



148th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas

Meeting Held Electronically via Zoom

Presbytery Website: <https://www.presbyark.org>

Presbytery Facebook Page **PresbyArkConnect**: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/283425462557427>

Presbytery Database: <https://directory.in-c.net/arkansas/>

Passphrase: **presbyarkconnect**

To Receive the “Update,” the Presbytery’s email newsletter, contact Presbytery Connector Julie Price at julietannerprice@gmail.com.

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PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS

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September 30, 2021

Dear Friends in the Presbytery of Arkansas,

We will miss traveling through this beautiful state in the fall season once again as I know many of us were looking forward to making the scenic drive to First United Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville. But we will gather electronically by Zoom in our kitchens or living rooms or porches for the 148th meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

You will see on the docket that we will be led in worship on Friday evening by the staff of First Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith, and then on Saturday morning by our own candidate for ministry LaWanda Harris who will be examined for ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament on Saturday morning. The Coordinating Team approved the Mission Committee's suggestion to have the Presbytery Meeting Offering benefit the Arkansas Foodbank. Donations may be accepted at any time either from the Donate Now button on the presbytery's web page or by clicking this link: <https://bit.ly/3F3AFhd>. Also, on Friday evening we will have an opportunity to dialogue with members of the Administrative Commission from First Presbyterian Church in North Little Rock as they share some possibilities for future use of the property. On Saturday, we will be led in our theological discussion by PC(USA) MWS Deborah Wright, who is one of the co-founders of Pneumatrix. Rev. Wright will lead a discussion on church vitality, a topic on which Pneumatrix has helped many congregations and presbyteries discuss over the last several years. On Saturday, you will also hear about some wonderful gifts that have been shared from our presbytery to congregations and entities.

We will begin at 6:30 on Friday evening and plan to conclude by 8:45 pm. On Saturday morning we begin at 8:30 and hope to be finished by 12:15. We ask that everyone pre-register prior to the meeting, whether a commissioner, minister member, other voting member, or visitor, so that we can take attendance. Access to Zoom will be the same as for our June meeting and other on-line gatherings of the Presbytery:

<https://zoom.us/j/8271054504>

Password: trinity

Pre-Registration is important, so please pre-register today on the Presbytery's website: <https://www.presbyark.org>. I look forward to seeing you on the screen!!

Stewart

J. Stewart Smith
General Presbyter & Stated Clerk

Kim Palmer
Administrator

Brianne Christiansen
Director of Youth Ministries

Carol Clark
Presbytery Builder

Julie Price
Presbytery Connector



Next Meetings

149th Stated Meeting
University of the Ozarks
March 4-5, 2022

150th Stated Meeting
Place TBD
June 2022

Meeting Schedule

Friday, October 8, 2021 – Zoom Technology

- 6:30 pm Call to Order/Opening Gavel
- 6:45 pm Consent Agenda
- 6:50 pm Report of Stated Clerk Stewart Smith
- 6:55 pm Report of Treasurer Bob Boehmler
- 7:00 pm Report from Administrative Commission on First Presbyterian Church North Little Rock/Argenta
- 7:45 pm Announcements
- 8:00 pm Worship led by First Presbyterian Church – Fort Smith
- 8:45 pm Adjournment

Saturday, October 9, 2021 - Zoom Technology

- 8:30 am Call Back to Order with Prayer
Opening Worship – LaWanda Harris
- 8:55 am Decisions of the Presbytery
Decisions of the Committee on Ministry
Decisions of the Coordinating Team
Motions of the Committee on Nominations
- 10:30 am Order of the Day:
Theological Discussion –MWS Debra Wright
- 11:30 am Comfort Break
- 11:35 am Reports
- 12:15 pm Benediction and Adjournment

Presbytery Leadership
Moderator RE Julie Gillaspay
Vice-Moderator MWS Susan Arnold
Moderator of CT MWS Marion Humphrey
General Presbyter MWS Stewart Smith
Stated Clerk MWS Stewart Smith

Moderator of Administration
RE Tom Verdery
Moderator of COM RE Don Eilbott
Moderator of CPM MWS Susan Gray
Moderator of Subcommittee on Disaster Preparedness and Response
RE Ray Stephens
Moderator of Future of the Church
MWS Becky Purcell
Co-Moderators of Subcommittee on Honduran Ministry
RE Leah Woodruff
MWS Phil Butin
Moderator of Mission of the Church
CRE Mary Shaw
Moderator of Nominations
CRE Chuck Olson
Co-Moderators of Presbyterian Women
RE Patty Minga
RE Cathy Rogers
Moderator of Representation
MWS Marie Mainard O'Connell
Moderator of Youth, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry - MWS Maggie Alsup



148th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas

Utilizing Zoom Technology

Docket

Friday, October 8, 2021

- 6:30 pm** **Call to Order/Opening Gavel**
Lighting of the Christ Candle and Opening Prayer
Preliminaries
Welcome – Moderator RE Julie Gillaspy
Explanation of Technology – Moderator RE Julie Gillaspy
Welcome to all in Attendance– General Presbyter & Stated Clerk
- 6:45 pm** **Consent Agenda**
Motion to approve the Consent Agenda - Stated Clerk Smith (requires a second) (The Consent Agenda is Section A.)
- 6:50 pm** **Report of the Stated Clerk (Stewart Smith) (Section B)**
- 6:55 pm** **Report of the Treasurer (Bob Boehmler) (Section G)**
- 7:00 pm** **Report from the Administrative Commission on First Presbyterian Church North Little Rock /Argenta (Section C)**
- 7:45 pm** **Announcements**
- 8:00 pm** **Worship – led by First Presbyterian Church – Fort Smith**
We will celebrate the Lord's Supper together, so please prepare with bread and juice/wine before the meeting.
Presbytery Meeting Offering to benefit Arkansas Foodbank. Click this link to donate now:
<https://bit.ly/3F3AFhd> use link and select Presbytery Meeting Offering to donate.
- 8:45 pm** **Adjournment**

- 8:30 am** **Opening Worship – led by Candidate for Ministry LaWanda Harris**
- 8:55 am** **Decisions of the Presbytery**
- Motions of the Committee on Ministry** – Moderator RE Don Eilbott (The report is Section E.)
- Motions of the Coordinating Team** – Moderator MWS Marion Humphrey (The report is Section D.)
- Motions of the Committee on Nominations** – (The report is Addendum A)
- 10:30 am** **Order of the Day: Theological Discussion** – MWS Patricia Wright
- 11:30 am** **Five Minute Comfort Break**
- 11:35 am** **Report from the Matthew 25 Task Force** (Section H)
- Report of the General Presbyter** – MWS Stewart Smith
- Good News Reports**
- Good News from the Mission of the Church Committee**
- Good News from the Future of the Church Committee**
- Good News from the “Thriving in Ministry” Program**
- 12:15 pm** **Benediction and Adjournment**
- Fellowship to follow with the chat function remaining on for half-an-hour following adjournment.

