

Minutes of the One Hundred Thirty-Ninth Stated Meeting of The Presbytery of Arkansas

October 19-20, 2018

Call to Order/Opening Prayer

The 139th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was called to order with prayer in the Dining Hall of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Ferndale, Arkansas, by Moderator MWS Leslie Bethell Roper at 6:30 pm on Friday evening, October 19, 2018. Moderator Roper lit the Christ candle and led the presbytery in singing, "This Little Light of Mine," followed by an opening prayer.

Report of Enrollment/Declaration of a Quorum

Temporary Stated Clerk MWS Leslie Smith Belden declared **a quorum present** with 43 Ministers of the Word and Sacrament (MWS), and 28 Ruling Elders (RE), for a grand total of 71 voting commissioners. Also present were 7 corresponding members and 19 visitors. The total number signed in as the meeting opened was 97 representing 33 congregations. 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 **revised docket 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 John Arnold of the Presbytery of the Pines, MWS Susan Arnold of the Presbytery of the Pines, MWS Matt Bussell of Pittsburg Presbytery, Rev. Michael Irwin of the UCC denomination, MWS Kevin Keaton of New Covenant Presbytery, Rev. John Landis of the American Baptist denomination, MWS Rose Niles of New Covenant Presbytery, MWS Alicia Secrest of Chicago Presbytery, and RE Valerie Young of Grace Presbytery.

The Temporary Stated Clerk **moved that privilege of the floor and voice be granted to: RE Sarah Keith-Bolden, RE David Clark, Rev. Steven Copley of Interfaith Arkansas, RE Dawn Dvoracek of the University of the Ozarks, Emma**

Gillaspy, Hannah Lahodny, and RE Ronnie Prevost. Motion was seconded, and approved.

Appointment of Tellers and Leaves of Absence Committee

The following tellers were appointed by Moderator Roper: MWS Ruskin Falls, RE Patty Minga of First Presbyterian Church in Jonesboro, MWS Cindy Saul, and RE Janet Thomas of First Presbyterian Church in Batesville.

Leaves of Absence members appointed were: RE Jan Enke of First Presbyterian Church in Van Buren and MWS Dari Rowen.

Welcome to First-Time Commissioners

Moderator Roper asked first-time commissioners to stand and wave, and the body was pleased to welcome eight 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 Temporary Staff for Youth Hannah Lahodny. Also introduced were RE Bob Boehmler, Presbytery Treasurer; RE David Stricklin, Vice-Moderator of Presbytery; and RE Ruth Hamilton, Moderator of the Coordinating Team.

Welcome from Hosts

Director of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center Joel Gill welcomed commissioners and guests to Ferncliff, orienting all to the facilities and schedule and expressing his appreciation to the Presbytery for its support and generosity in making possible this new, larger meeting space. Joel also told of a live nativity that will be held at Ferncliff this year, as well as a winter camp. MWS Bill Bailey, pastor of Kirk in the Pines Presbyterian Church of Hot Springs Village, which was the co-host of the meeting, also offered greetings.

Consent Agenda

Temporary Stated Clerk Belden then invited MWS Rebecca Spooner to speak regarding the ministry being offered through the Wellspring Renewal Center Contract Covenant Agreement, included in the consent agenda (see below), to active Minister of the Word and Sacrament members of presbytery, Commissioned Ruling Elders, Certified Christian Educators and Associate Certified Christian Educators, Presbytery staff members (Stated Clerk, Director of Mission Support and Staff Associate for Youth) and their immediate family members.

The consent agenda included the following motions:

Motion to approve the minutes of the 138th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, June 2, 2018, held at First Presbyterian Church, Conway, Arkansas.

Motion to receive the minutes as the report of the Administrative Commission installing MWS Steven Kurtz as Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith, and dismiss them with thanks.

Motion to receive the minutes as the report of the Administrative Commission installing MWS Steven Frazier as Pastor of Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church, Fairfield Bay, and dismiss them with thanks.

Motion to approve the covenant with Wellspring Renewal Center, included in the Appendix as Attachment B.

Motion to approve RE David Clark to be commissioned as a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) serving at First Presbyterian Church, Heber Springs, with permission to celebrate the sacraments and moderate the session, and MWS Leslie Roper to serve as his mentor, effective August 7, 2018, with a salary of \$2,900.00 each month. His Statement of Faith is included in the Appendix as Attachment C.

Motion to approve RE Ronnie Prevost to be commissioned as a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) serving at The Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, with permission to celebrate the sacraments and moderate the session in the absence of the Pastor, with MWS Dennis Ritchie serving as his mentor, effective June 5, 2018. His Statement of Faith is included in the Appendix as Attachment D.

Motion to approve the call of MWS Ward Rudolph to serve as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Searcy; with the following terms of call and an effective date of August 1, 2018;

Effective Salary	
Salary/Housing	\$41,000.00
Housing Allowance	14,000.00
Automobile Expense (.54/mile)	4,000.00
SECA Supplement (up to 50%)	4,207.50
Continuing Education	1,200.00
Other allowances – phone	1,000.00
Moving costs (up to) one move	3,500.00
Full medical, pension, disability, and death benefit coverage under the Board of Pensions	20,350.00

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

Sabbatical Plan to be approved by the Committee on Ministry at end of five years of full-time ministry, awarded in the seventh year.

and with the Service of Installation to be on Sunday, November 4, 2018, at 4:00 pm, the offering recipient to be the Presbytery of Arkansas' scholarship at Lyon College, and the following to serve on the Administrative Commission to install:

MWS Leslie Roper to Moderate and Propound the Constitutional Questions

MWS David Dyer, HR, to preach

MWS Carol Clark, HR, to charge the pastor

MWS Dari Rowen

RE Mike Szabo, First Presbyterian Church, Searcy

RE Mary Ellen Holder, Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

RE Wendell Phillips, Park Hill Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock

Motion that the Committee on Ministry be granted permission to celebrate the Lord's Supper/Communion at their annual retreat at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center on November 12-13, 2018.

Motion that the Presbyterian Women be granted permission to celebrate the Lord's Supper/Communion at their Spring Gathering at First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro on April 6, 2019.

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

Report of the Treasurer

Presbytery treasurer RE Bob Boehmler reported on the financial reports included in the supplemental packet on the Presbytery's website, and included in the Appendix as Attachment E. Giving special thanks to Kenneth Rich for his good work preparing the financial information, he expressed gratitude to congregations of the Presbytery for their support of the presbytery's budget and ministry.

Boehmler noted that the total year-to-date revenues as of September 30, 2018, were \$429,960 and total expenses \$544,177. He also noted that projections for the rest of the year reflect lower expenses than those originally budgeted at \$781,529. Reports from the Texas Presbyterian Foundation indicated that third quarter returns on investments with them were at 2.8%, with the nine month, year-to-date returns on investments for 2018 at 5.3%.

Again thanking the presbytery for their support, he expressed his hope that fourth quarter receipts toward the budget will again come in generously.

Report of the General Presbyter

General Presbyterian MWS Stewart Smith addressed the Presbytery, beginning by welcoming being able to dress casually while meeting at Ferncliff! He extended a special welcome to MWS member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, MWS Joy Carrington, now living in Wilmington, Delaware, where she serves as a chaplain. He also welcomed the Rev. Michael Erwin, former member of presbytery now serving with the Church Campaign Service. And General Presbyterian Smith updated those assembled on improvements underway on the Presbytery's website and email system.

General Presbyterian Smith also spoke of things he was observing as he moved around the presbytery, visiting with and serving congregations. He explained that more and more congregations are reaching the "tipping point" where they are no longer able to pay a full-time minister. He also noted that this is not unique to Presbyterians, but is occurring across Christendom. He challenged the Presbytery to embrace the changes that are coming, noting that a group has been appointed to work on next steps to achieve the priorities of the Presbytery, aided by a volunteer consultant, asking how to live into this different landscape that the 21st century represents. Also, Smith called the Presbytery's attention to the report to be presented on Saturday recommending a new Presbytery staff design, pointing out that the report presents short descriptions of the recommended positions, not fleshed out job descriptions.

Noting that he is approaching his third anniversary in his position, Smith observed that his understanding of the life of the Presbytery is very different from that which he had when he was the pastor of a local congregation. A challenge he sees is that the Presbytery's current organizational structure, with appreciation for those who created it to serve those past eras, relies on volunteers -- pastors, educators and ruling elders already busy in their own lives -- to do the work of the organization. They find it hard to keep up with the actions and decisions that need to be taken and approved. He noted the large number of committees and task forces Presbytery has and the number of persons required to fill all those positions. Since 2005, he observed, the Presbytery of Arkansas has moved from 95 congregations to 79 congregations, with 5,000 fewer active members on church rolls. Smith emphasized his belief that the Presbytery will need to make changes, structurally, in order to address the changes happening in society. In order to meet those changes and challenges, he said, all will need to give permission to be more nimble, more flexible. Working with each other, helping each other, he challenged, will make the changes necessary to faithfully continue to make the Body of Christ visible within and beyond the boundaries of the presbytery.

Introduction of Guests

Moderator Roper then welcomed Board of Pensions Regional Representative MWS Kevin Keaton who addressed the presbytery concerning recent changes to the plan of the Board of Pensions for ministers and church professionals. He also spoke of a new program of the Board of Pensions called "Pathways to Renewal" that brings young ministers into the Benefits Plan with the full benefits of Pastor's Participation

at substantially reduced dues. It is designed to provide the hope of renewed leadership to small congregations, and nourishment to innovative ministries.

Moderator Roper then introduced Synod of the Sun Executive Director RE Valerie Young who brought greetings from the Synod and its presbyteries. Mrs. Young noted with appreciation Emily Laurel's work with the Synod's scholarship program and celebrated that MWS Elizabeth Gabbard, of the Presbytery of Arkansas, is soon to be installed as Moderator of the Synod.

Moderator Roper then welcomed MWS Rose Niles from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. MWS Niles brought greetings from the Seminary and its president, the Rev. Dr. Ted Wardlaw, noting that there are now five international students at the seminary. She also highlighted service to the PC(USA) reflected in the work of professors such as the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Rigby, whose new volume, *Holding Faith: A Practical Introduction to Christian Doctrine*, was published this last spring by Abingdon Press.

Report of the Temporary Stated Clerk

Temporary Stated Clerk MWS Leslie Belden called the presbytery's attention to the fact that First Presbyterian Church of Berryville, now closed, continues to live on through donations made by that congregation to the Arkansas Community Foundation, grants from which continue in Berryville's various ministries initiated by the congregation prior to its closure. Loaves and Fishes Food Bank of the Ozarks and Project Self Esteem of Carroll County each received a check for \$1,162.80. Temporary Stated Clerk Belden then called attention to her report in the Main Packet, asking presbyters to read the updates on the seven existing Administrative Commissions, including:

Cane Hill/Walnut Grove Administrative Commission – MWS Phil Butin, Moderator

The Walnut Grove property was sold for \$45,000 on July 15, 2017. The presbytery received \$19,787 at the closing of the sale and received another \$25,000 before July 14, 2018. The Presbytery approved the sale of the Cane Hill Presbyterian Church building to the Historic Cane Hill Society at the June 2, 2018 meeting, so that the building could be restored and the church continue meeting there.

First, Clarksville Administrative Commission – RE Ted Belden and MWS Clare Kelley, Co-Moderators

The AC is charged with working with the session of First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville, with the primary responsibility of selling the property, as that congregation meets at the University of the Ozarks' chapel. A motion from the Administrative Commission to the Coordinating Team to approve a \$7,500 loan was referred to the Administration Ministry Area.

Northwest Arkansas Hispanic Ministry Administrative Commission – MWS Phil Butin, Moderator

The ministry is in conversation about potential pastoral leadership.

First, Little Rock Administrative Commission – RE Cyril Hollingsworth, Moderator

The AC works closely with the session and RE Stephen Moody as he provides pastoral leadership.

First, Lonoke Administrative Commission – MWS Lindy Vogado, Moderator

The AC was established June 4, 2016 to assist the session in discerning the next steps for the congregation.

Pine Bluff (Central, Faith, and First Presbyterian Churches) –MWS Frank LeBlanc, Moderator

The AC was established at the October 6-7, 2017 meeting for the purpose of assisting the Presbyterian Churches in Pine Bluff, as the presence of the Presbytery of Arkansas, as they look toward their future ministry.

Washington County Property Administrative Commission – RE Ted Belden, Moderator

The AC is charged with selling a property on Crossover Road in Fayetteville valued at \$500,000.

Belden also reported that two additional congregations have had their records reviewed since the posting of the Main Packet, so that the list now includes:

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| Atkins, Memorial | Hot Springs, First |
| Beebe, First | Hot Springs, Westminster |
| Bella Vista | Hot Springs Village, Kirk in the Pines |
| Bentonville, First | Huntsville, First |
| Bentonville, Vaughn | Jonesboro, First |
| Clarksville, Harmony | Little Rock, Grace |
| Conway, First | Little Rock, Second |
| Dardanelle, First | Little Rock, Westminster |
| Fairfield Bay, Kirk of the Hills | Little Rock, Westover Hills |
| Fayetteville, First United | Mountain Home, First |
| Fort Smith, Central | Pea Ridge, Mount Vernon |
| Fort Smith, First | Prairie Grove, First |
| Harrison, First | Rogers, First |
| Heber Springs, First | Searcy, First |
| Holiday Island, Holiday Island | Springdale, First |

Clerks of Session and/or Moderators of congregations not listed were requested to please contact Rev. Leslie Belden, Temporary Stated Clerk, at 479.466.1061 or lesliebeld@aol.com.

Belden reported that the Presbytery of Arkansas' minutes of 2017 meetings, indexed, with a list of former moderators and PJC members, and all five sections of the Presbytery of Arkansas' Ministry Manual were sent to the Synod of the Sun for review, together with their review sheet with page numbers of where items required by the *Book of Order* may be found. She informed the body that the Presbytery of Arkansas will be cited with at least two exceptions: (1) insurance was not reviewed in the year 2017; and (2) no financial review was reported for 2016 because 2015 and 2016 were not reported until June of 2018. The Synod has communicated that their review of records will be complete by the first week in November of this year.

Temporary Stated Clerk Belden shared that the records of dissolved congregations, and congregations which no longer exist for which the Presbytery has found records, were sent to the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia. A list of those records is found in the Appendix as Attachment F.

