

Minutes of the One Hundred Fortieth Stated Meeting of The Presbytery of Arkansas

March 1-2, 2019

Call to Order/Opening Prayer

The 140th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was called to order with prayer and the lighting of the Christ candle in the Chapel at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas at 6:07 pm by Moderator Leslie Bethell Roper on Friday evening, March 1, 2019.

Report of Enrollment/Declaration of a Quorum

Temporary Stated Clerk MWS Leslie Smith Belden declared **a quorum present** with 57 Ministers of the Word and Sacrament (MWS), and 45 Ruling Elders (RE), for a grand total of 102 voting commissioners at the gavel. The quorum for Stated Meetings of the Presbytery being “20 Ruling Elders and 20 Ministers of the Word and Sacrament with at least 20 congregations represented overall” (Policy amended at the 2/10/18 Stated Meeting), a quorum was declared present. The record of total attendance, including those who registered on Saturday morning, is included in the Appendix as Attachment A.

Adoption of the Docket

Temporary Stated Clerk Belden noted additions to the docket as previously circulated and moved the adoption of this new, revised docket. The motion was seconded and the **docket as printed was adopted.**

Seating of Corresponding Members and Granting Privilege of the Floor/Voice

Seated as **corresponding members with privilege of the floor and voice were: MWS Ainsley Herrick, Lake Michigan Presbytery and MWS Bruce Reyes-Chow, San Francisco Presbytery.**

The Temporary Stated Clerk **moved that privilege of the floor and voice be granted to: Youth Advisory Delegates, RE Peg Falls-Corbitt, Emma Gillaspy, and RE Tom Verdery. Motion was seconded, and approved.**

Appointment of Tellers and Leaves of Absence Committee was moved to Saturday morning.

Welcome to First-Time Commissioners

Moderator Roper asked first-time commissioners to stand and wave, and the body was pleased to welcome five first-time commissioners.

Introduction of Presbytery Staff

Moderator Roper introduced the following: General Presbyter MWS Stewart Smith; Temporary Stated Clerk MWS Leslie Smith Belden; Director of Mission Support RE Kenneth Rich; Staff for Congregational Discernment MWS Michael Vinson and RE NiAnn Thompson, Recording Clerk. Also introduced were volunteer officers RE Bob Boehmler, Presbytery Treasurer; RE David Stricklin, incoming Moderator of Presbytery; and MWS Marion Humphrey, incoming Vice Moderator of Presbytery.

Welcome from the Host

MWS Tasha Blackburn, University of the Ozarks board member, welcomed commissioners and guests to the University of the Ozarks, orienting all to the facilities and schedule and expressing her appreciation to the Presbytery for its support. President Richard Dunsworth was absent and is the new board chairman of College Presidents. Blackburn shared that the UofO has had 49% increase in enrollment in six years.

Report of the Treasurer was moved to Saturday morning.

Report of the General Presbyter

General Presbyter MWS Stewart Smith addressed the Presbytery. The APCE annual event will be held in Little Rock from January 29 through February 1, 2020 and Smith asked for volunteers. CCE Jeannie Ford, MWS David Gill, HR and MWS Karen Akin are on the planning team. He showed the video shown at the end of the 2019 APCE held in February. He recognized Hannah Lahodny for cinematography and work with the Youth Advisory Team effectively in 2018, and MWS Anne Russ who is moving in May.

Order of the Day: Theological Discussion led by MWS Bruce Reyes-Chow

The guest speaker was introduced by UofO Chaplain Jeremy Wilhelmi. Former General Assembly Moderator MWS Bruce Reyes-Chow led a discussion on “The Hubris of Harmony: Sharing Abundance Between Generations, Economies, Congregations, and Culture” from 6:30 until 7:45 p.m., touching on the future of the church, worship and technology.

Recess for Worship with the Lord’s Supper

Moderator Roper recessed the meeting in preparation for Worship with the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper and the installation of the new Moderator, RE David Stricklin, to begin at 8:00 pm. The worship bulletin is included in the Appendix as Attachment C.

Saturday, March 2, 2019

Moderator Stricklin called the meeting back to order at 9 a.m. in the Rogers Conference Center of the Seay Student Center and relit the Christ candle. He thanked the UofO staff, and Chaplain MWS Wilhelmi gave information on the lunch process and the location of rest rooms.

Morning Prayer

MWS Georgia Senor opened the meeting with prayer assisted by Chaplain MWS Wilhelmi and MWS Marci Ward who led music. Moderator RE Stricklin installed Vice Moderator MWS Marion Humphrey.

Synod of the Sun report

RE Valerie Young was absent so MWS Stewart Smith brought greetings on behalf of Synod Moderator MWS Elizabeth Gabbard. Two chances to show AR hospitality: Synod meeting at Ferncliff and APCE.

Tellers and Leaves of Absence Committee

Moderator RE Stricklin appointed the following:

Tellers—MWSs Ruskin Falls and Becky Purcell and REs Ted Belden, First United, Fayetteville, and Claire Rhodes, West End, Arkadelphia

Leaves of Absence Committee—MWS Frank LeBlanc and RE Dawn Scarborough, First, Clarksville.

Treasurer's Report

Presbytery Treasurer RE Bob Boehmler called the Presbytery's attention to the financial reports included in the supplemental packet on the Presbytery's website, and included in the Appendix as Attachment B. He highlighted the auditor's 2017 financial review and year end 2018 financials. He thanked churches for their continuing support. In summary he noted favorable expenses and income, mentioning the drop in December returns. Staff is in the process of starting the 2018 financial review, and he'll report the results when they are received.

Consent Agenda

Temporary Stated Clerk Belden announced the worship offering last night of \$1,059 to benefit the Presbytery of Arkansas' scholarship fund at the UofO and drew the commissioners' attention to the consent agenda, which included the following motions:

- 1. Motion to approve the minutes of the 139th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, October 19-20, 2018, held at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Ferndale, Arkansas, included in the Appendix as Attachment D.**
- 2. Motion to receive the minutes as the report of the Administrative Commission installing MWS Alisa Secrest as Associate Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, and dismiss them with thanks.**

3. **Motion to receive the minutes as the report of the Administrative Commission installing MWS Matt Bussell as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Jonesboro, and dismiss them with thanks.**
4. **Motion to receive the minutes as the report of the Administrative Commission installing MWS John Arnold as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Walnut Ridge, and dismiss them with thanks.**
5. **Motion to receive the minutes as the report of the Administrative Commission installing MWS Ward Rudolph as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Searcy, and dismiss them with thanks.**
6. **Motion to ratify the action of the Coordinating Team and approve the Ferncliff Board of Directors for 2019, included in the Appendix as Attachment E.**

Temporary Stated Clerk Belden **moved the adoption of the consent agenda. The motion was seconded and adopted.**

Report of the Temporary Stated Clerk

Temporary Stated Clerk MWS Leslie Belden called the Presbytery's attention to her report in the main packet, and to the addendum to her report found in the Additional Reports, Financial Information, and Fliers packet. She welcomed 13 youth and young adult advisory delegates.

Belden brought the following motions before the body, reminding commissioners of G-4.0206.a Selling or Encumbering Church Property: "A congregation shall not sell, mortgage, or otherwise encumber any of its real property and it shall not acquire real property subject to an encumbrance or condition without the written permission of the presbytery transmitted through the session of the congregation."

1. **Motion to approve the request of Holiday Island Presbyterian Church, Holiday Island, for the Presbytery of Arkansas to endorse their loan application and guarantee repayment of the loan from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program of the PC(USA) in the amount of \$55,000 so that they may re-pave their parking lot. Motion was seconded and approved.**
2. **Motion to grant permission for Wynne Presbyterian Church, Wynne, to sell a small piece of their property to a neighbor that adjoins that neighbor's property, pending congregational approval. The parcel in question is not in a location that it can, or will, be used by the church. Motion was seconded and approved.**

She then shared information items found in her report in the main packet. The following Administrative Commissions continue to work:

1. First, Clarksville Administrative Commission – RE Ted Belden and MWS Clare Kelley Co-Moderators
2. First, Little Rock Administrative Commission – RE Cyril Hollingsworth, Moderator
3. First, Lonoke Administrative Commission – MWS Lindy Vogado, Moderator
4. Northwest Arkansas Hispanic Ministry Administrative Commission – MWS Phil Butin, Moderator
5. Pine Bluff (Central, Faith, and First Presbyterian Churches) –MWS Dari Rowen, Moderator
6. Washington County Property Administrative Commission – RE Ted Belden, Moderator

The check from the Woodlands Presbyterian Church, Hot Spring Village for \$30,000 was received and all paperwork regarding their transfer to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, including legal action and ecclesiastical action, has been completed and finalized.

Temporary Stated Clerk Belden applauded Clerks of Session of the Presbytery's congregations for their excellent effort at bringing their records up to date. In many cases more than two years of session minutes were reviewed. She explained that all but the following congregations' records were reviewed in 2018.

Alma, First	Little Rock, Pulaski Heights
Amity, Alpine	Little Rock, Trinity
Arkadelphia, First	Little Rock, Westminster
Arkadelphia, West End	Lonoke, First
Atkins, Memorial	Marianna, First
Brinkley, First	McGehee, First
Bull Shoals, Bull Shoals	Mena, First
Clarksville, First	Morrilton, First
Elkins, Elkins Federated	Morrilton, Hopewell
Eureka Springs, First	Mountainburg, Mountainburg
Fayetteville, Mount Comfort	Newport, First
Forrest City, Graham Memorial	Norman, Barr Memorial
Greenwood, Good Shepherd	North Little Rock, First
Gurdon, First	Paragould, First
Hardy, Spring River	Pine Bluff, First
Helena, First	Russellville, Central
Holly Grove, Holly Grove	Stuttgart, First
Horseshoe Bend, Faith	Van Buren, First
Jacksonville, First	West Helena, Cleburne Avenue
Lincoln, First	Wynne, Wynne
Little Rock, First	Yellville, First

Temporary Stated Clerk Belden asked that Clerks of Session please let her know if the records of a congregation have been reviewed and that church is listed. (lesliebeld@aol.com or 479.466.1061) Also, she asked that those churches listed above make a special effort to have their records reviewed in 2019. Included in these minutes in the Appendix as Attachment F is a list of congregations paired with one another to assist Clerks of Sessions to exchange records and review one another's. Belden explained that the checklist to use is listed on the Presbytery's website (presbyteryofarkansas.org) under "Resources," then "Presbytery Documents."

As per *Book of Order* D-10.0103 the Office of the Stated Clerk reported to the Presbytery of Arkansas at the October 19-20, 2018 meeting that an offense had been alleged and an Investigating Committee appointed. Temporary Stated Clerk Belden reports that the Investigating Committee completed its work, no charges were filed, and that the Coordinating Team dismissed the Investigating Committee with thanks.

Temporary Stated Clerk Leslie Belden explained that Clerks of Sessions could enter the Statistical Reports of their congregations on the Office of the General Assembly's website during the months of January and February. She reported that March 4, 2019 is the last day that she can edit information on behalf of congregations. Out of the 79 congregations making up the Presbytery of Arkansas a total of 62 congregations had completed at least one part of the Statistical Report by February 8, 2019. Of those 78 congregations there were 62 who submitted statistics in every category requested. The Temporary Stated Clerk applauded the efforts of Clerks of Session who complete this task at a very busy time of the year, and expressed thanks for their commitment to their congregation and the connection to the PC(USA).

Clerks of Sessions were encouraged to complete the Church Contact Information update sheet, included in the Appendix as Attachment G, or to contact Temporary Stated Clerk Leslie Belden (lesliebeld@aol.com or 479.466.1061). She also asked that Clergy Compensation Reports be sent to the Temporary Stated Clerk as soon as salaries for 2019 are known. That form is included in the Appendix as Attachment H.