Section A

Consent Agenda

MWS Stewart Smith
Stated Clerk

- 1. Motion to adopt the docket.**
- 2. Motion to approve the minutes of the 147th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, June 5, 2021, held through Zoom technology, with worship led by Park Hill and Trinity Presbyterian Churches and with MWS Jason Tucker from Tower Hill Presbyterian Church in Red Bank, New Jersey delivering the sermon.**
- 3. Motion to enroll corresponding members with voice but not vote.**
- 4. Motion to grant privilege of the floor (voice) to those persons registered, but without vote.**
- 5. Motion for the technology of Zoom Technology to count votes, serving as what the Presbytery of Arkansas has historically termed the “Tellers.”**
- 6. Motion for the Stated Clerk to record those absent and those present and include those names and numbers in the minutes, serving as what the Presbytery of Arkansas has historically termed the “Leaves of Absence Committee.”**

Section B

Report of the Stated Clerk

MWS Stewart Smith
Stated Clerk

1. Motion to receive the minutes of the Administrative Commission to ordain MWS Jocelyn Wildhack to the validated ministry of Chaplain at Ferncliff on August 22, 2021 and to dismiss them with thanks.
2. Statistical season is fast approaching. Please begin collecting the data (membership information, financial information, etc.) you will need in order to accurately fill out your annual statistical reports. If there has been a change in your clerk of session, please make sure we have updated contact information. You will have a short window of time to enter the statistical information in the early part of 2022.
3. Attached is the Presbytery Prayer List for 2022.

Prayer List for Congregations, Presbytery of Arkansas – 2022

Jan.	2	First, Clarksville	Park Hill, North Little Rock
Jan.	9	Mt. Vernon, Pea Ridge	First, Huntsville
Jan.	16	First, Benton	Active Ruling Elders
Jan.	23	University of the Ozarks, Clarksville	Faith, Horseshoe Bend
Jan.	30	First, McGehee	Inquirers and Candidates for Ministry
Feb.	6	First, Lincoln	First, Heber Springs
Feb.	13	Synod of the Sun	Church Musicians
Feb.	20	First, Jacksonville	Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Feb.	27	Church Secretaries and Treasurers	Holiday Island Presbyterian
Mar.	6	Second, Little Rock	First, Yellville
Mar.	13	Directors of Children's Programs	First, Mena
Mar.	20	First United, Fayetteville	Lyon College, Batesville
Mar.	27	First, Harrison	First, North Little Rock AC
Apr.	3	Mt. Comfort, Fayetteville	First, Dardanelle
Apr.	10	Good Shepherd, Greenwood	Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista
Apr.	17	Central, Fort Smith	Active Deacons
Apr.	24	Alpine Church, Amity	Church Groundskeepers
May	1	PC(USA) Seminaries	Vaughn, Bentonville
May	8	First, Hot Springs	Ministries to Hispanic Persons in Arkansas
May	15	Westover Hills, Little Rock	Allison Memorial, Little Rock
May	22	Holly Grove Church, Holly Grove	First, Alma
May	29	Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village	First, Searcy
June	5	Mission Trip Participants	First, Fort Smith
June	12	Pulaski Heights, Little Rock	Harmony Church, Clarksville
June	19	New Worshipping Communities	First, Pine Bluff
June	16	Graham Memorial, Forrest City	Elkins Church, Elkins
July	3	Grace, Little Rock	First, Malvern
July	10	Barr Memorial, Norman	Hopewell Church, Morrilton
July	17	First, Mountain Home	First, Newport
July	24	First, Little Rock	Presbytery Staff
July	31	Trinity, Little Rock	Spring River, Hardy
Aug.	7	First, Bentonville	Westminster, Little Rock
Aug.	14	First, Conway	First, Prairie Grove
Aug.	21	First, Morrilton	First, Springdale
Aug.	28	Wynne Church, Wynne	Commissioned Ruling Elders
Sept.	4	Faith, Pine Bluff	First, Beebe
Sept.	11	Central, Pine Bluff	Church Camp Ministries
Sept.	18	First, Brinkley	First, Jonesboro
Sept.	25	First, Gurdon	Churches in the Presbytery of Honduras
Oct.	2	Cane Hill Church, Cane Hill	Active and Retired Christian Educators and Youth Directors
Oct.	9	First, Van Buren	First, Batesville
Oct.	16	First, Eureka Springs	Central, Russellville
Oct.	23	First, Helena	West End, Arkadelphia
Oct.	30	Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals	First, Arkadelphia
Nov.	6	Campus Ministries	Hospital Chaplains and Counselors
Nov.	13	Church Nursery Workers	First, Rogers
Nov.	20	First, Marianna	Westminster, Hot Springs
Nov.	27	First, Paragould	Church Custodians
Dec.	4	Mountainburg Church, Mountainburg	Active and Retired Ministers
Dec.	11	Laotian Ministry, Fort Smith	The Office of the General Assembly of the PC(USA)
Dec.	18	Memorial Church, Atkins	First, Walnut Ridge
Dec.	25	Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay	Church Pre-Schools

Section C

North Little Rock Argenta Q&A

The Administrative Commission (AC) would like to receive feedback from the Presbytery of Arkansas about the direction that the AC is moving. This information is to assist the conversation planned for a zoom meeting on September 23, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Some Background:

First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock, was founded in 1895 by Rev. S.G. Miller and 13 members of First Presbyterian Church, Little Rock. Alternately called Argenta Presbyterian as well as First Presbyterian, the church grew, and in 1950 hired Architect John Parks Almand to design a new sanctuary. As the area changed in the 1990's, the members of the church decided to stay and continue their presence in North Little Rock. Ministry continued but the membership and financial resources declined.