Belden announced that, in accordance with *Book of Order* D-10.0103, the Office of the Stated Clerk must report to the Presbytery of Arkansas that an offense has been alleged and an Investigating Committee appointed.

Report of the Coordinating Team

Coordinating Team Moderator RE Ruth Hamilton gave the report, moving the following:

Motion that the Presbytery of Arkansas dismiss the Woodlands Presbyterian Church of Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, from the PC(USA) in order to be received by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, subject to the receipt of \$30,000 within ten days of the vote of the Presbytery of Arkansas, and that the Temporary Stated Clerk be authorized to sign such documents and take such action as necessary to effectuate the dismissal and conclude the litigation between the Presbytery of Arkansas and Woodlands Presbyterian Church.

The motion was approved.

General Presbyter Stewart Smith then offered a prayer on behalf of the Woodlands Presbyterian Church and the Presbytery of Arkansas, as both move from the past into the future. Coordinating Team Moderator Hamilton expressed on behalf of her home congregation, the Kirk in the Pines of Hot Springs Village, their best wishes to neighboring Woodlands Presbyterian Church.

RE Hamilton then moved that the following be elected to serve on the Committee on Nominations:

Class of 2021:

MWS Marion Humphrey, at-large, Allison Memorial Church, Little Rock

MWS Cindy Saul, Region 1 Representative

MWS Patty Schaller, at-large Representative

**MWS John Arnold, at-large Representative
and that MWS Bob Hadley, HR, be approved to continue to serve as the
Moderator of the Committee on Nominations, Class of 2019.**

Moderator Roper called for nominations from the floor. There being none, the motion was approved.

RE Hamilton then moved that the Presbytery of Arkansas ratify the following people elected by the Coordinating Team:

Administration Ministry Area, Class of 2019: MWS Steve Hancock, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

Permanent Judicial Commission, Class of 2023: MWS Mark Clark

Moderator Roper called for nominations from the floor. There being none, the motion was approved.

It was then moved that “Ministry to the Most Vulnerable in our Society” be the Presbytery of Arkansas’ Unified Mission Emphasis for 2019-2021; and that the Presbytery’s 25% of the 2018 Peace & Global Witness Offering be designated to “Hub of Hope,” a northwest Arkansas-based program that works with victims of human-trafficking, human-slavery and immigration issues. The motion was approved.

Coordinating Team Moderator Hamilton shared the following information with the Presbytery:

A leadership team of the Coordinating Team made up of CT Moderator Ruth Hamilton, Presbytery Moderator Leslie Roper, and Presbytery Vice Moderator David Stricklin, staffed by General Presbyter Stewart Smith and Temporary Stated Clerk Leslie Belden, will move forward according to the parameters of the Coordinating Team’s discussion to achieve measurable results toward the approved priorities of the presbytery, working with RE Tom Verdery of the Administration Ministry Area, to gather the leaders as prescribed. The plan was that that leadership team would chose representatives from each ministry area, plus one each from the COM and CPM, and announce this “next step” to the Presbytery at the October 19-20, 2018, meeting, with the hope of reporting back at the March 1-2, 2019 meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

This plan resulted in a “Group of 12,” with incoming Vice Moderator of the Presbytery, Marion Humphrey, making up the twelfth member of the group. Coordinating Team Moderator Hamilton listed the members of the “Group of 12,” including:

RE Julie Gillaspay, Administration Ministry Area

MWS Kade Curry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry

RE Peg Falls-Corbitt, Future of the Church Ministry Area

CCE Kristi Button, Mission of the Church Ministry Area

MWS D.C. Adams, Committee on Ministry

MWS Jeremy Wilhelmi, Youth, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry Area

MWS Leslie Roper, Moderator of Presbytery (2018)
RE David Stricklin, Vice Moderator of Presbytery (2018)
RE Ruth Hamilton, Coordinating Team Moderator
MWS Marion Humphrey, incoming Vice Moderator of Presbytery
MWS Stewart Smith, General Presbyter –Staff
MWS Leslie Belden, Temporary Stated Clerk – Staff

It was noted that as this “Group of 12” does its work, the entire presbytery will be invited to participate via a poll that will be distributed presbytery-wide.

Bruce Reyes-Chow will lead the Theological Discussion at the March 1-2, 2019, meeting of the presbytery at the University of the Ozarks, as well as lead a pre-presbytery workshop.

The Coordinating Team had referred to the Administration Ministry Area a motion from the Administrative Commission working with First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville, requesting, “that the Presbytery use church development funds to loan First Presbyterian Church of Clarksville up to \$7,500 per year for expenses for the unoccupied building of First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville, with the loan to be paid back from proceeds from the sale of the building when that occurs.”

The Coordinating Team gave First Presbyterian Church, Dardanelle, permission to list for sale a piece of property that was deeded to them by a former, now deceased, member.

The Coordinating Team gave Westminster Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, permission to sell their current property on which their church building had burned in July 2018.

The Coordinating Team officially appointed the elected commissioners and the young adult advisory delegate to the General Assembly in June of 2018 to serve as the Presbytery of Arkansas’ Polity Committee, their term to last until the PC(USA) General Assembly meets in 2020. Those members are:

RE Kim Brooks
MWS Dari Rowen
MWS Michael Vinson
RE Ray Woodruff
YAAD Emma Gillaspay

The Coordinating Team approved increasing the maximum amount charged for lunch at meetings of the Presbytery from \$8 to \$10.

The Coordinating Team approved the following as offering recipients at worship services during meetings of Presbytery:

Solar Under the Sun as the offering recipient at the October 19-20, 2018 meeting

The Presbytery of Arkansas’ Scholarship Fund for the University of the Ozarks at the March 1-2, 2019, meeting, and that every time the Presbytery meets at the U of O

that fund will be the offering recipient; likewise when the Presbytery meets at Lyon College the offering will be designated for the scholarship fund of Lyon.

Support of travel for those from the Presbytery of Arkansas going on youth-oriented summer trips in 2019 at the June 8, 2019 meeting.

The Coordinating Team approved that the summer meeting for 2019 will be held June 8, 2019, at Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock.

The Coordinating Team granted the Youth Advisory Team permission to celebrate the Lord's Supper/Communion at Junior High Youthquake on September 30, 2018, and at Senior High Youthquake on March 31, 2019, both to be at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center.

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 to begin at 8:00 pm. Following worship, the presbytery enjoyed a reception hosted by members of Kirk in the Pines. The worship bulletin included in the Appendix as Attachment G.

Saturday, October 20, 2018

Re-Convene with Worship

Prior to convening the morning session, an 8:30 am morning prayer service at the cross by the Ferncliff lake, adjacent to the Brown Center, was led by MWS Anne Russ with music provided by MWS Bill Seitz.

Opening with prayer and again leading the presbytery in singing "This Little Light of Mine," Moderator Roper reconvened the meeting on Saturday morning, October 20, 2018, at 9:00 am in the Dining Hall. She welcomed everyone and announced that the offering from last evening's worship service benefitting Solar under the Sun totaled \$1,047.

Those assembled then joined in a morning worship service, in which RE David Clark was commissioned as the Commissioned Ruling Elder for First Presbyterian Church, Heber Springs, and RE Ronnie Prevost commissioned as a Commissioned Ruling Elder to serve as Parish Associate at The Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista. Prayers were led by RE Beth Highsmith, David's mother, and MWS Dennis Ritchie, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista. MWS Bill Seitz accompanied the hymn on the guitar.

Temporary Stated Clerk Leslie Belden reminded the body of the proper ways of making motions, speaking to those motions, etc.

Report of the Administration Ministry Area

Moderator Roper invited RE Jan Enke, Moderator of the Administration Ministry Area, to give their report.

Enke thanked the ministry areas, committees, subcommittees, commissions, and their moderators and members, for their 2019 budget requests and reported that, based on requests submitted, the 2019 asking budget is \$14,000+ over projected income. She noted that the primary increase is a proposed additional \$20,000 in funding for the Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry Area, budgeted to work on meeting the goals of one of the three priorities of the Presbytery.

She also noted that the General Assembly's per capita was raised for 2019, resulting in a \$4,500 increase in that line item in the Presbytery's budget. In light of this increase, Enke urged Sessions to make their active rolls more accurate, so that the Presbytery will not pay the per capita for persons who are no longer active in the church.

Enke reiterated the three priorities of the Presbytery, affirmed at the June 2, 2018 meeting:

- Building strong congregations that faithfully and effectively share the gospel through mission and ministry;
- Connecting congregations, resources and expertise to support life giving practices in congregations and fellowships;
- Developing and supporting ministries with youth and young adults including collegiate and campus ministry.

Enke explained that after discussion, which considered the interest income/spend rate of investments with the Texas Presbyterian Foundation and the existing surplus, the Administration Ministry Area approved designating \$14,300.00 of the surplus from 2017 to be used to balance the proposed budget for 2019. The draft of the 2019 Proposed Budget is included in the Appendix as Attachment H.

The Administration Ministry Area's report reflected that General Presbyter Stewart Smith and Temporary Stated Clerk Leslie Belden were reviewed in their roles as elected presbytery staff, as annually required by the Synod, through conference calls with Catherine Allsbury and Jan Enke. Tom Verdery and Steve Hancock have been asked to develop a long-term plan for in-depth and cursory reviews.

Report of the Committee on Ministry

Committee on Ministry Moderator RE Cyril Hollingsworth expressed appreciation for the fine leadership offered by CREs David Clark and Ronnie Prevost, just commissioned. He also expressed appreciation for the leadership of the Rev. John Landis, at First Presbyterian Church of Pine Buff.

Hollingsworth made the following motion:

Motion to enroll MWS Susan Arnold as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and request her dismissal from the Presbytery of the Pines. Her covenant as Transitional Pastor of Wynne Presbyterian Church was approved by the Committee on Ministry

and was shared later in the report as information. Her Statement of Faith is included in the Appendix as Attachment I.

Motion approved.

Moderator Hollingsworth invited MWS Arnold to come and be welcomed back to the Presbytery. She expressed her gratitude to be back in Arkansas and serving the congregation of the Wynne Presbyterian Church.

Motion to approve the call of MWS John Arnold to serve as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Walnut Ridge; to enroll him as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and request his dismissal from the Presbytery of the Pines; with the following terms of call and an effective date of July 1, 2018. His Statement of Faith is included in the Appendix as Attachment J.

Effective Salary	
Salary	\$30,000
Housing	18,000
Deferred Compensation	4,320
TOTAL	\$52,320

Reimbursable expense (by voucher)	
Automobile expense (\$.50/mile)	\$3,000
Business/professional expenses	800
SECA Supplement (up to 50%)	3,600
Continuing Education	1,200
Moving Costs (up to)	10,000
Full medical, pension, disability, and death benefit coverage under the Board of Pensions	\$19,096.80
Paid Vacation:	4 weeks
Paid Continuing Education	2 weeks
Paid Parental Leave	6 weeks

Sabbatical plan is to be approved by the Committee on Ministry at the end of five years of full-time ministry.

and with the Service of Installation to be on Sunday, November 11, 2018 at 5:30 pm, the offering recipient to be the Presbytery of Arkansas' Sub-Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response, and the following to serve on the Administrative Commission to install:

- RE Lee Bennett, First Presbyterian Church, Paragould
- MWS Bill Branch, HR, to Charge the Congregation
- RE Patty Minga, First Presbyterian Church, Jonesboro
- RE Thomas Moore, First Presbyterian Church, Walnut Ridge to ask the Questions of the Congregation
- MWS Leslie Roper to Moderate and Propound the Constitutional Questions

MWS Patty Schaller to Charge the Pastor
MWS Bill Seitz to Preach

Motion approved.

Moderator Hollingsworth then invited MWS John Arnold to come to the front and be welcomed to the presbytery. He expressed his appreciation of being back in the presbytery and serving the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Walnut Ridge.

Motion to approve the call of MWS Alisa Secrest to serve as Associate Pastor for Congregational Nurture at Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock; to enroll her as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and request her dismissal from the Presbytery of Chicago; with the following terms of call and an effective date of August 1, 2018. Her Statement of Faith is included in the Appendix as Attachment K.

Effective Salary	
Salary/Housing	\$72,000.00
Medical	18,000.00
Pension	7,920.00
Death & Disability	720.00
Continuing Education	1,500.00
Car Allowance	2,500.00
Business/professional expenses	2,000.00
Paid Parental Leave	6 weeks per year
Sabbatical Plan	- To be approved by COM at the end of five years of full time ministry, awarded in the seventh year
Vacation	4 weeks per year
Short-term Disability	Up to 90 days of full salary

and with the Service of Installation to be on Sunday, January 13, 2019 at 3:00 pm, the offering recipient to be Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, and the following to serve on the Administrative Commission to install:

MWS Carol Clark, HR, to Charge the Pastor
MWS Gordon Garlington, HR
MWS Steve Hancock
RE Cyril Hollingsworth, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, to Charge the Congregation
RE Karene Jones, Park Hill Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock
RE David Stricklin, Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, to Moderate and Propound the Constitutional Questions
MWS Linda Whitworth-Reed, HR to Preach

Motion approved.

Moderator Hollingsworth invited MWS Alisa Secret to come to the front and be welcomed by the presbytery. She expressed her appreciation to be in Arkansas and working with the congregation of Second Presbyterian Church.

Motion to approve the call of MWS Matt Bussell to serve as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Jonesboro; to enroll him as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and request his dismissal from the Presbytery of Pittsburgh; with the following terms of call and an effective date of September 4, 2018. His Statement of Faith is included in the Appendix as Attachment L.

Effective Salary	
Cash Salary	33,800.00
Housing Allowance	20,000.00
Medical Coverage (flex)	1,200.00
403b Retirement Plan	2,500.00
Board of Pensions	21,275.00
Church share of FICA	2,585.70
Continuing Education	5,700.00
Other Pastor expenses (vouchered)	1,200.00
Mileage Reimbursement (vouchered, only for travel outside NEA)	1,200.00
Family Dental Insurance	1,632.00

Moving Expenses (including expenses of registering vehicles, changing drivers' licenses, etc.) incurred within 2018-2019 (this can be used for one or two moves, but must be completed in 2019) 11,000.00

Temporary living expenses (church should pay these directly) \$1,000/month

Vacation – 4 weeks, family leave as per Presbytery policy of up to 6 weeks

Professional development – 2 weeks

Sabbatical plan, 3 months paid leave, available in the seventh year of the call (as approved by the Presbytery Committee on Ministry after year 5 of full time ministry).

