
Guy Delaney
David H. Dyer
Heinrich B. Eiler
Alan Ford

Orin M. Frank
Richard Frothingham
Gordon F. Garlington III
David E. Gill
Howard H. Gordon
William F. Henning
Sally Stockley Johnson
Lance Jones
David S. King
John E. King
Mark Lenneville
"Bo" Lewis

Terry McLellan
James B. Miller
Richard H. Miller
Jerry Rice
C. Michael D Seitz
Richard Shinkle
Frederick A. Taylor
W. Kennedy Upham
Don Wardlaw
Rita Wilson
Darwin Wolfe

Section B - Exhibit 1

Report of the Administrative Commission Charged with Working with Walnut Grove Presbyterian Church, Farmington, and Cane Hill Presbyterian Church, Cane Hill

RE Ted Belden
First United, Fayetteville

The commission consisting of TE Phil Butin, TE Marie Mainard O'Connell, TE John King, RE Ted Belden, RE Charles Cook. And Ex Officio member CRE Bruce Schlegel have met several times to discuss the affairs of the Walnut Grove Church and the Cane Hill Church. We feel God has led us down a path and we are moving closer to resolving the property issue of both churches.

Walnut Grove Presbyterian Church, Prairie Grove

Most, if not all of the members of the church moved their membership to First Presbyterian Church, Prairie Grove two year ago. We experimented with using the property with the United Campus Ministry last year. This was a good experiment but unfortunately we did not find another leader to continue the effort. The AC would like to thank Max Hill and Campus Minister Susan Rose for their efforts last year.

The committee felt it was best to seek bids from potential buyers for the church building at Walnut Grove. After contacting three potential buyers we received a bid of \$40,000 and we have now received an offer from this buyer to pay \$45,000, \$20,000 at closing and \$25,000 one year from the date of closing. Closing is anticipated to occur by the end of June.

For Action:

The Administrative Commission recommends that the funds from the sale of the Walnut Grove Presbyterian Church building and grounds be invested in a fund to be named the "Walnut Grove Commissioned Ruling Elder Fund" for the purpose of assisting with the training and support of Commissioned Ruling Elders.

Rationale:

The commission discussed the use of the proceeds. This church, and many other small churches, use the services of Commissioned Ruling Elders (CRE). We want the Presbytery to remember this church, and believe that a good use of the funds would be to support the CRE program.

Cane Hill Presbyterian Church, Cane Hill

The Cane Hill Church has a unique opportunity to partner with Historic Cane Hill Inc. Many buildings in Cane Hill, thru Historic Cane Hill Inc., have been restored. The commission has agreed in principle to allow the transfer of the property to Historic Cane Hill Inc. with the condition that they begin a process to

restore the historic church structure and allow the congregation to continue to meet in the building as long as the session wants to continue its ministry. When the church does not want to use the building it can be used by Historic Cane Hill Inc. If and when the church closes the property will belong to Historic Cane Hill Inc. If Historic Cane Hill Inc. closes, for whatever reason, the church property would return to the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Section C

Report of the Coordinating Team

TE Lacy Sellers
First, Hot Springs

For Information:

The Coordinating Team met on April 1, 2017 to discuss planning future presbytery meetings, and at their regularly scheduled meeting on May 6, 2017 adopted the following general guidelines

1. Continue to meet at our PC(USA) Universities (Lyon and the University of the Ozarks) normally on the second or third weekend in February for Friday/Saturday meetings.
2. Continue to have a summer meeting.
3. Ordinarily alternate the Summer meeting between First Presbyterian Church of Conway and Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, but the presbytery would accept an invitation from another centrally located church as appropriate.
4. Loosen the language in our policies and procedures concerning the location of our Fall meeting so that we could lift up the possibility of meeting at Ferncliff but also leave it open so that an invitation in a different part of the state could be considered.
5. Plan meetings around general themes but be flexible in what the themes will be.
6. Those planning presbytery meetings will have the flexibility to plan breaking out into educational opportunities within the context of a meeting, rather than always before a meeting as a pre-presbytery workshop.
7. Give the lead of planning worship for presbytery meetings to the host church with the presbytery assisting in making sure that elements that the presbytery may need (such as a candidate preaching or the installation of the Moderator) are incorporated. When Ferncliff is hosting a partner congregation, or congregations, could plan worship.
8. Reduce the number on the Presbytery Meeting Planning Team to the Moderator, Stated Clerk (and/or Assistant Stated Clerk), Representative of the Host Institution (could be the pastor, but could be someone else), General Presbyter, and Moderator of the Coordinating Team (5).

The Coordinating Team took the following actions on behalf of the presbytery at their regularly scheduled meeting on May 6, 2017

1. Designated the offering during worship at the 135th Stated Meeting on June 3, 2017 to help with travel expenses of our presbytery's youth delegation attending this summer's national Presbyterian youth conference at Montreat, North Carolina.
2. Designated the October 2017 presbytery offering toward the capital campaign underway at Presbyterian Village in Little Rock, specifically to help with the challenge matching grant recently received from the Mabee Foundation to help the Village renovate and upgrade the facilities that serve its aging residents; renovations not just updating the physical appeal of the campus, but also allowing the Village to enhance and expand services and programs offered to its residents, most importantly licensed care for those with Alzheimer's Disease/dementia.

3. Invited PC(USA) Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson to speak at the February 2018 meeting at Lyon College, with the date to be determined by the calendars of Lyon College and Rev. Dr. Nelson.
4. Planned to have a theological discussion on how to have civil discourse within the church at the 137th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, February 2018 meeting at Lyon College.
5. Edited the presbytery's Disclosure Authorization and Release Form to reflect a background check only national and state criminal records, as approved by the presbytery. (included at the end of Section C as Exhibit 1)
6. Edited the presbytery's Background Check Policy to be consistent in covering the same individuals covered by the presbytery's Sexual Misconduct Policy. (included at the end of Section C as Exhibit 2)
7. Approved the correction of typographical errors and omissions in the presbytery's Sexual Misconduct Policy. (included at the end of Section C as Exhibit 3)
8. Added TE Dennis Ritchie to the First Presbyterian Church of Rogers Administrative Commission, replacing TE Leslie Belden.
9. Added RE Ronnie Prevost, Presbyterian Church of BellaVista, to the La Comunidad Hispania Administrative Commission, replacing TE Leslie Belden.
10. Approved establishing a general guide for electing moderators and choosing vice-moderators of committees and ministry areas which resembles the model of the presbytery's moderator and vice-moderator, with the former moderator serving in an advisory role the third year.
11. Approved establishing staggered terms of moderators of committees/ministry areas so that the majority of moderators don't rotate off at the same time.
12. Approved having the Moderator of the Nominating Committee, or designee, serve as an ex-officio member of the Coordinating Team.
13. Adopted criteria to guide the Nominating Committee in the selection of nominees for General Assembly Commissioners and Youth Advisory Delegates. (included at the end of Section C as Exhibit 4)
14. Appointed an Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville, with the members listed, and authority granted, as reported through Exhibit 5 at the end of Section C.

For Action

1. Motion to return the name of the "Committee on the Church's Ministries" to the "Committee on Ministry." This is a proposed change to the *Presbytery Ministry Manual Part 1 Organization and Structure* and requires a 2/3 vote of the presbytery to be able to suspend the rules of requiring thirty-days written notice of this proposed change allowing the vote. The change itself requires a 3/5 majority vote to be approved.

Rationale: "The Church and Its Ministries Area" is made up of two committees: the Committee on Leadership Development and the Committee on the Church's Ministries. That the name of one of the committees is so similar to the ministry area under which it exists causes confusion within the presbytery. Within our own Manual, the name of the committee is misnamed in various places, including line 275, where it is called "Ministries of the Church." Members, congregations, and sessions throughout the presbytery are confused about who they should contact, and ordinarily say, "You know,

the committee that used to be the COM.” The Presbytery of Arkansas is one of the only presbyteries of the PC(USA) that changed the name of this committee formerly mandated by the Book of Order, also making it confusing among the other presbyteries in the denomination when communicating between presbyteries. When the Presbytery of Arkansas changed its structure it changed the responsibilities of most committees, necessitating the changing of their names. The responsibilities of the CCM/COM did not change to the degree that a change in name was needed.

2. Motion to delete the words “A majority of members shall be selected from the non-Caucasian racial ethnic groups within the body and,” from the Membership section under the Committee on Representation from Presbytery of Arkansas Manual Part 2 Ministry and Committee Duties, so that the paragraph would read **(the words in red are the words to be omitted)**: (this change requires only a majority vote)

Presbytery shall elect an eight (8) member COR whose membership shall consist of equal numbers of men and women. Normally, at least one member from each region shall be elected. **(A majority of members shall be selected from the non-Caucasian racial ethnic groups within the governing body and)** The total membership shall include persons from each of the following categories:

- a. Majority male membership
- b. Majority female membership
- c. Racial ethnic male membership
- d. Racial ethnic female membership
- e. Youth male and youth female membership
- f. Persons with disabilities

Rationale: The Nominations and Representation Committees believe that mandating race as the determining criteria for the majority of members diminishes the importance of representation of other minority groups not determined by race. In a presbytery/denomination so heavily dominated by Caucasians it is difficult to find people of color who also represent other minority groups, including those with disabilities. It has also been stated that it is insulting to people of color for race to be the criteria that the majority equates with the need for representation.

3. Motion to fill the following immediate vacancies:
 - a. Committee on the Church’s Ministries, Class of 2018: TE Bill Branch, HR of Walnut Ridge and Newport, replacing TE Leslie Belden
 - b. Ministry Area on Youth, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry, Class of 2017: TE Jeremy Wilhelmi, Chaplain of the UofO, Clarksville, replacing TE Ray McCalla
 - c. Committee on Leadership Development, Class of 2017: TE Jeff Price, Trinity, LR (at his own request Jeff is moving from the Future of the Church Ministry Area), replacing RE Mike Easley
 - d. Committee on Leadership Development, Class of 2018: TE Susan Gray, Vaughn, Bentonville, replacing RE Sherry Miller
4. Motion to elect TE Marion Humphrey, Allison, Little Rock, Region 3, (2018) and RE Keith Burt, First, Bentonville, Region 1 (2019), to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Section C - Exhibit 1

May 9, 2012; Edited May 6, 2017

Changes noted in red bold-type and underlined

Presbytery of Arkansas Disclosure Authorization and Release Form For Pre-Employment, Continued Employment, or Presbytery Membership

I understand that in connection with my application for employment, volunteer services, continued employment, and/or membership, the Presbytery of Arkansas, its consultant IntelliCorp, their agents or employees, shall be performing, requesting, obtaining, or conducting a background check on me. This background check **will include only national and state criminal records, including the sex offender registry**. If my position involves handling money and/or having access to monies and/or other transferrable money instruments, my credit history may also be checked.

I understand that the Presbytery of Arkansas may rely on any part of this information in determining whether to extend an offer of employment, volunteer duties, or membership 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, or membership to me based upon the information, that I will **be** provided a copy of such information.

I have read this Disclosure Authorization and Release **Form** and by signing below hereby authorize investigators to conduct a background check as described herein. 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 the Presbytery. 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 the Social Security number is not optional, it shall be used for NO other purpose than to make the process for conducting a background check 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. If applicable, list on the reverse any prior felony convictions with date and state.

Applicant Signature

Date

Printed Name (First, Middle, Last)

Social Security Number

Date of Birth

Former Last Name(s) *if applicable*

Current Address:

Street

City

State

Zip

Former Address:

Street

City

State

Zip

Section C - Exhibit 2

February 18, 2012; Edited May 6, 2017

Presbytery of Arkansas Background Check Policy

Who is included?

- All active members of the Presbytery of Arkansas (Ministers of the Word and Sacrament, Commissioned Ruling Elders, and Certified Christian Educators who are Ruling Elders), Certified Christian Educators who are not Ruling Elders, and other ministers who are serving within the bounds of the Presbytery of Arkansas 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 the Committee on Ministry's Examinations Subcommittee.)
- 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?

- Those who are included in the background check policy 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 conducted regularly every five years, ordinarily at the beginning of the year (January 2017, 2022, etc.). Those who have entered their ministry in the Presbytery of Arkansas within the last 18 months will not be required to repeat the background check until the following regular check.

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.

Section C - Exhibit 3

APPENDIX O

Sexual Misconduct Policy of the Presbytery of Arkansas

Revised May 6, 2017

Changes noted in red bold-faced type and underlined

“... 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 the 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 **it** 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 **a** 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 **the** 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 **the** 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 COM 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 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 **transitional** pastor, a Committee on the Church's Ministries 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.

Appendix A

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, teaching elders, commissioned ruling elders, and certified Christian educators who are ruling 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 the 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.

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

Section C - Exhibit 4

Process for Nominating GA Commissioners

Step One

After a General Assembly, accept referrals and self-referrals from Teaching and Ruling Elders and youth who are interested in attending the next General Assembly, including any who had been interested in the previous General Assembly, or Assemblies.

Step Two

Prayerfully consider the role of commissioners: serving to discern the direction of the Holy Spirit within the context of the whole church, not chosen to “represent” the Presbytery of Arkansas or any particular view.

Develop an initial list of potential commissioners given the criteria, and work with the Committee on Representation and other resources to add additional names of potential commissioners.

Step Three

Prayerfully discern the will of the Spirit given who seems the most qualified to serve as a commissioner based on the criteria of who would best serve God through the Presbytery of Arkansas. If helpful, the committee may have each member “grade” each potential commissioner by giving a numerical value to each criteria on a scale of 1-10, and then totaling the numbers for each potential commissioner. Decide on how many possible commissioners to contact to see if they would serve, and if undecided on who should be included in that number use Criteria 8 and ask potential nominees to write essays, evaluate the essays, and then decide on who should first be asked to serve.

Step Four (Between May and September)

Contact proposed commissioners asking them to serve and put together slate for Presbytery meeting.

Step Five (MUST be by October meeting)

Submit GA Commissioners for a vote of the Presbytery.

The Stated Clerk will notify General Assembly of the Presbytery’s elected commissioners and YAD and will be responsible for training them.