Rev. Anne Russ served as Temporary then Stated Supply from October 2009 until December 2018. Prior to her leaving, Rev. Russ contacted the COM to connect with the session about the way forward. The liaisons, with the help of Rev. Michael Vinson, led the session in a time of evaluation of membership, finances, building needs, and conducted listening sessions with members.

In April of 2019, Rev. Michael Vinson came on board as a part-time interim pastor. Through a process of discernment and discussion, the session later voted to invite the Presbytery to form an Administrative Commission, who would in time come to serve as the session of the church. At the November 2019 meeting of the Coordinating Team, the AC commission was officially approved and charged. The members of the commission and its charge include:

1. Members:

- MWS Carol Clark, HR
- MWS Mike Ulasewich, First Conway; Future of the Church representative
- RE Leah Shell, Second Little Rock
- RE Ted Belden, First United Fayetteville; Future of the Church representative
- RE Melanie Gibson, Grace Little Rock
- RE Karene Jones, Park Hill North Little Rock
- RE Joel Gill, First North Little Rock (Argenta)
- MWS Leslie Belden, Stated Clerk (ex-officio)
- MWS Stewart Smith, General Presbyter (ex-officio)
- RE Sarah Keith-Bolden, First Little Rock (legal counsel, ex-officio)

2. Charged with the authority to:

- Determine the financial situation of First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock/Argenta;
- Counsel the Session of First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock, in the Session's discernment of the financial needs of the church;
- Counsel the Session and membership of First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock, in the Session's and congregation's deliberations and actions toward the "selling of real property" (G-1.0503d) or redevelopment of the property;
- Serve as the presence of the Presbytery of Arkansas in determining what the needs of the property are and taking steps to address those needs;

- Serve as the presence of the Presbytery of Arkansas in the development of any covenants or partnerships;
- Sell or encumber any real property;
- Assume original jurisdiction of the church, if necessary.
- Dissolve the congregation if requested, taking the necessary steps on behalf of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

The congregation met on January 12, 2020 for a congregational meeting and authorized the transfer of all real property to the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Subsequent significant actions by the Administrative Commission follow:

- Hired a contractor to monitor the building and grounds, including security issues, cleaning, mowing, and working with the remaining renters or others interested in using the property for outside events.
- Met with community groups/leaders regarding the continuing use of the building and grounds, including the use of the kitchen and community garden.
- Investigated the title commitment, had the quit claim deed transferred to the Presbytery of Arkansas, changed the bank account to different signers, changed signatories to the Gault Fund, worked through the issues with the electric bill and with the lease on the copier, moved the insurance of the church to the Presbytery's policy, approved the use of the building as the site of a possible new church development and to have a fellowship group meet there, (later put on hold as the building redevelopment was explored,) had estimates regarding replacing the roof which ranged from \$23,000 for the shingled roof and \$85,000 for the tile and shingled roof, conducted monthly worship services (until COVID hit) and offered a Lenten study and movie night.
- Continued the distribution of the "Gault Fund" (\$6082.18) which was specified as a fund left to the church to be distributed for use to the poor and needy in the area.
- Had the building and grounds appraised at \$350,000.
- Negotiated with and paid the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program \$20,235 for the abandonment of the property easement. Previously the church had secured the easement for this amount of money in order to repair the stained-glass windows. This action will likely increase the property value to an estimated \$500,000.
- Voted to hire Fennel/Purifoy Architects for \$3,000, to explore how the property could be redeveloped. The sketched plans include a 14-21 unit apartment complex as well as renovation of the building for event spaces and continued commercial space in the building for rental use.
- Met with the Director of the Innovation Hub in North Little Rock to see if there is a way for their services to interface with the activities of the building, including housing some of their activities and the Hub taking on the management of the facility.

Plans and discussions are still ongoing as the AC continues to gather information. The four options currently being considered are:

1. Partner with a developer, or different developers, for the two different "sides" of the property – the built half to be redeveloped, as well as the vacant lot that could be developed with apartments/condos. The Presbytery's contribution would be the land and the buildings.
2. Develop either or both sides of the property – the built half to be redeveloped as well as the vacant lot that could be developed with apartments/condos - with a long-term land lease (30-50 years).
3. Pledging land for an equity position in the apartment/condo development.
4. Sell the entire property (as is).

Questions and Answers:

1. What is the current overall scope of the project?

At present, the Administrative Commission is talking about breaking the property into two completely different phases/projects aimed at different aspects of developing the property. The first phase/project would focus on renovating the existing sanctuary and fellowship hall as office and event space. The second phase/project would be constructing 14-21 new apartments/condos on the existing vacant lot.

2. Who might be the development partner with the Presbytery?

We have identified two developers who are interested in partnering with the Presbytery, Nabholz Properties Inc. and Newmark Moses Tucker Partners. Both have extensive knowledge and history in developments in North Little Rock. We think Nabholz is the best choice for us to work with on the existing structure, and are in conversation with Greg Nabholz to discern whether partnering on this project is the direction God is calling the Presbytery. We will have future conversations with Newmark Moses Tucker about possibly working with us on developing the vacant lot as apartments/condos.

3. Why would Nabholz be a good partner for the redevelopment of the existing building?

Nabholz has offered to invest \$787,500 for a 50% ownership in a new partnership. This is considerably more than the 500,000 estimated appraised value. They have a reputation of historically developing well thought of projects in North Little Rock.

4. What is the overall scope of this initial phase/project?

The AC has engaged the architectural firm of Fennel Purifoy to develop a master plan. The entire existing structure would be brought up to current building codes. A new roof would be installed on the fellowship hall, new bathrooms would be added, and the kitchen would be relocated to open up the existing fellowship hall to the courtyard. The architectural plans are only in the preliminary phase, and as such plans could change.

5. If a partnership is formed, who would manage the redeveloped property?

If a partnership is formed with Nabholz for the redevelopment of the existing building complex, with ownership owned jointly between the Presbytery of Arkansas and Nabholz, Nabholz would become the managing member of the property. The Presbytery of Arkansas would not be involved in the day-to-day operations.