Belden noted that Clerk of Session training will be scheduled for this Spring, to be held at the Presbytery Office. Training will also be held at the P.L.A.C.E. event in central Arkansas in the late summer. Clerk of Session were asked to please contact Temporary Stated Clerk Leslie Belden if interested in the training in central Arkansas this Spring. lesliebeld@aol.com or 479.466.1061.

Report of the Coordinating Team

Coordinating Team Moderator MWS Leslie Bethell Roper gave the report, moving the following:

- 1. Motion to ratify the action of the Coordinating Team and approve MWS Steven Kurtz, Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith, to immediately fill an**

unexpired term on the Future of the Church Ministry Area in the Class of 2019. (nominations may be made from the floor) There were none. **Nominee was ratified.**

- 2. Motion to ratify the action of the Coordinating Team and approve the call of MWS Ainsley Herrick to serve as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Morrilton; to enroll her as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and request her dismissal from Lake Michigan Presbytery; with the following terms of call and an effective date of January 23, 2019; (Her "Statement of Faith" is included in the Appendix as Attachment I.) She came forward and brought greetings and Morrilton people stood.**

Salary		\$23,363.64
Housing		12,000.00
Social Security		2,254.55
Medicare		527.27
Business/professional expenses	1,200.00	
Continuing Education		1,200

Full medical, pension, disability, and death benefit coverage under the Board of Pensions \$13,454.54

Paid Vacation: 4 weeks
Paid Continuing Education 2 weeks
Paid Parental Leave 6 weeks

and with the Service of Installation to be on Sunday, February 10, 2019 at 4:00 pm, the offering recipient to be Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, and the following to serve on the Administrative Commission to install:

**MWS Stewart Smith
RE David Stricklin, Westover Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, to
Moderate and Propound the Constitutional Questions
RE Dan Yarbrough, First Presbyterian Church, Morrilton
MWS Carol Clark, HR, to preach
RE Cynthia Lanphear, Harmony Presbyterian Church, Clarksville, to Charge
the Pastor**

Motion was approved.

- 3. Motion to approve the following amendment to the Presbytery of Arkansas' Ministry Manual, Part 1 - Organization and Structure:**

C. Membership- The membership of the Presbytery includes all Ministers of Word and Sacrament enrolled by the Presbytery and all congregations within its boundaries. **Ruling** Elders elected as General Presbyter, Stated Clerk, Assistant Stated Clerk, ~~or~~—Treasurer, **Moderator, and Moderator-in-Waiting (Vice Moderator)**; Commissioned Lay Pastors in current service; members of the Coordinating Team; ~~or~~**and** current commissioners to General Assembly shall be

enrolled as members of the Presbytery during the term of elected service. **Ruling Elders who are Certified Christian Educators as defined by the most recent edition of the *Book of Order* of the PC(USA) may be enrolled as members of the Presbytery.**

Rationale: Currently there is no language in the Ministry Manual indicating that a Ruling Elder serving as either the Moderator or Vice Moderator of Presbytery may vote during a meeting of Presbytery. The Moderator of the Coordinating Team already has voting privileges because he or she moderates a committee.

Roper explained that approval requires a 3/5 vote of the Presbytery present and voting. The amendment was included in the pre-packet posted on the Presbytery of Arkansas' website on January 30, 2018, meeting the thirty (30) day requirement of the Ministry Manual. RE Sam Highsmith asked about the wording in that section that Certified Christian Educators "may be enrolled" and offered an amendment to change "may be" to "shall be enrolled." **Motion as amended was approved. (Leslie, the amendment could have been approved, then the main motion as amended could have been voted on again, after waiving the 30 day requirement, but the outcome was the same it appears.)**

Roper also shared the following information on the actions of the Coordinating Team:

1. The Coordinating Team elected RE Kaye Lowe, Park Hill Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of RE Karene Jones on the Administrative Commission to install MWS Alisa Secrest as Associate Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock.
2. The Coordinating Team set the date of the October 2019 meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas to be October 4-5, 2019 at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center.
3. The Coordinating Team expanded the scope of the existing Administrative Commission working with the Presbyterian churches in Pine Bluff and approved the members of the Administrative Commission, included in the Appendix as Attachment J.
4. The Coordinating Team elected an Administrative Commission to assist any congregations wishing to close, responding to the request of the session of First Presbyterian Church, Stuttgart, included in the Appendix as Attachment K. It is intended that this Administrative Commission serve indefinitely, assisting other sessions as needed, to be reviewed every two years as specified in the authorizing language.
5. The Coordinating Team referred to the Administration Ministry Area the task of addressing the need for an addition to our "manual of administrative operations" to meet the Book of Order mandate that a presbytery "shall make provision in its manual of administrative operations (G-3.0106) for the process of electing executive staff and the hiring of other staff, the description of the responsibilities of the positions, the method of performance review, and the manner of termination of employment. (G-3.0104)" G-3.0110.
6. The Coordinating Team accepted the resignation of MWS Elizabeth Gabbard from the Coordinating Team, with thanks for her service rendered, and notified the Committee on Nominations of the vacancy.

7. The Coordinating Team granted permission to gift/distribute the book *Our Connectional Church*, by Gradye Parsons, former PC(USA) Stated Clerk, to all congregations.
8. The Coordinating Team granted the Presbyterian Youth Advisory Team permission to sell t-shirts at the meeting of Presbytery.
9. The Coordinating Team designated that the summer offering of all meetings of the Presbytery of Arkansas, ordinarily held in June, go to help fund youth summer trips until such time as that decision is reviewed again.

Coordinating Team Moderator Roper also added that the Coordinating Team Took the Following Actions on Behalf of the Presbytery:

1. Granted permission for the session of First Presbyterian Church, Walnut Ridge, to sell their manse.
2. Granted permission for the session of First Presbyterian Church, Dardanelle to sell their manse. (This sale was finalized January 21, 2019.)
3. Elected the following to serve on the Presbytery Staff Search Committee:
MWS Bill Bailey, Kirk in the Pines Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs Village
RE Richard Freer, First Presbyterian Church, Jonesboro
MWS Steve Hancock, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, to Moderate
MWS Georgia Senor, First Presbyterian Church, Bentonville
CCE Theresa Spragins, First Presbyterian Church, Conway
Hannah Hanson, Grace Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
RE Led Davis, First Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs
with General Presbyter, Stewart Smith, to serve as staff support.

Report of the Committee on Ministry (9:41)

COM member MWS Dari Rowen made the following motions:

1. **Motion to enroll Rev. Jim Ratliff, a member in good standing of the Cumberland Presbyterian denomination who is serving in a Temporary Pastoral Relationship at Spring River Presbyterian Church, Hardy, as a Temporary Member of the Presbytery of Arkansas.** (His Statement of Faith is included in the Appendix as Attachment L.) He came forward, brought greetings and told of how he came to serve at Hardy. **Motion was approved.**
2. **Motion to enroll MWS Moises Chan as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas.** (His Statement of Faith is included in the Appendix as Attachment M.) He was brought forward and brought greetings, with Springdale people standing. MWS Phil Butin explained Chan's ministry is the next step forward for Hispanic ministry in NW AR and change of focus to that ministry. **Motion was approved.**
3. **Motion to commission RE Mary Shaw as the Commissioned Ruling Elder of Elkins Federated Presbyterian Church, Elkins, with permission to celebrate the**

sacraments and moderate the session, with MWS Becky Purcell to serve as her mentor. (Her Statement of Faith is included in the Appendix as Attachment N.) **Motion was approved.** Moderator Stricklin asked the constitutional questions, which were answered in the affirmative and prayed.

Rowen paused and asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of MWS Ben H. Bateman, HR, of Hot Springs, who passed away at age 87 on December 31, 2018. His necrology is included in the Appendix as Attachment O.

Additional information shared in the Committee on Ministry's report included:

1. MWS Jai Kwak was dismissed to the Presbytery of San Francisco.
2. MWS Debbie Carl was granted honorable retirement, effective December 31, 2018.
3. The renewal of the covenant between First Presbyterian Church of Little Rock and Candidate for Ministry Stephen Moody was approved, effective October 22, 2018 through October 21, 2019.
4. The renewal of the covenant between Holiday Island Presbyterian Church, Holiday Island, and RE Doug Miller was approved, effective December 1, 2018 through June 1, 2019.
5. The renewal of the covenant between CRE Hartley Jones and CRE Carolyn Beane and Barr Memorial Presbyterian Church, Norman, was approved, effective December 31, 2018 through December 31, 2019.
6. Barr Memorial Presbyterian Church was given permission for RE Noah Williamson, Treasurer, to serve a second consecutive term on the Session.
7. RE Virginia Harrison was granted permission to continue officiating the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at First Presbyterian Church, Brinkley, scheduled on March 3, June 16, September 15, and December 22, 2019.
8. RE Jeannie Price was granted permission to officiating the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, in the absence of a Minister of Word and Sacrament, through June 2019, when permission will be revisited.
9. The Board of Pensions will no longer charge vacancy dues when a congregation is without a pastor, effective January 1, 2019.
10. The COM moved that the Coordinating Team approve MWS Ainsley Herrick as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Morrilton; approve enrolling her as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas; and approve the details of the Administrative Commission and the Service of Installation.
11. The COM requested that the Coordinating Team expand the authority of the Administrative Commission working with the Presbyterian churches in Pine Bluff and focus on First Presbyterian Church, with the added authorization to assume original jurisdiction if needed.
12. MWS Moises Chan was approved to serve as the Parish Associate at First Presbyterian Church of Springdale, pending his approval and enrollment as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas.
13. The COM adopted an internal policy to assist in utilizing the Presbytery's Policy on Temporary Membership.

14. MWS Rita Perry, HR was appointed as Moderator of First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville.
15. MWS Sara Strong, a member of Mid-South Presbytery, is no longer the pastoral leadership at First Presbyterian Church of Marianna.
16. The covenant between MWS Elizabeth Gabbard and First Presbyterian Church, Gurdon, to serve as Stated Supply was approved, effective January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019, with the following terms of call: Compensation is \$250 per month, of which \$750 is designated as a housing allowance. In addition, mileage will be reimbursed at the rate of \$.50 an hour.
17. MWS Gordon Garlington, HR, of North Little Rock, and Rev. Ada Claire Danhof, member in good standing in the Cumberland Presbyterian denomination attending First, Hot Springs, were added to the Pulpit Supply List.
18. The COM concurred with the dissolution of the call of MWS Becky Purcell as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Prairie Grove; to close the position of Pastor; and to grant permission for the session of First Presbyterian Church, Prairie Grove, to hire MWS Becky Purcell as Stated Supply at half time, effective February 24, 2019, with the following terms of call:
 - Effective salary/Cash Salary \$9,600.
 - Housing Allowance \$20,000
 - Full pension, disability, and death benefit coverage under the Board of Pensions \$3,552.
 - Paid Vacation, 4 weeks per year including no more than 6 Sundays.
 - Continuing Education, 2 weeks per year including 2 Sundays.
19. The COM endorsed the Ministerial Residence Program relationship between First Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith and Mountainburg Presbyterian Church.

Report of the Future of the Church Ministry Area

Future of the Church Ministry Area Moderator RE Ted Belden led the presbytery through a PowerPoint presentation which detailed the grants given out by that ministry area. He also referred them to the information in the packet. That information included explaining that the The Future of the Church Ministry Area (FOTCMA) will again offer grant dollars to churches that are seeking funds to create a new initiative to further the ministry of their church. In 2019 they have a budget of \$25,000 for grants.

The Future of the Church Ministry Area assists with visioning, branding, technology, the development of new ministries, and supports new church developments of the Presbytery. When commissioners registered for the Presbytery meeting each church received an envelope with a grant application at the registration table. The objective of these grants is to support congregations in the development of a program, opportunity, institutional structure, or possibly facility improvement(s) that revitalize or extend their capacity for ministries to new populations or communities, as well as congregational growth in spirit, vitality, and mission.