Criteria for Choosing GA Commissioners

1. Personal Maturity and Responsibility
 - a. Good personal boundaries – not taking on too many tasks, knowing when to delegate
 - b. Not unduly influenced by others (another “boundary” issue)
 - c. Good time management
 - d. Reputation of being responsible
 - e. Ability to accept viewpoints of others – open minded
 - f. Ability to converse in dialogue
 - g. Ability to express views without condemnation of others’ views
2. Diversity
 - a. Bias toward inclusivity and diversity
 - b. Diversity may be interpreted broadly, but includes (BoO):
 - i. Race/Ethnicity
 - ii. Sex
 - iii. Age
 - iv. Disability
 - v. Geography
 - vi. Theological conviction
3. Commitment to the Denomination
 - a. Service to the Presbytery through committees, commissions, or other
 - b. Additional service through Ferncliff or other PCUSA related entities (Boards of colleges or institutions)
 - c. Service to the Synod
 - d. Service to Presbyterian Women or other PC(USA) organizations
4. Length of Service to the Denomination
 - a. Ordination as a Teaching Elder
 - b. Ordination as a Ruling Elder
 - c. Ordination as both a Ruling and Teaching Elder (if applicable)
 - d. If a Ruling Elder, length of time that it has been since your congregation had a commissioner attend GA
5. Gifts and Talents
 - a. Leadership Skills
 - b. Theological Depth
 - c. Other knowledge/training (education, law, etc.)
6. Energy and Creativity
 - a. Stamina to be able to work at a high level through long days
 - b. Ability to take in new information and respond “creatively”
 - c. Enthusiasm for denomination and polity
7. Knowledge of the Culture of the Presbytery
 - a. Length of time living in the region of the Presbytery of Arkansas
 - b. Length of time serving in an ordained role in the Presbytery of Arkansas
8. (Optional) Short, one page, essay on:
 - a. Views of the responsibilities of serving as a commissioner to the General Assembly
 - b. The significance of the General Assembly in the Presbyterian Church

Section C - Exhibit 5

First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville, Arkansas Administrative Commission

On May 6, 2017 the Coordinating Team of the Presbytery of Arkansas, with the authority of the presbytery, formed an Administrative Commission with the following members and authority, and the responsibility to report to the Presbytery of Arkansas:

1. Members:

- a. TE Clare Kelley, First Eureka Springs and Holiday Island
- b. TE Phil Butin, First United Fayetteville; CCM representative (to be changed to TE Liz Wagner, Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista pending approval of the presbytery)
- c. TE Rita Wilson, HR, First Huntsville
- d. RE Melissa Fontaine, Second Little Rock
- e. RE Ted Belden, First United Fayetteville; Future of the Church representative
- f. RE Jeff Roper, First Batesville
- g. RE Charlotte Scott, First Fort Smith
- h. TE Leslie Belden, Temporary Stated Clerk (ex-officio)
- i. TE Erin Kaye, Pines Presbytery, Representative from the Synod of the Sun (ex-officio)
- j. Advisor Melanie Gibson, Grace Little Rock (ex-officio)

2. Charged with the authority to:

- a. Determine the financial situation of First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville;
- b. Counsel the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville, Arkansas, in the Session's discernment of the financial needs of the church;
- c. Counsel the Session and membership of First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville, Arkansas, in the Session's and congregation's deliberations and actions toward the "selling of real property" (G-1.0503d);
- d. Counsel the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville, Arkansas, in their prayerful discernment and conversations with the University of the Ozarks about the potential for mutual ministry;
- e. Serve as the presence of the Presbytery of Arkansas in conversations with the University of the Ozarks;
- f. Serve as the presence of the Presbytery of Arkansas in the development of any covenant between the University of the Ozarks and First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville, Arkansas.
- g. Sell or encumber any real property;
- h. Enter into a covenantal relationship with the University of the Ozarks and First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville, Arkansas, and any other partner who may be deemed appropriate;
- i. Assume original jurisdiction of the church, if necessary.

3. Reporting: The AC shall communicate to the Stated Clerk all actions taken on behalf of the presbytery. Actions shall be reported within two weeks of having been taken. (Email is a satisfactory way to report actions taken). Written reports of the AC's actions shall be submitted no less than 30 days prior to each stated meeting of the presbytery. Prior to dissolution, minutes of all meetings of the AC shall be submitted to the Stated Clerk.

Section D

Report of the Committee on Representation

RE Ledridge Davis

First, Malvern

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.

Only 35 of the 83 congregations in the presbytery (42%) submitted statistical reports to General Assembly for 2016 by the February 2017 deadline. Therefore, comparison of ages, genders, races, and disabilities "in the pews" to those elected to serve cannot be accurately done this year. (Note: if a church does not submit statistical reports, General Assembly "brings forward" that church's statistics on membership, age, gender, race and disability from the last year a local church report was submitted. For most churches, this inflates their membership and may skew the age, gender, race and disability of their membership.)

The Presbytery's Committee on Representation met by conference call on Monday, May 1, 2017 with 6 of 8 voting members present to examine the following statistics:

1. **Number of positions filled by people serving Presbytery as of April 1, 2017:**

188 (5 fewer, compared to 193 last year). Active members reported by those churches which actually reported to G.A. by deadline (or their 2015 number brought forward if the church did not report) totaled 12,138 and grand total of 12,532 adherents, which number includes baptized (not confirmed) and other participants for the presbytery report.

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.)

Eight (8) Administrative Commissions are in place this year as compared to 9 Administrative Commissions, one task force, and one support committee (for the General Presbyter) this time last year.

This number (188), of positions filled by people serving the Presbytery, includes thirty-five **(35) persons who serve in more than one position (and some in several positions)**. They are counted multiple times – once for each chair each fills. (This number of people serving in multiple positions (35) is four fewer than last year's 39 persons in dual or more roles. **There are 137 different people participating**, 3 fewer than 140 last year.) It should be noted here that restructuring requires 10 people elected to ministry areas or committees to serve also on the

Coordinating Team as representatives of those groups, so by definition those 10 must serve in two positions simultaneously.

The 35 persons counted above filling more than one position include sixteen (16) active Teaching Elders, fifteen (15) Ruling Elders and four (4) laypeople.

2. Number of different churches represented by persons elected: 51 of 83 churches.

This is nine fewer churches than participated last year. However, one church was dismissed in 2016. Eight administrative commissions are also working with 6 churches at their request, and some of these are struggling churches, of which a couple may be dissolved in the future.

61% of churches within the presbytery bounds are participating in the work of the Presbytery. This is 9% less than the percentage which participated last year.

30 churches that do not have any staff or members serving (four more than last year) are as follows, followed by region numbers and AC (Administrative Commission, if they are assigned):

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a) Amity, Alpine (Region 2) | p) HSV, Woodlands (2) -- AC |
| b) Arkadelphia, West End (2) | q) Huntsville, First (1) |
| c) Beebe, First (4) | r) Little Rock, First (3) – AC |
| d) Bentonville, Vaughn (1) | s) Lonoke, First (3) – AC |
| e) Brinkley, First (4) | t) Marianna, First (4) |
| f) Cane Hill (1) – AC | u) McGehee, First (3) |
| g) Clarksville, First (2) | v) Mountainburg (2) |
| h) Elkins Federated (1) | w) Newport, First (4) |
| i) Eureka Springs, First (1) | x) Ozark, First (2) -- AC |
| j) Fayetteville, Mount Comfort (1) | y) Paragould, First (4) |
| k) Gamaliel, 101 (4) | z) Pine Bluff, First (3) |
| l) Gurdon, First (2) | aa) Stuttgart, First (4) |
| m) Hardy, Spring River (4) | bb) Walnut Ridge, First (4) |
| n) Helena, First (4) | cc) W Helena, Cleburne Avenue (4) |
| o) Holiday Island (1) | dd) Yellville, First (1) |

Note: Five (5) of the above churches are under Administrative Commissions. 18 of the churches above are pastorless.

3. Age Groups:

There was a slight increase in the 25 and under age group and slight decreases in the 26-35 age group and in the 36-55 age group from previous year--64% of the elected persons, 1% more 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.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u># of Persons Elected</u>	<u>% of Total Elected</u>	<u>Comparison to Report from Churches</u>
------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------	---

25 & Under	7	5%	11%
26 - 35	7	5%	15%
36 - 55	36	26%	9%
56 - 64	42	31%	17%
65 and Up	45	33%	48%

While divided differently, those elected from under 25 through age 55 total 36% and reported in the churches total 35%. Again divided differently, those elected age 56 and up total 64% and reported in the churches, 65%.

4. **Genders of persons and percentage of elected group:**

<u>Gender</u>	<u># Elected</u>	<u>% of Total Elected Group</u>	<u>Comparison to Report from Churches</u>
Male	68	49.6% of those elected	45% of reported members
Female	69	50.4% of those elected	55% of reported members

There is miniscule change from the last two years' percentages of 49% male and 51% female. If we want to "mirror" the statistics from our churches, more females need to be elected.

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

<u>Ethnicity</u>	<u># Persons Elected</u>	<u>% of Elected Group</u>	<u>% of Reported Members</u>
African American/Black	6	4.5% (1/2% more than last year)	1%
Caucasian/White	129	94% (1% less than last year)	97%
Hispanic	2	1.5% (1/2% more than last year)	2% (all others
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 2016 statistics, racial ethnic breakdown included: Asian, Middle Eastern, Native American, White, Black/African American, African, Hispanic.

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

<u>Ordination</u>	<u># Persons</u>	<u>% of Total Elected Group</u>
Teaching Elder	50	36% (3% less than last year)
Ruling Elder	71	52% (3% less than last year)
Non ruling elders (deacons or members)	16	12 % (6% more than last year)

(This is a change from last year's 54 TEs, 77 REs and particularly only 9 deacons or members. This is due to the election of numerous young people who have not yet served as RE.)

7. **Number of persons with Disabilities who are elected:**

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

- **Eleven (11) persons** elected to serve have a disability: 5 related to hearing, 5 to mobility, and 1 to sight. This is 8% of the people elected, two % more than last year.

- Comparison to disabilities reported by local churches: 938, 8% 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.)

The percentage of disabled elected persons mirrors the percentage reported or brought forward by local church statistics.

Summary:

1. Disappointingly low percentage of churches submitted 2016 statistical report to G. A. by deadline, making comparison to statistics on those elected to serve very difficult.
2. Beyond required double service on Coordinating Team, it is still a hope to have one person filling one position rather than one doing 2 or 3 jobs. The practice of 1 person/1 position involves more and different people.
3. Most of statistics are in line with previous years except for low percentage of teaching elders serving.

Recommendations:

1. Many approaches should be offered to get those statistical reports in: start email reminders early, offer to input their data if computer use is problem, offer workshop at October presbytery meeting to help pastors or clerks, put deadline, helps and encouraging video on presbytery website, explain pluses of reporting and minuses of not reporting through different media including Banner and Facebook page. Percentages must go up.
2. Nominations is doing a good job and is encouraged to invite more women and teaching elders to serve. Please use the list of unrepresented churches and seek Native American, African, Middle Eastern and Hispanic people from all congregations to involve.
3. All committees are encouraged to meet when younger working people can participate and advertise Zoom and phone conferencing rather than travel.

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

Section E

Report of the Committee on Nominations

TE Elizabeth Gabbard
First, Arkadelphia

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 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

INDIVIDUALS RECOMMENDED

FOR PRESBYTERY MINISTRIES OR ALTERNATES FOR 2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS

Name: _____
Work Phone: _____ Home or Cell Phone: _____
Ruling Elder: (Yes)(No): _____ Gender: _____ E-mail address: _____
Committees for Consideration or Alternates for 2018 GA Commissioner:
Comments:

Name: _____
Work Phone: _____ Home or Cell Phone: _____
Ruling Elder: (Yes)(No): _____ Gender: _____ E-mail address: _____
Committees for Consideration or Alternates for 2018 GA Commissioner:
Comments:

Section F

Report of the Committee on the Church's Ministries

TE Dari Rowen
First, Benton

For Presbytery Action:

1. Motion to approve the call of TE Kade Curry as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Springdale, effective **(need effective date)** with the following terms of call:

(need terms of call)

And the following to serve on the Installation Commission for August 6th at 4pm at FPC Springdale:

Rev. Stewart Smith, General Presbyter TE
Rev. Bill Henning, Honorably Retired TE
Rev. Kris Crawford, Member at Large TE
Susan Anderson, First Springdale RE
Ruth Hamilton, Moderator Presbytery of Arkansas RE to moderate the commission
Jeremy Hightower, First Searcy RE

and to grant permission for Rev. Janice Six, TE from First Central Presbyterian Church in Abilene TX (Palo Duro Presbytery), to be allowed to sit with the commission and participate in the service, with the offering to benefit Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center.

For Information:

Honorable Retirement

TE Robert Hadley was granted Honorable Retirement status effective June 1, 2017.

Necrology

TE John T. "Jack" Rorex, HR, died at his home in Little Rock on December 23, 2016. Born in Maryville, TN, he attended school in the mining camps, completed his bachelor's degree at Maryville College and his M. Div. degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He pastored churches in Texarkana, AR, Midland, TX and in this presbytery Paragould and Little Rock before serving as an Army chaplain during the Vietnam War. After further education he was the director of Delta Hills Health System Agency in Batesville, administrator of The Meadowcreek Project in Fox, and manager of Heifer International Ranch in Perryville. Retiring in 2006, he assisted in his wife's catering business and served as a chaplain with Arkansas Hospice. Jack is survived by his wife of 44 years,

Nancy Leggett Rorex, two daughters, two sons, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren. The service was at Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock on Dec. 29, 2016.

TE Dr. Hugh Geraint “Gary” M. Jones, HR, 91 died on March 27, 2017 in Hot Springs. Born in Bargoed, Wales, he served in the British Royal Navy in World War II before immigrating to the United States. Jones earned a degree from Arkansas College, now Lyon College, Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, and Doctor of Divinity from Vanderbilt before being ordained in 1954. He pastored churches in VA, TX, TN, and El Dorado, AR, moderated two presbyteries, before retiring in 1990. In 1994 he became a member of this presbytery and served on the Board of Trustees at Lyon College. Rev. Jones is survived by his wife of almost 65 year, Joan Creason Jones, a son and daughter, and four grandchildren. The celebration of his life was held on April 1, 2017 at First Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs.

Rev. Duane Udell Farris, HR, 97, died in Mountain Home on April 30, 2017. He was an honorably retired minister member of the presbytery. Born in Bellefonte, AR, Farris attended the University of the Ozarks, Clarksville (then College of the Ozarks) and graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and Princeton Theological Seminary. He served churches in CA and TX, retired in 1986 and was received by AR Presbytery in 2007. He is survived by one son, two granddaughters, four great grandchildren and preceded in death by his wife Joy Farris and one son. His service was held at First Presbyterian, Mountain Home on May 5, where he attended, with Rev. Michael Clark officiating.

Pastoral Leadership Changes

Renewed the covenant of TE Susan Gray as Stated Supply at Vaughn Presbyterian Church, Bentonville.

Approved the covenant of Rev. Michael Qualls, Cumberland Presbyterian Pastor, effective **(need effective date)** as the Pulpit Supply at Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church, Forrest City.

(need terms of call)

Approved the covenant of John Landis, a pastor in the American Baptist denomination, as the Pulpit Supply, of First Presbyterian Church, Pine Bluff, effective May 2, 2017 through April 30, 2018, with the following terms of call:

Salary	\$36,000
Housing	\$18,000
Pension and Medical Benefits	0
Moving Expense	0
Vacation	1 week per quarter

Section G

Report of the Future of the Church Ministry Area

RE Leah Shell
Second, Little Rock

March 28th- Meeting Details

- 1) MOTIONS INCLUDING THE MEETING AGENDA, MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, AND APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS WERE APPROVED.
- 2) Ted Belden and Peg Falls Corbitt gave a report on the Coordinating Team
- 3) Anne Russ gave a report on the Social Media Seminar which was held on March 7, 2017 at First Presbytery Church, Conway. The Future of the Church Committee was the sponsor of this seminar.
- 4) THE COMMITTEE VOTED TO FUND THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE PRESBYTERY WEBSITE. Funding will come from the Technology account within Future of the Church.
- 5) LYON COLLEGE SUBMITTED A PROPOSAL TO THE COMMITTEE FOR FUNDING OF A PORTION OF THE RENOVATION COST FOR THE BROWN CHAPEL. A lengthy discussion was held around supporting Lyon and the relationship with both Lyon and University of the Ozarks. A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO DENY FUNDING OF THIS REQUEST. MOTION PASSED. PEG FALLS-CORBITT THEN MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE INVITE LYON TO REDRAFT THEIR REQUEST AND RESUBMIT IT TO THE COMMITTEE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED AND FAILED 6 TO 4.
- 6) A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO EXPLORE USING ZOOM TO HOLD COMMITTEE MEETINGS. The committee voted to begin using zoom at the May 16th meeting.