6. Has a marketing study been done to determine the feasibility of the project?

No, but the Administrative Commission talked with Errin Stanger from the Innovation Hub, a local organization helping entrepreneurs get started. Both developers' excitement in the proposed projects have encouraged us. The area of Argenta where the church is located is seeing redevelopment. Since talking with the Innovation Hub the AC has secured new leases for the fellowship hall and a new worshipping community is meeting in the sanctuary. The Argenta Downtown Development group, who is active in the area, has also indicated they are needing small office space and event space for restaurants that have or are planning to locate in Argenta.

7. Is there sufficient parking?

The developers have assured the AC that sufficient parking can be made available for the project. An on-site parking lot combined with available street parking can accommodate office space. With respect to an event center, parking options include street parking and utilization of existing parking lots that are not used in the evening. If the apartment/condo phase of the project moves forward, about 50% of the on-site parking lot will need to be designated for the apartments.

8. What type of businesses will be allowed to lease space?

The Administrative Commission will work with our partner to establish a partnership agreement on limitations and restrictions on who could lease the space. The goal of the AC would be to offer discounts to non-profit groups and make sure the tenants are suitable for a church. We imagine a community of non-profits, artists and entrepreneurs leasing the space. But the project must be financially sustainable, so the partnership will necessarily work within what the market price is for space.

9. What additional demands will such a venture place on the Presbytery staff?

We don't anticipate this project adding much if any work to the Presbytery staff. Nabholz would be the developer and would be paid to manage the project and minimize the demands on the Presbytery staff.

10. Since this is a for-profit business venture, which will likely subject the Presbytery of Arkansas to Unrelated Business Income, what additional accounting, tax filing, and audits will be required?

The Administrative Commission is currently working with legal counsel to determine how a project can be structured, ensure that the Presbytery of Arkansas' non-profit status is protected, and address accounting and tax requirements. The AC has also met with Paul Grier of the Presbyterian Foundation for information about how other entities have approached this type of project.

11. What is the anticipated income from this venture?

Nabholz has given the Administrative Commission a pro-forma that shows the project generating a positive annual cash flow of around \$100,000 initially, and growing to \$150,000. The Presbytery would receive 50% of any profits distributed. The income of \$50,000 annually could begin in 2024, growing soon to \$75,000 annually. If the Presbytery of Arkansas sold the Property for \$500,000 (above the current \$350,000 appraised value) the Presbytery could realize an estimated 7% return or \$35,000 annually.

12. What financial incentives might be available for this project?

Money used to renovate the sanctuary and associated buildings will generate historic tax credits that will be sold and used to further help with the renovation costs.

13. Will the Presbytery need to guarantee any debt?

Yes, after the Presbytery contributes the land, the developer contributes \$787,500, and the historic tax credits are utilized it is anticipated that the total remaining cost for redevelopment will be \$655,000, shared equally between the Presbytery (\$327,500) and Nabholz (\$327,500). This debt is factored into the pro-forma of the project.

14. In a worst case scenario, what action can the Presbytery of Arkansas take?

The AC will structure any deal to ensure that the presbytery has a clear exit strategy if one becomes necessary. At this time the AC feels that the location of the church warrants investigating the possibility of a partnership with a developer, which would provide an investment in the property, and mean that the Presbytery of Arkansas would have a continued presence in North Little Rock, as well as provide a cash flow for ministry to the Presbytery.

15. How will funds generated from this project be used by the Presbytery?

The Administrative Commission is considering recommending establishing a separate account with the Presbytery designating how the funds will be used. We do not want the funds to be used to fund general operations but to be used to support the local community and other churches.

16. What are the next steps?

The Administrative Commission needs the input of the Presbytery in discerning God's desires for the future of the property associated with First Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock. If feedback is supportive of going forth in some form of partnership the AC will move forward with more detailed conversations with Nabholz. This will give Nabholz time to evaluate the financial feasibility of the project, and the AC will have time to set up a structure that will work for the Presbytery. The Administrative Commission will want to bring specific motions to the Presbytery for approval prior to incurring any debt. This would come before the Presbytery at a special called meeting of the Presbytery, or if the time-frame allows, at the March 2022 meeting.

17. Why shouldn't the Presbytery just sell the property and invest the funds to support the ministries?

It could be that would be how God is leading. The Administrative Commission is considering that. At present the Administrative Commission believes that the Presbytery of Arkansas has adequate invested funds gaining interest with the Texas Presbyterian Foundation and believes that God has offered an opportunity to do ministry in an existing location in a new way. Also, according to the projections, this partnership will create more revenue to support the mission and ministries of this Presbytery than simply selling. Plus, the Presbytery of Arkansas will still have a physical presence in the downtown North Little Rock/historic Argenta neighborhood. The Presbytery will still be part-owners of the property. If the property is sold the Presbytery will be cashing in and won't have options or opportunities with this property in the future.

18. What are the primary reasons that the AC is recommending the proposed venture?

To Provide a Sustainable Investment for Mission and Ministry- Proceeds from the event space, office area or residential development would go directly to supporting congregations, missions, and ministries of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

To Provide a Chapel and Event Space- The Presbytery of Arkansas would continue to have a space for worship, special services, workshops, concerts, art shows, etc. in downtown North Little Rock. The sanctuary was designed by notable architect John Parks Almand, who was also the architect for Little Rock Central High School, and our renovation would keep the integrity of the original design while enhancing and updating it.

To Provide Office Space - The partnership would work to attract individuals and organizations as tenants who are making a positive difference in the community. The ideal would be to create a working community of non-profits, entrepreneurs, and artists and artisans.

To Maintain a Presbytery Presence in the Neighborhood– Partnering in a project with a developer keeps the Presbytery of Arkansas active in the Argenta area but also lets the space become what the community needs and wants. In the future we could plant a new worshipping community or a church here, should that be appropriate.