The report explained that if a congregation or ministry is interested in applying for a grant they need to return the grant request by April 30, 2019. The Future of the Church Ministry

Area will review applications and fund them by August 1, 2019. Eight grants were awarded totaling \$28,500 in 2018, including:

First Presbyterian Church, Batesville	\$2,500	Improved outdoor area
First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville	\$5,000	New dishwasher for outreach
Vaughn Presbyterian, Bentonville	\$3,000	Replace electrical sign
Barr Memorial Presbyterian, Norman	\$5,000	Upgrades to house for shelter
First Presbyterian Church, Van Buren	\$1,000	Food boxes
Mt. Comfort Presbyterian, Fayetteville	\$3,000	Kitchen improvements
University of the Ozarks, Clarksville	\$5,000	Bus to Montreat Collegiate Conf.
The Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista	<u>\$4,000</u>	Outreach efforts
	\$28,500	

The report shared that the Future of the Church Ministry Area is excited about the work the task force of the Coordinating Team has done to help the Presbytery focus on achieving the priorities that the Presbytery affirmed last year. The Ministry Area reviewed the Implementation Plan that the task force developed, which was explained earlier at the Presbytery meeting. The Future of the Church Ministry Area looks forward to taking on the responsibility of achieving the tasks assigned to them.

Last year the FOTCMA began the process of trying to understand more about each congregation by asking churches to complete a one-page survey. A total of 20 surveys were received back. He shared good ideas gleaned from surveys such as birthday offering to endowment. For those churches that did not return a survey the survey was included in the packet received at the registration table. Commissioners were asked to please take the time to fill out this survey and return it to the Future of the Church Ministry Area. The FOTCMA thanked the following churches that returned surveys:

- | | |
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| 1. Barr Memorial Presbyterian Church | 11. First Presbyterian Church, Heber Springs |
| 2. Cane Hill Presbyterian Church | 12. First Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs |
| 3. Central Presbyterian Church, Ft. Smith | 13. First Presbyterian Church, Prairie Grove |
| 4. Central Presbyterian Church, Pine Bluff | 14. First Presbyterian Church, Rogers |
| 5. Faith Presbyterian, Horseshoe Bend | 15. First Presbyterian Church, Marianna |
| 6. First Presbyterian Church, Argenta | 16. First Presbyterian Church, Yellville |
| 7. First Presbyterian Church, Benton | 17. First United Presbyterian, Fayetteville |
| 8. First Presbyterian Church, Bentonville | 18. Holiday Island Presbyterian Church |
| 9. First Presbyterian Church, Conway | 19. Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay |
| 10. First Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith | 20. West End Church, Arkadelphia |

The book, *Our Connectional Church*, by former PC(USA) Stated Clerk from 2008 through 2016, Gradye Parsons, was included in the packet handed out by the FOTCMA at registration. Commissioners were encouraged to read and share the book with their session and congregation. The connectional nature of the PC(USA) is one of the defining characteristics of the Presbyterian denomination, and this book shares Gradye's

experiences with congregations as Stated Clerk. Belden reported that the Presbytery's Coordinating Team is working toward scheduling MWS Gradye Parsons to attend a future meeting of the Presbytery and lead a theological discussion on the connectional nature of the PC(USA).

Next website is ready to launch in March, parallel for a while then turn off old website and the Zoom room meetings. If churches want to host zoom meetings, FotC should be contacted.

Minute Announcements

MWS Carol Clark, HR touted Lenten resources, new confirmation materials, give-away VHS tapes and a survey on the Resource Center. CCE Kristi Button thanked Sam Highsmith for change in Ministry Manual and the energy at United Campus Ministry in this interim period. RE Ila Wolfe noted PW Spring Gathering April 6, Synod meeting in Tulsa, to which men are invited. Youth advisory delegate Claire Gillaspay announced T-shirt sales. Break until 10:30 a.m.

Order of the Day: Report on Implementation Planning

MWS D.C. Adams, a member of the Coordinating Team and of the "Group of 12" charged with the task of putting a road map together to bring the three priorities of the Presbytery into a tangible reality, presented the "Implementation Plan" developed by the "Group of 12." He called the Presbytery's attention to the Implementation Plan found in the Appendix as Attachment P. This includes new mission statement. He named the Group of 12 and thanked RE Tom Verdery who led this planning gratis. He reported on interesting experience of creative conflict. **He moved adoption of the Presbytery's mission statement: "Trusting that we serve God better together, we are a family of congregations, ministries, and their leaders empowering and supporting one another to embody Christ's love for all." Motion was approved.** He explained the presbytery's core values and the need to ask what not to do. He pointed to strengths (loving, friendly, caring, leadership, organizations from commissioners) and survey results (presbytery staff); weakness is we've always done it that way, analysis paralysis, "the way", too cerebral, small towns shrinking, focus on financials, and communication (from commissioners) and survey weaknesses (slow to change, aging membership, poor communication, lack of technology). The opportunities mentioned were little connection regionally, grow youthful in leadership, listen to youth, improve technology. The threats were growing political separation and urban shift. Three priorities will get the Presbytery unstuck: building, connecting, developing/supporting. He pointed out goals of increasing mission in congregations, increasing Christian Education opportunities, give ownership to ministry areas such as surveys and reports to yield tangible results. Goals were sharing best practices to be shared with other congregations (brag then teach), have video online of required activities such as preparing statistical reports, VBS and adult planning. Developing and supporting youth and campus would include increasing outreach to children and partnering with schools, increase by 15% congregational participation (Ferncliff, YouthQuakes, Triennium) and increase by 5% campus ministry (PCM). Question: Matt Bussell asked about size of committee/ministry areas mentioned in October. Adams

answered that this wasn't addressed by Group of 12. MWS Dari Rowen pointed out that all those responsible for follow through are male. TSC Belden answered this is just who is moderating those groups now. MWS Ainsley Herrick asked about materials on shift in understanding growth. Adams answered that the sharing of best practices will spark change within congregations, especially those who are growing. MWS Gordon Garlington, HR welcomed broadened ownership of these tasks and that the majority of his ministry area members are female. CRE Claire Rhodes asked about variety of leadership, including CREs. MWS Frank LeBlanc asked to share best practices of leadership as well. MWS Kade Curry spoke on valuing all leadership in churches. MWS Dan Wooley commented on visitor vs. guest language and that 90% of guests come because members invite guests. **Motion to approve the Implementation Plan and commend it to appropriate committees/ministry areas for implementation. Motion was approved.**

Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Moderator MWS Jeff Price spoke on ministry of MWSs, CREs and Certified Educators and encouraged congregations to look for people called to different ministries. He moved the following:

1. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry moves that Inquirer Jill Acree be examined for candidacy by the Presbytery and recommends that the Presbytery approve moving her from Inquirer to Candidate status. (Her Statement of Faith is included in the Appendix as Attachment Q.) She spoke on her interesting faith journey. Moderator Price reminded presbyters that Inquirers may only be examined with regard to their Statement of Faith. MWS DC Adams asked how she would live out one line of her statement.

Motion was approved. RE Ted Belden asked about the overall process of inquiry and candidacy. Price answered. Moderator asked questions of Acree and she answered in the affirmative. CCE NiAnn Thompson prayed for Acree, and the Conway people were recognized.

2. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry moves that Brianne Christiansen, currently serving as the Co-Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, be enrolled as an Inquirer. (Her Brief Statement of Faith is included in the Appendix as Attachment R.) She came forward and told about her faith journey. **Motion was approved.** MWS John King, HR prayed her.

The following information was shared in the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry:

Arkansas Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry met remotely via Zoom beginning at 9:00 am on Saturday, February 2, 2019. Updates on current applicants (inquirers and candidates) were given, and liaison assignments were made.

Jill Acree: The committee met with Inquirer Jill Acree, a member of First Presbyterian, Conway. The committee voted to recommend Jill Acree be moved from inquirer status to candidacy.

Max Hill: The committee met with Candidate Max Hill, a member of Second Presbyterian, Little Rock. It was determined that he has completed all the requirements for ordination. After a discussion of future plans, the committee voted to certify Max Hill ready to receive a call.

Keith Dove: The committee met with Candidate Keith Dove, a member of Central Presbyterian, Russellville. It was determined that he has completed all the requirements for ordination. After a discussion of future plans, the committee voted to certify Keith Dove ready to receive a call.

Julianna Whitson: The committee conducted an annual consultation with Inquirer Julianna Whitson, a member of First, Prairie Grove. She is on track with the process.

Brianne Christiansen: The committee met with applicant Brianne Christiansen from First United, Fayetteville. The committee voted to present her to presbytery to be enrolled as an Inquirer.

Mary Jane Fisher: The committee voted to approve up to \$1,000 for her CRE education.

Current Applicants:

Inquirers – First Phase of the Preparation for Ministry Process

David Mills, Second, Little Rock
Jill Acree, First, Conway
Julianna Whitson, First, Prairie Grove

Candidates – Second Phase of the Preparation for Ministry Process

LaWanda Harris, Pulaski Heights, Little Rock
Keith Dove, Central, Russellville
Max Hill, Second, Little Rock
Stacey Hammons, Second, Little Rock
Stephen Moody, First, Little Rock
Jordan Akin, Second, Little Rock
Katherine Norwood, Second, Little Rock (certified ready to receive a call)
Molly DeWitt, Second, Little Rock (certified ready to receive a call)

Pending Applicants:

Brianne Christiansen, First United, Fayetteville
Teila Creekmore, United Campus Ministry, Fayetteville

CRE Candidates – Ruling Elders in the Educational Process toward serving as a Commissioned Ruling Elder:

Peg Falls-Corbitt, First, Conway
Allan Huddleston, First, Springdale
Mary Jane Fisher, First, Jacksonville
Carla Taylor, First, Huntsville

Report of the Presbytery Staff Search Committee

MWS Steve Hancock, Moderator of the Presbytery's Staff Search Committee reported that the committee has begun their process of filling five part-time positions. These include: Stated Clerk, Presbytery Builder, Presbytery Connector, Youth Support and Financial Person. They have met twice and are working on job descriptions. He said they are close to advertising at the end of March with job descriptions and salary packages. He thanked GP Stewart Smith for all of his extra work during this time of transition and asked for prayers for the search committee by the Presbytery.

Report of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area

MWS Gordon Garlington, HR, Moderator of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area called the Presbytery's attention to their report. It shared the members of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area for 2019, which include: the MWS Jan Butin (First United, Fayetteville), CCE Kristi Button (First United, Fayetteville), MWS Paul Fulks (First, Van Buren), MWS Gordon Garlington (H.R., home church Westover Hills, Little Rock), RE Bruce Johnston (First, Batesville), RE Emily Laurel (First, Benton), RE Kelly Pearson (CRE, H.R., First, Prairie Grove), RE Sally Roden (First, Conway), RE Vicky Rogerson (First, Conway), and RE Marty Shepherd (First, Dardanelle).

The Mission of the Church Ministry Area met on January 11, 2019, at First Presbyterian Church of Conway, and began getting organized for the new year. Regularly scheduled meetings for the rest of the year were set for May 3, July 26 (Zoom), and September 27. The Ministry Area reviewed the multi-faceted job description for the Ministry Area, included in the Appendix as Attachment S, from the Presbytery of Arkansas' Ministry Manual, and discussed how the group might best serve as a resource for the congregations of the Presbytery in these many areas.

Out of the January 11, 2019 meeting the Mission of the Church Ministry Area called the Presbytery's attention to the following items:

1. Planning is underway to hold an event in 2019 similar to The P.L.A.C.E. event hosted in 2018. Emily Laurel, Jeannie Ford, NiAnn Thompson, Bruce Johnston and Gordon Garlington are working on an event to be held in central Arkansas later in the year. NW AR will host a similar event in 2020.
2. A set of guidelines for congregations requesting funds from the Unified Mission Emphasis portion of the Ministry Area's budget was approved, included in the Appendix as Attachment T. The Mission of the Church Ministry Area gives thanks to MWS David King and RE Emily Laurel for developing the guidelines. The Ministry Area hopes to soon have an online application form for such requests uploaded to the Presbytery's website. The Unified Mission Emphasis for 2019-2021, approved

by the Presbytery last October, 2018, is assistance for “The Most Vulnerable in our Society.”