May 16th - Meeting Details

- 1) MOTIONS INCLUDING THE MEETING AGENDA AND MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING WERE APPROVED. THE FINANCIALS DID NOT SHOW FUNDING SUPPORT AND WERE NOT APPROVED. THE FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED WHEN THEY ARE CORRECTED.
- 2) The meeting held on May 16, 2017 was the first meeting which used Zoom. Three members of the committee successfully participated from remote sites, while the remainder of the committee met in person at First Presbyterian Church in Conway.
- 3) A MOTION WAS MADE BY ANNE RUSS SECONDED BY STEVE FRAZIER TO DIVIDE THE COMMITTEE DUTIES INTO TWO CATEGORIES: TACTICAL AND STRATEGIC. THE MOTION PASSED. The division of duties will be implemented during our August committee meeting. The committee expressed their personal preference for tactical and strategic work.
- 4) Becky Purcell gave the committee a report on the progress of the Grant Guidelines workgroup. They continue working on policy and documents and will have the grant application process completed before January 3, 2018.
- 5) Peg Falls-Corbitt and Ted Belden gave a report on the Coordinating Team.

- 6) Anne Russ brought the committee up to date on the progress of the new website. The website project team will be staffed by members of the technology subcommittee and Presbytery staff.
- 7) Mike Vinson provided an update of the seminar that he will lead on Friday prior to the June Presbytery meeting. The seminar will be held at Ferncliff. ANNE RUSS MADE A MOTION WHICH WAS SECONDED FOR THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH TO FUND DINNER FOR SEMINAR ATTENDEES. THE TOTAL COST OF THE DINNER WILL BE NO MORE THAN \$500. The motion passed. After dinner the Presbytery will host a trivia night at Ferncliff. Mike desires to have a group work with him on logistics planning the next workshop.
- 8) A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO SUPPORT MARIE MAINARD O'CONNELL IN EXPLORING A MULTI-ETHNIC CHURCH IN ARKANSAS. THE MOTION PASSED.
- 9) Peg and Anne gave a report on the CRE Task Force. The task force will continue working on reimbursement forms and policy for funding requests. A MOTION WAS MADE BY TED AND SECONDED TO REIMBURSE DAVID CLARK \$750 FOR CRE TRAINING.
- 10) A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO DENY FUNDING FOR A REQUEST FOR RETREAT FUNDING FOR MAX HILL, INQUIRER UNDER THE CARE OF THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS.

Section H

On Excluding Campaigning in the Church

The Session of Barr Memorial Presbyterian Church in Norman, Arkansas respectfully asks the Presbytery of Arkansas to approve forwarding the following overture to the 223rd General Assembly:

Overture: On excluding campaigning in the church

The Presbytery of Arkansas respectfully overtures the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to include language in the *Book of Order* in Chapter Four, The Church and Civil Authority, creating a new section G-4.04 titled Separation of Church and State, which would read:

In keeping with the Constitution of the United States of America and the theological conviction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to encourage diversity within its unity, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) affirms its commitment to excluding any and all campaigning within the church for or against any individual seeking a position at any level of public government.

Rationale

With the possibility of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) of the United States of America changing its rule prohibiting non-profit organizations from endorsing or opposing candidates seeking a public office, it is imperative that Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations maintain neutrality concerning elections for the peace and unity of the church. If churches would not lose their non-profit status by campaigning for or against candidates there could be many congregations and denominations which would include those activities as an integral aspect of their public witness. And yet in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) we maintain that, “The Church is to be a community of witness, pointing beyond itself through word and work to the good news of God’s transforming grace in Christ Jesus its Lord.” (F-1.0301) So our witness to the good news of God’s transforming grace in Christ Jesus precludes our witness to the political viewpoints of any one individual, or individuals.

In addition, the church is a place where individuals are encouraged to worship and serve our Lord Jesus Christ together in spite of differences in viewpoints. Indeed, in the PC(USA) we encourage diversity within our unity, holding that, “The Church seeks to include all people and is never content to enjoy the benefits of Christian community for itself alone,” (F-10302a) and that, “The unity of believers in Christ is reflected in the rich diversity of the Church’s membership. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God unites persons through baptism regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sex, disability, geography, or theological conviction.” (F-1.0403)

For as much as we proclaim, “That ‘God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are in anything contrary to his Word, or beside it, in matters of faith or worship.’”(F-3.0101a) we also insist that the members of congregations and its councils be free from theological divisions that campaigning for political candidate or candidates would create.

Section I

Report of the Mission of the Church Area

CRE Kelly Pearson
First, Dardanelle

The “Mission of the Church” ministry area has had two regular meetings since the February Presbytery Meeting: February 23 and May 11. The earlier meeting had a review of policies and responsibilities for our ministry-area related to (adult) education and missional ministries. In the two meetings, reports and minutes of the several entities and the permanent subcommittee, Disaster Preparedness and Response whose report is below Section I as Exhibit 1, have been received.

Much of the discussion and planning by the Mission of the Church and a task-force of this ministry-area have been regarding the October 6-7, 2017 presbytery meeting. We are anticipating a theological discussion/lecture related to “Reformed Spirituality” by Dr. David Johnson of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary on both Friday and Saturday, and an addition discussion/lecture on Saturday by Rebecca Spooner, MWS, Director of Wellspring Renewal Center on the subject of “spirituality as a caregiver at any age.”

The worship offerings for both the June and October presbytery meetings have been suggested and approved by the Coordinating Team: June--travel expenses for youth attending Montreat this summer, & October--toward the capital campaign of Presbyterian Village to be applied toward the matching-grant of the Mabee Foundation.

A discussion to which we return periodically is how to more efficiently and effectively disseminate information on the work of the presbytery to the pews of our congregations, particularly for this area, to share grant emphases to meet possible financial needs. *The Banner* may be getting no farther than the persons involved directly in the life of the presbytery: pastors, commissioners, committee & ministry-area members. Church secretaries and pastors are encouraged to forward *The Banner* on to their memberships, especially to their email recipients, and their sessions.

Some of the more recent allocations of the Mission of the Church budget have been: Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center-\$12,000 for summer programs, first installment; University of the Ozarks-\$1000; Lyon College-\$1000; \$1500 *Good360*, a program to exchange/sell goods to non-profits for a fraction of costs, by way of Ferncliff; Presbyterian Village-\$500; Family Promise of Pulaski County-\$2000 for fuel of client-transporting van; Two grants to assist with attendance at NEXT Church-\$100(\$50 each); and Presbyterian Pilgrimage-\$1000, first installment. And as the year goes by, watch for announcements of additional allocations.

Grants of \$50 to individuals remain available to help with expenses to St. Louis for the Big Tent event of July 6-8. As well, Unified Mission grants, to assist with ministries to/with the most vulnerable--young & old, may be sought. For either, apply to Kelly Pearson, ktpearson@suddenlink.net.

Section I - Exhibit 1

Report of the Disaster Preparedness and Response Subcommittee

TE Ike Brighton

The May 9, 2017 meeting of the DPRS was opened at 9:35am with a devotional by Scott Howard. Moderator Ike Brighton called the meeting to order, declared a quorum and granted the privilege of the floor to guests. Scott made a motion to approve the agenda. **Motion Passed.**

Attending: Liz Branch, Ike Brighton, Jeremy Hightower, Scott Howard, Betty Brown Powell. On the phone: Ray Stephens. Absent: John Gibson, Bryan Bond, David Schaller. Guests: Bill Branch and Katie McGee, Young Adult Volunteer based at Ferncliff.

Ike offered travel vouchers to anyone who wanted one. The minutes for the January 24, 2017 were approved without change.

Financial Report – Ike reported that the DPRS budget of \$500 (for travel to meetings, deployment, etc.) is intact so far this fiscal year.

Account -021 (PDA grant account) is at \$0.00.

Account -022 (Presbytery of AR donations) is at \$17,000+ (\$10,000 is set aside for DPRS Preparedness Grants; \$1,000 has been awarded to Ferncliff for 10 emergency radios; balance remaining in preparedness grant, \$9,000.)

Old Business

- **Model disaster response--a template for congregations** - The committee reviewed and tweaked the text. Ike led the discussion and will revise the template further.
- **Disaster preparedness training** – forwarded the issue to July. We hope to have a table and a pre-presbytery workshop at the October meeting.
- **ARVOAD Report**—Liz reported on the April 28 meeting of ARVOAD. (Scott offered to work on a photo ID card and a training process for disaster responders within the presbytery. He will contact the Methodists and others who already do this. Bill and Liz can be liaisons with ARVOAD on training.
- **Flooding event in NW and NE AR, April 30, 2017 and following** - Scott **moved**, Ray **seconded** motion that the presbytery apply for an initial PDA \$7500 grant, and affirmed the possibility of applying for a community grant if and when the need arises. **Passed.** Discussion.
- **Contacting churches in our regions** – Ike (Region 2) and Betty Brown Powell (Region 3) gave recent updates to Liz for inclusion in the Master Congregational Disaster Inventory, DPRS Congregational Disaster Inventory Master 2017.doc

New Business

- **Publicity** – Betty Brown will ask to do a minute for mission on flood response at Park Hill Presbyterian. Ray suggested that we publicize that giving money to Ferncliff for bucket/kit preparation enables Ferncliff to make bulk purchases and thus stretch donated dollar value. (Then volunteers can assemble buckets/kits at Ferncliff.)

- **Scott will pursue purchase of a display board** (magnetic, interchangeable parts) \$400-\$500 is already authorized in the DPRS budget. Bill will investigate boards used by PDA. Ike will assist.
- **Class Presentation ATU** - In April, Ike and Ray presented the work of PDA in relation to VOAD to 15 or more students at AR Tech in Russellville.
- **Ferncliff damage report** – 30 trees down, some farm buildings and fenceline blown down. Now have new shed and chicken coop. No fatalities. Recovery is still in progress; some volunteers, including Baptists w/chainsaws have helped.
- **275 cleanup buckets available in the DAC. Have lots of hygiene kits.**
- **Presbytery mission trip** – Ray will contact Wesley Jacobs of McGehee to get contact info and info on work in Chicot County. Ray will also contact Joe Hill, general presbyter of Pines Presbytery, to consult before we work in Pines.
- Jeremy reported that earlier this spring a small tornado struck on east side of Searcy w/no apparent damage. They have had no flood damage.

Other Business

- **Next DPRS Meetings:**
 - **July 25, 2017 – presbytery office**
 - **Oct. 24, 2017**
- **Next ARVOAD Meetings:**
 - **July 28, 2017**
 - **Oct 27, 2017**
- **Next Presbytery Meeting: June 3, 2017 - 2nd Presbyterian, Little Rock**
- The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer by Bill Branch.

Section J

Report of the Committee on Leadership Development

TE Kade Curry
First, Searcy



For Information:

The Committee on Church Leadership Development met via video conference on Saturday March 11th and interviewed 2 Inquirers, Max Hill and Jordan Akin, to simply touch base and ensure that they were feeling supported in their preparation process. Committee Members present were Moderator Kade Curry, Debbie Freeman, David Clark, Susan Anderson, Sarah Leer, Bill Henning

and Kathy White.

The Committee on Church Leadership Development then met Saturday April 29th via video conference at 930am with members Kade Curry, Debbie Freeman, David Clark, Sarah Leer, Bill Henning, Kathy White, Lynn Condra and Susan Anderson present to interview 2 applicants for inquiry, 2 applicants for candidacy and to hold 1 final interview.

Keith Dove was officially endorsed by the session of Central Presbyterian Church of Russellville and applied to be recommended to come under care as an inquirer. Keith was interviewed by the committee upon which a motion was made that he be recommended to the Presbytery for the Covenant Agreement of Inquirer, motion was seconded and vote was made in favor of the motion.

LaWanda Harris was officially endorsed by the session of Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church in Little Rock and applied to be recommended to come under care as an inquirer. LaWanda was interviewed by the committee upon which a motion was made that she be recommended to the Presbytery for the Covenant Agreement of Inquirer, motion was seconded and vote was made in favor of the motion.

Stacey Hammons, who is currently under the Covenant Agreement of Inquiry, was officially endorsed by the session of Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock and applied to be recommended to come under care as a Candidate. Stacey was interviewed by the committee upon which a motion was made that she be recommended to the Presbytery for the Covenant Agreement of Candidacy, motion was seconded and vote was made in favor of the motion. The committee discussed the fact that the New Form of Government no longer places a minimum time limit on the Inquiry phase, and while Stacey still has significant coursework, ordination exam study and general preparation left to do, the committee felt that due to her educational background and her current work in the Presbytery, she technically fit the definition of Candidate much better than that of Inquirer. Thus, the decision to recommend her to the Presbytery for Candidacy.

Stephen Moody, who is currently under the Covenant Agreement of Inquiry, was officially endorsed by the session of First Presbyterian Church of Little Rock and applied to be recommended to come under care as a Candidate. Stephen was interviewed by the committee upon which a motion was made that he be recommended to the Presbytery for the Covenant Agreement of Candidacy, motion was seconded and vote was made in favor of the motion. The committee discussed the fact that the New Form of Government no longer places a minimum time limit on the Inquiry phase, and while Stephen still has significant coursework, ordination exam study and general preparation left to do, the committee felt that due to his educational background and his current work in the Presbytery, he technically fit the definition of Candidate much better than that of Inquirer. Thus, the decision to recommend him to the Presbytery for Candidacy.

Lastly the Committee on Church Leadership Development had the honor of interviewing Brittany Fiscus Van Rossum from First Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville for her final interview. Brittany was interviewed and in such interview, she was able to communicate her growth and full preparation for the Call of Ordained Teaching Elder, having exceedingly met all of the committee's requirements a motion was made and seconded upon which a unanimous vote was had in favor of releasing Brittany to seek an ordained call. Brittany will remain under care of the committee until such call is made.

For Action:

1. Motion that Keith Dove of Central Presbyterian in Russellville come under care of the Presbytery of Arkansas in the Covenant Agreement as an Inquirer.