To Be Open to God's Holy Spirit and Try a "New Thing"- The Administrative Commission encourages those around the Presbytery to think creatively about how to use the resources of the Presbytery of Arkansas in a new way. This could be a model for this presbytery, or other presbyteries, with other properties around the country. The Administrative Commission believes that prayerfully discerning how best to utilize our existing physical resources is a way to honor the legacy of a congregation and church site, while at the same time considering creating a space that could be utilized by the community to provide a sustainable source of income to fund the missions and ministry of this presbytery. Through this prayerful discovering the Administrative Commission will certainly learn a great deal to share with the Presbytery and possibly use in the future.

A Center for the Community Is What the Session of First Presbyterian Wanted- In a letter to the Administrative Commission the session of First Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock stated that they wanted the space to be used for the betterment of the community. Their biggest fear was that the site would be left fallow and become an eyesore. The type of mixed use and creative partnership that we are leaning toward is completely in line with what they wanted to happen. This includes using any revenue created through the property or this project going to support non-profits and ministries that they supported. We know they did not want the property to sit idle.

19. What is the Risk?

The feasibility of the project is being further explored, including the risks and liability associated with this type of partnership. There would probably need to be a for profit entity created that answers to the Presbytery of Arkansas to resolve issues associated with revenues. This entity would be the partner in LLCs associated with the property. Continued ownership of the property and letting the property deteriorate keeps it in our folder of future properties to redevelop, but further brings about risk of injury and loss of the value of the asset. Selling the property outright is the easiest solution, and probably holds the least amount of risk, but would remove the possibility of utilizing the property as a Presbytery presence in the future. Partnering with a developer appears to offer the opportunity for a continued presence in the community, an upgraded facility for the community, and a sustained income for congregational mission and ministry for the Presbytery of Arkansas. The AC will structure any deal to ensure that the Presbytery has a clear exit strategy if one becomes necessary.

In Conclusion:

There can be some fear and trepidation surrounding doing something new. But there can also be excitement, energy and growth. The Administrative Commission is prayerfully discerning how to best recommend utilizing the existing property of First Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock in Argenta. The AC believes that the Presbytery of Arkansas has a unique asset and a unique opportunity with this property. It is possible that through partnerships with developers the Presbytery could maintain the historic legacy of the church and congregation. The Presbytery could also continue to play a part in the community of Argenta, which is growing. Instead of an eyesore, whether we sell the property outright, lease the property, or partner with a developer to redevelop the property, the project can provide an opportunity to non-profits, artists and entrepreneurs. People can live, work, worship and play in this renovated space, and the proposed accompanying apartments/condos, that will be provided to the community of Argenta.

The AC is hopeful that God would want the Presbytery to use this resource and create something more with that which has been provided to the Presbytery of Arkansas by the generations of faithful followers of God who have been members of First Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock in Argenta. The AC believes that however the property is redeveloped it should be a place that serves the community and supports mission and ministry, a place that maintains the beautiful sanctuary for weddings and worship, and a place that welcomes more people to engage with and care for one another.

The redevelopment of the existing facilities of First Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock can be done by leveraging the value of the location of the building and the facility itself, with an additional investment on our behalf. This could be a model for a new path forward for many presbyteries that have aging properties with declining membership in up-and-coming urban areas. This could be a way to keep a presence, contribute to the community and provide income to support the mission and ministry of the church.

Section D

Report of the Coordinating Team

MWS Marion Humphrey
Moderator

For Action

Motion to approve the proposed changes to the Presbytery of Arkansas' Ministry Manual: Part I Organization and Structure, which requires a 3/5 vote of Presbytery, and Standing Rules, which requires a simple majority vote of Presbytery. (See Section D – Attachment I.)

For Information

The Coordinating Team took the following actions at their June 16, July 7, and September 2, 2021 meetings.

Accepted with regret the retirement request for Stated Clerk MWS Leslie Belden. The Coordinating Team unanimously thanked Leslie for her wonderful service to the presbytery.

Approved the creation of a group from within the presbytery to address dismantling systemic racism. Discussion was held about a group similar to the current network on this issue with the Synod of the Sun. (It was later learned that the Future of the Church committee was working on a similar group – and discussion was held with Future of the Church for that group to serve in this role.)

Appointed MWS Stewart Smith as the Stated Clerk on a temporary basis and that the appropriate tasks of Stated Clerk be distributed among staff members as Stewart deems appropriate.

Approved that the previously named task force to study the Youth, College and Young Adults position due to staff member Brianne Christiansen's pending move, be asked to consider the needs of the Stated Clerk position in addition to their named duties.

Approved a request from the First Presbyterian Church in Benton to convey a piece of property to the Margie Stewart Trust, so that the trust can sell the property on behalf of the church.

Approved Deborah Wright, co-founder of Pneumatrix, to lead our theological discussion on the topic of church vitality. Julie Price had arranged for Rev. Wright to lead a series of workshops on small church vitality – and would be willing to lead our theological discussion for the reduced cost of \$75.00 since we are a client. Cost was approved from the Coordinating Team budget.

Approved the staff of First Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith to lead worship at the October 2021 presbytery meeting.

Approved the Mission Committee's recommendation of the Arkansas Foodbank as the recipient of the offering.

Approved MWS Becky Purcell and MWS Steven Kurtz to celebrate the Lord's Supper during the Future of the Church retreat at Ferncliff.

Section D – Attachment I

Proposed Changes to the Presbytery of Arkansas' Ministry Manual:

Words to be deleted have a ~~line drawn through them~~ and words to be added are in red.

In Part I: Organization and Structure, under 5) Ministry Areas and Standing Committees, D) Leadership and Ministry, 1) Permanent Committees, a) Committee on Preparation for Ministry, (1) Membership:

At least one member of the CPM shall be a **Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)**, Certified Christian Educator (**CCE**), or Certified Associate Christian Educator (**CACE**).

The above amendment requires a 3/5 majority vote of the Presbytery of Arkansas to be approved.

In Part IV: Policies and Procedures, Presbytery Meetings, under Meeting Preparation for Stated Meetings:

The members of the Planning Team are:

- ❖ The Moderator and Vice-Moderator of the presbytery
- ❖ The Moderator of the Coordinating Team
- ❖ The Stated Clerk
- ~~❖ A member of the presbytery (appointed for the calendar year)~~
- ~~❖ One member of the Coordinating Committee (convener)~~
- ~~❖ Two representatives of the hosting institution~~
- ❖ **The General Presbyter**
- ❖ **Other staff and representatives of the hosting institution as warranted**

The above amendment only requires a simple majority vote to be approved.