3. As a large government shutdown was taking place as the Ministry Area met, with employees furloughed and no salaries being paid, concerns were raised about how congregations might reach out in ministry to those in Arkansas’ communities affected by the shutdown. It was proposed that the Ministry of the Church Ministry Area develop suggestions for how congregations that wish to reach out in ministry to those affected might do so. Thanks were expressed to Emily Laurel, Paul Fulks, and Vicky Rogerson who have worked up such a list of suggestions, included in the Appendix as Attachment U.
4. Subsequent to the Ministry of the Church Ministry Area meeting, the Ministry Area learned of plans set forth for the work of the Ministry Area in addressing the Presbytery’s priorities in the recently developed “Implementation Plan.” The Ministry Area vowed to do their best to join in these plans intended to help the Presbytery more effectively carry out its mission and ministry. He asked for volunteers to help outside of NW and central AR with groups of churches with surveying and reporting.

More Minute Announcements: MWS Phil Butin asked for financial support for congregations to support a full-time call at United Campus Ministry, UofA, Fayetteville. MWS Bob Hadley, HR asked for volunteers or referrals to Committee on Nominations who face 66 vacancies. MWS Terry Tallent asked for guests at this meeting to be welcomed. MWS Jen Evans announced conference for Arts and Recreation in May at Montreat. Garlington asked for Mission MA members to meet together for lunch. Evaluation forms were passed out.

Break to Fill Out and Turn in Evaluation Forms

Moderator Stricklin paused the meeting for a few minutes, asking that evaluation forms be handed out and that those present complete and turn them in.

Recess for Lunch

Moderator RE David Stricklin asked MWS Kade Curry to pray for the meal before recessing for lunch. MWS Kade Curry presented gifts to Dawn Dvoracek and Stewart Smith and asked God’s blessings for lunch from two of the Springdale Church’s members.

Presbytery Reconvenes

Moderator Stricklin reconvened the Presbytery in the Rogers Conference Center of the Seay Student Center at 1 pm.

Report of the Youth Advisory/Young Adult Delegates

Reese Cole, First, Searcy, co-moderator of the Youth Advisory Team, reported from YAT on their past and future events that they plan and offer to youth from across the Presbytery.

Order of the Day: Voting on Proposed Amendments to the Book of Order

2018 commissioners to General Assembly make up the Polity Committee of the Presbytery, and include RE Kim Brooks, YAAD Emma Gillaspay, MWS Dari Rowen, MWS Michael Vinson, and RE Ray Woodruff. At 1:05 they presented a PowerPoint presentation which led commissioners through the voting process. **Motion to limit debate to two minutes was seconded and approved.** MWS Karen Akin requested that TSC Belden report status of votes so far on each proposed amendment to the PCUSA Constitution before each amendment is discussed and voted upon.

18-A. Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons (On amending G-2.0401) Committee member MWS Michael Vinson explained and suggested approval. TSC reported this amendment has already received sufficient votes by presbyteries to be approved. Discussion: none. **Amendment was approved.**

18-B. Renunciation of Jurisdiction

18-B. 1. On Amending G-2.0509. Rowen recommended approval. TSC announced amendment is still being voted on by presbyteries. Discussion: DC Adams asked why it matters since referral is recommended. TSC answered this vote could change content. Question was why leave it in G section rather than the D section. Rowen said when amendments were presented to GA last summer, that predated the reorganization. Matt Bussell asked about whether there is an application process in place in the Presbytery. Belden said that presbytery would have to create application. RE Sam Highsmith said G applies to congregations, so congregation should not apply to Presbytery and D section applies to person only. MWS Ruskin Falls pointed out that amendment would prevent minister from volunteering in church. **Amendment was approved.**

18-B.2. On Amending D-10.0401d Rowen recommended approval. TSC announced amendment is still being voted on by presbyteries. Discussion: None. **Amendment was approved.**

18-C. Offices – On Amending G-3.0104 TSC announced amendment is still being voted on, and the negative votes are leading. Discussion: MWS Phil Butin spoke against this amendment. MWS Ainsley Herrick spoke against this amendment on subject of “official capacity.” MWS Marci Ward pointed out that Sessions are already sensitive to pastors’ online postings. MWS Frank LeBlanc said broad language links issues with candidates and that mandate is problem to share gospel. Youth Riley Young said pastors will be asked about ballot measures and hopes for clarification. MWS Maggie Alsup asked for Polity Committee’s suggestion. Rowen said they suggest disapproval in light of Johnson Amendment. Highsmith gave background 60 years ago and fears repeal of JA. MWS Bussell spoke against and referred council to document “God Alone is Lord of Conscience.” **Youth advisory delegates cast advisory vote to disapprove. Presbytery commissioners voted to disapprove amendment.**

18-D. Membership of Presbytery – On Amending G-3.0306 RE Ray Woodruff reported that committee suggested approval. TSC announced amendment has already passed sufficient number of presbyteries. Discussion: none. **Amendment was approved.**

18-E. Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor – On Amending G-3.0307 RE Kim Brooks spoke for committee to suggest approval. Discussion: None. **Amendment was approved.**

18-F. Welcoming to the Table—On Amending W-4.0202 RE Brooks suggested approval. TSC announced amendment has already passed the presbyteries. Discussion: none. **Youth advisory vote was to approve. Amendment was approved by commissioners.**

18-G. Disciplinary Offense – On Amending D-2.0203b Young Adult Advisory Delegate Emma Gillaspay suggested approval. TSC report presbyteries are still voting on this amendment. Discussion: MWS Ruskin Falls said it was not needed, is redundant, and begins list making. MWS Frank LeBlanc said it is bad practice to start numerating and singling out sinfulness. MWS Alsup spoke in favor of amendment from her context of concerns on campus. Voice vote was inconclusive and there was a request for division of the house. Tellers were called. **Vote tally announced by Moderator was 49 in affirmative and 37 in opposition. Amendment was approved.**

18-H. Time Limit

18-H.1. On Amending D-10.0401b. YAAD Gillaspay suggested amendment approval. Discussion: MWS Phil Butin spoke against amendment as an administrative nightmare in determining who should have known. MWS Herrick spoke in favor of amendment for holding people responsible. MWS Bussell asked for youth input. TSC said they had not studied this amendment but one youth voted “yes” and none voted “no”. **Amendment was approved.**

18-H.2 On Amending D-10.0401c(1) Committee suggested approval. TSC reported that amendment has already passed. There was no discussion. **Amendment was approved.**

Report of the Honduras Ministry Subcommittee 1:45

MWS Phil Butin and Leigh Woodruff, Co-Moderators of the Honduras Ministry Subcommittee, showed a PowerPoint presentation illustrating the Presbytery’s work in Honduras. He also called the Presbytery’s attention to the report in the packet.

The report explains that the Presbytery of Arkansas’ Honduras Ministry Subcommittee is part of a much larger network of Presbyterian churches and organizations that meet monthly by telephone to discuss the ministry plans, needs, happenings, and opportunities in Honduras. This network includes the presbyteries of Honduras, Arkansas, Carlisle (PA), Providence (SC), and Tampa Bay as well as various individual congregations throughout the U.S. Organizations involved in the network include Presbyterian World Mission, Presbyterian Mission Agency, Students Helping Honduras, Waters for the Living Lord, Living Waters for the World, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, and Solar Under the Sun.

PC(USA) mission in Honduras focuses on two primary areas of the country. A longstanding community development work in the Copan region (in the West) involves short-term

mission groups from the U.S. in assisting covenanted community groups of five families in building new concrete block homes together to replace deteriorating mud or stick homes. As community bonds deepen, Heifer-based agricultural strategies are used to help families develop a sustainable source of regular livelihood involving community farming or coffee-growing.

The Presbyterian Church of Honduras was founded in the Southeastern region of the country in the 1950's by lay immigrants from Guatemala. Initial house churches were in Guimaca and Tegucigalpa. The presbytery is currently comprised of 27 congregations, with new churches added each year. U.S. groups who serve in this part of the country often focus on sharing mutual support and encouragement with Honduran Presbyterians: visiting and worshipping with various congregations, building collaborative friendships, encouraging pastors and other church leaders, providing educational scholarships for Presbyterian youth, providing solar-power and pure water to isolated communities, and assisting with new church construction and associated costs.

Dori Hjalmarson is the PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker serving in Honduras. Dori accompanies, coordinates and coaches lay and pastoral leaders of the Presbyterian Church of Honduras as they broaden theological education and strengthen the church's leadership capacity. She is also crucial in interpreting the ministry and support needs of the Honduran Church to Presbyterians in the United States. Several congregations in the Presbytery of Arkansas contribute annually to Dori's salary.

The Presbytery of Arkansas has been serving in Honduras since 2014. Groups from Arkansas have worked on multi-home construction projects, assisted in the building of a church, installed several large and small solar systems, supported a heart surgery to save the life of a pastor's teenage son, helped provide clean water to schools and neighborhoods, helped to re-invigorate the PC(USA) Honduras Network in the U.S., participated in leadership development and theological education conversations, and sent leaders from Arkansas to build relationships with almost every congregation in the Presbytery of Honduras.

Congregations in the Presbytery were encouraged to participate in this ministry. Congregations can contribute sewing machines or supplies for the sewing ministry, provide a secondary school scholarship in the West for \$100, support a Presbyterian youth in finishing high school or college for \$250, participate in a Honduras mission trip, give a donation to help others going on trips, pledge annual support for Dori's ministry, or train and travel with a Solar Under the Sun trip to provide power to a remote community. In collaboration with other presbyteries, qualified volunteers can participate in medical, dental, or eye clinics. Arkansas youth can join in youth mission trips for fellowship and service.

Those wanting more information were asked to please contact Rev. Phil Butin (pbutin@fupcfay.org) or Leigh Woodruff (leigh.woodruff@yahoo.com) to learn more about how to make Honduras part of each congregation's mission work.

Report of the Administration Ministry Area—2:05

Moderator RE Jan Enke called the Presbytery's attention to the report of the Administration Ministry Area and to the terms of call of General Presbyter Stewart Smith in packet. Moderator Enke made the following motions on behalf of the Ministry Area:

1. Motion to approve the following terms of call for General Presbyter MWS Stewart Smith for 2019:

Salary	\$40,800
Housing	\$38,700
403(b)	\$ 5,000
Spousal Insurance Offset	\$ 865.80
Full Medical, pension, death & disability coverage through the Board of Pensions (*Member + Children* medical coverage)	
SSI Reimbursement	\$ 6,196
Professional Expenses	\$15,000
Continuing Education	\$ 1,500
Paid Vacation Leave	4 weeks
Paid Continuing Education Leave	2 weeks
Three month sabbatical after seventh year of work.	

Motion was approved. (This is the same package as Smith received in 2018.)

2. Motion to approve the Proposed 2019 Budget totaling \$799,599.00, included in the Appendix as Attachment V. Discussion: Matt Bussell asked whether one line item was interest or corpus, and GP Smith answered it was the spend rate on the corpus at TPF on 36 month average. **Motion was approved.**

Enke also called the Presbytery's attention to the information shared in the report, that the Ministry Area reviewed the financial state of the Presbytery as of the end of November 2018 and it appeared that 2018 would have a surplus. The proposed budget for 2019 was also reviewed. It includes 100% of the requests received from the ministry areas and committees and a \$20,000 increase from Ministries with Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry Area. The Ministry Area will be working with the staff search committee to make recommendations for proposed salaries for new staff.

At their Administration Ministry Area meeting, Presbytery Treasurer Bob Boehmler reported on the most recent financial review, which was a positive review with no issues to address. He reminded the Ministry Area that professional audits are done every 5 years and financial reviews are done in intervening years.