Statement of Faith

I believe that God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit exist together as the three parts of the one Triune God. I believe that God is the creator of heaven and earth. Out of love, God became incarnate in order for all of creation to be redeemed. I believe that Jesus Christ was God Incarnate, both fully human and fully divine. In his life, Christ taught us how to love God and each other. Through his death, Christ experienced complete separation from God, yet he overcame that separation and was resurrected to once again exist in perfect union with God. Through the love of Christ, we have hope that all of creation will be redeemed. The Holy Spirit guides us, sways us, and influences us so that we can show God's love to others and act according to God's will. Through Christ, I can have a relationship with God here and now. The Holy Spirit guides me, so that I may be able to constantly grow closer to God. With specific reference to being Presbyterian, I affirm that I am allowed to ask questions and have doubts. Both as a Presbyterian and a follower of Christ, love is something that I do, rather than just talk about. Being Presbyterian means that I welcome all people, from all walks of life, as the children of God that they are, and that I am a child of God too. As a Presbyterian, I am a proponent for social justice and ethical stewardship of creation. Presbyterians value education and academic work, rather than shying away from it. Being Presbyterian also means that I will work with others as a community to discern God's will instead of having one leader telling me what God's will is.

2. Motion that LaWanda Harris of Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church in Little Rock come under care of the Presbytery of Arkansas in the Covenant Agreement as an Inquirer.

Statement of Faith

I believe the love that God and Jesus has for us is unconditional and cannot be duplicated by any living human being. I believe the Holy Spirit is a presence within and around everyone. God uses the Holy Spirit to lead us where he wants us to go. God created us to live lives that are not straightforward. I believe we are sometimes at odds with the Holy Spirit, but the love of God will never part from us. I believe that Jesus lived on earth and showed us how to become closer to God. I accept that no one is perfect and it is impossible to walk exactly in Jesus' footsteps. I also think that God gave each of us strengths to utilize during this time on earth. God made no two people alike. We all have unique gifts that bring not only ourselves, but others closer to the love of God. I believe the relationship between God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and humans is a mysterious thing. I do not accept my denomination as the only correct or highest religious group. The Holy Spirit dwells among us in many different ways. No one can be accurately sure any of what we understand today is fact. I do know the God I worship will love me no matter what. The grace of God is one of the greatest blessings that all of us receive, no matter our race, religion, or personal character. God gave his son to be my savior and to guide me through my imperfect life. I will not be who I am without faith and trust in God.

3. Motion that Stacey Hammons of Second Presbyterian Church Little Rock come under care of the Presbytery of Arkansas in the Covenant Agreement as Candidate.

Statement of Faith

I believe in the goodness and perfect love of God. God is one and three; there is unity in the oneness and distinction in the three-ness. God's perfect love can be seen in the Trinity through the relationship of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. I believe God is sovereign, beyond our full understanding, but to be the one who offers light, hope, help, peace, and healing.

I believe in the full divinity of Jesus Christ. He is the visible image of the invisible God; he is the clear representation of God and in Christ all of who God is exists. At the same time that Jesus Christ is fully God, I believe he is fully human. These two natures are complete in the one person, Jesus. Through the life, death and resurrection of Christ, a way was made for the restoration of humanity to God. Jesus came to free the captive, release the oppressed and provide forgiveness of sin. It is through the gift of grace that we are saved. Salvation joins us to Christ and sets us free from sin and oppression. We have been saved, not simply from our sin, but to live an abundant, empowered and loving life in a continual and eternal relationship with God.

I believe the Holy Spirit empowers. In the Hebrew Scriptures, the Spirit spoke at different times through human beings, empowering them for certain tasks. It was by the power of the Holy Spirit that Christ was conceived, resurrected from the dead and the church was born at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit offers renewal and guidance, convicts us and guides us into truth and teaches us all things.

I believe the Word of God to be necessary for living out my faith. It is where I find guidance, comfort and strength. Reading, studying and meditating on God's Word connects me to God and to the bigger picture of God's sovereignty over and great love for the world.

I also believe the church to be necessary for living out my faith in this world. It is meant to be where we find community; we are not Christians alone. At our best and most loving the church glorifies God through worshipping, loving and serving together, and is inclusive of all.

4. Motion that Inquirer Stephen Moody of First Presbyterian Church of Little Rock come under care of the Presbytery of Arkansas in the Covenant Agreement as Candidate.

Statement of Faith

I believe in God as Almighty. I believe God is the reason for the existence of mankind. I believe that God has consistently reached out to man to bring him to a right relationship with Him. I believe that God's acts of love culminated in the gift of Jesus Christ. I believe Jesus came to seek and save the lost, and that His death and resurrection gave us all the free gift of grace and mercy. I don't believe those gifts can be earned, but can only be accepted in humble faith. I believe the Holy Spirit is God's Comforter and Teacher to the Christian. I believe that the triune God reaches out to mankind in His completeness.

I believe that God's love and mankind's salvation is a constant and fluid event. I believe that God comes to his creation wherever they find themselves in their spiritual journey. I believe that as people spiritually grow that God is there to nurture and lead them as they change and adapt to the circumstances they find their lives in. I believe that my faith is guided, not by feelings, but by the knowledge that I am His. I believe that nothing is able to separate me from the love of God.

I believe that we celebrate the sacraments of baptism and the Lords Supper to remember and to be encouraged and empowered to be the body of Christ that has the common goal of loving those who society deems unlovely. I believe that we are called to be completely inclusive to and embracing of the marginal among us.

Section K

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

FEBRUARY 17-18, 2017

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING PRAYER

The 134th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was called to order at 6:45 p.m. in the Munger-Wilson Chapel at the University of the Ozarks, Clarksville on Friday, February 17, 2017 by Teaching Elder Lacy Sellars, Moderator of the Presbytery. He lit the Christ candle and prayed.

REPORT OF ENROLLMENT/DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Stated Clerk TE Robert Lowry declared a **quorum present, 27 TE, 26 Ruling Elders, 10 other TEs, total of 63 present at gavel.**

TEACHING ELDERS (who checked on sign-in sheet): D.C. Adams, Karen Kokles Akin, Robert Brian Brock, Janet Butin, Philip W. Butin, Katie Cummings, Kade Curry, Fern M. Davis, Ruskin Falls, Steven Frazier, Debra Carl Freeman, Elizabeth Gabbard, Susan Gray, Robert Hadley, Steve Hancock, “Chip” Hatcher, Marion A. Humphrey, Clare Martin Kelley, Young Doo Kim, Jai Kwak, Courtney Bacon-Latina, Frank LeBlanc, Robert Lowry, “Mike” McCracken, Jeff Price, Rebecca Purcell, Dennis Ritchie, Leslie Bethell Roper, Susan Rose, Dari Rowen, Anne Russ, Cindy Saul, Lacy Sellars, Georgia Senor, J. Stewart Smith, Rebecca Spooner, Michael Ulasewich, Michael Vinson, Lindy Vogado, Elizabeth R. (Liz) Wagner, Marci Ward, Jeremy Wilhelmi.

HONORABLY RETIRED ACTIVE TEACHING ELDERS: Ben H. Bateman, William W. Branch, David H. Dyer, Gordon F. Garlington III, David E. Gill, William F. Henning, David S. King, John E. King, Richard H. Miller, Rita Wilson. **Honorably Retired Non-Active Teaching Elders:** Ron Jones.

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS FROM CONGREGATIONS (who signed in): Memorial, Atkins, Mark Murdoch; First, Batesville, Janet Thomas; Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, Harry Reif and Darrell Maples; First, Bentonville, Roy Horan; First, Clarksville, Linda Castleman; Harmony, Clarksville, Cindy Lanphear; First, Conway, Carolyn Ishee; First, Dardanelle, DeNann Clark; First, Eureka Springs, Reck Wallis; First United, Fayetteville, Carol Van Scyoc and Michelle Price; Graham Memorial, Forrest City, Curt Patton; Central, Fort Smith, Charles Cook; First, Fort Smith, K. C. Chanthorn; Good Shepherd, Greenwood, Jeanette Belin; First, Harrison, Harry Cikanek; Holiday Island Presbyterian, Mary Diehl; Faith, Horseshoe Bend, George Jackson; First, Hot Springs, William Randall; Westminster, Hot Springs, Lawrence Grubbs; Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village, Patricia Kuntz; First, Huntsville, Carla Taylor; Allison, Little Rock, Leroy Brownlee; Grace, Little Rock, Moira Donnell; Pulaski Heights, LaWanda Harris; Second, Little Rock, Ralph Cotham, Melissa Fontaine, Lindsey Taylor; Trinity, Little Rock, David W. Bass; Westover Hills, Little Rock, H. K. Stewart; First, Malvern, Charlotte Purdy; First, Mena, Bill Hays; First, Morrilton, Charles Spivey; Hopewell, Morrilton, Susan Morris; First, Newport, Edward L. Cooley; Barr Memorial, Norman, Noah Williamson; Mount Vernon, Pea Ridge, Ron David; First, Pine Bluff, Don Harris, Jr.; First, Prairie Grove, Kyzer Wilmer;

First, Rogers, David Webb; Central, Russellville, Natalie Aikman; First, Searcy, Marie Bethell; First, Springdale, David Morris and Jen Allen; Wynne Presbyterian, Charlie Brown; First, Yellville, Mike Simpson.

AT-LARGE COMMISSIONERS: Ex-officio members of Coordinating Team Bob Boehmler, Treasurer; Ruling Elder Members of Coordinating Team, Jan Enke, Peg Falls-Corbitt, Karene Jones, Patty Minga; Moderators of Presbytery Ministry Area, Leah Shell, Future of the Church; Ruling Elder Commissioner to General Assembly 222, (2016 Portland) Gail Murdoch; Co-Vice Moderator of Presbyterian Women, Ila Blacketter-Wolfe; Moderator of Presbytery, Ruth Hamilton.

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS: G. Hartley Jones, Barr Memorial, Norman; Kelly Pearson, First, Dardanelle.

CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS: Jeannie Ford and NiAnn Thompson. **Certified Associate Christian Educators:** Theresa Spragins. **Christian Educators in Particular Churches:** Mary Shaw, First, Springdale.

VISITORS TO THIS MEETING: 29 registered.

YOUNG ADULT DELEGATE ADVISORS: 5 registered.

YOUTH ADVISORY DELEGATES: 10 registered.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS: “Chip” Andrus, Hudson River Presbytery; Rick Young, Grace Presbytery; Joyce Daniel and Danny Daniel, HR, Southern Kansas Presbytery; James Freeman, Pines Presbytery; Blake Brinegar, Presbytery of Cascades.

TEACHING ELDERS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES: Leslie Belden, Nancy Benson-Nicol, Joy Carrington, Lance Clemmons, Jeff Cranton, Lewis R. Donelson IV, James J. Farley III, Al Henager, Chris Jones, Jennifer Lord, Ray McCalla, Marie Mainard O’Connell, Timothy C. Reeves, David Schaller, Patricia Schaller, William Seitz, Rachel Shepherd, Shauna Silmon, Susan Carter Wiggins, Robert Williamson, Harry Young.

HONORABLY RETIRED TEACHING ELDERS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES: “Ike” Brighton, Bill Galbraith, Howard H. Gordon, Mark Lenneville, Richard Shinkle, Frederick A. Taylor, Nancy Taylor.

TEACHING ELDERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: Bill Bailey, Phillip Blackburn, Tasha Blackburn, Bryan Bond, Carol Clark, Mark Clark, Kris Crawford, Clifton P. Ford, Paul Fulks, John Gibson, Libby Lizarraga, Jeff Parker, Emmett Powers, Ward Rudolph, Terry Tallent, Daniel Wooley.

HONORABLY RETIRED TEACHING ELDERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: Catherine L. Allsbury, Donald K. Campbell II, Milton B. Davis, Guy Delaney, Heinrich B. Eiler, Alan Ford, Orin M. Frank, Richard Frothingham, Sally Johnson, Lance Jones, “Bo” Lewis, James B. Miller, Jerry Rice, C. Michael D. Seitz, W. Kennedy Upham, Don Wardlaw, Darwin Wolfe.

SESSIONS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES: First, Arkadelphia; West End, Arkadelphia; Vaughn, Bentonville; Holly Grove; Westminster, Little Rock; First, North Little Rock.

SESSIONS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: First, Alma; Alpine, Amity; First, Beebe; First, Benton; second elder commissioner, First, Bentonville; First, Brinkley; Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals; Cane Hill; Elkins;

Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay; Mount Comfort, Fayetteville; second elder commissioner, First, Fort Smith; One-O-One, Gamaliel; First, Gravette; First, Gurdon; Spring River, Hardy; First, Heber Springs; First, Helena; second elder commissioner, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village; Woodlands, Hot Springs Village; First, Jacksonville; First, Jonesboro; First, Lincoln; First, Little Rock; fourth elder commissioner, Second, Little Rock; second elder commissioner, Trinity, Little Rock; First, Lonoke; First, Marianna; First, McGehee; First, Mountain Home; Mountainburg; Park Hill, North Little Rock; First, Ozark; First, Paragould; Central, Pine Bluff; Faith, Pine Bluff; second elder commissioner, Central, Russellville; First, Stuttgart; First, Van Buren; First, Walnut Ridge; Cleburne Avenue, West Helena.

AT-LARGE MEMBERS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE: Moderator of Presbytery Committee, Ledridge Davis, Committee on Representation.

AT-LARGE MEMBERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: Ruling Elder Members of Coordinating Team, Ted Belden, Justin Clark, Ken Coker, Marty Shepherd. Ruling Elder Commissioner to General Assembly 222, Jessie Rancifer.

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE: Carolyn Beane, Barr Memorial, Norman; Chuck Olson, Memorial, Atkins; Claire and Kenneth Rhodes, West End, Arkadelphia.

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: Jim Keyes, 101, Gamaliel; Rita Manske, Cane Hill Presbyterian.

CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE: Kristi Button, Lynn King, retired; Linda LeBron, retired; Nancy Irving Smith, retired.

Certified Associate Christian Educators Absent with Excuse: Lynn Condra, retired; Susie Wright.

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

The Moderator moved the adoption of the docket with these changes: for this evening, add appointment of Standing Committees. For Saturday, greetings from Young Adult Volunteers and Youth Advisory Delegates will be added, and 10:00 order of day will be moved to 10:45. **The docket was adopted with additions/changes.**

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS AND GRANTING OF PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/VOICE

Seated as corresponding members with privilege of the floor and voice were: four at time of gavel, “Chip” Andrus, Rick Young, Joyce Daniel and Danny Daniel, who were seated with voice. Representative from Dubuque Seminary Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth brought greetings

WELCOME TO FIRST-TIME COMMISSIONERS

Moderator asked for first-time teaching or ruling elder commissioners to stand and introduce themselves. Ruling elders were welcomed from Searcy, Kirk in HS Village, Springdale, Batesville, Russellville, and Second, LR.

INTRODUCTION OF PRESBYTERY STAFF

Moderator introduced the following: General Presbyter Stewart Smith, outgoing Stated Clerk Robert Lowry, Resourcing Director and Recording Clerk NiAnn Thompson, Director of Mission Support Kenneth Rich, Vital Congregations Staff Michael Vinson, Youth Staff Britton Varn, as well as presbytery's incoming Moderator Ruth Hamilton, incoming Vice Moderator Leslie Roper, and Treasurer Bob Boehmler.