D. Min. Plan – Matt will work to complete his Ph.D. by December 31, 2021. The church will supplement the Continuing Education budget above by up to \$4,500 in 2019-21, and expand professional development time, up to 4 weeks per year during this time.

and with the Service of Installation to be on Sunday, October 28, 2018 at 3:00 pm, the offering recipient to be the Theological Education Fund of the PC(USA), and the following to serve on the Administrative Commission to install:

MWS Margaret Alsup

MWS Leslie Belden

RE Don Eilbott, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

RE Cyril Hollingsworth, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

RE Carla Houston, First, Jonesboro, to Charge the Congregation

MWS Leslie Roper to Moderate and Propound the Constitutional Questions
MWS Stewart Smith to Preach and Charge the Pastor

Motion approved.

Moderator Hollingsworth invited MWS Bussell to come to the front and be welcomed. He expressed his appreciation to be in Arkansas and serving the congregation of First, Jonesboro.

Moderator Roper then recognized members of the Wynne Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church of Walnut Ridge, Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, and First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro, who were here supporting those assuming pastoral leadership for their congregations.

COM Moderator Hollingsworth asked the Presbytery to pause for a moment of prayer to commemorate the faithful service of MWS Park Moore, HR, who died on August 3, 2018. His necrology is included in the Appendix as Attachment M.

Continuing a practice begun in 2004 by then Presbytery Moderator RE Ted Belden, Moderator Hollingsworth, assisted by MWS Dari Rowen, recognized on behalf of the Committee on Ministry all Ministers of Word and Sacrament members of the Presbytery who this year celebrated, or will celebrate, anniversaries in five-year increments. The following were honored as first-time honorees, receiving engraved key-rings:

Ministers 15 Years	Ministers 30 Years
MWS Philip Blackburn	MWS Robert "Chip" Hatcher
MWS Tasha Blackburn	
MWS Blake Brinegar	Ministers 35 Years
	MWS Paul Fulks
Ministers 25 Years	
MWS John Arnold	

Church Professionals who were earlier honored in 2013 in the tenth year of the celebration of five-year increments include:

10 Years	40 Years	Certified Christian Educator - 60 years
MWS Elizabeth Gabbard	MWS Alan Ford, HR	Nancy Irving Smith
15 Years	45 Years	
MWS Anne Russ	MWS Tom Carter, HR	
MWS Patty Schaller	MWS Darwin Wolfe, HR	
20 Years	55 Years	
MWS Ruskin Falls	MWS Joseph Boatwright, HR	
MWS Dennis Ritchie	MWS William Branch, HR	
MWS Michael Vinson	MWS Joseph Tropansky, HR	

30 Years	60 Years	
MWS Catherine Allsbury, HR	MWS David Lavery, HR	
MWS Debra Carl		
	65 Years	
	MWS Don Campbell, HR	

Moderator Hollingsworth then made a motion to grant the Coordinating Team the authority to approve, on behalf of the Presbytery of Arkansas, and subsequently seek Presbytery’s ratification of, recommendations from the Committee on Ministry on:
calls of pastors;
terms of calls of pastors;
enrolling him or her as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and requesting dismissal from her or his previous presbytery, if not already a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas; and
details of the Presbytery’s worship service to install, including the date, time of the service, offering recipient, and members of the Administrative Commission.

The motion was discussed, with explanations of how this new process would differ from current procedures. **The motion was approved.**

The following information was shared with the Presbytery:

MWS D.C. Adams was approved as the Committee on Ministry’s representative on the Coordinating Team.

The Committee on Ministry concurred with the dissolution of call of MWS Mike McCracken as Pastor of Wynne Presbyterian Church, effective May 20, 2018.

The Committee on Ministry concurred with the dissolution of call of MWS Jai Kwak as pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, Pine Bluff, effective August 12, 2018.

The Committee on Ministry renewed the covenant of MWS Marci Ward to serve as Stated Supply of the Harmony Presbyterian Church, Clarksville, effective July 1, 2018 - July 1, 2019.

The Committee on Ministry approved the covenant of MWS Cindy Saul to serve as Stated Supply of the Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals effective July 1, 2018 - July 1, 2019.

The Committee on Ministry approved the covenant of Rev. James L. Ratliff, a member in good standing of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, to serve as Temporary Pastor of Spring River Presbyterian Church, Hardy, effective July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019, with the Pastor to serve part-time and be compensated as follows: Salary \$3,000; Housing Allowance \$5,000; Automobile Expense \$1,600 (reimbursement); for \$9,600 total.

The Committee on Ministry renewed the Transitional Pastor covenant of Rev. Doug Miller, of the Disciples of Christ denomination, and Holiday Island Presbyterian Church effective June 1, 2018 for a period of up to six months with the following terms of call:

Effective Salary

Salary	\$29,000
Church Reserves held for future pastoral expenses	23,880

Other Benefits

Continuing Education – 2 weeks/year	Up to \$1,200
Vacation – 4 weeks	

The Committee on Ministry approved the covenant of MWS Linda Whitworth-Reed, HR, to serve as Pulpit Supply of First Presbyterian Church, Morrilton, effective June 1, 2018 for a period of 4 months, with the following provisions:

MWS Whitworth-Reed is contracted to preach 2 Sundays per month and serve 3 weeks per month in pastoral, ministerial and administrative duties (ordinarily 48 hours/month).

Monthly Compensation	\$2,000
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Other Compensation

Special Ministry Events (Memorial Services, Weddings)	\$200/event
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Mileage Reimbursement Including hospitals, visitations, etc.	\$.545/mile (2018 federal mileage reimbursement rate)
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Plus minimum four (4) 40-mile round-trips to Conway-Morrilton monthly
Mileage report to be submitted via email by Rev. LWR

The salary and allowances shall be paid monthly by FPCMA

The Committee on Ministry approved the covenant of RE Sylvia Tate to serve as Pulpit Supply of First Presbyterian Church, Newport, effective July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. The terms of agreement are \$200 per Sunday Service and weekly mileage reimbursement at \$.545 per mile. RE Tate will alternate Sundays with MWS David Reed, HR.

The Committee on Ministry approved the covenant of MWS David Reed, HR, to serve as Pulpit Supply of First Presbyterian Church, Newport, effective August 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019. The terms of agreement are \$250 per Sunday Service and an additional \$100 per session meeting as moderator, with weekly mileage reimbursement at \$.545 per mile.

The Committee on Ministry approved the covenant of MWS Paul Fulks to serve as Stated Supply of First Presbyterian Church, Van Buren, effective July 1, 2018, with the following terms of call:

Salary		\$60,000.00
Housing		20,000.00
Continuing Education		1,200.00
FICA		4,590.00
Board of Pensions (est.) (36.5%)		29,200.00
TOTAL		\$114,900.00
Paid Vacation:	4 weeks	
Paid Continuing Education:	2 weeks	
One-time moving expense:	\$3,400.00	

The Committee on Ministry approved the covenant of MWS Susan Arnold to serve as Transitional Pastor of Wynne Presbyterian Church, Wynne, effective August 1, 2018, with the following terms of call:

Effective Salary		
Cash Salary		\$41,280.00
Housing (Manse)*		13,284.00
Deferred Comp (Emp. Match)*		3,000.00
Deferred Comp (Church Match)		3,000.00
Pensions and Medical Benefits (full)		\$21,298.68
Continuing Education		1,200.00
Dental Insurance		830.88
½ Self Emp. Taxes		2,600.00
Reimbursement of Ministry Expenses		1,000.00
Automobile Expenses @ \$.54/mile		6,000.00
Vacation – One (1) week per quarter		

Report of the General Assembly Commissioners/Polity Committee

General Assembly Commissioners MWS Dari Rowen, MWS Michael Vinson, and Young Adult Advisory Delegate Emma Gillaspay told of their experiences at the June 2018 meeting of General Assembly. GA Commissioners RE Kim Brooks and RE Ray Woodruff could not attend this meeting. MWS Dari Rowen served on the “Mid-Council Committee” and MWS Michael Vinson was a member of “The Way Forward Committee.” YAAD Emma Gillaspay, who served on the Church Polity Committee, explained the work and function of the Young Adult Advisory Delegates (YAADs). She also shared with the Presbytery enthusiastically her new meme for Presbyterians: “No Longer the Frozen Chosen: #thawedandcalled.

Break

Moderator Leslie Roper then recessed the meeting for a short break.

Re-Convene

The Moderator reconvened the meeting at 10:30 am for the Order of the Day's theological discussion.

Theological Discussion on "Politics and the Pulpit"

Moderator Roper introduced RE Peg Falls-Corbitt, who then led those assembled through a thoughtful and prayerful discussion on the theology of "Politics and the Pulpit." The exercise, which RE Falls-Corbitt broadened to be titled, "Politics and the Church," creatively led the Presbytery through the complexities of a proposed amendment to the *Book of Order* to be voted on at the March 1-2, 2019, meeting to forbid congregations, ministers, sessions, presbyteries or synods to endorse candidates for political office.

Report of the Future of the Church Ministry Area

Moderator Roper called on RE Peg Falls-Corbitt, who gave the report of the Future of the Church Ministry Area in the absence of Moderator RE Ted Belden. Information in the report included reporting that \$28,500 had been awarded to eight churches, out of ten requests which totaled \$44,100. Those receiving grants included:

First Presbyterian Church of Batesville	\$2,500
First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville	\$5,000
Vaughn Presbyterian Church, Bentonville	\$3,000
Barr Memorial Presbyterian Church, Norman	\$5,000
First Presbyterian Church of Van Buren	\$1,000
Mt. Comfort Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville	\$3,000
University of the Ozarks, Clarksville	\$5,000
The Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista	<u>\$4,000</u>
	\$28,500

These churches will submit reports in January and the Future of the Church Ministry Area will share the details of their work at the March 1-2, 2019, Presbytery meeting.

RE Falls Corbitt also reported that educational sessions focusing on the book *Growing Young* by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin were led at the two P.L.A.C.E. events in the spring and summer. The Future of the Church Ministry Area will be exploring ways to help the Presbytery of Arkansas use the tools described in the book, and recommend that congregations wanting to embrace an exciting future use the book as a resource.

Congregations interested in being part of a Presbytery Social Media Ministry Team were invited to contact Ted Belden at tedbelden@aol.com. In addition, congregations were encouraged to contact Tom Riggs, the Synod of the Sun's resource person on social media for assistance as needed. His contact info is thomas.riggs@synodsun.org or 214-390-1894.

Report of the Committee on Nominations

MWS Robert Hadley, HR, Moderator of the Committee on Nominations, made the following motions:

The Committee on Nominations moved the election of the following persons to the Class of 2021:

Administration Ministry Area

RE Tony Booth, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village

RE Jan Enke, First, Van Buren

RE Julie Gillaspay, First, Conway

Committee on Ministry

MWS Susan Arnold, Wynne Presbyterian Church

MWS Bill Branch, HR, Eastern Arkansas

RE Charles Cook, Central, Fort Smith

MWS Fern Davis, Holly Grove Presbyterian

RE Charles Harwell, First, Springdale

RE Cindy Lanphear, Harmony, Clarksville

RE Sid McCollum, Westover Hills, Little Rock

MWS Dari Rowen, First, Benton

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

RE Kim Danehower, Graham Memorial, Forrest City

MWS Susan Gray, Vaughn, Bentonville

CCE/RE NiAnn Thompson, Westminster, Hot Springs

RE Kathy White, First, Hot Springs

Counselor at Law

RE Charlotte Scott, First, Fort Smith

Future of the Church Ministry Area

RE Collins Andrews, Second, Little Rock

MWS Blake Brinegar, First, Yellville

RE Dick Freer, First, Jonesboro

MWS Becky Purcell, First, Prairie Grove

Ministry with Youth, Young Adults and Campus Ministry Area (YAT and UKirk appointees still to be named)

RE Ashley Clark, First, Bentonville

MWS Jen Evans, Second, Little Rock

MWS Bill Seitz, First, Mena

Mission of the Church Ministry Area

MWS Jan Butin, First United, Fayetteville

RE Bruce Johnston, First, Batesville

RE Emily Laurel, First, Benton

Subcommittee on Disaster Preparedness and Response

MWS Courtney Bacon-Latina, First, Malvern

RE Elizabeth Branch, Westover Hills, Little Rock

RE Douglas Forsman, Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay

RE Ray Stephens, Westover Hills, Little Rock

Moderator Roper asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, **the motion was approved.**

The Committee on Nominations moved the election of the following persons to the Class of 2020:

Committee on Ministry

MWS Lacy Sellars, First, Hot Springs

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

MWS Terry Tallent, First, McGehee

Committee on Representation

RE Ledridge Davis, First, Malvern

RE LaWanda Harris, Pulaski Heights, Little Rock

MWS Marie Mainard O'Connell, Park Hill, North Little Rock

RE Duke Monroe, First, Jacksonville

Coordinating Team

MWS Ruskin Falls, Pulaski Heights, Little Rock

Certified Christian Educator/RE Jeannie Ford, Second, Little Rock

Subcommittee on Disaster Preparedness and Response

RE Kaleb Smith, First, Springdale

Young Adult Advisory Delegate to General Assembly, 2020

Ms. Hartley Allen, First, Springdale

Commissioners to General Assembly, 2020

RE Ron David, Mount Vernon, Pea Ridge

MWS Ruskin Falls, Pulaski Heights, Little Rock

RE Ruth Hamilton, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village

MWS Marie Mainard O'Connell, Park Hill, North Little Rock

Moderator Roper asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, **the motion was approved.**

The Committee on Nominations moved the election of the following persons to the Class of 2019:

Vice-Moderator of Presbytery of Arkansas—MWS Marion Humphrey, Allison Memorial, Little Rock

Moderator, Administration Ministry Area—RE Jan Enke, First, Van Buren

Moderator, Committee on Ministry—RE Cyril Hollingsworth, Second, Little Rock

Moderator, Committee on Preparation for Ministry—MWS Jeff Price, Trinity, Little Rock

Moderator, Committee on Representation - RE Nancy Bateman, Pulaski Heights, Little Rock

Moderator, Coordinating Team—MWS Leslie Bethell Roper, First, Batesville

Moderator, Disaster Preparedness and Response Subcommittee -- RE Ray Stephens, Westover Hills, Little Rock

Moderator, Future of the Church Ministry Area—RE Ted Belden, First United, Fayetteville

Moderator, Ministry with Youth, Young Adults and Campus Ministry Area—MWS Brian Brock, Central, Russellville

Moderator, Mission of the Church Ministry Area --MWS Gordon Garlington, HR, North Little Rock

Moderator, Presbytery of Arkansas—RE David Stricklin, Westover Hills, Little Rock

Member, Committee on Preparation for Ministry – CRE David Clark, First, Heber Springs

Moderator Roper asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, **the motion was approved.**

The Committee on Nominations moved the election of the following persons to serve on the Stated Clerk Search Committee when needed: (This is same committee that did this work in 2015.)