The Policy on Loans to Small Churches was reviewed at that meeting and discussed. Following a unanimous vote, the current small church direct loan policy shall be changed in three ways:

- The interest rate for loans to churches shall be changed to “Prime Interest Rate minus 1%”; (“prime” is the rate normally published in the *Wall Street Journal*)
- The phrase “must provide evidence that the church has been unable to secure a loan from a local bank” will be included;
- The name of the entity listed on the policy shall be changed to “Administration Ministry Area”.

The Ministry Area reviewed the 2018 insurance review and the presbytery staff will be studying and addressing the questions that were raised.

In 2019 the Administration Ministry Area will continue to monitor the financial resources of the Presbytery to keep the Presbytery healthy. Budget requests for the 2020 budget will be held in late summer. Enke asked for prayers and support for the current presbytery staff.

Report of the Committee on Nominations

Moderator MWS Robert Hadley, HR, encouraged commissioners to consider nominating those from their congregations for service on the Presbytery’s various ministry areas and committees, calling the Presbytery’s attention to the nomination form in the main packet. He explained that the Committee on Nominations will meet on March 11, 2019 to begin filling up to 66 vacancies for next year on presbytery committees, subcommittees, ministry areas, commissions and teams, and that in this very important transitional year all ruling elders and especially all Ministers of the Word and Sacrament, for the sake of parity, are urged to say a prayerful "yes" when asked to serve in these important positions beyond the local church.

Annual Report of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center

RE Joel Gill, new Executive Director of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, gave out cookies and brochures for summer camp. He shared a PowerPoint presentation and video which updated the Presbytery on the ministry of Ferncliff which hosted 1600 campers this past summer. They host presbytery events and meetings free of usage fees. Living Nativity was successful, trail run in August, Ferncliff Family Day before Easter, Disaster Assistance Center, Sharing the Goods non-profit materials, Nature Preschool, Ferncliff Square shade space, Amphitheatre for Winter Camp, Ferncliff Forest Church for whom caring for the earth ecumenical project were other highlights. (Leslie, it was 9 minutes.)

New Business

Temporary Stated Clerk Belden shared that no new business had come before the Presbytery prior to the 5:00 pm deadline on Friday, March 1, nor since.

Report of the Leaves of Absence Committee

178 persons signed in: 70 RE, 65 MWSs, 33 visitors, 9 YAAD, 15 MWS and 15 congregations absent with excuse, according to Temporary Stated Clerk Belden who shared the report of the Leaves of Absence Committee.

Commitment to God's Call – Referrals

Moderator Stricklin asked Temporary Stated Clerk Belden to review any referrals that had been made during the course of the meeting, and there were no referrals for action.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Vice Moderator MWS Marion Humphrey prayed the joys and concerns of the presbytery, especially Christian sympathy and prayers for health. Moderator Stricklin adjourned the meeting by extinguishing the Christ candle at 2:35 pm, reminding commissioners that the Presbytery of Arkansas will gather again on Saturday, June 8, 2019, at Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock.

Respectfully submitted,

NiAnn Thompson
Recording Clerk
Draft 1

Appendix

Contents

- Attachment A – Roster of Attendance/Enrollment
- Attachment B – Financial Reports
- Attachment C – Worship Bulletin of Friday, March 1, 2019 Service of Worship
- Attachment D – Minutes of the 139th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas
- Attachment E – Ferncliff Board of Directors for 2019
- Attachment F – Congregational Pairings for 2019 Review of Records
- Attachment G – Church Contact Information Update Sheet for 2019
- Attachment H – Clergy Compensation Report for 2019
- Attachment I – MWS Ainsley Herrick Statement of Faith
- Attachment J – Pine Bluff Administrative Commission
- Attachment K – Standing Administrative Commission
- Attachment L – Rev. Jim Ratliff Statement of Faith
- Attachment M – MWS Moises Chan Statement of Faith
- Attachment N – RE Mary Shaw Statement of Faith
- Attachment O – Necrology of MWS Ben H. Bateman, HR
- Attachment P – Implementation Plan
- Attachment Q – Inquirer Jill Acree Statement of Faith
- Attachment R – Proposed Inquirer Brianne Christiansen Statement of Faith
- Attachment S – Mission of the Church Ministry Area Job Description
- Attachment T – Guidelines for Requesting Funds from the Unified Mission Emphasis
- Attachment U – Suggestions for How Congregations Might Minister During Shutdown
- Attachment V – Proposed 2019 Budget

Attachment A - Roster of Attendance

Attachment B - Financial Reports

Attachment C – Worship Bulletin of Friday, March 1, 2019 Service of Worship

Attachment D – Minutes of the 139th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas

Attachment E – Ferncliff Board of Directors for 2019

Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center Board of Directors

Tony Booth (3rd Term, Secretary)

Rev. Kade Curry (2nd Term, Program Chair)

John Hall (2nd Term, President)

Becky Purcell (1st Term, Development Chair)

Jim Spragins (2nd Term, Assets)

Mike Terrell (1st Term, Finance Chair)

Ted Belden (2nd Term, Asset Chair)

Kate Franks (1st Term, Finance)

Rob Griffin (2nd Term, Development)

Tammy Felder (1st Term)

Lynn Monroe (1st Term, Assets)

Mary Ann Robinson (2nd Term, Assets)

Mac Balkman (2nd Term, Assets)

Debbie Byrd (1st Term,)

Rev. Elizabeth Gabbard (2nd Term, Program)

Martin Kasten (2nd Term, Finance)

Bolton Kirchner (1st Term, Development)

Beth Sigler (1st Term)

EX-OFFICIO

Rev. Stewart Smith (Ex-officio/General Presbyter)

Joel Gill (Ex-officio/Interim Exec. Director)

Attachment F – Congregational Pairings for 2019 Review of Records

2019 Records Review Pairings

Congregation	Paired With	Date Records Review Turned In
Alma, First	Van Buren, First	
Amity, Alpine	Norman, Barr Memorial	
Arkadelphia, First	Hot Springs, Westminster	
Arkadelphia, West End	Pine Bluff, Faith	
Atkins, Memorial	Dardanelle, First	
Batesville, First	Jonesboro, First	
Beebe, First	Searcy, First	
Bella Vista, PC of Bella Vista	Bentonville, First	
Benton, First	Malvern, First	
Bentonville, First	Bella Vista, PC of Bella Vista	
Bentonville, Vaughn	Rogers, First	
Brinkley, First	Holly Grove, Holly Grove	
Bull Shoals, PC of Bull Shoals	Mountain Home, First	
Cane Hill, Cane Hill	Lincoln, First	
Clarksville, First	Clarksville, Harmony	
Clarksville, Harmony	Clarksville, First	
Conway, First	North Little Rock, Park Hill	
Dardanelle, First	Atkins, Memorial	
Elkins, Community PC of Elkins	Fayetteville, Mt. Comfort	
Eureka Springs, First	Huntsville, First	
Fairfield Bay, Kirk of the Hills	Heber Springs, First	
Fayetteville, Mt. Comfort	Elkins, Community PC of Elkins	
Forrest City, Graham Memorial	Wynne, Wynne	
Fort Smith, Central	Fort Smith, First	
Fort Smith, First	Fort Smith, Central	
Greenwood, Good Shepherd	Mena, First	
Gurdon, First	McGehee, First	
Hardy, Spring River	Horseshoe Bend, Faith	
Harrison, First	Yellville, First	
Heber Springs, First	Fairfield Bay, Kirk of the Hills	
Helena, First	West Helena, Cleburne Avenue	
Holiday Island, Holiday Island	Pea Ridge, Mt. Vernon	
Holly Grove, Holly Grove	Brinkley, First	
Horseshoe Bend, Faith	Hardy, Spring River	
Hot Springs, First	Hot Springs Village, Kirk in Pines	
Hot Springs, Westminster	Arkadelphia, First	
Hot Springs Village, Kirk in Pines	Hot Springs, First	
Huntsville, First	Eureka Springs, First	
Jacksonville, First	North Little Rock, First	
Jonesboro, First	Batesville, First	
Lincoln, First	Cane Hill, Cane Hill	
Little Rock, Allison	Morrilton, Hopewell	
Little Rock, First	Little Rock, Westover Hills	
Little Rock, Grace	Little Rock, Pulaski Heights	
Little Rock, Pulaski Heights	Little Rock, Grace	
Little Rock, Second	Little Rock, Trinity	
Little Rock, Westminster	Lonoke, First	
Little Rock, Westover Hills	Little Rock, First	
Lonoke, First	Little Rock, Westminster	

2019 Records Review Pairings

Congregation	Paired With	Date Records Review Turned In
Malvern, First	Benton, First	
Marianna, First	Stuttgart, First	
McGehee, First	Gurdon, First	
Mena, First	Greenville, Good Shepherd	
Morrilton, First	Russellville, Central	
Morrilton, Hopewell	Little Rock, Allison Memorial	
Mountain Home, First	Bull Shoals, Bull Shoals	
Mountainburg, Mountainburg	Prairie Grove, First	
Newport, First	Searcy, First	
Norman, Barr Memorial	Amity, Alpine	
North Little Rock, First	Jacksonville, First	
North Little Rock, Park Hill	Conway, First	
Paragould, First	Walnut Ridge, First	
Pea Ridge, Mt. Vernon	Holiday Island, Holiday Island	
Pine Bluff, Central	Pine Bluff, First	
Pine Bluff, Faith	Arkadelphia, West End	
Pine Bluff, First	Pine Bluff, Central	
Prairie Grove, First	Mountainburg, Mountainburg	
Rogers, First	Bentonville, Vaughn	
Russellville, Central	Morrilton, First	
Searcy, First	Newport, First, and Beebe, First	
Springdale, First	Fayetteville, First United	
Stuttgart, First	Marianna, First	
Van Buren, First	Alma, First	
Walnut Ridge, First	Paragould, First	
West Helena, Cleburne Avenue	Helena, First	

Attachment G – Church Contact Information Update Sheet for 2019

Information for 2019 Church Contact Updates

Official Name of Church _____

Mailing Address _____
Street/P.O. Box City State Zip Code

Telephone Number at Church _____ Employer Identification Number *if applicable* _____

E-mail address: _____ Website: _____

Personnel and Elected Officers for 2019

Please furnish home addresses. If your church has a regular supply that is **not** the installed pastor, list their name and use appropriate initials (stated supply = SS; pulpit supply = PS; transitional pastor = TP; commissioned ruling elder = CRE)

Pastor _____
Name Address Phone & E-mail Address

Educator(s) or Additional Pastor(s) *if applicable* _____

Name Address Phone & E-mail Address

Secretary(s) or Office Manager *if applicable* _____

Name Address Phone & E-mail Address

Clerk of Session _____
Name Address Phone & E-mail Address

Treasurer _____
Name Address Phone & E-mail Address

Other Employees *if applicable* (please specify and use back of page as necessary) _____

Name Address Phone & E-mail Address

Name Address Phone & E-mail Address

Name Address Phone & E-mail Address

*Please return to the Presbytery of Arkansas, 9221 N. Rodney Parham Road, Little Rock, AR 72227 by **March 15, 2019.***

**Attachment H – Clergy Compensation Report Sheet for
2019**

**Member of the Presbytery of Arkansas*
2019 Compensation Report**

Name _____ Position _____

Employer** _____

Address _____ Email _____

Are you employed part-time? _____ If so, how many hours per week? _____

Effective Salary	2018	2019
Cash Salary	_____	_____
Housing (or 30% of salary for manse)	_____	_____
Utilities Allowance	_____	_____
Deferred Compensation	_____	_____
Other Allowances	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____

Reimbursable Expenses		
Automobile (_____ per mile)	_____	_____
Business/Professional Expenses	_____	_____
SECA Supplement (up to 50%)	_____	_____
Continuing Education	_____	_____
Board of Pensions/Medical	_____	_____
Other Reimbursable Expenses	_____	_____
Total Allowances	_____	_____

Total Effective Salary, Benefits & Allowances _____

Vacation Time _____ Study Leave _____ Sabbatical? _____ When? _____

* All ordained MWS members of the Presbytery of Arkansas and CREs serving congregations are asked to fill out this form. Please return this form by March 15, 2019 to Rev. Leslie Belden, lesliebeld@aol.com or 9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd., Little Rock, AR 72227.