WELCOME FROM HOST

TE Jeremy Wilhelmi, new chaplain from University of the Ozarks, brought greetings from students, faculty and staff. The number of students from PC(USA) attending UofO has increased. A new policy of looking for the right students and helping them to attend and succeed includes "test optional" approach. Improvements to the chapel and environs given by Frances Wilson were celebrated. The reception after worship was announced to be downstairs. He noted the availability of a week of study leave on campus for pastors and the appearance by Rodger Nishioka on April 26. He introduced people from UofO and offered for them to visit in congregations.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Stated Clerk Lowry moved the following:

6. That Presbyterian Women be granted permission to celebrate the Lord's Supper at their spring gathering.
7. That Presbyterian Pilgrimage be granted permission to celebrate the Lord's Supper at their gathering(s).
8. That the presbytery adopt proposed Standing Rules 3, 4, and 5 recommended by the Coordinating Team.
 - a. Standing Rule 3: Terms of Service for Presbytery Leadership (Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Past Moderator)
 - i. The terms of service for the Past Moderator (as moderator of Coordinating Team), Moderator of Presbytery and Vice-Moderator of Presbytery shall be from January 1- December 31 of each year of service. (NB if Section 4 of the O&S is amended, the titles will be changed to reflect the change)
 - ii. *Rationale: The presbytery practice of starting the program and committee service years on January 1 but delaying the moderatorial start until after the installation service in February is confusing and constitutionally unnecessary. An individual is elected Vice-Moderator with the express understanding that it is a three-year cycle of service. That service is begun in the year following election (normally in October of the calendar year preceding the year of service as Vice-Moderator). Just as a Teaching Elder may begin service in a congregational setting weeks or even months before their installation, the Moderator and Vice Moderator of Presbytery can do the same. As currently practiced, the installation service is more akin to the investiture of a bishop than the installation of a leader in the Reformed tradition.*
 - b. Standing Rule 4: Ex-Officio Members and Quorum

- i. Ex-officio members of the Coordinating Team (Moderator of Presbytery, Vice-Moderator of Presbytery, General Presbyter, Stated Clerk, and Treasurer) shall count toward the presence of a quorum pursuant to the rules set forth in the Organization and Structure and Committee and Ministry Duties sections of the Presbytery Ministry Manual.
- c. Standing Rule 5: Terms of Service for Coordinating Team Members from Ministry Areas
- i. Members of the CT appointed to represent ministry areas or committees shall remain members of CT until their successors are named. If an individual is no longer an active member of the committee he/she represented, the position is declared vacant until a successor is named.
9. That the Administrative Commissions for First Rogers, First Lonoke, First Little Rock, Cane Hill/Walnut Grove, and First Ozark be reaffirmed for 2017 with current membership.
10. That First, Marianna be granted an exception to the rule of rotation and term limits for Ruling Elders.
11. That the following changes be made to the Ministry and Committee Duties of the Administration Ministry Area at their request:
- a. Add to #10 the following: *“Non budget purchases over \$500 must be approved by the Administration Area Committee.”*
 - b. Add to #2 the following: *“A full audit will normally be performed every 5 years, with annual reviews on intervening years.”*

No items were pulled from the consent agenda for individual consideration. **Consent agenda was approved as printed.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Stated Clerk moved approval of minutes of the 133rd stated meeting in October, 2016 as printed in the packet, it received a second. Motion passed.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Moderator appointed the following to serve during the meeting. Stated Clerk gave thanks to Recording Clerk NiAnn Thompson for work on 2016 minutes.

Tellers: TEs DC Adams, Mike McCracken, Brian Brock and RE Judy Thomas.

Leaves of Absence Committee: TEs Rebecca Spooner and Lindy Vogado.

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY—FIRST UNITED, FAYETTEVILLE HISTORY

TE Phil Butin spoke of the book published and for sale at display table near registration.

WORSHIP INCLUDING THE LORD'S SUPPER AND INSTALLATION OF MODERATOR

Moderator Sellars preached, General Presbyter Stewart Smith and TE Susan Gray officiated at the table for communion served by intinction. RE Ruth Hamilton, Kirk in the Pines, HS Village was installed as moderator with TE David Dyer, honorably retired and TE Dari Rowen delivering the charges. Hamilton presented Sellars a gift of thanks from the presbytery during her remarks. Leading the UofO Chamber Singers was Dr. Jonathan Ledger, accompanied by Dr. Sharon Gorman.

A reception hosted by the UofO was held in the beautifully reconstructed basement of the chapel following worship.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Hamilton called the council to order in Rogers Conference Center at UofO at 8:30 a.m. She lit the Christ candle and gave a devotional. She noted the worship offering from Friday night benefitting the Presbytery of AR scholarship at UofO totaled \$1,508.00. Stated Clerk announced that TEs could pick up ID cards for this year, and lunches may be bought at the cafeteria door.

MORNING PRAYER INCLUDING INSTALLATION OF THE VICE-MODERATOR

Chaplain Jeremy Wilhelmi led a scriptural exercise and prayers around tables, and Hamilton installed TE Leslie Roper, pastor at First, Batesville, as Vice Moderator for 2017.

Stated Clerk moved Item #2 on Nominations report to new business since it is related to a new motion coming under new business.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER AND STATE OF THE PRESBYTERY

TE Stewart Smith reported on the challenges that face the churches and country. He commented on the challenge of securing pastoral leadership in smaller and rural churches and some local church financial concerns moving into crisis. Some congregations have had to cut presbytery giving and even staff. Woodlands, Hot Springs Village law suit, triggered by presbytery's decline to accept their low financial offer to be dismissed, is starting next phase of legal discovery.

Smith reported good news for finances at the end of 2016, stopping the slide in congregational giving for five consecutive years. An extra \$36,000 in congregational giving and \$42,000 in investments totaled \$78,000 more than expected with 21 congregations giving more than in previous years and many more sustaining their giving. Presbytery therefore ended up with surplus, and committees underspent with two newly formed ministry areas significantly spending less. Budget is decreased from last year but increased from expenses of 2016.

Chenal, Little Rock property sale is impacted by more site studies and expenses so buyer presented a counter offer of \$1,030,000, which change the Administrative Commission has approved. After closing costs \$37,000 is still needed to pay off loans--which financed Presbytery's pledge to Ferncliff's Capital Campaign. **Motion that Presbytery approve up to \$40,000 to pay off the loans related to the Ferncliff gift** was seconded. TE Dari Rowen asked where money is coming from. Smith answered that Administration has not met to discuss this recent development, but it would come out of the cash account of \$268,000. **Motion was approved.** Closing is set for Wednesday. He gave the background for the pledge to Ferncliff's capital campaign.

Under technology issues Smith reported good usage of free conference call service for committees and that Presbytery now has a Zoom video conferencing account which is just getting started.

Smith gave words of thanks to the outgoing Stated Clerk who has served a year and a half. **Motion was made, seconded and approved that The Presbytery of Arkansas express its deep appreciation and gratitude for Rev. Dr. Robert Lowry in his work as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Arkansas; and we wish him well with continued blessings in his new call to service in Mississippi Presbytery and as pastor of Fondren Presbyterian, Jackson, MS.** Presbytery gave him a standing ovation, and Smith offered personal words of gratitude.

Good things are going on in the life of the Presbytery in committee work, helping with congregations going through individual challenges. He mentioned his recent attendance at the celebration at Yellville for their new pastor, Van Buren celebration of 100 years in that sanctuary, intergenerational memorial service of TE Carlos Lopez, and celebration of David Gill's achievements.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Stated Clerk Lowry gave information and made the following motions:

For Information: Statistical reports have been received and can be submitted to Acting Stated Clerk on paper forms this week.

14. 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. Congregations employing Teaching Elders are encouraged to cover the cost of the background check.
15. All Teaching Elders must complete and return to the Stated Clerk an Acknowledgement of Receipt of the presbytery's Sexual Misconduct Policy. Completed Acknowledgements of Receipt must be returned to the Stated Clerk.
16. The Stated Clerk made the following editorial revisions to the Ministry and Committee Duties section of the Presbytery Ministry Manual
 - a. Changed all references to number of regions to four from five.
 - b. Changed language for membership of Future of the Church to make consistent with rest of manual.
 - c. Added for clarity "non-Caucasian" to description of required majority for COR.
 - d. Changed wording as necessary to match adopted changes to Organization and Structure
17. The Siloam Springs church has been officially dismissed to the EPC following receipt of the first installment of the financial settlement.
18. The Stated Clerk filed the following annual reports with the Office of the General Assembly as required by GA rules:

a. Governing Body Costs Report

- i. Number of FT employees 2
- ii. Number of PT employees 5
- iii. Total Cost of Salaries and Benefits \$283,154
- iv. Total Cost of Staff Travel \$12,090
- v. Total Cost of Building (incl. utilities)\$33,295
- vi. Total for All Categories \$328,540

b. Salaries and Benefits Report for 2016

- i. David Dyer
 - 1. Salary \$1,142
 - 2. Benefits \$0
 - 3. Total \$1,142
- ii. Robert Lowry
 - 1. Salary \$18,880
 - 2. Benefits \$3,267
 - 3. Total \$22,147
- iii. Kenneth Rich
 - 1. Salary \$56,275
 - 2. Benefits \$20,530
 - 3. Total \$76,805
- iv. Stewart Smith
 - 1. Salary \$80,000
 - 2. Benefits \$34,703
 - 3. Total \$114,703
- v. NiAnn Thompson
 - 1. Salary \$31,733
 - 2. Benefits \$14,481
 - 3. Total \$46,214
- vi. Britton Varn
 - 1. Salary \$14,319
 - 2. Benefits \$0
 - 3. Total \$14,319
- vii. Michael Vinson
 - 1. Salary \$7,822
 - 2. Benefits \$0
 - 3. Total \$7,822

c. Summary of Church Changes Report

- i. Number of Congregations 1-1-16 84
 - 1. Total added 0
 - 2. Total dissolved 0
 - 3. Total Merged 0
 - 4. Total dismissed 1

For Action:

1. That Section 4 of the Organization and Structure be deleted entirely and the following language be inserted:

4) Officers and Staff

A. Officers- *The constitutional officers of the presbytery shall be the Moderator and Stated Clerk. The presbytery also provides by rule for Moderator-in-Election and Moderator of Coordinating Team.*

1. Moderator: *The Moderator shall preside at meetings of the presbytery and fulfill such other duties as provided by rule and the most recent edition of the PC(USA) Book of Order.*
 - a) Election- *An individual nominated to serve as moderator will normally be elected as “Moderator-in-Election” (or vice-Moderator) in the fall preceding the first year of service. Upon election as Moderator-in-Election, the individual is deemed to have been elected to the full three years of service as Moderator-in-Election, Moderator, and Moderator of Coordinating Team unless resignation or removal from office prevent the completion of the term.*
 - b) Installation- *The Moderator shall normally be installed at the first meeting in the year of service as Moderator.*
 - c) Vacancy: *Should a vacancy occur during the first year of service (Moderator-in-Election), the Nominating Committee shall bring to the next stated or called meeting of the presbytery the name of an individual to be elected for the remainder of the term. Should a vacancy occur during the second year of service (Moderator), the Moderator-in-Election shall assume the role of Moderator for the rest of the unexpired term and continue to serve his or her own elected term. Should a vacancy occur during the third year of service (Moderator of Coordinating Team), the Moderator-in-Election shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term as Moderator of Coordinating Team.*
2. Stated Clerk: *The Stated Clerk shall serve as the parliamentarian of the presbytery and as the designated authority on matters of policy and polity.*
 - a) Election- *Upon vacancy or upon the nomination of more than one candidate, the Nominating Committee shall bring to the presbytery a Stated Clerk Nominating Committee to be elected and charged with presenting a candidate to the presbytery for election. Nominations shall be allowed from the floor.*
 - b) Vacancy: *Should a vacancy occur a Temporary Stated Clerk shall be named by the Coordinating Team from among previous Stated Clerks or otherwise qualified individuals. The appointment shall be presented to the presbytery at the next stated*

meeting for its approval. A search for a new Stated Clerk shall commence for the election of a Stated Clerk to complete the unexpired term.

- B. Parity- The office of Moderator shall normally alternate between Ruling and Teaching Elders.
- C. Staff- The presbytery staff shall normally include an Executive/General Presbyter, Stated Clerk, and Treasurer and may include such other staff approved by the presbytery for the fulfillment of the presbytery's mission and ministry.

Rationale: The revisions are intended to clarify which are constitutional offices required for the presbytery and which are offices created by rule for the effective operation of the presbytery. Additionally, the expected three-year commitment for candidates to serve as Moderator-in-Election (or vice-Moderator), Moderator, and Moderator of Coordinating Team is clarified. Common vocabulary is sought. **Motion was made, seconded**, there was no discussion. **Motion was approved.**

2. That the Organization and Structure be amended as follows:

- That a new letter 3.D.3.g and 3.D.3.h be inserted with the following text:

g. Moderators of CCM, CLD, Future of the Church, Administration, Y/YA/C, Mission of the Church, Nominations, and Representation who are Ruling Elders shall be enrolled as members with voice and vote if not otherwise members of the presbytery. Moderators who are not Ruling Elders may be seated as Corresponding Members with voice but not vote.

h. Ruling Elder members of the Coordinating Team not otherwise members of the presbytery shall be enrolled as members of the presbytery during their time of service on the Coordinating Team.

Current section g shall be re-designated as 3.D.3.j

Rationale: This change will ensure that all moderators of standing ministries and RE members of the CT have voice in the work of the larger presbytery.

- That 5.H.1 be revised to read as follows (text to be added is shown in *italics* and text to be deleted is shown with a ~~strike through~~):

Membership- There shall be no more than ~~17~~ *22* and no fewer than ~~10~~ *15* members of the Coordinating Team.

Rationale: This change clarifies that the five ex-officio members of the CT are part of the total membership.

- That all other Presbytery documents be amended to reflect these changes.

Motion was made, seconded, and there was no discussion. **Motion was approved.**

Moment of personal privilege given by TE Robert Lowry, who complimented the elected leaders of Presbytery and voiced appreciation for his time in the region as pastor and Stated Clerk.

REPORT OF THE COORDINATING TEAM

Moderator TE Lacy Sellars made the report.

For Information:

The Coordinating Team took the following actions on behalf of the presbytery during a called conference call on January 13, 2017

15. Accepted with regret and with thanks the resignation of TE Robert Wm Lowry as Stated Clerk effective at the close of the 134th Stated Meeting.
16. Elected TE Leslie Belden as temporary Stated Clerk from the close of the 134th Stated Meeting until the election of a new Stated Clerk.
17. Instructed the Nominating Committee to bring names to the 134th Stated Meeting for a Stated Clerk Search Committee.

The Coordinating Team took the following actions on behalf of the presbytery at its stated meeting January 21, 2017:

5. Created a task force of six members (two each to be named by Future of the Church, CCM, and CLD) to evaluate the criteria of how to prepare and support CREs. The task force shall return its final report to CT no later than January 21, 2018. Stewart Smith will act as staff support.
6. Approved the start time for the 134th Stated Meeting, requests for docket time, a pre-presbytery workshop, Orders of the Day for Theological Discussion and a report from the Polity Committee, and an invitation to TE Chip Andrus to lead the Theological Discussion.
7. Authorized the Stated Clerk to solicit and accept an invitation from a host for the 135th Stated Meeting June 3, 2017.
8. Instructed the General Presbyter to consult with the vendor responsible for background checks to ensure that the Background Check Release Form is limited to the scope prescribed in presbytery policy.
9. Referred three proposed Standing Rules to the presbytery for approval or disapproval (included in Consent Agenda).
10. Referred changes to the Organization and Structure to the presbytery for approval or disapproval.
11. Extended an invitation to TE Rebecca Spooner and Dr. David Johnson to lead the Theological Discussion at the 136th Stated Meeting.
12. Set the date and location for the 136th Stated Meeting for October 6-7, 2017 at Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church, Forrest City.
13. Appointed a Task Force of four to examine the financial resources of the presbytery and report back to Coordinating Team no later than August 1, 2017 on recommendations for policies and

procedures for use of funds beyond the annual presbytery budget. One member each shall be named by the Future of the Church, Mission of the Church, Administration, and Coordinating Team.