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

RE Richard Freer, First, Jonesboro

MWS Steve Hancock, Second, LR

MWS Georgia Senor, First, Bentonville

CCE Theresa Spragins, First, Conway

Staff Resource, General Presbyter MWS Stewart Smith

The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. **The motion was approved.**

MWS Bob Hadley, HR, Moderator of the Committee on Nominations, pointed out the form used to nominate individuals for service to the Presbytery and encouraged those present to consider nominating either themselves or others. That form is included in the Appendix as Attachment N.

Report of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area

Due to the illness of Mission of the Church Ministry Area Moderator, RE Kelly Pearson, Ministry Area member RE Emily Laurel reported on the two P.L.A.C.E. events held in April at First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville and in August at Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock. She thanked MWS Jan Butin and CCE Kristi Button for their leadership of the P.L.A.C.E. event in Fayetteville, and CCE Jeannie Ford Andrews for her leadership of the P.L.A.C.E. event in Little Rock. RE Laurel also asked members of the presbytery to share with her and the Ministry Area comments and suggestions for future P.L.A.C.E. events.

The Ministry Area's written report also shared that the Mission of the Church Ministry Area receives periodic reports from their two subcommittees, the Subcommittee on Disaster

Preparedness and Response, and the Subcommittee on Honduras Ministry, as well as from entities which covenant with the Ministry Area, including: Presbyterian Women, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Arkansas Black Presbyterian Caucus, the Presbytery Resource Center, and Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage.

The written report also noted that Unified Mission Emphasis grants were recently approved for First Presbyterian Church, McGehee, and Westminster Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs.

RE Laurel also encouraged those present to apply for “evangelism grants” given through the Mission of the Church Ministry Area, which can be for up to \$400, of which First Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock/Argenta was the first recipient. The deadline for applications is December 1, 2018, and Laurel asked that churches receiving a grant from this or another Ministry Area this year to consider allowing others to make application. Applications should include the name of the project or ministry and the total cost of the project/ministry, as well as indicate that the church’s session has given approval to make the request. Applications should be sent to RE Kelly Pearson: Moderator of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area at pearsons.nwar@gmail.com.

Report of the Subcommittee on Honduras Ministry

In the absence of Chris Williams, MWS Leslie Belden reported on the recent ministry trip to Honduras, which included representatives of the Presbytery of Arkansas, and invited the Presbytery to read the reports included in their packets. MWS Belden shared with the presbytery how MWS David Gill had submitted a grant request from the PC(USA) Presbyterian Women’s Birthday Offering that resulted in a \$100,000 grant serving the Presbyterian Women of Honduras.

Recess for Lunch

Moderator Roper recessed the meeting for a lunch break. Joel Gill gave instructions on the mechanics of lunch, and Emma Gillaspay led those assembled in the “Chocolate Cake” blessing.

Minute Announcements

Announcements were made as lunch was ending, including:

- Dawn Dvoracek, First Presbyterian Church of Clarksville and the University of the Ozarks, speaking on behalf of Ozarks’ chaplain, Jeremy Wilhemi (leading a university mission trip helping with hurricane relief), relating how the University was looking forward to hosting the next presbytery meeting on March 1-2, 2019, and also reminding of the opportunity the University offers for pastors and educators to spend study time at the University (contact MWS Wilhemi for details);
- MWS Bobby Williamson, promoting his book, *The Forgotten Books of the Bible*;

- MWS Maggie Alsup, chaplain at Lyon College, sharing that the campus ministry at Lyon College has t-shirts for sale;
- MWS Jen Evans, Associate Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, promoting the Worship and Arts Conference at Mo-Ranch;
- Kathy French, Director of Development at Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home and Family Services, inviting all to make use of the devotions for Advent to be published by VLH again this year;
- RE Vicki Jones of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs, inviting participation in future Presbyterian Pilgrimage weekend events;
- MWS Bill Branch, presenting plaques from Lyon College to MWS Stewart Smith and MWS Gordon Garlington in appreciation for their service on the Board of Trustees of that institution;
- MWS Sally Johnson, inviting all to read her newly published novel, *After Yesterday*;
- MWS Stewart Smith, urging all to attend the Imagine event sponsored by the Synod of the Sun on November 2-3, 2018, where MWS Elizabeth Gabbard will be installed as Moderator of Synod and MWS Steve Hancock to lead one of the seminars;
- RE Cathy Rogers, Co-Moderator of Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Arkansas, highlighting the work of PW, its national gathering this past summer that saw 15 women from presbytery attending, PW's four cluster gatherings this year, with approximately 200 in attendance, the PW Bible study for 2018-2019, PW's 2019 Spring Gathering to be held at First, Jonesboro, and a Synod PW meeting scheduled for Tulsa in 2019.

Presbytery Reconvenes

Moderator Roper called the meeting back to order and asked Vice-Moderator RE David Stricklin to assume the duties of moderating the meeting while she gave the report of the Presbytery's Task Force on Staff Structure.

Report of the Presbytery's Task Force on Staff Structure

Task Force Moderator MWS Leslie Roper invited fellow Task Force member RE Julie Adkisson of First Presbyterian Church, Conway, to join her along with General Presbyter Stewart Smith, the staff liaison. MWS Kelly Pearson, an additional member of the Task Force, was unable to be at the meeting due to illness. Roper thanked MWS David Dyer, HR, originally a member of the Task Force who resigned this summer, for his good work with the group. She then explained the history of the Task Force, and called attention to the report of the Task Force included in the packet, which is included in the Appendix as Attachment O.

MWS Roper explained the Task Force's understanding of their task was not to evaluate the current staffing plan or those holding those positions, but rather to discern the staffing

pattern that would best enable the presbytery, within the resources available, to fulfill its role in the years ahead. Those were the Task Force's hopes and prayers for the future, she emphasized. There is no perfect plan, she underlined, reminding that the Presbytery of Arkansas is really all of us -- congregations, Ruling Elders, and Ministers of the Word and Sacrament – not just the staff.

The Task Force's plan recommended a full-time General Presbyter and five part-time positions: Part-Time Stated Clerk, Part-Time Presbytery Administrator, Part-Time Presbytery Builder, Part-Time Presbytery Connector, Part-Time Presbytery Developer of Ministries to, for, and with Young People.

Questions about the plan were asked and answered by members of the Task Force.

A motion was then made by RE Jim Gilbreath of First Presbyterian Church, Springdale, and seconded, **that the recommendations of the Task Force on Staff Structure be approved.** Discussion of the motion ensued. **The motion was approved.**

MWS Maggie Alsup **moved that the current Stated Clerk Search Committee be dissolved and that the Coordinating Team be tasked with the responsibility of appointing a Search Committee with the responsibility of recommending persons to serve in each of the positions in the new staffing structure, as well as that of the position of Stated Clerk.**

The motion was seconded, and discussion of the motion ensued. **The motion was approved.**

Call to Fill Out Evaluation Forms

Thanking Vice-Moderator Stricklin for his leadership, MWS Roper returned to her role as Presbytery Moderator, pausing to allow tellers to distribute evaluation forms to the body and asking those attending the meeting to please fill out a form before the end of the meeting. Forms were collected and a basket placed in a prominent place pointed out for those who completed the form as the meeting was ending.

MWS Blake Brinegar moved that the Task Force on Staff Structure be dissolved, with appreciation. The motion was seconded and approved.

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

Moderator Roper called the attention of the body to the report of the Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry Area included in the main packet, stating that they had no additional verbal report.

Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Moderator MWS Jeff Price began his report underlining the responsibility of presbytery to keep in touch with individuals who are in the process of candidacy, offering support and encouragement, and also encouraging congregations whose membership includes persons in the process of candidacy to stay in touch with those individuals offering support and encouragement.

Moderator MWS Jeff Price invited Inquirer LaWanda Harris to join him at the front of the room, and **moved, on behalf of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, that LaWanda Harris be examined for candidacy by the Presbytery of Arkansas. Motion approved.** Her Statement of Faith is in the Appendix labeled Attachment P.

RE Harris then answered questions from the floor pertaining to her Statement of Faith.

Moderator Price then moved that RE Harris be moved from the status of Inquirer to that of Candidate for the Ministry. The motion was seconded. RE Harris left the room. **The motion was approved unanimously.** RE Harris was then brought back into the meeting with a standing ovation.

RE Harris' pastor, MWS Ruskin Falls of Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church, was invited to come and assist with a service recognizing RE Harris as a Candidate for the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Members of the Pulaski Heights congregation present in support of RE Harris were recognized.

Moderator Roper then led the service commissioning RE Harris as a Candidate for the Ministry, assisted by MWS Falls who led the presbytery in prayer for RE Harris' ministry.

New Business - Report of the Presbytery's Commissioner to Synod of the Sun

MWS Elizabeth Gabbard reported enthusiastically on the upcoming events of the Synod, including her upcoming installation as Synod of the Sun Moderator. She especially invited any who might be able to attend the upcoming Imagine event for which openings still exist.

Report of the Leaves of Absence Committee

Temporary Stated Clerk Belden reported for the Leaves of Absence Committee on attendance:

- 56 Ministers of the Word and Sacrament;
- 58 Ruling Elder Commissioners, representing 37 different congregations;
- 2 Commissioned Ruling Elders;
- 9 corresponding members; and
- 30 visitors

For a grand total of 155 people in attendance.

Commitment to God's Call - Referrals

Temporary Stated Clerk Belden listed the following referral from the meeting: the referral to the Coordinating Team to appoint a search committee for the Stated Clerk and the four new staff positions as presented by the Task Force on Staff Structure and approved earlier in the meeting.

Closing Prayer

MWS Maggie Alsup gave the closing prayer, holding up the joys and concerns of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Adjournment

By common consent, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS Gordon Garlington
Recording Clerk

MWS Leslie Belden
Temporary Stated Clerk

Appendix

Contents

- Attachment A – Roster of Attendance/Enrollment
- Attachment B – Covenant with Wellspring Renewal Center
- Attachment C – RE David Clark Statement of Faith
- Attachment D – RE Ronnie Prevost Statement of Faith
- Attachment E - Documents Sent to Presbyterian Historical Society, August 2018
- Attachment F – Financial Information as of September 30, 2018
- Attachment G – Friday Evening, October 19, 2018, Worship Bulletin
- Attachment H – 2019 Proposed Budget
- Attachment I – MWS Susan Arnold Statement of Faith
- Attachment J – MWS John Arnold Statement of Faith
- Attachment K – MWS Alicia Seacrest Statement of Faith
- Attachment L – MWS Matt Bussell Statement of Faith
- Attachment M – Necrology of MWS Park Moore, HR
- Attachment N – Nominations Form
- Attachment O – Proposed Staff Structure by the Staff Structure Task Force
- Attachment P – Inquirer LaWanda Harris Statement of Faith

Attachment A – Roster of Attendance

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament

In Attendance

D.C. Adams

Karen Kokles Akin

“Maggie” Alsup

Bill Bailey

Leslie Belden

Valerie Hobby Bell

Tasha Blackburn

Blake Brinegar

Brian Brock

Joy Carrington

Mark Clark

Katie Cummings

Kade Curry

Fern Davis

Krista Denne’

Jen Evans

Ruskin Falls

Steven Frazier

Elizabeth Gabbard

Susan Gray

Steve Hancock

“Chip” Hatcher

Marion Humphrey

Young Doo Kim

Steven Kurtz

Courtney Bacon Latina

Frank LeBlanc

Marie Mainard O-Connell

Dennis Ritchie

Leslie Bethell Roper

Dari Rowen

Anne Russ

Cindy Saul

David Schaller

Patricia Schaller

William Seitz

Lacy Sellars

Georgia Senor

J. Stewart Smith

Rebecca Spooner

Michael Vinson

Lindy Vogado

Robert Williamson

Excused from Attending

Philip Blackburn

Jan Butin

Phil Butin

Debbie Carl

Lance Clemmons

Lewis Donelson, IV

James Farley, III

Paul Fulks

Al Henager

Jennifer Lord

Susan Rose

Shauna Silmon

Mike Ulasewich

Marci Ward

Jeremy Wilhelmi

Dan Wooley

Harry Young

Absent without Excuse

Clifton P. Ford

John Gibson

Cameron Highsmith

Libby Lizarraga

Timothy C. Reeves

Terry Tallent

Honorably Retired Active Ministers of the Word and Sacrament

In Attendance

Catherine L. Allsbury, HR
William W. Branch, HR
Ira Brighton, HR
Carol Clark, HR
David Dyer, HR
Gordon Garlington, III, HR
David Gill, HR

Robert Hadley, HR
Sally Johnson, HR
John King, HR
James Miller, HR
Richard H. Miller, HR
Joe Tropansky, HR

Excused from Attending

Ben Bateman, HR
Don Campbell, HR
Danny Daniel, HR
Joyce Daniel, HR

Lance Jones, HR
Rita Wilson Perry, HR
David Reed, HR
Fred Taylor, HR

Active and Absent without Excuse

Milton Davis, HR
Orin Frank, HR
Howard H. Gordon, HR
Richard Frothingham, HR
William F. Henning, HR
David S. King, HR

“Bo” Lewis, HR
Terry McLellan, HR
Richard Shinkle, HR
Don Wardlaw, HR
Darwin Wolfe, HR

Ruling Elder Commissioners from Congregations/Sessions

In Attendance

Batesville, First: Janet Thomas
Bella Vista: Barbara Tropansky
and Ronnie Prevost
Benton, First: Emily Laurel
Bentonville, First: Michael and
Janice Zoller
Bull Shoals: Stephen Broskovan
Clarksville, First: Linda Castleman
Clarksville, Harmony: Cindy
Lanphear
Conway, First: Toni Edsall
Dardanelle, First: Cathy Baker
Fairfield Bay, Kirk of the Hills:
Douglas Forsman
Fayetteville, First United: Eunice
Millett and Bo Morton
Fort Smith, Central: Charles Cook
Fort Smith, First: Conley Hall
Heber Springs, First: Scott Rezapak

Holiday Island: Roxanne Royster
Horseshoe Bend, Faith: Jackie
Kizer
Hot Springs, Westminster: Vicki
Jones
Hot Springs Village, Kirk in the
Pines: Pat Kuntz
Hot Springs Village, Woodlands:
R.E. Russell
Huntsville, First: Carla Taylor
Jonesboro, First: Corinne Carey
Little Rock, Allison: Wynona
Bryant-Williams
Little Rock, First: Libby Ingram
Little Rock, Grace: Judy Conley
Little Rock, Pulaski Heights:
Marian Dyer

Little Rock, Second: Rosslyn Elliott,
Melissa Fontaine, Monica
Christensen, John Hall
Little Rock, Westover Hills: Sally
Browder
Malvern, First: Cindy Gage
Mena, First: John Forsyth
Norman, Barr Memorial: Noah
Williamson
North Little Rock, First: Joel Gill

Pine Bluff, Central: Zac Cosner
Pine Bluff, First: Kitty Rubenstein
Prairie Grove, First: Pat Lyle
Russellville, Central: Cindy
Thompson and Adrienne
Shelton
Springdale, First: David Buck and
James Gilbreath
Walnut Ridge, First: Vicky Davis
Yellville, First: Felice Dennis

Congregations with Excused Absence

Arkadelphia, West End
Atkins, Memorial
Benton, First
Bentonville, Vaughn
Forrest City, Graham Memorial
Greenwood, Good Shepherd

Hot Springs, First
Jacksonville, First
Little Rock, Westminster
Marianna, First
Pea Ridge, Mt. Vernon

Congregations not Represented and without an Excuse

Alma, First
Amity, Alpine
Arkadelphia, First
Beebe, First
Brinkley, First
Cane Hill
Eureka Springs, First
Fayetteville, Mt. Comfort
Fort Smith, First: Second Comm.
Gurdon, First
Hardy, Spring River
Harrison, First
Helena, First
Lincoln, First
Little Rock, Trinity: Both Comm.