** The Presbytery of Arkansas, through its COM, acts to concur with all changes in terms of call of MWS in pastoral positions. This report constitutes a request to do so if you are in a pastoral position and there are any changes.

Attachment I – MWS Ainsley Herrick Statement of Faith

I believe in the One triune God. God is the Creator, who made the heavens and the earth, and created women and men in Their image. God is Father and Mother, caring for all Their creation. Human beings were created by God perfectly, without sin, but we were given free will so that we might worship God freely. However, we misused our free will and turned away from God, falling into sin. Our sin is evident in the way that we corrupt and destroy creation and do harm to one another. Every human being lives in sin, separated from God, and no one can overcome their sin on their own.

I believe God is the Son, Jesus Christ, who came to earth in the form of a man, fully human and fully divine, to restore our relationship to God. Through his life, Jesus demonstrated how to live in full obedience to the two greatest commandments: to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Throughout his ministry Jesus showed a special concern for the most vulnerable, the marginalized and oppressed. In this way Jesus demonstrated that the Gospel is the message of liberation for all creation. Through his death on the cross and resurrection, Jesus covered our sins, so that we might stand blameless before God. Because of Jesus' work on the cross, we may be justified. God offers the gift of grace to all, desiring that all be saved, and we accept it through faith alone. In the moment of justification we are reconciled to God and are welcomed into Their Kin-dom, adopted into God's family, part of the Body of Christ.

I believe God is the Holy Spirit, the Sustainer. The Spirit sanctifies us, giving us the strength to repent and turn away from sin, and turn towards righteousness. The Spirit sustains us in the Christian life, giving us the desire to do good works. Good works are not the cause of salvation, but the fruit of it. Because we have been reconciled to God, we are called to work for reconciliation. As the Church we are called to bring others into reconciliation with God, to bring about reconciliation between all human beings, and to bring about reconciliation between humans and the rest of creation. We are called to turn away from our sins, both individually and corporately as the Church, and reject the harmful divisions that we humans have created. We are called to work for justice, to bring about the Kin-dom of God here on earth, so that all Their beloved creation may live in peace.

In the sacraments we experience physical, outward signs, of an invisible, inward grace. In baptism we enter into the community of the Church. In communion we celebrate and remember together as the body of Christ the work that our Savior has done for us in his life, death, and resurrection. The Spirit is present with us in both of these sacraments.

I believe these things through the witness of the word, scripture, which was written by human beings like ourselves, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to record their witness to how the Word, Jesus Christ is working for reconciliation in the world.

Attachment J – Pine Bluff Administrative Commission

Motion to the Coordinating Team to expand the scope of the Administrative Commission currently working with the congregations of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and to remove and add members, so that the Administrative Commission will have the following members and authority, and the responsibility to report to the Presbytery of Arkansas:

1. Members:

1. MWS Bill Bailey, Kirk in the Pines Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs Village; COM representative
2. Ruling Elder Wynona Bryant-Williams, Allison Memorial Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
3. Ruling Elder Don Eilbott, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Little Rock; COM representative
4. Ruling Elder Ruth Hamilton, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village
5. MWS Cameron Highsmith, Chaplain
6. MWS Frank LeBlanc, Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
7. MWS Dari Rowen, First Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, Moderator
8. MWS Leslie Belden, Temporary Stated Clerk (ex-officio)

2. Charged with the responsibilities and authority to:

1. Assist the Presbyterian Churches in Pine Bluff, as the presence of the Presbytery of Arkansas, as they look toward their future ministry. The Presbyterian Churches in Pine Bluff include First Presbyterian Church, Central Presbyterian Church, and Faith Presbyterian Church;
2. Determine the financial situations of congregations (First, Pine Bluff) as necessary, and counsel the sessions in their discernment of their financial needs;
3. Consult with the sessions (First, Pine Bluff), advising them of constitutional requirements of the *Book of Order*, as necessary;
4. Consult with the sessions about possibilities of shared pastoral leadership, ministry, or merging;
5. Assume original jurisdiction of a church, if necessary;
6. Sell or encumber any real property if the decision to do so is made by a congregation, or the AC if original jurisdiction is assumed;
7. Document historical records and send appropriate documents to the Presbyterian Historical Society if, or when, a church is closed;
8. Conduct any and all steps in closing a congregation, or merging congregations, as needed.

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 fewer 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.

Attachment K – Standing Administrative Commission

Motion to the Coordinating Team to form an Administrative Commission with the following members and authority, and the responsibility to report to the Presbytery of Arkansas:

1. Members:

- a. Ruling Elder Leah Shell, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, Arkansas, Moderator
- b. Ruling Elder Ted Belden, First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, representing the Future of the Church Ministry Area
- c. Ruling Elder Charles Cook, Central Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith, representing the Committee on Ministry
- d. MWS Fern Davis, Holly Grove Presbyterian Church, representing the Committee on Ministry
- e. MWS Dari Rowen, First Presbyterian Church, Benton, representing the Committee on Ministry
- f. MWS Leslie Belden, Temporary Stated Clerk (ex-officio), as staff support

2. Charged with the responsibilities and authority to:

- a. Represent the Presbytery of Arkansas in working with the session and membership of congregations expressing the desire to close.
- b. Consult with the congregation and its session, advising it of the provisions of the *Book of Order*, including G-3.0301c on “taking jurisdiction over the members of dissolved congregations and granting transfers of their membership to other congregations;”
- c. Evaluate the financial situation of the church, including all accounts, real property, and trusts,
- d. Sell or encumber any real property;
- e. Assume original jurisdiction of the church, if necessary;
- f. Moderate the congregational meeting at which the session could present the issue for a vote by written ballot.
- g. Document all historical documents and work with the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Arkansas in sending records and other historic artifacts to the Presbyterian Historical Society.

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 fewer 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.

Attachment L – Rev. Jim Ratliff Statement of Faith

My faith journey began when I was 16 years old and was baptized in a little Cumberland Presbyterian Church outside of Pine Bluff, Arkansas. I did not realize at that point that my faith story was beginning there, because my baptism and profession of faith was little more than simply joining a church alongside my parents. However, I can now reflect back and recognize that this was the point where God began walking with me on a journey that would lead to 40 years of servanthood as an ordained minister in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

My faith journey would continue to become more and more an awakening to what God would be doing with me. This would include marrying my wife Joan (to whom I have been married to for 52 years) and a move from Pine Bluff to Paducah, Kentucky. There I went to work for Union Carbide Corporation, a subcontractor for the United States Atomic Energy Commission. It was also in Paducah that my faith would be challenged and grow in ways that I could not have imagined.

Any real faith that I had at that point was quite immature. But because God had steered Joan and I into a very nurturing church led by a pastor who would become a mentor, we both began to learn what discipleship meant and how to serve God and others within and through the body of Christ.

After several years of involvement in Woodlawn Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the teaching and mentoring of the Reverend Paul Belt, I began to recognize and respond to a call from God to continue my journey of faith on a path that would lead to serving God and the church as an ordained minister. I went back to college (Bethel University, McKenzie, Tennessee) and completed a degree in Sociology (Magna Cum Laude) and then to Memphis Theological Seminary for a Master of Divinity degree (Summa Cum Laude).

On Easter Sunday, 1977, I was ordained by Mayfield Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. I have served churches in Olney, Texas; Memphis, Tennessee; Bowling Green, Kentucky; Columbus, Mississippi and Olive Branch, Mississippi. On November 5, 2017, after 40 years of ministry, I retired from the fulltime ministry to a home we bought 5 years ago in Cherokee Village, Arkansas.

I consider my theology to be in the middle of the theological spectrum. I am evangelical in that I believe that the church is called to tell the Good News. I do not believe that the Good News is told by fear and coercion, rather by showing abundant grace, being inclusive, and service the needs of others. I also believe the walls of the church must always be turned to the outside. The ministry of the church exists in the community where we live - addressing the problems of poverty, homelessness, injustice, racism and sexism.

My faith is firmly grounded in the Reformed Tradition, including the orthodoxy of: The Sovereign Love, Grace and Presence of God. The power and authority of Scripture to transform lives; That salvation is a gift of God's grace; and that we are in Covenant relationship with God and with each other.

My faith journey had led me to believe that the atonement is in Jesus Christ dying to remove the penalty for sin for all humankind who accept the gift of God and that Jesus not only took the penalty on himself but was raised by the power of God to bring not only forgiveness to humanity, but the possibility of everlasting life as well to all who would receive it.

I conclude my statement of faith with my view of the sacraments. These are baptism and the Lord's Supper (or Holy Communion). The sacraments are signs or symbols of God's covenant of grace. Baptism symbolizes the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and is inclusive in the Covenant Community of the church. The mode therefore is to be by sprinkling or pouring. Infants of believers are also included in the Covenant Community and should receive this sacrament as well. The Lord's Supper symbolizes the body broken and blood shed by Jesus Christ. It is the churches means for remembering and celebrating the passion of our Lord.

As I stated in the beginning of this statement of faith, my journey began when I was 16. My retirement from fulltime ministry was not a conclusion, but simply another point along the way. I continue to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit and the call of God. So, my journey of faith continues. . .

Attachment M – MWS Moises Chan Statement of Faith

I was in my 3rd year of High School in Belize, preparing to take exams from Cambridge and/or Oxford Universities from England for G.C.E. Examinations to prepare us for study abroad. One of the courses required was the Gospels and Acts. I was studying to pass these exams. Then I met this elderly man from Mexico, preaching from that same Bible and preaching to make a difference in life. He was a missionary with the Mexican Presbyterian Church living the gospels. He stayed at my parent's home and would hold services in our home. It impressed me that he took the Bible seriously to apply to life. It was not only an academic pursuit for him. He preached the power of the Gospel of faith in Jesus Christ for our salvation and to change our lives. That is what happened. My eldest brother and one sister accepted the Lord and changed their lives. It amazed me to see what Jesus can do. The change, the miracle not only stories to share about the old. With the change that I personally witnessed in the lives of family members, I eventually gave my life to Jesus as my savior and Lord also. It was to be the beginning of a journey of faith that would prove the reality of who Jesus Christ is as my Savior and Lord.

After High School, I started doing a program of "In Service Training" to be a teacher. I lived with a Nazarene Pastor in town. The Lord used that time and used this pastor to challenge me to give my life not only to teach others about reading and writing but the greatest need to share the gospel with others in the ministry full time. The greater challenge came when I had to seek permission from my father to study for the ministry. My father had seen the elderly man who came preaching the gospel, as a religious beggar because he depended on the generosity of those who received him for a place to stay and a meal to eat. My father thought that was what I wanted to become. Someone who leaves home and goes around begging for his lodging and meals while talking about his God.

I Thank the Lord for the Presbyterian system of government because the Lord's affirmation of a call is supported by His people. So, I could go to the Session and then to Presbytery to become a candidate for the ministry and that way I could be assured that it was not a whimsical youthful rebellion that I was following. With God's people affirming the inward call of God, I began my journey for Gospel Ministry preparation starting in Mexico City. Still the burden in my heart was my father who stayed with his many questions in his mind. I asked my other brothers and sisters to join me to pray for my father and mother. When I came home that summer my father had accepted the Lord. A great blessing to have my father join in affirming the Lord's work in our lives and now even his approval for my continued study for the ministry.

Early on in ministry, I came to fully understand that we depend on all things on the Lord. We cannot preach and teach only what we think is, but that the Lord allows us even his servants to go through struggles in life to trust Him fully for our spiritual and every need. Our second daughter had a health condition from birth, (a Congenital Heart defect). The doctor in Belize had diagnosed that we needed medical attention provided beyond Belize with a greater cost involved. We did not know how it was to happen, but our faith is in Him who is our Lord. As my wife and I were planning the trip to Merida, Mexico about 8 hours

from where we lived, where we could consult with some specialists as per the doctor's recommendation, we were not sure how we were going to meet the financial expenses. As we were leaving to make our journey we passed by our mail box and there and behold was a check from an old friend from the U.S. who did not know about the situation yet his words to us is that the Lord put it in his heart to share this with us and to use as needed. That check covered for our trip and the medical expenses that we would incur the 2 weeks we would spend on that medical trip.