Sellers summarized and highlighted the report. He thanked TE Leslie Belden in absentia as Temporary Stated Clerk. Coordinating Team will focus at their April 1st meeting on the conduct of presbytery meetings. Sellers asked that the report be received.

GREETINGS FROM YOUTH ADVISORY DELEGATES AND YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

Greetings were brought by Serena McClarrinon, Youth Advisory Team co-moderator, who announced Senior High YouthQuake, and that the Team has Presbyterian socks for sale. Three YAVs serving in AR explained their unique experiences: Ashley Nipp noted applications for YAV service will be open soon, Katie McGee applauded Disaster Assistance kits, Chris Utterback appreciated efforts to help people find their passion after college graduation. Moderator thanked both groups.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY AREA

Moderator RE Jan Enke gave the report.

For Information:

1. “Financial information including Balance Sheet, Year End Budget Report, and Year End Benevolence Report were included in the packet.
2. We ended the year 2016 with net income. This was due to a larger than anticipated income from investments combined with several committees of the presbytery keeping a careful eye on the expenditures.
3. The Chenal Property is scheduled to be sold on February 22, 2017.
4. The Board of Pensions Insurance was reviewed with the new options available. After a discussion with the staff covered, it was decided that the 100% member and children would be covered by the presbytery but not the spouse. The spouses will be required to get insurance through their employers. The salaries of those who will be affected will be adjusted by the amount of their spouse’s insurance premium. This plan saves the presbytery \$14,083.”

For Action:

1. **The Administration Ministry Area moved the following terms of call for General Presbyter Stewart Smith for 2017:**
 1. **Effective salary:**
 - a. **Salary: \$40,000**
 - b. **Housing: \$35,000**
 - c. **403(b): \$5,000**
 - d. **Spousal Insurance Cost Offset: \$865.80**
 2. **Full medical, pension, death and disability coverage through the Board of Pensions (for Stewart and child only; spouse not covered)**
 3. **SSI reimbursement: \$6,196**
 4. **Professional expenses: \$15,000 (reduced from \$18,000)**

5. **Continuing Education: \$1,500**
6. **Paid Vacation Leave: four (4) weeks;**
7. **Paid Continuing Education Leave: two (2) weeks;**
8. **Three month Sabbatical after the seventh year of work.**

Enke explained the savings to the budget (Smith and Kenneth Rich chose to have spouses' insurance covered by spouses' employers.) Smith left during report. **Motion was approved.**

2. **The Administration Ministry Area moved to adopt the 2017 Operating Budget. (Distributed at registration.) totaling \$805,330.00. (See appendix.)**

Rationale: The 2017 Operating Budget proposes \$80,000 in reductions from the 2016 operating budget. If expenses come in at the projected number of \$805,330, we anticipate having a deficit and transferring some funds from investments. There was no discussion. **Motion was approved.**

3. **Motion that the changes endorsed by the Administration Ministry Area to the job description for part-time presbytery staff member TE Michael Vinson be approved.** (Description follows.). Enke gave background of the changes, "so his skill set might more effectively meet the needs of the presbytery," and noted that changes had been approved by General Presbyter, Future of the Church Ministry Area, and Administration. In discussion/questions Leslie Roper questioned why churches would pay for services. Smith explained that this continues his current work, but that multiple visits and multiple days working with individual congregations would be beyond his current work. Butin suggested a sliding scale payment approach for congregations unable to pay. Smith said some congregations have come to Future of the Church Area for grants to help pay the costs. TE Debbie Freeman spoke of First, Jacksonville's buy-in to Vinson's work with them, and the grant from FotC, which was the presbytery's gift. **Motion was approved.**

Enke asked congregations to fill out the pledge form and give to Kenneth Rich or after Session meeting, fill out and return to him so budget planning can be complete.

Proposed Job Description

PART 1: SKILLS FOR THRIVING IN CHANGE WORKSHOPS

The Theme of the work for 2017 would be Skills for Thriving in Change. In meeting with the discernment group, one of the things that they thought would be helpful would be hands-on learning and skill development to help them do ministry in a variety of settings and in the complicated world of ministry in which the church currently exists. The benefit of the workshop to the local pastor is that it gives them some tools to begin conversations with their session and to develop their own skill set in navigating ministry during rapidly changing times. The benefit to the Presbytery is that the Presbytery begins to have leaders who can use their skills to help others discover their purpose and fulfill their calling in new ways. This allows the Presbytery and the local congregations to develop leadership skills and plans that are flexible and productive. The Purpose of the workshops would be to build skills for thriving in change for leaders within the Presbytery.

This would include a series of three pre-presbytery workshops:

- Workshop One: Fostering a Life Nurturing Environment In Your Congregation
- Workshop Two: Mapping Congregational Transformation, Aligning with your Purpose as a congregation.

- Workshop Three: Shifting From Old Patterns of Behavior and Developing New Patterns of Behavior

The overall benefit for this group of workshops for the Presbytery will be to begin to develop leadership that can help discern new ways of being the church within the Presbytery based on skills and knowledge from the workshops. The individual congregations will learn how to assess that its behaviors and actions help or distract from accomplishing its purpose, how to foster an environment within the congregations that is life-nurturing and affirming in order to accomplish its purpose; and to learn how to develop leadership, vision and community to accomplish its purpose.

Each pre-presbytery workshop would be approximately three hours in length. They will be offered once during the course of the year perhaps as a part of the regularly scheduled Presbytery meetings. Leadership at all levels of the church would benefit from these workshops. This would include deacons, elders, and pastors.

Additionally there would be one workshop offered at least twice in different parts of the state. The theme of this workshop would be Thriving in Change. This would be an afternoon and morning workshop with the first part of the workshop taking part in the afternoon and the second part of the workshop taking place the next morning for a total of eight hours. This workshop would be beneficial to deacons, elders and pastors as they would begin to develop tools for assessing and discerning ways to fulfill their purpose individually and collectively.

The design of the workshops, the implementation of the workshops, including the development of resource and educational material for the workshops, would be covered by the current salary.

Some Benefits to these workshops would include:

- Strengthening the relationship between the session and the pastor to lead a congregation that thrives in times of transition.
- Moving from one stage of ministry to the next by broadening the discussion beyond the present ministry challenges to bring understanding to where to put energy in ministry that brings about lasting improvement.
- Broader conversations with respect to the mission of the Church.
- Conflict Prevention in transition by developing new patterns of behavior that strengthen the current mission and context of mission.
- Development of new patterns of behavior that take congregation out of patterns of behavior that no longer serve them and keep the congregation in conflict.
- Development of organizational wide understanding of transition: where it starts, how to thrive in transition, stages along the way and development of a path forward to a new mission.

PART 2: WORKING WITH CONGREGATIONS

This is work that relates to specific congregations. This would be like the deep discernment work that I have done with congregations like Jacksonville and Rogers.

The purpose of this work is to help the congregation learn new ways of being as it discerns next steps in ministry. This is accomplished in a variety of ways. There are

individual interviews which allows individual members to discern how well the church is doing in accomplishing its purpose, identify things that need to be eliminated, reduced or developed. It allows the congregation to look at its history and come to terms with behaviors that have been helpful in moving the ministry of the congregation forward and to look at behaviors that have not been helpful in moving the ministry forward. The focus groups allow the participants to assess and discern next steps in ministry while at the same time learning new skills to help them accomplish their ministry. As more congregations do this kind of work the presbytery will see congregations that have clarity of purpose as it relates to their ministry in local congregations and across the presbytery increasing the connectional ties of the work together.

This work would be limited to three churches a year and would be paid for by the church requesting the services. The payment might come through a presbytery grant.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE CHURCH'S MINISTRIES

TE Dari Rowen, moderator, gave the report.

For Presbytery Action:

Blake Brinegar Statement of Faith

I believe in God the Father, creator of all things, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit. God is not finished with creation; scripture tells us, "The one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." God is caring, nurturing, accepting, and patient. Most encounters with God are through ordinary order and structure. Our faith and relationship with God is lifelong, a continual process of deepening one's relationship with God.

God is manifest in the person of Jesus Christ, fully human, fully divine, the incarnate Son of God, our Lord and Savior. The ministry of Jesus was to share the Good News of God's will for the world. Jesus died on a cross for the forgiveness of sins, and his resurrection shows that God is ultimately victorious over sin and death. We turn from God and try to separate ourselves from God. I believe nothing can separate us from God. God is with us in the Holy Spirit, guiding, nurturing, and challenging us to live faithful lives. In recalling God's presence with us, we know we are children of God, called to spread the Good News of the Gospel in the world. As disciples, we offer the gift of God in Jesus Christ by making new disciples, through mission work in our community, our country, and around the world.

We encounter God through the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. The Bible, the inspired word of God, an authoritative guide of how to live, speaks to each of us. The Bible should be interpreted with humility and love. God related to humanity, first by leading the Israelites, then in the Incarnation of Jesus. God's purpose and power are endless, adding to God's mystery and grandeur. Created in God's image, we are challenged to use our minds in relating to humanity. We are called to be good stewards, entrusted with caring for God's creation.

God works through the church, the body of Christ. Our no longer being separated from God by sin is secured in our faith, not works or merit. We don't earn God's love; it is a freely given gift. The role of the community of believers through which God works is multi-faceted. The community helps us to live more faithfully. We are called to ensure all peoples the basic necessities of a life of dignity.

Through our life in congregations, presbyteries, and as Presbyterians, we belong to the larger community of believers, the church universal. We enter this community through the Sacrament of Baptism, which is the sign God first chose us, even before we could make our own profession. The Lord's Table belongs to Jesus, not a church. When we partake in the Lord's Supper, Jesus is spiritually present in the elements. As the bread is broken and the cup poured, we are

reminded of the brokenness of Christ's body. In this act, we share with the faithful around the world, including the saints who have gone before us, as we seek reconciliation with those around us, rededicating ourselves afresh to Christ.

- 1. Motion to approve the call of TE Blake Brinegar as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Yellville, effective January 1, 2017, and enroll him as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, requesting that the Presbytery of Cascades dismiss him, with the following terms of call and details concerning the installation service:**

Effective Salary	
Cash Salary	31,800
Rental Value of Manse	9,673.08
Dental	443.40
Total Effective Salary	41,916.08
Reimbursable Expenses	
Auto @ 53.5/mile	3,000
Cont. Ed.	1,200
Presbytery Expense	420
Moving Costs	5,000
Pension in Full	
Paid Vacation 4 Weeks	
Paid Continuing Ed 2 weeks	

Motion was approved.

- 2. Motion to approve TE Blake Brinegar's installation service on February 12, 2017 at 4 pm with the offering recipient to be the Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response and commission members:**

TE Lacy Sellars to moderate and propound the Constitutional questions

TE Dick Shinkle, HR to preach

TE Brian Brock to charge the pastor

RE Jeanne Simpson, First, Yellville to charge the congregation

RE Evelyn Mills, First, Harrison

TE Patty Schaller

Motion was approved, noting installation had already occurred. Brinegar brought greetings and introduced the people from Yellville.

- 3. Motion to receive TE Joyce A. Daniel (HR) as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas.**

Statement of Faith

As a child I sang with the congregation, "Oh how I love Jesus because he first loved me." I believe that the sovereign triune God being the source of all love, created the human race in God's own image. God reveals Godself to us through

the Holy Scriptures, through the living Word, Jesus Christ, and through the Holy Spirit, who inspired the writers of Scripture and is present to teach us as we read and listen.

I believe that God's full expression of love, justice, and mercy is found in Jesus Christ, truly human and truly God. Jesus came willingly to earth to live, suffer, and die that we might be forgiven of sin and have eternal life in relationship with God. In the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, sin and death were defeated. Our forgiveness being forever accomplished on the cross, we are called to confess our sins and forgive others as we also receive forgiveness.

The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost to be present within and around us. I believe Holy Spirit unites us mysteriously with the person and work of Jesus Christ, and guides, companions, comforts, empowers, and advocates for us.

We who believe are called to practice our faith and love in community. This communal expression of faith is experienced in Baptism and the Lord's Supper. I believe, as Augustine said, both Sacraments are "visible signs of God's invisible grace" through which the Church is invited into deeper communion with Jesus Christ. In Baptism the Church recognizes God's sovereignty in the life of a person and affirms the ongoing communal nature of God's work through the Church. At the Lord's Table we are nourished by the Spiritual presence of Christ in the receiving of the bread and the cup, as we are in communion with the triune God and all believers of every time and place.

As head of the Church, his body, Christ calls and empowers us to live out the reign of God on earth, praying and working for peace and justice for all people, and caring for and enjoying the environment. We are charged to share the good news of Jesus in our words, our prayers, and our actions, loving God and neighbor; in this way the reign of God grows, and will one day be complete.

In summary, I believe my salvation and sanctification rest solely on the gracious love and power of God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and that nothing will ever separate me from that eternal presence of love.

Motion was approved. She brought greetings and thanks.

4. Motion to receive TE Danny Daniel (HR) as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Statement of Faith

Legend has it that sometime in the early 1960's, while lecturing at the University of Chicago; the renowned theologian Karl Barth took a few questions from the audience. Allegedly, Dr. Barth was asked by an inquisitive divinity student if Dr. Barth could summarize his life's work in theology by one brief statement. The most famous theologian of the 20th Century supposedly replied with something like this, "Yes, I can... 'Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so.'"

I doubt if anyone can top Karl Barth's wit or profound succinctness, neither should I try. This is my brief statement of faith:

I believe that I worship and have an intimate relationship with an omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscience God. Through my understanding of Scripture and the Confessions of the PCUSA I have come to believe that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (one God in three persons). I believe that the Triune God has created and is still creating all humankind in the image of God. I believe that God is revealed to us through the Holy Scriptures, through God's only begotten son, Jesus Christ (who came to us being fully divine and fully human), and through the immense workings of the Holy Spirit.

I believe Jesus' life, death on the cross, and his resurrection provided the atonement for our sins and broke the chains of eternal death for all believers. By the grace of God and the unconditional love found in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, all believers have a perpetual relationship with the most holy and almighty God and have become children of God and heirs to God's kingdom. I believe that the Holy Spirit has been sent to indwell within us and is an advocate to accompany us through the many joys and trials of the life we have been given. I believe that the Holy Spirit beckons people from all "walks of life" into action after hearing the voices of the oppressed in the world, not only the injustices leveled upon humanity but also the planet earth we are called to preserve, honor, and protect. I believe that the Holy Spirit continues to connect each of us to the community of faith in Jesus Christ (the catholic Church) as we honor the Sacraments of our faith, baptism and the Lord's Supper. I believe that the Holy Spirit calls all believers, i.e. men, women, and children from across the diverse globe, to unite together in one body, the Body of Christ.