Lonoke, First
McGehee, First
Morrilton, First
Morrilton, Hopewell
Mountain Home, First
Mountainburg
Newport, First
North Little Rock, Park Hill
Paragould, First
Pine Bluff, Faith
Rogers, First
Stuttgart, First
Van Buren, First
West Helena, Cleburne Avenue
Wynne, Wynne

At-Large Commissioners (Ruling Elders who attend and vote due to their position)

In Attendance

Bob Boehmler, Treasurer
Ledridge Davis, Representation
Jan Enke, Administration
Peg Falls-Corbitt, CT
Ruth Hamilton, CT

Cyril Hollingsworth, COM
Karene Jones, CT
Cathy Rogers, PW
Marty Shepherd, CT
David Stricklin, Vice Moderator

Excused from Attending
RE Ted Belden, Future

Absent without Excuse
Ila Blackketter-Wolfe

Commissioned Ruling Elders

In Attendance
K.C. Chanthorn

Chuck Olson

Excused from Attending
Carolyn Beane
Claire Rhodes

Kenneth Rhodes
Ed Wilkinson

Absent without Excuse
Hartley Jones

Rita Manske

Harlis Wright

Certified Christian Educators

Excused from Attending
Kristi Button
Jeannie Ford

Nancy Irving Smith, retired
NiAnn Thompson, retired

Absent without Excuse
Lynn King, retired

Corresponding Members in Attendance

MWS John Arnold, The Pines
MWS Susan Arnold, The Pines
MWS Matt Bussell, Pittsburgh
Rev. Michael Erwin, UCC
MWS Kevin Keaton, New Covenant

Rev. John Landis, American Baptist
MWS Rose Niles, New Covenant
MWS Alicia Secrest, Chicago
RE Valerie Young, Grace

Visitors to the Meeting

Representing Organizations and Institutions

Presbyterian Village: Melissa Jenkins
Texas Presbyterian Foundation: Jake Wilson
University of the Ozarks: Dawn Dvoracek
Vera Lloyd Home: Kathy French

From Congregations

Conway, First: Jill Acre
Emma Gillaspy
Julie Adkisson
Fayetteville, First United: Sally King

Fort Smith, Central:	Suzanne Bethell
Heber Springs, First:	David Clark
Horseshoe Bend, Faith:	Joann Summey
Hot Springs, Westminster:	Terry L. Young
Hot Springs Village, Kirk in the Pines:	Dave Hamilton
	Mel Kuntz
	Lowell Gardner
Jonesboro, First:	Matt Carey
	Sandy Puryear
	Bobby Puryear
Little Rock, Allison:	Vernita Humphrey
Little Rock, First:	Sarah Keith-Bolden
Little Rock, Mercy:	Bernadette Reynolds
Little Rock, Second:	Cliff Clifton
	Beth Highsmith
	Sam Highsmith
Little Rock, Westover Hills:	Mary Ellen Holder
	Liz Branch
North Little Rock, Park Hill:	Justin Clark
Prairie Grove, First:	Brenda Matts
Springdale, First:	Pam Gilbreath
Walnut Ridge, First:	Bob Davis
No Church Named:	Ann B. Pugh

Attachment B

Wellspring Renewal Center Contract Covenant Agreement

Wellspring Renewal Center and Rev. Rebecca M. Spooner LPC PLLC covenants/contracts with the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Arkansas to provide the following services from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019:

- Six free sessions of either psychological counseling or spiritual direction for the Presbytery's Active Minister members residing in the Presbytery or contiguous counties to the Presbytery of Arkansas (this does not include retired pastors unless they are currently serving congregations) Commissioned Ruling Elders, Certified/Certified Associate Christian Educators, Presbytery staff members (the Stated Clerk, the Director of Mission Support, and Staff for Youth), and their immediate family members.
- Counseling includes individual (child, adolescent and adult), family, marital, couples, and pre-marital counseling. It does not include after-hour emergency services which Wellspring does not provide to any client.
- Other services for the Minister members covered under this contract include: regular correspondence, emergency pastoral calls when needed, and crisis/conflict consultations.
- Counseling services will be provided by Rev. Rebecca Spooner LPC, and other therapists in the Clergy Counseling Network which is managed by Wellspring Renewal Center.

The annual covenant relationship fee is \$85 per minister/staff covered. Please signify the total number of persons you desire to be covered by this contract:

65	Teaching Elders (Minister Members of the Presbytery)
3	Presbytery Staff
10	Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs)
9	Certified and Certified Associate Christian Educators
87 x <u>\$85.00</u>	

TOTAL FEE: \$7395.00

The Presbytery of Arkansas may initiate action to cancel this contract if it has reason to believe that Wellspring Renewal Center has not fully performed its responsibilities in accordance with this agreement, but only after Rev. Spooner/Wellspring Renewal Center has received 10 calendar days written notice stating the specific problems and suggesting ways in which these problems can be corrected.

Counseling services at Wellspring Renewal Center are provided by Rev. Rebecca Spooner

LPC, PLLC, and other therapists on Wellspring's Clergy Counseling Network. All counselors providing service are licensed by the state board and are bound by the legal and ethical statutes of their profession. They also carry their own professional liability insurance. The Presbytery of Arkansas is not liable for any actions of Wellspring or of Rev. Rebecca Spooner LPC, PLLC, or any therapists in the Counseling Network. All counseling records of Wellspring are confidential and information will only be released to the Presbytery with written consent from the client. Wellspring Renewal Center or any counselor on the Network does not provide letters of reference for Ministers, Commissioned Ruling Elders, Certified Christian Educators or any of its clients.

Counselors may refer clients to another therapist if there is a conflict of interest on behalf of the client or the counselor, or when the counselor believes it to be therapeutically necessary. The Presbytery of Arkansas, nor its Committee on Ministry shall in any way control either Wellspring Renewal Center, Reverend Spooner or Network counselors as they carry out the terms of this agreement. Wellspring Renewal Center and Reverend Spooner are responsible for the performance of the work pursuant to this contract and the selection of the methods used to accomplish the terms of this contract. The Presbytery of Arkansas and its Committee on Ministry are only concerned with the results. The Presbytery of Arkansas has no jurisdiction over the actions of Wellspring Renewal Center and therefore is not responsible for its methods or outcomes. Rev. Spooner will report to the Committee on Ministry annually and at the request of the committee's moderator.

If the Presbytery or its Committee on Ministry is dissatisfied with the performance of Wellspring Renewal Center or any Network Counselors, formal complaints may be made to the State Board of Examiners in Counseling (101 East Capital Ave. #202, Little Rock, AR 72201).

This contract was written by Rev. Rebecca M. Spooner LPC NCC, Wellspring Renewal Center.

Attachment C

RE David Clark Statement of Faith

I am a child of the church. I was baptized as a baby and was nurtured in the teachings and discipline of a loving church environment. I never knew life as a small child except as on loved and desired by God as expressed to me through the love of my parents, my grandparents and the members of the congregations of the churches my father served.

I am a Presbyterian by birth, by upbringing, by experience and conviction. While many are concerned about the numerical decline of the church, I am not. My father told me that Presbyterians have always been much smaller in numbers than all the other members of God's family but with an influence disproportionately large in comparison. I believe this to be so because of several reasons, all deeply connected to our faith. First, as Presbyterians, our faith demands that we know what we believe and in whom we have our faith. Ours is not a simple mystical experience from outside ourselves but is that commitment of which Paul speaks when he calls for a living sacrifice through the renewing of our minds. Second, as Presbyterians, our allegiance to Jesus Christ demands that in our call to ministry we understand we are called to minister to all of mankind. Jesus calls us to feed the hungry body as well as save the lost soul. We are called to heal the sick in body as well as bring healing to the soul. Such a ministry demands that we reach out to those less fortunate than ourselves and to care for a kind of humanity that many of us would prefer to cast away and pretend do not exist. Third, I believe that Presbyterians are called to be the conscious of the state and society. Often our message is not always a popular one, even with our fellow Presbyterians.

I believe in the Lordship of Jesus Christ over my life and over his church. I believe the Holy Spirit continually leads us ultimately to the will of God. Because we are a church that is 'reformed, always reforming," it is more often through a recognition of our excesses and our shortcomings that we are led to perceive a need for the reformation of the church. I pray that my faith will always keep me aware of my own need for reformation and open to the changes that reformation may bring to the church that I love.

My path to becoming a Commissioned Ruling Elder seems obvious in hindsight. After being ordained as a Ruling Elder in Batesville I was called on to fill the pulpit occasionally. That led me to filling the pulpit at Greers Ferry two Sundays a month for the last eleven years. I began to experience a stronger and stronger sense that I should be doing more. My life and education to this point have prepared me to serve a congregation more fully than simply filling the pulpit. I believe that is what I am called to do.

Attachment D – RE Ronnie Prevost Statement of Faith

My faith is in an ineffable God Who has chosen to reveal the Divine Self to humankind in terms that we can have at least some understanding and comprehension of God. God is triune, revealed in and through Scripture as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. All three persons are eternally God and all three have been and are active in all God's work from creation through redemption and sanctification and, ultimately, glorification. All these are acts of grace and out of God's love and care for all creation.

Though beyond human understandings of gender, the first person of the triune God has been revealed and described in Scripture both in terms of Father (as is traditionally understood) as well as with feminine imagery.

God the Son became incarnate in Jesus the Christ. Jesus, fully human yet fully God (one of the greatest mysteries), lived and died sinless that sinful humanity might be redeemed. His resurrection on the third day vindicated Him and gives blessed hope to all His followers. Jesus' sacrifice and atonement is the greatest expression of God's love and God's grace without which humanity is doomed. Jesus' life, sacrifice and teachings serve as patterns by which those who call Him "Lord" are both called and commanded to live. However, this does not mean that humans can earn salvation, redemption, etc. through works -- even if total obedience were possible. Rather, that is the work of God through grace beyond our comprehension.

God the Holy Spirit has been active throughout eternity and specifically mentioned as the agent of creation. Throughout history the Holy Spirit has called and empowered people to do God's work -- despite sinful human nature which impacts all people are and all they do. Through grace the Holy Spirit inspired flawed creatures to write and preserve Scripture. Through grace the Holy Spirit calls people to salvation. Through grace -- and due to Jesus' atoning death -- the Holy Spirit cleanses and redeems sinful people. Through grace the Holy Spirit calls people to join in God's work on earth and entrusts them with gifts to accomplish that work. Through grace the Holy Spirit sheds light on Scripture -- written in vastly different cultures of long ago -- and guides our interpretation of it and, with God's help, guides and empowers our lives and service in our world and culture(s) today.

The church is the body of Jesus the Christ and the covenant community through which God works and serves throughout the world. The church exists both as local congregations and as the church universal. The sacraments of and in the church are baptism and communion. They are the "signs and seals" and reminders of Jesus' presence and work. They are symbols of what God has done and promises to do. They call God's covenant people to join in God's work. They reflect our collective and individual spiritual union with God and promote unity within the community of faith. Specifically, baptism is the sign and seal of one's inclusion in both God's grace and the covenant community -- the church. Communion is the table of Jesus the Christ and at which He is spiritually present. Therefore, we invite to Communion all who profess Jesus as Lord. Communion connects Christians of all ages in that we all partake of God's grace. It is a call to unity and genuine communion with each other as -- with God's help -- we bear witness in our daily lives "to the saving death of our risen Lord until He comes."