As we teach and share with God's people, as God's servants we live daily the nurturing of faith from the Lord's hands through His Word, so that we can pass on with confidence the assurance of God's comforting words of faith, of commitment to God's people as we as a people together learn to trust him and Him alone for all things in this life and the life to come to the Glory of His name.

Attachment N – RE Mary Shaw Statement of Faith

I believe that God always was and always will be. As humans we try to comprehend God. We try to decide what God likes, who God loves and even what God might look like. But I believe that our minds are not capable of understanding and we will never grasp the awesomeness of God. I believe that God created the world and everything in it. That God is faithful, merciful and loves me in spite of myself. I believe there is nothing I can do to earn God's love. God's love is a gift. A gift to me as a child of God.

I believe that Jesus Christ, God incarnate, is Lord and Savior. God in Christ – fully human and fully divine. I believe Jesus was sent as God's Son to redeem the world. That through his life, death and resurrection we find our salvation. I believe that Jesus Christ came "not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved." I believe he came to show us the way to live a life pleasing to God. A life of mercy, grace and forgiveness. That he suffered a cruel death on the cross but that death and the grave could not keep him as he rose from the dead giving victory over death. I believe that "he ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father."

I believe that the Holy Spirit, God's gift to us through Jesus Christ is the dynamic, life-giving force of the Church to the world. That the Holy Spirit is our comforter and compass. The Holy Spirit guides us to make decisions that are pleasing to God.

I believe the Christian life is an invitation to a relationship with the divine, to a life lived in community, and a call to respond in grateful praise and joyful obedience to almighty God. The church is a body of believers who come together to discern the Word and will of God. The mission of the church is to go and make disciples. The sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion bind us together as a family / body of Christ. We are welcomed into the community through baptism and all are welcome at the table for Holy Communion. I love these words from BOO (W-3.0408) "*Christ bathes us with mercy, then feeds us with grace.*"

I believe Scripture witnesses to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and to the redeeming love of God for all of humanity. I believe that in order to follow the example Jesus Christ set I have to study His Word, seek God's will through prayer and gathering with other followers of Christ in the church and outside the church.

Attachment O – Necrology of MWS Ben H. Bateman, HR

MWS Ben H. Bateman, HR, of Hot Springs, passed away at age 87 on December 31, 2018. A Presbyterian minister, his church home was First Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs, where he sang in the choir. He is survived by his wife of 58 years Frances, his brother Earl Jr., his three children, Donna, Tim, and Kathy, and his 6 grandchildren Danielle, Joshua, Samuel, Noah, Ben and Rachel. A memorial service was held January 5, 2019 at 2 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 213 Whittington Ave., Hot Springs, Arkansas.

MWS Bateman, HR, was born in Dallas, TX and graduated from Austin College in Sherman, TX in 1953. He graduated from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 1957 and was ordained by East Arkansas Presbytery in 1957 at Second Presbyterian Church in Pine Bluff. Ben later served the Belair Presbyterian Church in Pine Bluff as well as Cleburne Avenue Presbyterian in West Helena, Garden Villas Community Church in Houston, TX and his final pastorate was at Highland Presbyterian Church in West Monroe, LA. Ben also served as a missionary with his family in Korea for three years.

Ben was a regular and enthusiastic participant at Presbytery of Arkansas meetings. Anyone privileged to sit close to him was blessed when hearing his beautiful voice singing joyfully at worship. Ben asked to address the presbytery at the occasion of his 60th anniversary as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. The following is the final paragraph of his words that day:

"It is the Presbytery of Arkansas that has been my church home and my church family in and through it all. When the Presbytery of Arkansas gathers we worship, fellowship, learn together, celebrate our ministry together and conduct the business before us -- with the intent that all we do is to the glory of God. Such is what this presbytery has been doing all these years that I have been a member and continues to do so today. Thank you and praise God for this presbytery; my church home and my church family!!"

Thanks be to God for the life and ministry of MWS Ben Bateman, HR.



2019/20 Implementation Plan PGSM

Mission of the Presbytery of Arkansas: Trusting that we serve God better together, we are a family of congregations, ministries, and their leaders empowering and supporting one another to embody Christ's love for all.

Priority	What	Who	Strategies	How	Measurements
Building strong congregations that faithfully and effectively share the gospel through mission and ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase mission work across the congregations and ministries of Presbytery by 20% by 2020. (mission giving and/or hands-on) Increase Christian Education opportunities/programs across the congregations and ministries of Presbytery by 10% by 2020 	Gordon Garlington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a refocused plan for the Church and It's Mission Ministry Area Create a simple and usable system to measure mission and education work across the Presbytery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review priorities & refocus plan by 9/19 Define how to quantify mission & CE numbers by 9/19 Create baseline measure by 1/20 Deliver simple on-line reporting by 1/20 Follow-up w/ congreg. Resource congreg. to increase mission and CE in 2020 Ask cong. to report in 1/2020 Get report by 1/2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discern how to collaborate in gathering information by 6/19 Develop strategy to collect life-giving practices by 9/19 Collect the strategies by 1/20 Communicate strategies 3/20 Develop strategy for partnerships by 6/20 Report progress by 1/2021 Archive old emails & change if necessary by 3/19 Turn on website by 3/19 Inventory, evaluate & purchase equipment by 9/19 Assign new tab for videos 9/19 Develop video resources 1/20 Communicate new website... Lower cost for events Create directory of youth ministries by 1/20 Develop annual resource about youth ministry in Presbytery Establish Task Force to define relationships of campus ministry by 1/20 Create database of HS Seniors & college choice Aug each yr. Develop a communication plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish 3 mutually beneficial best-practice partnerships that share ministry practices between congregations by 2020 Have 12 congregations identify life-giving practices they have to offer Have a connectional presence for resources on the website by 2020 	Ted Belden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FoTCMA will work with other ministries to discern the life-giving practices of our congregations to better all congregations. The FoTCMA will activate the rebuilt website and invest in additional technology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministries with Y, YA, & CM Area will increase congregational engagement, attendance and connection with increased financial support from the Presbytery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discern how to collaborate in gathering information by 6/19 Develop strategy to collect life-giving practices by 9/19 Collect the strategies by 1/20 Communicate strategies 3/20 Develop strategy for partnerships by 6/20 Report progress by 1/2021 Archive old emails & change if necessary by 3/19 Turn on website by 3/19 Inventory, evaluate & purchase equipment by 9/19 Assign new tab for videos 9/19 Develop video resources 1/20 Communicate new website... Lower cost for events Create directory of youth ministries by 1/20 Develop annual resource about youth ministry in Presbytery Establish Task Force to define relationships of campus ministry by 1/20 Create database of HS Seniors & college choice Aug each yr. Develop a communication plan
Connecting congregations, resources and expertise to support life-giving practices in congregations and fellowships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase by 10% the number of congregations engaging with young people (under 30 year olds) by 2020 Increase by 15% over two years the number of youth attending Presbytery youth events Increase by 5% the number of congregations connected with Presbyterian Campus Ministries in the Presbytery of Arkansas 	Brian Brock and Jeremy Wilhelmi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministries with Y, YA, & CM Area will increase congregational engagement, attendance and connection with increased financial support from the Presbytery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review priorities & refocus plan by 9/19 Define how to quantify mission & CE numbers by 9/19 Create baseline measure by 1/20 Deliver simple on-line reporting by 1/20 Follow-up w/ congreg. Resource congreg. to increase mission and CE in 2020 Ask cong. to report in 1/2020 Get report by 1/2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discern how to collaborate in gathering information by 6/19 Develop strategy to collect life-giving practices by 9/19 Collect the strategies by 1/20 Communicate strategies 3/20 Develop strategy for partnerships by 6/20 Report progress by 1/2021 Archive old emails & change if necessary by 3/19 Turn on website by 3/19 Inventory, evaluate & purchase equipment by 9/19 Assign new tab for videos 9/19 Develop video resources 1/20 Communicate new website... Lower cost for events Create directory of youth ministries by 1/20 Develop annual resource about youth ministry in Presbytery Establish Task Force to define relationships of campus ministry by 1/20 Create database of HS Seniors & college choice Aug each yr. Develop a communication plan
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Developing and supporting ministries with youth and young adults including collegiate and campus ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase by 10% the number of congregations engaging with young people (under 30 year olds) by 2020 Increase by 15% over two years the number of youth attending Presbytery youth events Increase by 5% the number of congregations connected with Presbyterian Campus Ministries in the Presbytery of Arkansas 	Brian Brock and Jeremy Wilhelmi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministries with Y, YA, & CM Area will increase congregational engagement, attendance and connection with increased financial support from the Presbytery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review priorities & refocus plan by 9/19 Define how to quantify mission & CE numbers by 9/19 Create baseline measure by 1/20 Deliver simple on-line reporting by 1/20 Follow-up w/ congreg. Resource congreg. to increase mission and CE in 2020 Ask cong. to report in 1/2020 Get report by 1/2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discern how to collaborate in gathering information by 6/19 Develop strategy to collect life-giving practices by 9/19 Collect the strategies by 1/20 Communicate strategies 3/20 Develop strategy for partnerships by 6/20 Report progress by 1/2021 Archive old emails & change if necessary by 3/19 Turn on website by 3/19 Inventory, evaluate & purchase equipment by 9/19 Assign new tab for videos 9/19 Develop video resources 1/20 Communicate new website... Lower cost for events Create directory of youth ministries by 1/20 Develop annual resource about youth ministry in Presbytery Establish Task Force to define relationships of campus ministry by 1/20 Create database of HS Seniors & college choice Aug each yr. Develop a communication plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase by 10% the number of congregations engaging with young people (under 30 year olds) by 2020 Increase by 15% over two years the number of youth attending Presbytery youth events Increase by 5% the number of congregations connected with Presbyterian Campus Ministries in the Presbytery of Arkansas 	Brian Brock and Jeremy Wilhelmi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministries with Y, YA, & CM Area will increase congregational engagement, attendance and connection with increased financial support from the Presbytery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review priorities & refocus plan by 9/19 Define how to quantify mission & CE numbers by 9/19 Create baseline measure by 1/20 Deliver simple on-line reporting by 1/20 Follow-up w/ congreg. Resource congreg. to increase mission and CE in 2020 Ask cong. to report in 1/2020 Get report by 1/2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discern how to collaborate in gathering information by 6/19 Develop strategy to collect life-giving practices by 9/19 Collect the strategies by 1/20 Communicate strategies 3/20 Develop strategy for partnerships by 6/20 Report progress by 1/2021 Archive old emails & change if necessary by 3/19 Turn on website by 3/19 Inventory, evaluate & purchase equipment by 9/19 Assign new tab for videos 9/19 Develop video resources 1/20 Communicate new website... Lower cost for events Create directory of youth ministries by 1/20 Develop annual resource about youth ministry in Presbytery Establish Task Force to define relationships of campus ministry by 1/20 Create database of HS Seniors & college choice Aug each yr. Develop a communication plan

Attachment Q – Inquirer Jill Acree Statement of Faith

I believe.

I believe in one God, holy, loving, and completely good. God is the creator, sustainer, and redeemer of all, and God loves all that God has made.

I believe in the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the three persons of the Godhead and one of the great mysteries of our faith. There is no separation of roles, though there may be distinct ways for us to relate to each of the three.

God, the Father, is sovereign in all the created world, heaven and earth, seen and unseen.