Section E

Report of the Committee on Ministry

RE Don Eilbott
Moderator

For Action:

1. Motion to grant honorable retirement to MWS Leslie Belden, effective July 14, 2021 and to approve the dissolution of her role as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Arkansas and as Parish Associate at First United Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville.
2. Motion to grant honorable retirement to MWS Steve Hancock effective October 17, 2021, and to also approve the dissolution of call of MWS Steve Hancock as Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock effective October 31, 2021, pending the congregation concurring with that dissolution in a duly called congregational meeting on October 17, 2021.
3. Motion to grant honorable retirement to MWS Susan Gray effective June 30, 2021, and to also approve the dissolution of call of MWS Susan Gray as pastor of Vaughn Presbyterian Church, Bentonville, AR concurring with the dissolution of call in a duly called congregational meeting on June 27, 2021.
4. Motion to examine Candidate LaWanda Harris for ordination to co-pastor of Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church and to enroll her as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas. LaWanda's Statement of Faith is included in the packet as Section E - Attachment I, and she is under care of our presbytery.
5. Motion to approve the call (pending a successful examination) of LaWanda Harris as co-pastor of Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church effective July 1, 2021 with the following terms of call:

Cash and Housing-----	\$20,210.00
Social Security Supplement.....	\$ 2,082.00
Continuing Education-----	\$ 1,000.00
Travel Reimbursable Exp-----	\$ 1,000.00
Board of Pensions -----	\$10,068.00
Health Insurance -----	\$ 372.00
Vacation-----	4 weeks paid
Continuing Education -----	2 weeks paid
Parental Leave-----	6 weeks paid
Sabbatical Leave -----	12 weeks paid
to be taken in the 7th year with Presbytery approval	
Total Compensation Package -----	\$41,732.00

6. Motion to approve the following Administrative Commission (pending a successful examination) for a service of ordination and installation for LaWanda Harris on October 17, 2021 at Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church in Little Rock at 3:00 pm. The offering recipient is the Committee on Preparation for Ministry Emergency Fund for candidates.

Moderate and ask Constitutional QuestionsRE Julie Gillaspy, FPC Conway
PreachMWS Marion Humphrey, Allison Memorial PC, Little Rock
Charge the PastorMWS Alisa Secrest, Second Presbyterian, Little Rock
Charge the Congregation....RE, Stephen Moody, First Presbyterian, Little Rock
MWS Krista DenneFirst Presbyterian, Clarksville
Charles Gray, REPulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock MWS Stacey
HammonsPresbyterian Village, Little Rock

7. Motion to approve the call of MWS Rev. Dr. Judith (Judy) McMillan as Pastor of The Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, effective October 1, 2021 with the following terms of call:

Cash and Housing-----	\$66,400.00
Deferred Compensation.....	\$ 3,600.00
Social Security Supplement.....	\$ 5,320.00
Continuing Education-----	\$ 4,500.00
Professional Reimbursable Expenses-----	\$ 2,000.00
Board of Pensions -Full Family-----	\$25,900.00
Moving Costs (One Time Expense).....	Up to\$10,000.00
Vacation-----	4 weeks paid
Continuing Education Time-----	2 weeks paid
Parental Leave-----	6 weeks paid
Sabbatical Leave-----	12 weeks paid
to be taken in the 7th year with Presbytery approval	

Total Compensation Package -----\$107,720.00.

And to enroll her as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, requesting her dismissal from The Presbytery of Detroit. MWS Judy McMillan's Statement of Faith is included as Section E – Attachment II.

8. Necrology. The Committee on Ministry requests a moment of silence to reflect on the life and ministry of Gordon Garlington and Clif Ford, whose work on this earth has ended, and who have received their reward and are at home with God and all the saints in the Kingdom of God. (See Section E – Attachments III and IV.)

For Information:

1. The Committee on Ministry approved the commissioning service of ruling elder Michelle Hall for service to the Lincoln and Prairie Grove congregations. Services were held at both congregations on July 11, 2021.

2. The Committee on Ministry approved the transfer of MWS Ainsley Herrick to the Presbytery of the Cascades. Ainsley was called to be supply pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Phoenix, Oregon and as the Executive Director of the First Phoenix Community Center.
3. Approve proposed Targeted Transitional Pastor Covenant between Mt. Comfort Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, and Rev. Becky Purcell. Terms for this 4-month, 15 hours/week are as follows:
 - \$1,500/month
 - One week of vacation during the period
 - 2 days of continuing education during the period
4. Approved a covenant renewal for MWS Libby Lizarraga to serve as Moderator and part-time supply pastor at Mt. Comfort Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville.
5. Approved an amended covenant for MWS Jeff Parker to serve as part-time supply pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Harrison.
6. Approved a covenant between the session of the Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista and Rev. CJ Malone for part-time transitional coverage and pulpit supply.

Section E – Attachment I

Statement of Faith LaWanda Harris

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. 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 gives 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.

Section E – Attachment II

Statement of Faith Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan

I believe God's love is being poured out for all creation. Through Christ, and gifted with the Holy Spirit, the church is empowered to bear witness to God's powerful redeeming love.

Though the world sins, and creation suffers through violence, neglect, hardship and wars, we have been given the gift of life. The church is redeemed for a purpose. We are called to admit our faults, accept the love and grace through Christ and live into our new life. Speaking truth, asking forgiveness and forgiving others in community is part of the process of daily redemption. There is a now and not yet reality to Christ having redeemed the world and Christ returning. Until that day, we are to live "resurrection lives" which express God's mission of reconciliation. "Work out your own salvation" says Paul. We are to work on our faith, have hope for tomorrow, and continue to be accountable to our loving God.

Through the sacrament of baptism we are brought into God's beloved assembly, the church. Baptism calls us into a deeper relationship with God where we die with Christ and rise to new life. God's grace pours out on us. Water is the symbol of this death and rebirth. All who have been baptized by the Spirit are welcome to the table Christ prepares for us. Bread breaks to remind us of the broken body, brought back together. Bread for all. Bread enough for the world around. Wine pours out as a reminder of the new covenant, a reminder that Jesus celebrated with friends the Last Supper. Jesus calls all to remember. We eat as one body and drink of one everlasting cup as symbols of the great heavenly banquet God will host one day.