Attachment E – Documents Sent to Presbyterian Historical Society, August 2018

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith, Arkansas
1888 Records Book

Ferguson Memorial Presbyterian Church, Coal Hill

Session and Congregational Meeting Minutes 1957-1979
CR Register, and Session and Congregational Meeting Minutes 1983-1998
Closing Worship Bulletin 2010
Historical Clippings

First Presbyterian Church, Berryville

Annual Reports 1987-1991, 1998-2001
Presbyterian Women Ledger
Presbyterian Women Historical Documents
Book with Incorporation Papers
Session Meeting Minutes, Register, Treasurer's Report 1954
Register 1966
Session Meeting Minutes 1972-1986
Session Meeting Minutes 1986-1997
Session Meeting Minutes 1998-2006
Session Meeting Minutes 2007-2010
Congregational Meeting Minutes 1980-1986
Congregational Meeting Minutes 1986-1993
Congregational Meeting Minutes 1998-2006
Congregational Meeting Minutes 2007-2010

First Presbyterian Church, Des Arc

Session Meeting Minutes and Records 1874-1897
Session and Congregational Meeting Minutes 1897-1924
Session Meeting Minutes 1928-1945
Session Meeting Minutes 1955-1990
Session Meeting Minutes 1990-2008
Congregational Meeting Minutes 1979-1990
Congregational Meeting Minutes 2008

First Presbyterian Church, Ozark

Session and Congregational Meeting Minutes 1964-1979
Session and Congregational Meeting Minutes 1979-1990
Session and Congregational Meeting Minutes 1990-1998
Session and Congregational Meeting Minutes 1998-2015

First Presbyterian Church, Pocahontas, Arkansas

Session Minutes 2000-2011 with Rolls/Records
Documents, including:
Petition for Organizing

1954-1960 bank deposit book
1954 membership list/donors
1954 correspondence concerning Dollar Donors
1955 correspondence with Arkansas College
1955 music order
1956 application for missionary support
1958-1960 building fund record
1959 correspondence
1960 East Arkansas Presbytery correspondence
1962 Board of Christian Education receipt
1962 financial report
1962 insurance report
1963 insurance report
1964-1980 packet of correspondence (stapled together)
1965 financial report
1965 donor dollars report
1968 letters about property (3 letters)
1971 bulletin
1977 White Cross PCUS packing slip
1978 annual financial report
1979 annual financial report
1980 PCUS white cross report
1980 insurance report

Highland Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs

6 Volumes of Session and Congregational Meeting Minutes 1953-2002
Session and Congregational Meeting Minutes 2003-2010
Session and Congregational Meeting Minutes 2009-2010

Hope Presbyterian Church, Cabot (merged with First, Jacksonville)

Session Meeting Minutes 1979-1990
Session Meeting Minutes 1997-2006
Scrapbook

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church, Mount Pleasant

Session and Congregational Meeting Minutes 1880-1962
US Department of Interior legal papers

One-0-One Presbyterian Church, Gamaliel

Session Meeting Minutes 1949-1960
Session Meeting Minutes (copies) 1953-2017
Session Meeting Minutes 1961-1975
Session Meeting Minutes 1964-1981
Session Meeting Minutes 1982-1990
Session Meeting Minutes 1990-2009
Session Meeting Minutes 1992-2005

Session Meeting Minutes 2010-2017
Congregational Meeting Minutes 1958-1990
Congregational Meeting Minutes 1964-1981
Congregational Meeting Minutes 1962-1990
Congregational Meeting Minutes 1964-1975
Articles of Incorporation
Annual Reports 1992-2014
Legal Documents

Walnut Grove Presbyterian Church, Farmington
Session and Congregational Meeting Minutes 1963-2015
Church Register 1951-2004
Book of Memorials 1981

Attachment F – Financial Information as of September 30, 2018

Presbytery of Arkansas Balance Sheet – September 30, 2018

ASSETS

Current Assets		
Cash TPF & Arvest - undesignated	111,664.11	
TPF Investment Cash - designated	199,869.68	
TPF Investments	3,798,932.27	
N/R Ministers	7,884.41	
N/R Churches	515.96	
TPF Mark to Market 52190	<u>1,437,981.29</u>	
Total Current Assets		5,556,847.72
Property and Equipment		
Furniture & Fixtures	68,104.89	
Land	473,237.00	
Buildings	<u>771,516.12</u>	
	1,312,858.01	
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(373,006.07)</u>	
Net Property and Equipment		939,851.94
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>\$ 6,496,699.66</u>

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Current Liabilities		
Payroll & Other Withholdings	<u>13,268.52</u>	
Total Current Liabilities		13,268.52
Total Long-Term Liabilities		0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>13,268.52</u>
Fund Balance		
Equity Beginning Balance	4,468,944.31	
Fund Balance	1,153,617.67	
Transfer To & From Account	3,803.60	
Unrealized Gains/Losses	970,331.67	
		6,596,697.25
Net Income	<u>(113,266.11)</u>	
Total Fund Balance		6,483,431.14
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL		<u>\$ 6,496,699.66</u>

Presbytery of Arkansas
Operating Income Statement – September 30, 2018

THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS Operating Income Statement For the Nine Months Ending September 30, 2018									
	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	Year to Date Actual	2018 Budget	Over/(Under) Budget			
6000-01	\$ 38,168.49	32,500.00	5,668.49	\$ 271,322.82	600,000.00	(328,677.18)			
6000-01-1-101	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	8,866.70	1,500.00	7,366.70			
Misc (Acct. 6015)	15,517.01	13,877.42	1,639.59	136,962.20	166,529.00	(29,566.80)			
Misc	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00			
6001-00-1-000	2,258.40	1,125.00	1,133.40	12,808.40	13,500.00	(691.60)			
Total Revenues	55,943.90	48,502.42	7,441.48	429,960.12	781,529.00	(351,568.88)			
Expenses									
7000-01-1-000	103.10	100.00	3.10	609.88	1,200.00	(590.12)			
7000-06-1-000	0.00	4.17	(4.17)	0.00	50.00	(50.00)			
7000-09-1-000	0.00	37.50	(37.50)	0.00	450.00	(450.00)			
7000-10-1-000	0.00	91.67	(91.67)	172.00	1,100.00	(928.00)			
7000-20-1-000	0.00	33.33	(33.33)	0.00	400.00	(400.00)			
7000-31-1-000	0.00	25.00	(25.00)	376.35	300.00	76.35			
	103.10	291.67	(188.57)	1,158.23	3,500.00	(2,341.77)			
7100-01-1-000	0.00	583.33	(583.33)	6,412.22	7,000.00	(587.78)			
7100-04-1-000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
7100-05-1-000	0.00	2,333.33	(2,333.33)	14,000.00	28,000.00	(14,000.00)			
8400-46-1-000	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	18,000.00	24,000.00	(6,000.00)			
	2,000.00	4,916.66	(2,916.66)	38,412.22	59,000.00	(20,587.78)			
7200-01-1-000	0.00	41.25	(41.25)	547.60	495.00	52.60			
7200-02-1-000	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)			
8000-01-1-000	0.00	42.08	(42.08)	877.30	505.00	372.30			
8000-09-1-000	725.00	250.00	475.00	2,371.00	3,000.00	(629.00)			
8000-08-1-000	0.00	471.25	(471.25)	5,655.00	5,655.00	0.00			
7700-01-1-000	209.98	500.00	(290.02)	2,165.50	6,000.00	(3,834.50)			
	954.98	1,387.91	(432.93)	11,616.40	16,655.00	(5,038.60)			
7300-29-1-000	4,713.32	2,356.67	2,356.65	21,209.94	28,280.00	(7,070.06)			
New Account	1,000.00	83.33	916.67	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00			
7300-71-1-000	0.00	75.00	(75.00)	2,103.73	900.00	1,203.73			
7300-73-1-000	229.01	58.33	170.68	229.01	700.00	(470.99)			
7300-74-1-000	0.00	150.00	(150.00)	0.00	1,800.00	(1,800.00)			
7300-75-1-000	0.00	30.00	(30.00)	(225.00)	360.00	(585.00)			
7300-76-1-000	0.00	240.00	(240.00)	772.55	2,880.00	(2,107.45)			
7300-77-1-000	(4,705.00)	180.00	(4,885.00)	(2,677.63)	2,160.00	(4,837.63)			
7300-78-1-000	(4,437.86)	206.25	(4,644.11)	1,568.36	2,475.00	(906.64)			
7300-79-1-000	(2,547.26)	206.25	(2,753.51)	(355.91)	2,475.00	(2,830.91)			
7300-80-1-000	0.00	0.00	0.00	(750.00)	0.00	(750.00)			
7300-81-1-000	0.00	0.00	0.00	538.90	0.00	538.90			
7300-86-1-000	0.00	33.33	(33.33)	0.00	400.00	(400.00)			

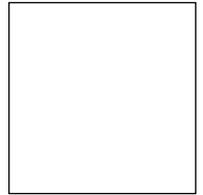
THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS									
Operating Income Statement									
For the Nine Months Ending September 30, 2018									
	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	Year to Date Actual	2018 Budget	Over/(Under) Budget			
7300-98-1-000	0.00	25.00	(25.00)	520.00	300.00	220.00			
	(5,747.79)	3,644.16	(9,391.95)	23,934.05	43,730.00	(19,795.95)			
7500-01-1-000	0.00	249.08	(249.08)	1,061.00	2,989.00	(1,928.00)			
7500-06-1-000	0.00	37.50	(37.50)	0.00	450.00	(450.00)			
7500-15-1-000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
7500-21-1-000	0.00	1,125.00	(1,125.00)	0.00	13,500.00	(13,500.00)			
7500-25-1-000	650.00	625.00	25.00	1,100.00	7,500.00	(6,400.00)			
New Account	0.00	625.00	(625.00)	0.00	7,500.00	(7,500.00)			
7500-40-1-000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
7500-51-1-000	0.00	1,200.00	(1,200.00)	28,500.00	14,400.00	14,100.00			
7500-53-1-000	0.00	300.00	(300.00)	0.00	3,600.00	(3,600.00)			
7500-82-1-000	0.00	250.00	(250.00)	0.00	3,000.00	(3,000.00)			
7500-98-1-000	0.00	594.00	(594.00)	0.00	7,128.00	(7,128.00)			
	650.00	5,005.56	(4,355.56)	30,661.00	60,067.00	(29,406.00)			
7300-01-1-000	0.00	37.50	(37.50)	273.09	450.00	(176.91)			
7300-10-1-000	50.00	166.67	(116.67)	616.36	2,000.00	(1,383.64)			
7300-21-1-000	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	24,000.00	24,000.00	0.00			
7300-24-1-000	0.00	416.67	(416.67)	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00			
7300-30-1-000	0.00	166.67	(166.67)	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00			
7300-41-1-000	0.00	31.25	(31.25)	375.00	375.00	0.00			
7300-90-1-000	134.89	166.67	(31.78)	731.12	2,000.00	(1,268.88)			
7300-91-1-000	0.00	91.67	(91.67)	365.01	1,100.00	(734.99)			
7600-03-1-000	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)			
7600-05-1-000	0.00	166.67	(166.67)	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00			
7600-26-1-000	3,500.00	291.67	3,208.33	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00			
7600-44-1-000	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00			
7600-45-1-000	0.00	41.67	(41.67)	500.00	500.00	0.00			
7600-49-1-000	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00			
7600-51-1-000	0.00	208.33	(208.33)	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00			
7600-62-1-000	2,500.00	1,172.92	1,327.08	5,060.00	14,075.00	(9,015.00)			
7600-96-1-000	1,000.00	83.33	916.67	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00			
8300-01-1-000	0.00	41.67	(41.67)	929.80	500.00	429.80			
8300-07-1-000	0.00	291.67	(291.67)	0.00	3,500.00	(3,500.00)			
9400-01-1-000	0.00	41.67	(41.67)	158.25	500.00	(341.75)			
	7,184.89	5,666.66	1,518.20	51,008.63	68,000.00	(16,991.37)			
7800-01-1-000	0.00	25.00	(25.00)	286.94	300.00	(13.06)			
8100-01-1-000	0.00	3.75	(3.75)	0.00	45.00	(45.00)			
8400-01-1-000	91.37	416.67	(325.30)	2,241.77	5,000.00	(2,758.23)			
8400-02-1-000	535.46	816.67	(281.21)	9,767.70	9,800.00	(32.30)			
8400-03-1-000	405.58	833.33	(427.75)	5,070.44	10,000.00	(4,929.56)			
8400-05-1-000	40.51	250.00	(209.49)	4,922.49	3,000.00	1,922.49			

THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS											
Operating Income Statement											
For the Nine Months Ending September 30, 2018											
	Current Month	Current Month	Over/(Under)	Year to Date	2018	Over/(Under)					
	Actual	Budget	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget	Actual	Budget			
8400-07-1-000	0.00	166.67	(166.67)	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)					
8400-09-1-000	0.00	583.33	(583.33)	7,673.00	7,000.00	673.00					
8400-10-1-000	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	365.16	1,000.00	(634.84)					
8400-12-1-000	835.34	825.00	10.34	8,872.86	9,900.00	(1,027.14)					
	1,908.26	3,975.00	(2,066.74)	38,913.42	47,700.00	(8,786.58)					
8400-13-1-000	0.00	358.33	(358.33)	114.10	4,300.00	(4,185.90)					
8400-15-1-000	0.00	106.25	(106.25)	0.00	1,275.00	(1,275.00)					
8400-22-1-000	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	114.10	1,000.00	(885.90)					
8400-24-1-000	0.00	62.50	(62.50)	520.25	750.00	(229.75)					
8400-29-1-000	1,256.34	1,250.00	6.34	11,832.16	15,000.00	(3,167.84)					
8400-30-1-000	14,575.44	14,575.42	0.02	131,178.96	174,905.00	(43,726.04)					
8400-31-1-000	5,549.75	4,583.33	966.42	42,506.23	55,000.00	(12,493.77)					
8400-33-1-000	0.00	125.00	(125.00)	1,000.00	1,500.00	(500.00)					
8400-37-1-000	1,281.54	1,312.50	(30.96)	11,533.85	15,750.00	(4,216.15)					
8400-38-1-000	2,975.00	2,975.00	0.00	26,775.00	35,700.00	(8,925.00)					
8400-40-1-000	23.95	83.33	(59.38)	172.38	1,000.00	(827.62)					
8400-41-1-000	526.66	583.33	(56.67)	4,739.94	7,000.00	(2,260.06)					
8400-49-1-000	0.00	43.75	(43.75)	60.00	525.00	(465.00)					
8400-50-1-000	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)					
8400-51-1-000	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)					
8400-52-1-000	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)					
8400-53-1-000	67.22	916.67	(849.45)	6,022.24	11,000.00	(4,977.76)					
	28,164.16	31,367.06	(3,202.90)	275,482.63	376,405.00	(100,922.37)					
8400-17-1-000	0.00	416.67	(416.67)	0.00	5,000.00	(5,000.00)					
8600-01-1-000	1,361.62	2,500.00	(1,138.38)	23,488.66	30,000.00	(6,511.34)					
8700-01-1-000	7,820.00	7,818.92	1.08	69,640.00	93,827.00	(24,187.00)					
8800-01-1-000	1,361.62	2,083.33	(721.71)	18,488.66	25,000.00	(6,511.34)					
	10,543.24	12,402.25	(1,859.01)	111,617.32	148,827.00	(37,209.68)					
Total Expenses	43,832.58	65,127.40	(21,294.82)	544,177.42	781,529.00	(237,351.58)					
Net Income	\$ 12,111.32	\$ 16,624.98	\$ 28,736.30	\$ 114,217.30	\$ 0.00	\$ 114,217.30					