And yes after saying all this, one of the most profound beliefs that I can attest to is... “Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so.”

Motion was approved. Daniel brought greetings.

5. **Motion that Ruling Elder Ed Wilkinson be approved and commissioned as Commissioned Ruling Elder at Good Shepherd Presbyterian, Greenwood. Motion was approved.** He brought greetings and thanks for service. He will moderate session and administer sacraments, for three years, for no compensation. Moderator led the commissioning service and asked the constitutional questions. People from Greenwood stood and were welcomed.

6. **Motion to adopt:**

Policy for Pastors from Other Denominations Seeking to Serve PC(USA) Congregations in a Pastoral, Transitional or Supply Role.

- 1.. When a congregation requires pastoral or transitional pastoral leadership and would like to consider a candidate whose ordination in good standing, prior service, and/or training are not in a denomination in full communion with the Presbyterian Church (USA), the session of that congregation shall consult formally with the Committee on the Church’s Ministries through its presbytery liaisons before any formal or informal conversations are conducted with any such candidate.
2. Through its assigned liaisons and its appropriate Examinations Subcommittee, the Presbytery’s Committee on the Church’s Ministries shall determine whether, when, and to what extent the person’s ability to lead, teach, preach, and provide pastoral care may or may not serve the present and future mission and vision of the congregation in a manner consistent with Presbyterian theology and polity, and the ethos of The Presbytery of Arkansas and the Presbyterian Church (USA). This determination shall be made in a formal examination by the appropriate Examinations Subcommittee and approved by the Committee on the Church’s Ministries.
3. In addition in order to preside at the Lord’s Supper or to celebrate a baptism of the PCUSA congregation, a potential pastor, transitional pastor, minister, or leader whose credentials in good standing are in a denomination not in full communion with the PCUSA, shall normally be required to pursue pre-approved coursework in the following areas:
 - a. Reformed Theology (*Book of Confessions*)
 - b. Reformed Understanding of the Sacraments (*Book of Confessions* and “Directory for Worship”)
 - c. Presbyterian Polity (*Book of Order*)
4. Following the completion of the above coursework or its equivalent, the appropriate Examinations Subcommittee of the Committee on the Church’s Ministries shall examine the candidate again and may—at the Committee on the Church’s Ministries sole discretion—specifically authorize the individual to exercise one or more of the following pastoral functions

if it judges the exercise of that function by that individual to be desirable for the church's ongoing ministry:

- a. Presiding at the Lord's Supper
- b. Celebrating a baptism

Such authorization shall apply only to the congregation, context, and time-frame specified by the Committee on the Church's Ministries.

5. In no event shall a pastor, transitional pastor, minister, or other leader whose ordination, prior service, and training are not in a denomination in full communion with the Presbyterian Church (USA) moderate the Session of a congregation of the Presbytery of Arkansas unless/until such leader shall be elected and ordained as a ruling elder or teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Questions included which denominations are in full communion with PC(USA). Stated Clerk answered ELCA, Moravian, RCA, UCC, CRC are in full communion and their ministers can immediately serve in PC(USA) congregations. No other Presbyterian denomination has chosen to be in communion. Cumberland denomination members are examined on a case-by-case basis. Roper asked on #5 in policy about the language of "in no event" is a moderator. Stated Clerk said there is no leeway because the presbytery cannot change this denominational rule. Phil Butin echoed that problems have resulted from non-Presbyterians moderating Session. DC Adams voiced concern about nothing in policy about discipline of the church being exercised. Butin said CCM did not intend for this policy to cover discipline. RE Mike Simpson asked about local Session making these determinations. Stated Clerk replied that constitutional responsibilities cannot be delegated to lower councils (presbytery to session). Butin said this is a mark of being Presbyterian. Stewart Smith echoed Roper's concern and said mid-council leaders are now talking about this. Kade Curry asked if this is only for transitional leaders because CLD encourages non-PC(USA) ministers to come into full communion. Butin answered it is also for installed positions, even part-time, citing RE Ronnie Prevost, serving at Rogers. Curry asked if Prevost is working toward CRE, because he is not yet under care of CLD. Branch, traveling evangelist, said he hopes he can ask for honorably retired TEs to be moderators of Sessions in east AR. RE Curt Patton asked about dual election or dual ordination. Stated Clerk said that if minister is not in communion he must choose which denomination, and he referenced ruling from 1992. Gabbard asked if CCM policy was written for specific person. Rowen said CCM has previously worked on a case-by-case basis, and they now need policy. **Motion was approved.**

For Information:

Honorable Retirement:

TE David Gill was granted Honorable Retirement status effective January 31, 2017. TE Anne Russ spoke on his behalf. He voiced thanks and received gifts.

Necrology

Larry Curtis Mitchell, age 68, died Friday, November 18, 2016 at his home in Forrest City, AR. He had served as pastor of Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City for six years. A native of Frankfort, KY, Larry graduated from Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA with a Master of Divinity and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary with a Doctorate of Ministry degree. He was ordained in Flint River Presbytery in 1974 and pastored churches in GA, MO, TX, NC and from 1987 to 1991, First, Little Rock. In

Arkansas Presbytery he served on the Christian Education Committee and the Committee on Clusters after serving on Presbytery Council in Mission Presbytery, evangelism committee in Savannah Presbytery, and as synod commissioner from Cherokee Presbytery.

He is survived by his wife of 27 years Janice B. Frank Mitchell, a step-daughter Ashley Bermingham (Jason) of Little Rock, one granddaughter Mary Parker Bermingham, his mother and sister. After his cremation the memorial service was held at Graham Memorial on November 29. Memorials were suggested for the church, American Heart Association or to American Diabetes Association.

Necrology

Rev. Carlos Alberto Lopez, 93, died on Saturday, January 21, 2017. He was an honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

A native of Puerto Padre, Cuba, Lopez graduated from Universidad de la Habana/University of New Mexico with an economics degree and San Francisco Theological Seminary with a master's degree in theology. Before ordination, he was a staff sergeant in the New Mexico Air National Guard. Ordained in 1962, Lopez pastored Presbyterian churches in Albuquerque, El Paso and San Antonio, served on the board of San Francisco Seminary, and was active on committees in Tres Rios and Mission Presbyteries. He retired in 1990 and in AR Presbytery served on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, taught Spanish at Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, and sang in that church choir.

He is survived by his wife Rev. Sally Johnson, also an honorably retired minister, son Daniel Lopez (Kristin) and daughter Alicia Martinez (Eric); stepchildren Charlie Johnson (Robin); Voris Johnson, Jr. (Darrell) and Julie Holt (Kent), and 13 grandchildren. Memorial service was held on Saturday, Jan. 28, at Westover Hills Presbyterian, 6400 Richard B. Hardie Drive, Little Rock. Memorials are suggested to the church, Presbyterian Village, AR Hospice or San Francisco Seminary.

Transfers Out and Changes in Status

TE Marie Mainard O'Donnell was approved as the Transitional Associate Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock.

The Committee on the Church's Ministries approved transferring TE Robert Lowry's membership to the Presbytery of Mississippi pending their request effective following the 134th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

The Committee on the Church's Ministries approved moving TE Bob Hyatt's membership from Honorably Retired Active to Honorably Retired In-Active.

The Committee on the Church's Ministries approved the continuing Internship of Krista Denne as the Student Intern serving First Presbyterian Church of Clarksville.

Requests from Congregations and Presbytery Entities

The Committee on the Church's Ministries granted permission for Barr Memorial Presbyterian Church, Norman, to allow RE David Lysobey to continue serving on the Session following his two terms.

The Committee on the Church's Ministries recommends that a Congregation/Session shall normally pay a Pastor \$50 per visit plus mileage for moderating a Session meeting. This was highlighted.

The Committee on the Church's Ministries requested that the Coordinating Team create a task force to evaluate the criteria of how to prepare and support CREs.

Responding to the request of the Coordinating Team to develop a policy concerning families of former pastors, it was the consensus opinion of the Committee on the Church's Ministries that there is no authority to set such policy.

Park Hill Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock was granted permission to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee, and First Presbyterian Church of Pine Bluff was granted permission to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee when the mediation team is in place and there is a request by the mediation team to grant such permission.

The Committee on the Church's Ministries approved TE Bill Branch to serve as the "traveling evangelist" to the smaller congregations in northeast Arkansas.

Moderator gave break until 10:45 a.m when Order of the Day was scheduled.

ORDER OF THE DAY: Chip Andrus on the New Directory for Worship

TE Chip Andrus from NY, formerly serving in this presbytery, presented a brief history of Presbyterian worship, details of the current Directory for Worship section of the Book of Order, and the changes, including shortening, in the proposed new directory.

The body stood in recess at 11:40 for lunch in the Seay Cafeteria and resumed business at 12:45 p.m.

AFTERNOON BUSINESS SESSION

On return Moderator asked TE Joyce Daniel to bless the food received.

Stated Clerk made motion to amend the docket to reflect Ferncliff Annual Report, Order of the Day, CLD, Nominations, Future, Mission, Arkansas Gives, Minute Announcements. It was seconded and approved.

FERNCLIFF CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER BOARD

Retired director David Gill reported that no presbytery has been more supportive of their camp and conference center than AR. Board of Directors members TE Kade Curry and TE Elizabeth Gabbard showed photos and gave highlights of the year: 6th straight year of growth, Ferncliff in the 20% of camps that are growing, summer camping highlights, accreditation process completed, national gathering of PCUSA conference hosted, day camp for children of missionaries, nature preschool, dinner honoring David's 20 years of service, his son Joel

Gill was named Acting Executive Director for 20 months. Gabbard recalls her own years of camp attendance, camp hosting Credo for TEs, conference for mid-council leaders, missional activities including packaging 50,000 meals, Over the Hill Gang built storage buildings, new mattresses on adult beds shared with shelters, day camps for VBS. Hanna Lahodny is newest staff member, theme for summer camp in 2017, service and sustainability are emphasized, summer chaplains are still needed. YADs opened backpacks and played a guessing game. Two changes were approved by board to pay back Presbytery: Presbytery committees invited to meet with no charge for meeting space and congregations can now pay what they can (pay meals, invoice is paid by what you can afford.) Drone was released for a group selfie photo.

ORDER OF THE DAY: REPORT OF THE POLITY COMMITTEE

At 1:11 p.m. General Assembly commissioners reported. Stated Clerk explained that vote must be up or down with youth voting first. Commissioner Gail Murdoch introduced two of the other commissioners to General Assembly last summer, TE Gabbard and TE Roper.

For Action:

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

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

Shall W-2.4011a. and b. be amended by striking the current text and inserting new text to read as follows? [Text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

"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.

"Worshippers 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 "

c. 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."

The Polity Committee recommends APPROVAL of Item 16-G.

Youth voted first and were unanimously in favor. Amendment 16-G was approved.

2. **Item 16-H Directory for Worship On Replacing the Current Directory for Worship**

Shall the Book of Order be amended by striking out the text of Chapters I through VII of the current Directory for Worship and inserting new text to read as follows?

The full text of the proposed Directory for Worship can be found on the PCUSA website at:

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

(Copies of directory were also available from pick-up table.)

The Polity Committee recommends APPROVAL of Item 16-H.

Youth voted unanimously in favor. Amendment 16-H was approved.

- 3. That the Polity Committee be dismissed with the thanks of the presbytery. Youth voted in favor. Motion was approved.**

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

TE Kade Curry, moderator, gave the report. He focused on personal and genuine care for inquirers and candidates. Three or four more people are interested in CRE training.

For Information:

“The Committee on Leadership Development met January 23rd 2017 via teleconference and continued its work with those under care for Church Leadership positions.

The CLD received and accepted the resignation of Mike Easley as a member of the Committee and Sherry Miller as a member of the Committee.

The CLD also discussed the new and incoming members of the Committee.

The CLD reviewed its process and talked in detail about its purpose in the work of the Church at Large. There was agreement that the focus continue to be on those under care and that we personally and genuinely invest in their learning and preparation as a committee via a system that utilizes the use of Liaisons. We assigned 2 committee liaisons to each student under care. A list was reviewed that outlined good guidelines for being an effective committee liaison for someone under care. Our current Liaison assignments are as follows:

Liaison assignments:

- Katherine Norwood – Susan Anderson and Lynn Condra
- Molly DeWitt – 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 – Debbie Freeman
- Jordan Akin – Susan Anderson and Bill Henning
- Max Hill – Debbie Freeman and Lynn Condra

The CLD Committee has also reviewed its documents and processes for guiding prospective Commissioned Ruling Elders to Church Leadership. The CLD has a comprehensive manual for anyone interested in CRE. The CLD encourages sessions and congregations to send prospective CRE's our way. All documents needed for the process or for those interested in the process are now located on the Presbytery Website under "Resources" and then "Presbytery Documents."

The CLD also has an emphasis this year on Session relations. We want all Sessions to know that we have not forgotten that the covenant agreement between those under care and the Presbytery involves the Session of the candidate's local church. We want to work closely with the Sessions and home churches to ensure the best experience for those who seek to lead in the Church.

Current "Under Care" List

Inquirers:

Max Hill- 2nd Little Rock; Jordan Akin- 2nd Little Rock

Stacey Hammons- 2nd Little Rock; David Mills- 2nd Little Rock

Candidates for Candidacy (presented for endorsement to the 134th Stated Meeting):

Katherine Norwood- 2nd Little Rock

Molly Dewitt- 2nd Little Rock

Candidates:

Brittany Fiscus Van Rossum- 1st Jacksonville

Krista Denne- 1st Clarksville

For Action:

- 1. That RE David Clark (First, Heber Springs) come under care as a candidate for Commissioned Ruling Elder. Motion was approved.** Clark will be introduced at a future meeting.

Statement of Faith

I am a child of the church. I am a Presbyterian by birth, by upbringing and by choice. When my father died in 1993, I lost my spiritual advisor as well as my father but in a lot of ways my spiritual journey began after I lost him. When you are the child of a minister you don't have to wrestle with spiritual questions, you can just pick up the phone and call your dad.

I preached my first sermon at Boy Scout camp. The text was Psalm 8. As an Elder I was asked to fill the pulpit at Batesville. I was asked more and more to fill various pulpits near Batesville. I began filling in a Greer's Ferry when Walter Swetnam's health prevented him from preaching. Eventually I began preaching there every other Sunday.

I am approaching retirement from public schools. I have been asked several times if I would consider going to a church on a more permanent basis. My response has always been that I wasn't a CRE. The time has come for me to change this.

I have always tried to be open to God's call. I have always done that by being prepared for what might come next. I believe that this is the next step in that process for me.

2. **That Stephen Moody (First, LR) be enrolled under the Covenant Agreement of Inquirer by the Arkansas Presbytery.** He was introduced and gave greetings. **Motion was approved.** TE Debbie Freeman prayed for Moody. Members from First, LR and First, Jonesboro stood.