The church is to serve those whom Jesus served. Jesus served on the margins and wept for Jerusalem. Jesus calls disciples to follow and pay attention to those who are forgotten. We serve the lost, lonely, broken and broken-hearted, the ill, suffering and recovering. We serve those who are poor, marginalized, distraught. We serve the rich, the proud, the hopeful. We serve to help change systemic poverty and racism. We serve because God calls us to serve and we cannot ignore the God of all.

God continues to weave together believers of all kinds to God's glory. Praise be to the One who calls birds to sing in the branches, calms the storms, enlightens the minds of the young and old alike. The church is the body of Christ, called, gathered, centered and sent to be disciples.

Section E – Attachment III

Necrology

MWS Rev. Dr. Gordon Garlington

January 25, 1946 – July 9, 2021

Rev. Dr. Gordon Garlington died on Friday evening, July 9, 2021 at his home in North Little Rock, AR.

Gordon has been a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas since June of 1980 when he came to serve as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Bentonville. Gordon served at Bentonville for 23 years until he moved to serve as pastor of Park Hill Presbyterian Church in North Little Rock from 2003 until his retirement in 2016.

Gordon was ordained by National Capital Presbytery in 1972 after graduating from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA. Gordon served as pastor of Hartwood Presbyterian Church in Hartwood, VA from 1972-1977. He moved to Midland, TX where he served as pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church from 1977-1979 and then served as the organizing pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church from 1979-1980 when the congregations of Covenant Presbyterian and Christ Presbyterian voted to combine into one congregation. During his time at Hartwood, Gordon received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Union Theological Seminary.

Gordon served on almost every committee of this presbytery. On more than one occasion he served on a task force to consider presbytery restructures. He served as commissioner to the General Assembly in 1987 and served as Presbytery Moderator in 1995. Gordon had six year stints on the Church Development Committee, Committee on Ministry and most recently on the Mission of the Church committee serving as Moderator and on the Coordinating Team from 2019-2020.

Gordon is survived by his wife of 53 years, Shirley, his children, J.J. Garlington, wife Amanda, their children, Gianna and Jerico, his daughter, Alicia Garlington Jones and her children Cory, Kameron, and Charlzie Jones, and “adopted” son, Jaylon Paro, and AFS son Alejandro Castaneda, now of Bogota, Colombia. Gordon is also survived by his brother, John Garlington and his wife Pat and their children, Jennifer, Christopher and their families.

Section E – Attachment IV

Necrology

MWS Rev. Dr. Clifton (Clif) Ford September 17, 1957 – August 13, 2021

Rev. Dr. Clif Ford died on Friday, August 13, 2021 in Conway after suffering a heart attack. Clif was a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas for 37 years. Clif was born on September 17, 1957 in Texarkana, TX and was one of several PCUSA ministers that came from the First Presbyterian Church in Texarkana, AR.

Clif went to college at Centenary College of Louisiana in Shreveport, LA and graduated with a B.A. in Religion. Clif received his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA, graduating in 1984. During his time at Union, Clif served as an intern at Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church in Fishersville, VA.

After seminary, Clif returned to Arkansas and was ordained on June 24, 1984 as an Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith. Clif served there for six years and then moved to become pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Conway, a position he served for fifteen years. In recent years, Clif served as stated supply at First Presbyterian Church in Alma.

Clif served as a commissioner to the 204th General Assembly in 1992 at Milwaukee. During his early years in the presbytery Clif served as chair of the Camps and Conference Sub-committee, chair of the adult Christian Education subcommittee and as chair of the Education Committee. He also served on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and the Polity Committee.

Clif is survived by his wife Martha, who grew up in the Presbyterian Church in Alma where Clif was serving. He is also survived by his son Daniel and daughter-in-law Rachel, and Daniel's mother Jeannie Ford who is the Church Educator at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock.

Section F

Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

COPM Report To Presbytery Of Arkansas, October 8-9, 2021

For Information:

Jeannie Corbitt has been certified ready to receive a call and to circulate her PIF.

Kim Danehower will be reimbursed for tuition in the Certificate of Ministry program at Austin Theological Seminary for the Winter and Spring quarters, 2021. She is in the CRE program.

Allan Huddleston has completed the requirements of the CRE program and is ready to receive a commission.

The budget request for 2022 will be the same as the one for 2021.

Motion was passed to give \$100 gifts to the current candidates for ministry as a token of appreciation and encouragement.

The Committee endorses the Mission Committee's consideration of zoom workshops in preaching for all who are interested.

The Committee will be more intentional in asking questions of candidates, to prepare them for the ordination examination on the floor of Presbytery.

Rev. Matt Bussell will be the Moderator for the year 2022.

Interview with Stephen Moody

Stephen was formerly ordained in the General Baptist denomination but is now a ruling elder in the PC (USA). He had originally considered becoming a CRE but has since become a candidate for ordination in the PC (USA). He has fulfilled the language requirements, and only needs to complete the ordination exams. He had been encouraged to put those on hold when he began to fill the pulpit at First Presbyterian, Little Rock. He has worked extremely hard at First for the past four years, while facing several problems. The Committee thanked him for his service to the Church and prays a blessing on his journey. We now encourage Stephen to take the ordination exams and complete the process.