Presbytery of Arkansas
Benevolences - September 30, 2018

LOCATION	2016 Benevolence	2017 Benevolence	2018 Benevolence
Alma	-	-	-
Amity	-	-	-
Arkadelphia, First	750.00	1,500.00	500.00
Arkadelphia, West End	1,106.00	1,106.00	-
Atkins	-	-	-
Batesville	10,000.00	10,000.00	7,500.00
Beebe	1,200.00	1,200.00	900.00
Bella Vista	30,000.00	27,500.00	22,500.00
Benton	8,200.00	8,150.00	1,800.00
Bentonville, First	22,000.00	22,000.00	21,000.00
Bentonville, Vaughn	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
Brinkley	-	-	-
Bull Shoals	-	-	-
Cane Hill	-	-	-
Clarksville, First	-	-	-
Clarksville, Harmony	842.00	1,000.00	-
Conway	7,500.00	7,500.00	5,000.00
Dardanelle	6,000.00	6,000.00	4,500.00
Elkins	1,000.00	1,000.00	500.00
Eureka Springs	3,600.00	2,000.00	2,250.00
Fairfield Bay	9,240.00	4,510.00	1,650.00
Fayetteville, First United	41,000.00	41,000.00	27,328.00
Fayetteville, Mt. Comfort	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,660.00
Forrest City	8,250.00	8,250.00	6,750.00
Ft. Smith, Central	16,000.00	16,000.00	8,000.00
Ft. Smith, First	12,000.00	5,250.00	5,000.00
Gamaliel	-	-	-
Gravette	-	-	-
Greenwood	-	2,000.00	-
Gurdon	1,200.00	600.00	600.00
Hardy	3,500.00	-	500.00
Harrison	9,000.00	2,083.30	2,083.22
Heber Springs	1,500.00	-	860.00
Helena	1,000.00	1,000.00	500.00
Holiday Island	3,750.00	3,750.00	3,100.00
Holly Grove	1,000.00	500.00	500.00
Horseshoe Bend	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,500.00
HSV, Kirk	27,270.00	27,270.00	18,180.00
H. Springs, First	18,000.00	20,000.00	10,000.00
H. Springs, Westminster	7,749.96	7,999.96	4,671.69
Huntsville	2,400.00	2,400.00	1,200.00
Jacksonville	2,520.00	2,640.00	1,760.00
Jonesboro	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Lincoln	1,500.00	1,000.00	-

LOCATION	2016 Benevolence	2017 Benevolence	2018 Benevolence
LR, Allison	-	5,000.00	400.00
LR, First	8,333.30	2,499.99	-
LR, Grace	7,500.00	7,500.00	9,375.00
LR, Pulaski Heights	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,350.00
Little Rock, Second	200,000.00	200,000.00	-
LR, Trinity	8,000.04	8,000.00	6,000.00
LR, Westminster	400.00	400.00	200.00
LR, Westover Hills	10,500.00	10,500.00	5,000.00
Lonoke	4,500.00	1,200.00	100.00
Malvern	10,000.00	10,000.00	-
Marianna	400.00	200.00	-
McGehee	2,520.00	2,520.00	1,680.00
Mena	7,500.00	3,750.00	2,500.00
Morrilton, First	6,000.00	500.00	-
Morrilton, Hopewell	-	-	-
Mountain Home	1,591.00	1,400.00	700.00
Mountainburg	-	-	-
Newport	3,600.00	4,800.00	3,600.00
Norman	500.00	20.00	-
NLR, First	1,000.00	1,500.00	-
NLR, Park Hill	13,000.00	16,000.00	11,750.00
Ozark	-	-	-
Paragould, First	-	-	-
Pea Ridge	2,750.00	2,750.00	2,250.00
Pine Bluff, Central	5,000.01	-	-
Pine Bluff, Faith	166.00	-	-
Pine Bluff, First	5,000.04	4,583.30	3,749.94
Prairie Grove	9,084.00	6,257.00	4,000.00
Rogers	6,999.96	6,416.63	5,249.97
Russellville	10,000.00	-	10,000.00
Searcy	3,000.00	-	-
Siloam Springs	462.50	-	-
Springdale	30,000.00	30,000.00	22,500.00
Stuttgart	-	-	-
Van Buren	-	7,000.00	4,000.00
Walnut Ridge	6,990.00	6,689.00	-
West Helena	-	-	-
Wynne	9,166.67	8,341.66	5,625.00
Yellville	8,000.00	8,000.00	6,000.00
Total	651,541.48	601,536.84	271,322.82



**139th Stated Meeting
of the Presbytery of Arkansas**

**Worship Service
October 19, 2018
8:00 p.m.**

**Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center
1720 Ferncliff Road, Little Rock, Arkansas 72223**

The Presbytery of Arkansas

Order of Worship

October 19, 2018

(* All who are able may stand.)

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Call to Worship

Emma Gillaspay

Leader: What shall we render to the Lord
for all the Lord's bounty to us?

**People: We will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord.**

Leader: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

People: Happy are they who find refuge in God.

*** Opening Hymn**

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

Hymn 327

From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land,
in every tongue.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

In every land begin the song; to every land the strains belong:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

In cheerful sound all voices raise and fill the world with joyful praise.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends thy word:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
till suns shall rise and set no more.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*** Invocation**

Rev. Steven Kuntz

Invitation to Confession

LaWanda Harris

Prayer of Confession (*First in Silence, then Unison*)

Holy God, giver of peace, author of truth,

we confess that we are divided and at odds with one another,

that a bad spirit has risen among us
and set us against your Holy Spirit of peace and love.
Take from us the mistrust, party spirit, contention,
and all evil that now divides us.
Work in us a desire for reconciliation,
so that, putting aside personal grievances,
we may go about your business with a single mind,
devoted to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Book of Common Worship (Louisville, KY;
Westminster John Know Press, 1993, 812.)

Assurance of God's Pardon

LaWanda Harris

*** Passing the Peace of Christ**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The Peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

*** Congregational Response** *(In Unison)*

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

Hymn No. 654

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near. Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.
(repeat)

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Scripture

Ruth 1:1-18

Bernadette Reynolds

Anthem

Wade in the Water
Kirk Choir and Friends

arr. Larry Shackley

Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,
wade in the water, God's a-going to trouble the water.

Wade in the water, wade in the water. Come on, wade,
wade in the water, wade in the water.
God's a-going to trouble the water.

See that band all dressed in white? God's a-going to trouble the water.
The leader looks like the Israelite. God's a-going to trouble the water.

Kirk Choir and Friends

For the bread which you have broken, for the wine which
you have poured, for the words which you have spoken,
now we give you thanks, O Lord.

By this pledge that you do love us, by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heav'n above us, hallow all our lives, O Lord.
With our sainted ones in glory seated at the heav'nly board,
may the church that's waiting for you keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.
In your service, Lord, defend us, In our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world where you have sent us, let your kingdom come, O Lord.
Let your kingdom come, O Lord, O Lord.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Rev. Lindy Vogado and Rev. Dr. Robert Williamson, Jr.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

* **Closing Hymn** *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples* **Hymn No. 757**

**Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst make love and peace our fast
to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.**

**Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,**

a world that was created for a harmony of peace.

**May we in service to our God act out the living word,
and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.**

*** Benediction**

Dr. Rev. Robert Williamson, Jr.

*** Choral Benediction**

*** Postlude**

Worship Participants

Dr. Rev. Robert Williamson, Jr., Ph.D., Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas

Rev. Lindy Vagado, Second Presbyterian Church, Associate Pastor, Little Rock, Arkansas

Rev. Steven Kuntz, Central Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith, Arkansas

Emma Gillaspy, Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 223rd General Assembly.

LaWanda Harris, Inquirer for Ministry of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Valerie Young, Synod Leader and Stated Clerk of Synod of the Sun.

Bernadette Reynolds, Member and Leader at Mercy Church, Little Rock, Arkansas

Randy Toney, Choir Director, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village, Arkansas

Donna Toney: Organist, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village, Arkansas

Choir: Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines Choir

Reception

Reception tonight, immediately following worship in the Glenn Meeting Room, adjacent to the dining hall. All are invited.

Offering Recipient

Solar under the Sun is an ecumenical mission of the Synod of the Sun, PCUSA. The vision of the Solar Under the Sun is to illumine our fellow human beings with hope and life through solar energy. To do this, SUS trains volunteers to design and install solar power systems with communities that lack reliable electrical power. Their solar power systems capably run water treatment systems and can also be used as a power source for communication, medical clinic refrigerators or x-ray equipment, or can help with lighting needs. Solar Schools (training sessions) are held at Ferncliff in the ECO Center.

Tonight we welcome Valerie Young-Synod Leader and Stated Clerk of Synod of the Sun.

Communion

Communion tonight will be served “family style” by intinction. There is a chalice and bread at each table. Those not seated at a table or who prefer gluten free bread are invited to a station led by worship leaders Rev. Lindy Vagado and Dr. Rev. Robert Williamson.

The Presbytery will re-convene Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m.

Attachment H – 2019 Proposed Budget

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, Youth Adults, & Camp. Min.	\$ 43,730.00	64,500.00	(20,770.00)
Future of the Church Ministry Area	\$ 60,067.00	60,000.00	67.00
Mission of the Church Ministry Area	\$ 68,000.00	68,000.00	-
Committee on Nominations	\$ 300.00	300.00	-
Committee on 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 1 - Administration amount includes 28,000 of site support for Ferncliff. That amount was used to pay interest payments on loan to Ferncliff in 2015& 2016 and part of 2017.

The amount has not been transferred to the Mission of the Church Ministry Area.

Note 2 - Administration amount includes 24,000 for the loan to repay CC&D funds for paying off the mortgage of the Presbytery office building.

Note 3- Salaries and pension remain the same. These amounts may need to be adjusted depending on how the staff design proposal works out.

Attachment I – MWS Susan Arnold Statement of Faith

I believe in God the Creator; whom Jesus called Abba/Father, who is intense passion, honesty, truth, wisdom, justice, righteousness, grace, and unimaginable love. I believe in Jesus Christ, the unique son of the living God, who was human and is also divine. This God/man was squeezed into human flesh for a particular period in human history. He accomplished in death what is mystery to me; the forgiveness of human sin and the healing of human brokenness. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath and voice of God which sustains the church universal. The Spirit communicates with us constantly in unique and powerful ways; dreams, answered prayer, receiving praise, giving encouragement and direction, revealing call, and administering healing.

I believe we are to live in relationship with God. God desires our happiness but is more concerned about our holiness. *1 Peter 1:15-16 "like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves in all your behavior; because it is written, 'YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.'"* We are to live in relationship with one another, the demonstration of that relationship being the church which is the mystical communion of saints spanning time, space and culture – *"the great cloud of witnesses"* of Heb. 12:1. Church happens when *"two or three believers are gathered together"* (Matt 18:20), and when believers *"devote themselves to the apostle's teachings, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer"* (Acts 2:42). God works out the church's purpose through human institutions. The church's purpose is to continue Jesus' purpose; to seek and save the lost and make whole that which is broken.

I believe in the Word of God in three forms; the Word made flesh in Christ, the written Word of Scripture, and the Word preached. The Word made flesh does not overshadow the written Word, nor does the written Word overshadow the Word made flesh. There is no truth in one not found in the other, nor will one contradict the other. Jesus acknowledged and confirmed the authenticity and authority of Scripture and Scripture does the same for Jesus. Scripture is accurate and true in all things pertaining to the mystery of our faith. The Word preached must rise from the Word made flesh attested to in Scripture.

I believe in two sacraments, Baptism and Communion, both being "outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace." There is no efficacy for salvation in either; however, they are means by which we show our intent to be faithful to God, and through which God mysteriously nourishes us. I believe human life is a preparation for eternal life. I have held too many hands and watched too many expressions as people leave this world not to believe that where we are going is more real than where we are. I believe Christ will come again in a way which defies our imaginations. Christ will then reign in power and humanity, and creation will be restored to its original design.

Attachment J – MWS John Arnold Statement of Faith

I believe in God who is triune in nature. I believe we see and experience God's triune nature in God's relationship with us in His son Jesus Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

God as the creator of all things seen and unseen is omnipotent and eternal. God's grace and desire for us to be in relationship with Him astounds me for it is undeserved. We are sinners separated from God by our sinful nature and unable of our own power to remove that separation. We deserve death, but God designed an amazing and miraculous plan to overcome that separation and give us life.

At the heart of this plan God became incarnate in Jesus Christ giving us a tangible connection point with God's love for us. Christ, fully divine and fully human, lived a sinless life. He died and rose from the dead three days later. In so doing he bore our sins and redeem us. As a result, we have life eternal and abundant. I believe Christ will come again and reign forever.

God sustains and empowers us in this new life we have in Jesus Christ through the gift of the Holy Spirit which is not a spirit of timidity, but of power, love, and self-control. This Spirit comforts and guides us. We are united by God's Spirit and given gifts for the common good.

I believe we cannot earn God's love. God's love and forgiveness has already been freely given. However, we can and should out of gratitude live holy lives for Scripture tells us that God has chosen us to be a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, to proclaim the virtues of Him who called us out of darkness into God's marvelous light.

This responsibility of living a grateful life dedicated to God's glory is one we joyfully bear individually and collectively as Christ's body, the church.

Praise be to God for God's goodness.

So, while we cannot save ourselves through our own works, we can honor God for the work God has already done to forgive and claim us as children of God.

I believe in two sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. These were gifts given to us to remember, experience, and look forward to God's grace. These holy and mysterious gifts are tangible signs of an internal and spiritual grace. They nourish us for service to God.

I believe God inspired and preserved for us a written witness we call scripture, so that we may come to know His love for us in Jesus Christ. God's written word is also a unique and authoritative guide to help us understand God's nature and live faithful lives as disciples.