God, the Son, is coeternal with the Father, and is the substance of the Word made flesh in the person of Jesus, the Christ. The Son is fully human, born to Mary, and fully divine, conceived of God's Spirit. He was with God at the beginning, dwelled on earth during a particular time, was killed on a cross, and resurrected to eternal life. The Holy Spirit is also the living presence of God from the beginning, who continues to work on the hearts of people, speaking through the scriptures, praying for us, and inspiring us with the very breath of God.

I believe in the authority of scripture, the Old and New Testaments, as the inspired, written word of God. The scriptures tell the unfolding story of God's faithful and relentless love, and the redeeming and reconciling work of God in the story of Jesus Christ.

In Christ, God came to humanity. Jesus' life opened a new door for us, and his ministry bears witness to a radically new, loving and inclusive, view of God. Through Jesus, God connects to our lives, and we are reconciled and transformed as we grow in understanding, love, and faithfulness. Because God so loved God's whole creation, and humans are unique in it, we enjoy special benefits and bear special responsibilities. All God's people are called to ministries of reconciliation, justice, and love.

The Church was instituted by Christ to be his community in the world, a community of followers (disciples) who became apostles, as modeled by that first band, as imperfect as it may seem. We gather to worship, pray, and sing, and to hear and proclaim God's message, learning and growing in faith. God is glorified in worship by our devotion, and is present in the sacraments. In the waters of baptism, God claims us as God's own, members of Christ's church and children of the covenant. In the Lord's Supper, Christ is present in communion through the elements, the bread and the wine, as we celebrate the transforming life and saving death of Jesus Christ. The sacraments were instituted and commanded by Christ, and are God's gift to the church, signs of God's unseen grace.

I believe that all these things matter in the living of our days, and that I am a recipient of God's unmerited mercy. As a result, it is my unimaginable pleasure to live a life in gratitude to God.

I believe in God, and I am grateful that God believes in me.

Attachment R – Proposed Inquirer Brianne Christiansen Statement of Faith

Write a brief statement of your personal faith describing what you believe about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and your relationship to them.

I am tempted to answer this question with the Apostles' Creed, but I will resist and share a bit of my own writing.

I believe in God the Parent, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. As Trinity, they live in perfect communion with each other and desire creation to be part of their communion. Because God is holy and humans chose disobedience, they are separated from God and unable to repair the relationship. But God, being rich in mercy, sent the Son, Jesus the Messiah, fully God and yet fully man, to live among creation, to die in their place, and then to resurrect as the firstborn of many brothers and sisters, so that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Jesus did not leave humans alone on earth; instead the Holy Spirit came to teach all who follow God how to live.

This was God's plan before the creation of the world, to reach out to his creation that could not reach out to God and to create a way so that us, the creation, could be in relationship with the Almighty Creator.

Attachment S – Mission of the Church Ministry Area Job Description

From the Presbytery of Arkansas’ Ministry Manual Part II: Ministry and Committee Duties

Purpose

The Mission of the Church Ministry Area provides oversight, planning, and support for programs that connect our congregations in practicing our faith through mission and outreach, Christian Education, and spiritual development. The Mission of the Church Ministry Area will provide guidance and resources to help connect congregations in mission and ministry.

Duties

The Mission of the Church Ministry Area is responsible to the Presbytery for the following:

1. Uphold the priorities of the Presbytery that relate to mission and the work of the church in the world, including interpretation of the vision and priorities of the larger church.
2. Evaluate requests for funding for mission related ministries and projects.
3. Provide strategies and resources in areas of leadership development, educational ministries, worship and theology through such programs as:
 - Retreats
 - Workshops
 - Informational packets
4. Help develop ministries of justice and compassion and facilitate opportunities for individuals and congregations to participate in the same.
5. Educate the Presbytery on matters of social concern and help the Presbytery engage in thoughtful and constructive dialogue on issues challenging our communities and world to the end that we witness in word and deed.
6. Identify new concerns and issues that arise in our culture which call for spiritual engagement and action. Provide information and opportunities for engagement.
7. Keep before the Presbytery and its congregations the need to care for God’s creation.
8. Build ecumenical relationships and encourage ecumenical efforts in the Presbytery.
9. Receive reports from, review the covenants with, and encourage the ministry of the following entities:
 - Ferncliff
 - Presbyterian Pilgrimage
 - Presbytery Resource Center Advisory Board (and oversee Board)
 - Presbyterian Women
10. Appoint special work groups and task forces as needed to address particular needs or support individual ministries.

Membership

Membership shall be according to the provisions of the Organization and Structure of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

The General Presbyter or his/her designee will serve as staff liaison.

Meetings

The Mission of the Church Ministry Area meets at least quarterly.

Special meetings may be called by the Moderator as needed.

A quorum shall be a majority of the currently serving members of the committee as determined by the records of the Presbytery office, but in no event shall a quorum be less than three members.

Reporting

All actions of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area and any sub-committees or task forces reporting to it shall be reported to the next regular meeting of the Presbytery. Between regular meetings of the Presbytery reports shall be made to the Coordinating Team.

Written minutes of all meetings shall be kept, and copies should be provided to the moderator of the Coordinating Team and the Stated Clerk within fourteen days of regular or special meeting.

Attachment T – Guidelines for Requesting Funds from the Unified Mission Emphasis

1. The purpose of funding from the Unified Mission Emphasis portion of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area budget – “Ministry to the Most Vulnerable in our Society” in 2019-2021 -- is to assist congregations of the Presbytery of Arkansas in proclaiming the love of Christ beyond their church’s walls.
2. A request to the Mission of the Church Ministry Area should include a written proposal, no longer than two pages, detailing:
 - a. the need or needs the Session wants to address and the amount of funding requested;
 - b. a brief description of the goals of the project and how the funds requested will be used;
 - c. total estimated costs, and other sources of funding that are committed or have been applied for;
 - d. a copy of the budget for the project;
Session-designated contact for the project, including name, address, telephone number and email address,
the date the Session approved the request,
name of the church’s treasurer to whose attention the check made out to the church should be sent.
3. The Ministry Area’s budget is limited, and requests of more than \$1,000 are generally not approved. However, there may be occasions when a larger amount could be granted:
 - a. if the church can make a case for it, and
 - b. b. if they have made a good-faith effort to secure other funds but are still short of their goal.
4. The Mission of the Church Ministry Area will give priority to requests where:
 - a. the Session and members of the requesting church are addressing this need with their own gift or gifts;
 - b. other sources of funding beyond the congregation have been secured or are being sought.
5. Please note that part of the mission of the Future of the Church Ministry Area is to *“Assist churches to re-develop their mission and ministry”* and to *“Assist congregations seeking funding or grants”* to help in that process. The mission of that ministry area and this one are somewhat similar but are not the same, and it may be that a request to that ministry area would be more appropriate.

6. The Mission of the Church Ministry Area will act on requests as soon as possible after receiving them and will notify the church of their decision within 30 days of receiving them.

11/14/2018

Attachment U – Suggestions for How Congregations Might Minister During Shutdown

Suggestions for Churches in the Presbytery of Arkansas Wishing to Assist Federal Employees Impacted by Partial Government Shutdown January 30, 2019

OVERVIEW

As authorized at our January 11, 2019, meeting of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area, what follows are suggestions for congregations who wish to assist individuals and families in their church or community who have been negatively impacted by the federal government shutdown.

The recent federal government shutdown illustrated how such action can so swiftly and negatively affect the lives not only of the government employees furloughed, but also the communities around them. While we hope shutdowns will not occur in the future, our sense is that such situations present a significant opportunity for any Presbyterian church when choosing a local mission/ministry to adopt and support.

Designing and implementing such a plan would be, of course, at the local congregational level. What follows are suggestions for a way a local church might reach out to assist those affected by any future shutdown. Similar local mission/ministry opportunities might also be present in the event of sudden, significant changes in employment opportunities – i.e., layoffs -- in a local community.

ACTION STEPS

- Session identifies and enlists the services of a *Key Contact*. This should be someone well-known, well-respected, well-connected with community movers and shakers, and quite knowledgeable about resources available in the community. This individual would be responsible for coordinating the congregation's efforts to help others as well as follow-up and record keeping duties.
- Identify those known to require assistance (create a simple contact form to be filled out by church members for everyone the member identifies with assistance from Key Contact):
 - Introduce plan to the members of the congregation, emphasizing that help is being offered on a confidential basis for those in need;
 - Church members would be encouraged to reach out to others in the community to identify persons/families in need;
 - Consider family, friends, neighbors, word of mouth;
 - Complete contact form and provide to Key Contact.

- Identify the needs of those requesting assistance:
 - Church member with the assistance of Key Contact would identify particular person's/family's needs;
 - Key Contact would determine whether need could be filled from the church's resources;
 - If church resources may be used, Key Contact would coordinate effort (child care, transportation, food, medicine, pastoral care, etc.)
 - Implement as approved by Session, if appropriate;

- Determine what to do if congregation cannot fulfill the needs presented:
 - First, seek out local organizations that provide living assistance, i.e., rent and utilities, such as the Salvation Army. Other resources to consider might be the local ministerial alliance, local professional associations, i.e., Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Networking Groups, etc.;
 - If beyond the capability of the congregation to assist adequately, the Key Contact with Session approval could reach out requesting assistance from our Presbyterian Church USA (Presbytery, Synod or General Assembly).
 - Key Contact might publicize the needs identified but not, of course, the identities of persons/families needing help (online groups, Facebook, church website, community and neighborhood newsletters, etc.);

- Congregations that find there are no persons/families directly impacted in their community should be encouraged to donate to organizations assisting persons/families impacted by the partial government shutdown.

Note: Even though this partial government shutdown may have ended, the losses suffered by those affected may take much longer to be made whole.

Additionally, the threat of further shutdowns looming in the future may be causing great concern and fear, resulting in the hoarding of whatever funds the person/family may have at their disposal. This might provide opportunities for continued emotional and spiritual support (friendship, the ministry of presence, or, in some cases, pastoral counseling).

Attachment V – Proposed 2019 Budget

5-Feb-19

Proposed Budget (Summary)
For the Year 2019

Revenues	2018 Budget	2019 Asking	Difference
Mission Acceptance	\$ 600,000.00	590,000.00	
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 13,500.00	13,800.00	
Income from Investments	\$ 166,529.00	180,000.00	
Transfer from Investments	\$ -	-	
Previous Year Pledges	\$ 1,500.00	1,500.00	
Total Revenues	\$ 781,529.00	785,300.00	
Expenses			
Coordinating Team	\$ 3,500.00	3,500.00	-
Administration Ministry Area	\$ 59,000.00	59,000.00	-
Ministry of the Church: COM & CPM	\$ 16,655.00	17,735.00	(1,080.00)
Youth, Young Adults & Campus Min	\$ 43,730.00	64,500.00	(20,770.00)
Future of the Church	\$ 60,067.00	60,000.00	67.00
Church and its Mission	\$ 68,000.00	68,000.00	-
Nominations	\$ 300.00	300.00	-
Representation	\$ 45.00	45.00	-
Administrative Commissions	\$ 5,000.00	2,000.00	3,000.00
Presbytery Office	\$ 47,700.00	43,400.00	4,300.00
Staff Salaries/GP Housing	\$ 210,605.00	210,605.00	-
TPF Bookkeeping Fees	\$ 11,000.00	11,000.00	-
Payroll Taxes	\$ 15,750.00	15,750.00	-
Staff Pension/Medical	\$ 55,000.00	55,000.00	-
Staff Con't. Ed/Travel	\$ 36,350.00	36,350.00	-
General Assembly Per Capita - OGA	\$ 93,827.00	98,414.00	(4,587.00)
General Assembly Benevolence	\$ 30,000.00	29,500.00	500.00
Synod of the Sun Benevolence	\$ 25,000.00	24,500.00	500.00
Total Expenses	781,529.00	799,599.00	(18,070.00)
	Surplus / (Deficit)	(14,299.00)	

Note: Salaries and pensions are projected to remain the same. These amounts will need to be adjusted depending on how the staff design proposal works out.