3. **That Molly DeWitt (Second, LR) be enrolled under the Covenant Agreement of Candidacy by the Arkansas Presbytery.** She was introduced, is a student in Indianapolis, former YAV who grew up in Wabash Presbytery. Questions on her statement of faith were invited: expound on “righteous community” by Purcell. Dewitt left the room. Curry explained discernment of inquiry vs. preparation for ministry of candidacy. **Motion was approved.**

Statement of Faith

I believe in the triune God who is sovereign, infinite, and mysterious in nature. I believe in the saving grace of Jesus Christ who came to liberate and reconcile the world through his life, ministry, and death on the cross. In his humanity and divinity, we are able to connect to Christ personally as well as gain better understanding of our Creator. The salvation of Christ is given as a free gift of grace, undeserved and unable to be earned by works of the flesh. There is nothing that I can do to earn this salvation other than accepting Christ as Savior, yet I am called to a life of sanctification nonetheless. Faith calls me to never stop working to become closer to Christ.

I believe in the enlightening power of the Holy Spirit, which provides continuous insight into the revelation of God throughout time. The Holy Spirit enlightens through Scripture, as well as through the constant process of developing individual and corporate Christian faith. These three, God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, work independently and simultaneously as one. Through them, the church is called to minister to the world.

The mission of the church is to glorify God while living in righteous community. In order to live accordingly, the church is called to love, seek and call out injustice, proclaim the good news of the gospel, and work for peace as we await the coming realm of God. The church ministers to the world through the sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s Supper, bringing together those who seek to learn and work together as members of an imperfect body, renewed by the mysterious sustenance of Christ’s blood and body.

4. **That Katherine Norwood (Second, LR) be enrolled under the Covenant Agreement of Candidacy by the Arkansas Presbytery.** She is a child of Second Presbyterian, active in United Campus Ministry at Fayetteville, YAV in New Orleans, inspired by safety at church, passion for campus ministry and now student at Louisville Seminary. Questions on her statement of faith were invited: Adams asked about scripture containing truth and she answered. She left the room. **Motion was approved**

Statement of Faith

I believe in God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. I believe God created the world and loved the world so much that God sent Jesus, who was fully human and fully divine, to die on the cross for all of humanity's sin. I believe the Holy Spirit was sent by God and is still present with us today. I believe that these three are One called the Trinity. I believe the Bible is Scripture and contains truth. I believe the Church is the body of Christ working to be his hands and feet and flesh in the world today.

I find comfort in a compassionate God who loves me and knows me, who is behind and before and always with me. I feel unworthy of Jesus' death on the cross for my sin, and study his life and teachings to better understand how to live a life like he taught. I have felt the Spirit’s guiding presence in moments of stillness. I believe that my life of faith will lead me to a life of justice work welcoming the stranger, advocating for the marginalized, and wrestling with my own privilege because I believe God’s wildly inclusive love is meant for all people.

Moderator asked both candidates the Constitutional questions. Prayers were offered for Katherine by TE Susan Rose and for Molly by TE Lindy Vogado.

The Committee on Leadership Development will meet next on Saturday, March 11, 2017 and will interview each of its newly accepted Inquirers individually to help them to continue their own discernment processes. Please consider adding “Those Under the Care of Arkansas Presbytery for Church Leadership” to your church’s prayer list and be in continual prayer for the future leaders of the PC(USA).”

Vice Moderator Roper moderated the next portion through the end of the Presbytery meeting.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Moderator TE Elizabeth Gabbard gave the report.

For Information:

The form to self-nominate or nominate someone from your congregation was in packet.

For Action:

- 1) That the Presbytery elect the following to fill immediate vacancies:

Committee on Church and Its Ministries

TE Carol Clark, Park Hill, North Little Rock, Class of 2019

TE Lindy Vogado, Second, Little Rock, Class of 2019

Committee on Leadership Development

RE David Clark, First, Heber Springs, Class of 2018

RE Sarah Leer, First, Bentonville, Class of 2019

Future of the Church Ministry Area

RE Collins Andrews, Second, Little Rock, Class of 2018

TE Michael Ulasewich, First, Conway, Class of 2019

Nominations were requested from the floor. There were none. **Nominees were elected.**

- 2) That the Presbytery elect the following to serve as the Stated Clerk Search Committee:

TE Steve Hancock, Moderator, Second, Little Rock

RE Dick Freer, First, Jonesboro

TE Georgia Senor, First, Bentonville

TE Bill Bailey, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village

Certified Christian Educator Theresa Spragins, First, Conway

TE and General Presbyter Stewart Smith, Staff Resource

With the exception of GP Smith, this is the same committee that performed this task in 2015. The hope was that the committee would bring the name of a candidate for election as Stated Clerk to the presbytery meeting in June. **Motion was moved to New Business.**

REPORT OF THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY AREA

Moderator RE Leah Shell pointed out the written report.

For Information:

1. "MOTIONS INCLUDING THE MEETING AGENDA AND MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS AND APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS WERE APPROVED.
2. Ted Belden and Peg Falls-Corbitt gave a report on the Coordinating Team. Ted Belden and Peg Falls-Corbitt will continue to serve on the Coordinating Team in 2017.
3. The state of the Administrative Commissions that are currently staffed by members of the Future of the Church was discussed. The Administrative Commissions include: Lonoke; Rogers, Ozark, Crossover and Chenal. Dick Freer has been added to the Lonoke Administrative Commission on which Anne Russ and Marie Mainard O'Connell serve.
4. Mike Vinson, our Staff Liaison between Future of the Church and the Presbytery led a discussion on what he does which can be of more help to congregations within the Presbytery. The committee and Mike had a discussion on how best we could use his resources.
5. A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED FOR PEG FALLS-CORBITT AND ANNE RUSS TO SERVE ON THE CRE TASKFORCE OVERSIGHT WORKGROUP. Some discussions about the CRE Program were held by the committee. Stewart Smith indicated that over half of the congregations within the Arkansas Presbytery do not have full-time called pastors.
6. A MOTION WAS MADE TO FUND \$2500 OUT OF THE TECHNOLOGY BUDGET FOR 2016 TO FUND A DAYLONG SEMINAR TAUGHT BY AUBURN SEMINARY FOR LOCAL CHURCHES WANTING TO LEARN ABOUT HAVING A DIGITAL MEDIA PRESENCE. THE MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED AND PASSED .The costs of the seminar will be \$50 per attendee. It will be held March 7 from 9-1 at First Presbyterian, Conway. Lunch will be provided. There will be online registration. 22 spots are available. Limit 2/church.
7. A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED AND APPROVED TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOP SOME MODELS FOR MINISTRIES THAT FOTC COULD PRESENT TO THE PRESBYTERY TO GIVE GUIDELINES TO CHURCHES IN DEVELOPING NEW MINISTRY MODELS TO SERVE THEIR CONGREGATIONS AND MINISTERS INTERESTED IN SERVING THEM.
8. A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED AND APPROVED FOR JEFF PRICE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE MINISTRIES SUPPORTED CURRENTLY WITH MONEY FROM FUTURE OF THE CHURCH
9. The committee discussed the budget allocation for 2017. The total amount for the FOTC budget for 2017 is \$76,548. The following decisions were made by the committee.
 - Funding \$30,876 for the New Ministry Initiative
 - Funding \$7,500 for 1001 new Worshipping Communities
 - Funding \$7,500 towards technology needs for the Presbytery
 - Funding \$7,125 for Continuing Ministry Support
 - Funding \$3,000 towards CRE Support
 - Funding \$3,000 of Administrative and Listening Expenses
 - The remaining funds of \$17,547 will be allocated towards Small Church Development.
10. Kade Curry, the Moderator of the Committee on Leadership Development, who also serves as the Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Searcy and the moderator for the First Presbyterian Church, Beebe called into our meeting to discuss the status of these congregations. Dick Freer volunteered to serve as a liaison between the Beebe Congregation and the FOTC. Marie Mainard O'Connell will also be asked to participate.

11. During our conversation with Kade we discussed the need to fund some of the training needed for Commissioned Ruling Elders. The training costs \$2,500-\$3,000 per person. He explained to the committee that most of the training is done online. It takes the typical person 18-24 months to complete this training. A MOTION WAS MADE TO FUND \$3,000 OF FUNDING FOR THE CRE PROGRAM OUT OF 2017 FUNDS. THE MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED AND APPROVED.
12. A request from the First Presbyterian Church Conway to fund an internship of Jeanie Corbitt. The request for funding was \$1,200 and this amount will be matched by the First Presbyterian Church session. Peg Falls-Corbitt recused herself and left the room while the discussion and vote took place. THE MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO FUND \$1,200 TO FUND THE INTERNSHIP FROM 2016 FUNDS. THE MOTION PASSED.
13. A request from Susan Rose at United Campus Ministry was made to fund the Leadership Initiative Grant for 2017. Fund will be taken out of 2016 to fund this Internship. The funding requested is \$5,000. THE MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED AND PASSED TO FUND THIS INTERNSHIP OUT OF 2016 FUNDS.
14. The agenda was approved by a vote of 8-0. It was moved by Ted Belden and seconded by Becky Purcell.
15. A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO INVEST 20-30 MINUTES PER MEETING TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH.
16. Property reported that the Chenal property in Little Rock is under contract with closing expected on 2/22. The Crossover property remains listed.
17. There was then discussion with Mike Vinson. He has a proposal to offer workshops to the presbytery. Workshops would be offered: 1) Fostering life nurturing environments. 2) Knowing your purpose. 3) Shifting from old patterns of behavior to new patterns. 4) How do we thrive in change, using the energy of change in a positive way? Mike also proposes to do work with 2-3 individual churches. A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO SUPPORT THE EFFORT OF MICHAEL VINSON TO LEAD SPECIFIC WORKSHOPS AND CONVERSATIONS FOR AND WITH THE PRESBYTERY. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.
18. In new business Ted asked about technology for meeting remotely. Dick mentioned Interfaith Power and Light. Peggy suggested we have a mission fair at a presbytery meeting. Anne mentioned missional thinking; thinking about mission as reaching people who are "none" or "done." A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO move ACs off our plate. General consensus was reached that less time could be spent however motion failed 4-3.”

She announced that grants will be opened to apply to reach out as congregations. Technology workshop for those understanding Facebook on March 7 at First, Conway has nine spots still open. Congregations are invited to reach out to members on FotC.

REPORT OF THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY AREA

CRE Kelly Pearson, moderator, deferred to a Minute Announcement since the written report was in the packet (following).

For Information:

The Church and Its Mission ministry-area met in a called meeting on January 7, 2017 to primarily consider the recommendations of a task-force. The task-force had been assigned to make

recommendations to the ministry-area concerning educational-training events for the presbytery in 2017, such as The P.L.A.C.E.

The ministry-area accepted the recommendations of the task-force regarding the following:

- In lieu of having The P.L.A.C.E. in 2017, to encourage attendance at the-not-too- distant venues of *NEXT Church* and *Big Tent*, to be held March 13th-15th in Kansas City and July 6th-8th in St. Louis, respectively. (The P.L.A.C.E. will be considered again for 2018)
- That eight grants of \$50 be made available to those persons in our presbytery who may need assistance to help with expenses for either of the above events.
- To organize and sponsor the theological-discussion at the October presbytery meeting with the general theme related to “*The New Faces of Christian Spirituality*,” inviting the Rev. Dr. David Johnson, professor of Christian history and Spirituality at Austin Seminary, to be the primary leadership, with the Rev. Rebecca Spooner, of Wellspring and a teaching elder at-large of our presbytery, to assist with this discussion, relating also to aging, as in parenting of parents. This item was sent on to and given approval by the Coordinating Team. (Pre-presbytery workshops related to these topics may also be considered for the October presbytery meeting.)

The next regular meeting for The Church & Its Mission will be on Thursday, February 23rd at 10:00 by telephone conference.

ARKANSAS GIVES

Melissa Hendricks from Vera Lloyd Home made the report about the unique giving day on April 6, 2017 to benefit VLH, Ferncliff and Presbyterian Village among others. Last year VLH received \$35,000, and the goal is \$50,000 this year.

MINUTE ANNOUNCEMENTS

These made minute announcements:

RE Liz Branch encouraged congregations to have a plan for preparedness for disasters. The presbytery’s committee can help with this. Grants are available for financial challenges, such as generators. TE Jan Butin encouraged attendance at educational events (NEXT Church and Big Tent, July 6-8). Eight \$50 grants are available through the Church and Its Mission Ministry Area. March 13-15 in Kansas City are dates for NEXT Church. TE David King, HR spoke of NOMH, AR chapter. Display table has information about the annual walk on Memorial Day at Dickie Stevens Park in NLR. RE Ila Wolfe is incoming PW co-moderator and announced PW Spring Gathering in April. RE Karene Jones spoke of PW Retreat on August 12 for Jewish, Christian, Muslim women. TE Jeremy Wilhelmi announced chaplaincy support endowment at UofO and a week on campus for TEs. RE Ron David announced Pilgrimage on second weekend of April at Ferncliff. TE Phil Butin talked about work on Honduras relationship with Presbytery that he will do during the summer during his sabbatical. Rachel Cowan announced Senior High YouthQuake information is on website.

NEW BUSINESS

Stated Clerk Lowry announced there were three items of new business.

1. Motion to amend the charge of the Administrative Commission for First, Ozark to empower them to dismiss or dissolve the Ozark church. Motion was seconded and approved.

2. Background on the second item is that two years ago the Restructuring Task Force announced they would not look at presbytery staffing until a new GP had been called, and Smith has been in office since Nov. 23.

Motion that the Presbytery of Arkansas form a four-person task force to assess the current staff model of the Presbytery and that this task force:

- consist of four members (three to be named by the moderator (2017) and moderated by the Vice-Moderator (2017));**
- report to the presbytery no later than the 136th Stated Meeting with any recommended changes to presbytery staffing;**
- provide reports at least quarterly to the Coordinating Team.** Motion came from TE Brian Brock, and it was seconded. Brock said that it was a reminder that it is time to look at staffing now to give good guidance to the search committee for new Stated Clerk. TE Katie Cummings asked about Leslie Belden’s timing, whether she will be willing to serve that long, and how that impacts their search. Stated Clerk answered Belden is aware the “temporary” time line might extend past June. **Motion was approved.**

3. **Motion to elect the named people to a search committee for Stated Clerk (in Nominations report) had been moved to new business.** If they are elected, they will be on hold until the TF reports back in October. TE Gabbard suggested voting “no” on this motion so the search committee would not have to wait until after October to start work. TE Bill Branch asked why there would be a delay since SC is not on Presbytery staff. Stated Clerk Lowry answered that SC is separate, but job description would be impacted by this TF work. **Motion failed.**

REPORT OF THE LEAVES OF ABSENCE COMMITTEE

Stated Clerk Lowry made the report on behalf of the committee. A total of 166 people signed in: 53 TEs, 6 corresponding members, 47 ruling elder commissioners from churches, 9 other voting ruling elders, 2 commissioned ruling elders, 2 certified Christian educators, 2 certified associate Christian educators, 1 educator in church, 29 visitors, 10 youth advisory delegates, 5 young adult delegate advisors, and 17 with excused absences.

Motion to adjourn and second was approved.

CLOSING PRAYER

TE Leslie Roper gave the closing prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment came at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

NiAnn Thompson
Recording Clerk

Robert William Lowry
Stated Clerk