Attachment K – MWS Alicia Secrest Statement of Faith

I believe God spoke the world into existence and breathes life into every moment, loving us unconditionally and wanting our communion. Before the beginning of time, God knew each of us – our unique brand, our personality, our giftedness and our weaknesses – and knew our individual purpose in the world and in the Kingdom of Heaven. In our search for the truth revealed in Jesus Christ, God reveals divine character and truth to us. We encounter God in Scripture, history, reason, murmurings of the Spirit, and the community of faith. Through God’s self-revelations, we can grow in our knowledge of God, maturing according to the model of Jesus Christ. We cannot know all there is about God, but we can know truths about God, and knowing God helps us to know ourselves and our place in the world. Although God is infinitely greater than our imaginations, divine grace invites us into perfect love, perfect glory and the perfect kingdom of Heaven.

I believe in the virgin birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and that He lives within me, interceding with the Father on my behalf. Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. And I believe in the Holy Spirit which stirs me into worshipful moments of awe and praise and feeds my spirit through inspiration and blessing.

I love the church, the community of differently gifted believers drawn together by the Spirit in the worship and service of God. In our humble confession of sin before God, we continually encounter God’s redemptive and healing grace. And grateful to God’s love and favor for me, I claim the promise in Christ and the freedom offered through discipleship. I celebrate my baptism where I received a sign and seal of incorporation into Christ, and along with the saints baptized into the body across the world and throughout time, I am part of the body of Christ. And when I participate in the Lord’s Supper, I join with those saints around God’s table in a remembrance of God’s gracious work through Christ and participate in a foretaste of the promise of heaven. I serve gratefully and joyfully in the church and its purposes, biased toward God’s continual reforms of the church.

Attachment L – MWS Matt Bussell Statement of Faith

I believe that the Triune God created the world out of nothing. The Father is primarily responsible for the act of creation but the Son and the Holy Spirit also participate. God did not create out of primordial matter or with another being but rather out of nothing. God has the ultimate authority and is the source and sustainer of all things.

Humanity is created in the image of God. We are created good and with freedom. God created us to be in relationship with others and God as a community of mutual love, justice, and peace. Sin tarnishes our ability to live as God created us. When we, individually and as a community, destroy relationships through behaviors such as greed, selfishness, oppression, prejudice, and self-devaluation, we alienate ourselves from each other and God.

In Jesus Christ the Eternal Word of God was incarnate, becoming human as the ultimate expression of divine love. Throughout his life and ministry, Jesus shared the vision of God's Kingdom for the world based on community and love. His teachings angered the religious and political elites who viewed him as a threat to the status quo. They conspired to execute him on the cross. Three days later he rose from the dead and later ascended to reign beside God the Father. Through his life, ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension, Christ reconciles humanity with God and one another. The ultimate experience of alienation in death is overcome in Christ as he paid the penalty for our alienation from God and foreshadows our resurrection to new life. We have hope for the future because of the resurrection of Christ. After death we will be united with God. This resurrection we anticipate is not the rising of our souls to heaven but a bodily resurrection.

It is through the Holy Spirit that we come to know Christ. The Spirit unites us to Christ, enabling us to receive Christ's benefits. Through the Spirit we are justified by grace, through faith. The Spirit works in us through grace in our sanctification.

The source of our knowledge of God and God's work of redemption in history is Scripture. Scripture is the Word of God, inspired by God but written by people. Scripture has been written, edited, translated, and interpreted by people who are prone to error. It is therefore the Word of God insofar as it points to Christ. In Scripture we learn of God's character and actions; it is in Scripture that we know God's grace.

The church is the body of Christ on earth. Though there are many denominations, together they constitute the body of Christ. It is through the church that we participate in the community of believers and receive the sacraments. The sacraments are signs that point to God. Baptism is a sign of God's covenant with us while Communion is a sign of Christ's incarnation, death, and resurrection which unites us with God. Christians are not called to be solitary but in community, building each other up in love. We are also called to share God's mercy and love with the world.

Attachment M – Necrology of MWS Park Moore, HR

The Presbytery grieves its loss of MWS Park Moore, HR, 93, who died on August 3, 2018 in Little Rock. He was an honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Son of Park Sr. and Lucile Marks Moore of Decatur, GA, Park graduated from Davidson College and Columbia Theological Seminary. During World War II, Rev. Moore served on a US Navy destroyer in the Pacific and later as a USNR Chaplain. Ordained in 1950, he served pastorates in Grover and Gastonia, NC; Jackson and Meridian, MS; and as an associate pastor at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock, from 1983 until his retirement in 1990. In the Presbytery, Park was a commissioner to Synod and a member of Committee on Ministry and Committee on Witness.

He is survived by his wife of almost 69 years, Betty Jean Combs Moore of Little Rock; children Rodney (Terry) Moore of Reedsport, OR; Janie Rash and Aileen Moore of Little Rock, and two grandchildren of Little Rock, and one of New York City, NY. A sister, a niece, and two nephews also survive.

A memorial service was held at Second Presbyterian Church at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 7, 2018. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Dr, Little Rock, AR 72227, or a charity of your choice.

Attachment N – Nominations Form

Each year the Presbytery’s Committee on Nominations invites you, the pastors and current members of all committees and Sessions, to provide names of qualified persons or to volunteer yourself as you feel it is a privilege and joyous responsibility to serve on a presbytery committee, subcommittee or ministry area. Thank you for your willingness to suggest these leaders to serve, beginning in 2019 or fill vacancies as they arise, or to serve in 2020 and beyond.

Your Church and City/Town: _____

MINISTRY AREAS AND COMMITTEES OF PRESBYTERY

Administration Ministry Area

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) (Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elders Only)

Committee on Ministry (COM) (Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elders Only)

Mission of the Church Ministry Area

Sub-Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response

Ministries with Youth, Young Adults and Campus Ministry Area

Youth Ministry Team Sub-Committee or Campus Ministry Sub-Committee

Future of the Church Ministry Area

Committee on Representation (MWSs and Ruling Elders Only)

Permanent Judicial Commission (MWSs and Ruling Elders Only)

Committee on Nominations (MWSs and Ruling Elders Only)

Individuals to be Nominated

Name: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home or Cell Phone: _____

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

Committees for Consideration:

Comments:

Name: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home or Cell Phone: _____

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

Committees for Consideration:

Comments:

Name: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home or Cell Phone: _____

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

Committees for Consideration:

Comments:

Name: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home or Cell Phone: _____

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

Committees for Consideration:

Comments:

COMMISSIONER TO SYNOD in 2020 OR GENERAL ASSEMBLY in 2022
(alternate in 2020; Commissioner must be MWS or Ruling Elder)

Name: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home or Cell Phone: _____

Gender: _____ E-mail address: _____

Comments:

ALTERNATE YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATE TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Age of YAD? DOB?

What is last year your church had a Y AA D (if known)? _____

Name: _____

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

Comments:

Please return to:
Presbytery of Arkansas
9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd.
Little Rock, AR 72227
Attention: COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS
Or Email: lesliebeld@aol.com or leslie@presbyteryofarkansas.org
Due Date February 15, 2019.

Attachment O – Proposed Staff Structure by the Staff Structure Task Force

The proposed staffing structure for the Presbytery includes one (1) full-time position and five (5) part time positions, or parts of positions. The Task Force on Staff Structure felt it important to maintain a full time General Presbyterian. With the other positions, the Task Force envisioned that there may be candidates who would feel called to serve a church part-time and supplement that work with a position with the Presbytery. Likewise, the Task Force could also envision an individual who was gifted and felt called to combine two of these positions into a full-time position for the Presbytery. These are the pieces that the Task Force felt need to be covered. How, exactly, these pieces fit together, we do not feel capable (or called) to determine.

Full-Time General Presbyterian

The job description of the General Presbyterian would not change substantially. The one addition we would suggest is language that, as a member of the Presbytery Staff, s/he would offer support to the Stated Clerk and other members of the Presbytery Staff as appropriate.

Part-Time Stated Clerk

The job description of the Stated Clerk would not change substantially. As with the General Presbyterian, we suggest additional language that, as a member of the Presbytery Staff, s/he would offer support to the General Presbyterian and other members of the Presbytery Staff as appropriate and as directed by the General Presbyterian.

Part-Time Presbytery Administrator

This part-time position (or part of a position) would focus on the administrative requirements of the organization and the office. In particular, this position would include office hours each week when individuals could, with confidence, make direct contact with someone at the Presbytery Office. This position supports the work of the “Synod Tech Guy”. If that relationship were to change, additional staffing hours would be needed to coordinate the website and other online presences.

Duties include:

- Maintain Office Hours- Be available during posted weekly hours to answer the phone and the door, providing congregations and pastors in the Presbytery a way to reach a person at the Presbytery Office with confidence.
- Onsite financials and support of Texas Presbyterian Foundation
- Provide support for Presbytery office facilities.
- Provide administrative support (as needed) to the General Presbyterian, Stated Clerk, and any other staff/volunteer as directed by the General Presbyterian.

Part-Time Presbytery Builder

This part-time position (or part of a position) would focus on the priority “Building strong congregations that faithfully and effectively share the gospel through mission and ministry.” The person in this position would NOT be personally responsible for the health of each congregation in our Presbytery, but instead would be responsible for being both a conduit and a coordinator of the Presbytery’s mutual support for congregations and leaders.

Duties include:

- Be the first point of contact for congregations in the Presbytery that do not have an assigned COM liaison.
- With an eye on our smaller, resource-challenged congregations, provide hands-on support for congregations seeking pastoral leadership without the ability to call a full-time installed pastor. Within this role, explore and develop outside-the-box possibilities for shared leadership between congregations and within the Presbytery.
- Create a mechanism for mutual support between congregations in the Presbytery, including the possibility of shepherding relationships between congregations.
- Be an active and visible presence at Presbytery meetings, events, and in congregations, when possible.
- Offer support to the General Presbyter and other members of the Presbytery Staff as appropriate and as directed by the General Presbyter.

Part-Time Presbytery Connector

This part-time position (or part of a position) would focus on the priority “Connecting congregations, resources, and expertise to support life giving practices in congregations and fellowships.” This job would embody the connectional nature of our denomination, developing and encouraging connections and sharing resources between congregations, pastoral leaders, session clerks and other congregational volunteers, and the Presbytery Staff itself.

Duties include:

- Facilitate connections between the Presbytery Office and congregation, pastors, and members, including coordinating the content that is communicated via the Presbytery’s website, social media platforms, and the newsletter.
- Facilitate connections between congregations/fellowships of the Presbytery, including encouraging engagement with regional neighbors as well as churches with common ministries and missions.
- Organize orientation sessions for pastors and other church leadership as they join the Presbytery.

- Facilitate connections between pastors/congregational leaders in the Presbytery, nurturing both collegial and personal relationships through in-person gatherings and available technologies.
- Connect pastors and congregations to the resources available in the Presbytery. These resources include, but are not limited to, the human resources we have in the expertise of the members and staff of the Presbytery and physical resources, including those housed in the resource center. In addition to connecting to already available resources, explore and connect with new resources that might bring life to our congregations.
- Offer support to the General Presbyter and other members of the Presbytery Staff as appropriate and as directed by the General Presbyter.

Part-Time Presbytery Developer of Ministries to, for, and with Young People

This part-time position (or part of a position) would focus on the priority “Developing and supporting ministries with youth and young adults including collegiate and campus ministry.” This job would provide staff support for the current ministries aimed at younger Presbyterians, in addition to visioning and promoting new ministries both within our Presbytery and our local congregations.

Duties include:

- Maintain current duties of “Youth Ministry Coordinator”.
- Serve as staff resource for the Ministries with Youth, Young Adults and Campus Ministry Area. Within the work of that ministry area, encourage innovative approaches and new ideas to foster engagement of young people (under the age of 35) within our congregations and ministries. Connect those who serve on that ministry team with resources available to the Presbytery.
- Thoughtfully and intentionally engage the congregations of this Presbytery as an advocate for ministries with young people. Make face-to-face visits to active youth ministries in the Presbytery, both sharing information about the opportunities offered by the Presbytery and listening to what youth groups are doing and what they need. As time allows, make connections with campus ministries within the state and congregations who actively support their college students/young adults.
- Keep a record of “best practices” seen in congregations in terms of connecting and ministering to/with young people, so that those may be shared with congregations who need a jump-start.
- Offer support to the General Presbyter and other members of the Presbytery Staff as appropriate and as directed by the General Presbyter.

Attachment P – Inquirer LaWanda Harris Statement of Faith

I believe in the triune Godhead of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; all are part of the one true God. I believe in God the Father who is creator and ruler of the earth. The Father is faithful and merciful to humankind. The Father's love for the world is so great, that he sent his son, Jesus Christ, to redeem it.

I believe in the savior, Jesus Christ, who was born of the Virgin Mary. As Jesus of Nazareth, God's son became incarnate by taking on a body like ours. Fully human, he was crucified on the cross for the salvation of all humans. Yet, he was also fully divine. Although he suffered death, Jesus Christ was resurrected in three days! No longer was humanity subject to death, but through the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we have hope for our own resurrection, too.

I believe in the Holy Spirit. Although the incarnate Jesus Christ is not here on earth, the Holy Spirit surrounds us. I believe in the divinity and goodness of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit calls us into a deeper relationship with God. God is still with us on earth through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

I believe in God's grace. I believe God's grace is so mighty that humans cannot completely grasp the power of it. Grace is at the heart of salvation. Humanity was given the gift of being made in the image of God. Even though humanity was given the perfect example of holy living through Jesus Christ, humanity still has a sinful nature. By the grace of Jesus Christ, there is salvation. God's grace has no limits. Salvation is extended to all nations and all races.

I believe in worship of the triune God. Through worship, we recount the deeds of God and listen for the Word of God speaking into our own hearts. I believe in the holy scriptures, which give us authoritative testimonies of God's work. I believe in the sacraments of baptism and communion. Baptism is a sign of the grace bestowed on us, even before we are born into the world. Through baptism, we affirm our adoption as children of God. Communion is also a sign of the grace received through Jesus' love for humanity. Communion is an act of remembering the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It is also a remembrance of our salvation, which we can joyfully proclaim. Christ has come, and he will come again!

I believe God's heart is never full to capacity because God calls each of us to enter more fully into his heart. I believe in prayer, which communicates to God the desires of our heart. The Lord is so full of wonder and awe. The workings of the Lord are sometimes beyond the scope of our human minds. I believe we must have humility when speaking about God. I believe that God reigns for eternity and desires us to be with him forever. May we take heed of the goodness, love, grace, and splendor in the Lord.