COPM INQUIRERS AND CANDIDATES, 2021
Presbytery of Arkansas

INQUIRERS

Meredith Burnett	Liaison Matt Bussell
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Margaret (Maggie) Johnson	Liaison Ward Rudolph
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Elizabeth (Liz) Larkin	Liaison Katie Cummings
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Catherine Alexandra (Alex) Pickell	Liaison Elizabeth Brinegar
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David Mills	Liaison Jeff Price
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Laura Matthew Thompson	Liaison David Clark
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CANDIDATES FOR MWS

Jill Acree	Liaison NiAnn Thompson
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Brianne Christiansen	Liaison Katie Cummings
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Jeannie Corbitt	Liaison Matt Bussell
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Katharine (Katie) Flood
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Liaison Matt Bussell
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LaWanda Harris
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Liaison Susan Gray

Stephen Moody
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Liaison Matt Bussell

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Liaison Kim Danehower

APPLICANTS FOR CRE PROGRAM

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Liaison Katie Cummings

Allan Huddleston
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Liaison Kim Danehower

Ellen McEwen
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Liaison NiAnn Thompson

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Liaison David Clark
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Section G

Report of the Committee on Administration

October 8-9, 2021 Presbytery Meeting

For Information:

1. 2021 (Year-To-Date) has been on track financially for our Presbytery, as our income was better than anticipated due to a strong performance in our balanced funds at Texas Presbyterian Foundation through August (+12.1%) and total expenses down versus budget (-6.7%), due to reduced programming and travel caused by the continuing pandemic. Mission Acceptance (Church Benevolence) to our Presbytery is tracking slightly up versus 2020 (YTD +\$9,883, up 4.7%), thanks to the continued support of our congregations. While 2021 (Year-To-Date) benevolences appear behind our 2021 budget (38.3% of budget), this is due to several congregations giving semi-annually or annually at the end of year. Your Committee on Administration continues to be grateful to all the financial contributions from our congregations in the Presbytery of Arkansas.
2. As Arkansas begins to open and increase on-campus church activities, we expect expenses will increase to become more in line with pre-pandemic budgets from our Presbytery ministries and committees.
3. Key activities of your Committee on Administration in last half of 2021 include:
 - Annual personnel review policy created for all Presbytery staff and will begin in December 2021.
 - Continued emergency financial support for church professionals throughout the Presbytery.
 - Approved interim roles to support staff changes mid-year with the openings of the Clerk and youth positions.
 - Expanded our Presbytery insurance coverage (property & liability) and plans as we begin to acquire additional church property due to small church closures.
 - Developed updated policies and procedures for our Presbytery Risk Management and Insurance coverage.
 - Replace our damaged Presbytery office roof, funded mostly from property insurance.
4. Our 2022 Presbytery Budget is still being prepared but is expected to be similar with our current 2021 budget. Our final 2022 budget will be presented for approval at our March 2022 Presbytery Meeting.

THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS

Balance Sheet
August 31, 2021

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash TPF - undesignated	109,491.14
TPF Investment Cash - designated	833,412.41
TPF Investments	4,469,340.30
TPF Mark to Market 52190	2,331,711.90

Total Current Assets **7,743,955.75**

Property and Equipment

Furniture & Fixtures	62,857.89
Land	213,237.00
Buildings	771,516.12

1,047,611.01

Accumulated Depreciation (429,551.87)

Net Property and Equipment **8,362,014.89**

TOTAL ASSETS **\$ 8,362,014.89**

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Current Liabilities

Payroll & Other Withholdings	0.00
Accrued expenses	\$ (13,716.92)

Total Current Liabilities **(13,716.92)**

Fund Balance

Equity Beginning Balance	4,488,088.31
Fund Balance	2,072,209.04
Unrealized Gains/Losses	1,911,436.36
Net Income	(96,001.90)

Total Fund Balance **8,375,731.81**

TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL **\$ 8,362,014.89**

Unaudited - For Management Purposes Only

**Benevolences as of
August 31, 2021**

LOCATION	2019 Benevolence	2020 Benevolence	2021 Benevolence
Alma	-	-	-
Amity	-	-	-
Arkadelphia, First	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Arkadelphia, West End	1,106.00	1,106.00	-
Atkins	-	-	-
Batesville	10,000.00	10,000.00	7,500.00
Beebe	900.00	600.00	900.00
Bella Vista	30,000.00	24,999.96	13,333.28
Benton	9,600.00	8,600.00	3,800.00
Bentonville, First	29,500.00	32,000.00	16,750.00
Bentonville, Vaughn	-	2,000.00	-
Brinkley	-	-	-
Bull Shoals	-	-	50.00
Cane Hill	-	-	-
Clarksville, First	-	-	-
Clarksville, Harmony	-	-	-
Conway	8,125.00	7,700.00	4,375.00
Dardanelle	6,000.00	6,000.00	3,000.00
Elkins	1,000.00	1,000.00	500.00
Eureka Springs	3,000.00	2,550.00	2,000.00
Fairfield Bay	700.00	350.00	350.00
Fayetteville, First United	41,000.00	41,000.00	23,912.00
Fayetteville, Mt. Comfort	1,660.00	1,660.00	830.00
Forrest City	8,250.00	9,000.00	6,000.00
Ft. Smith, Central	16,000.00	16,000.00	8,000.00
Ft. Smith, First	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Greenwood	2,000.00	-	-
Gurdon	1,200.00	300.00	-
Hardy	250.60	297.00	-
Harrison	-	-	-
Heber Springs	800.00	525.00	-
Helena	500.00	500.00	-
Holiday Island	6,200.00	6,200.00	3,100.00
Holly Grove	500.00	500.00	500.00
Horseshoe Bend	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,500.00
HSV, Kirk	27,270.00	27,270.00	15,907.50
H. Springs, First	20,000.00	20,000.00	10,013.00
H. Springs, Westminister	8,013.04	10,012.04	5,341.36
Huntsville	2,400.00	2,200.00	1,600.00
Jacksonville	2,655.00	2,800.00	2,000.00
Jonesboro	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Lincoln	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
LR, Allison	657.05	-	-
LR, First	-	-	-
LR, Grace	5,625.00	7,900.00	6,025.00
LR, Pulaski Heights	3,228.00	3,636.00	2,000.00
Little Rock, Second	200,000.00	200,000.00	-
LR, Trinity	7,333.33	8,000.00	5,333.36
LR, Westminister	300.00	400.00	200.00
LR, Westover Hills	10,500.00	10,500.00	4,000.00
Malvern	5,241.72	5,241.71	2,620.86
Marianna	-	-	-
McGehee	2,520.00	2,520.00	1,470.00
Mena	5,000.00	5,000.00	2,500.00
Morrilton, First	-	1,200.00	800.00

**Benevolences as of
August 31, 2021**

Morrilton, Hopewell	-	-	-
Mountain Home	1,000.00	1,000.00	250.00
Mountainburg	-	-	-
Newport	4,800.00	3,225.00	1,800.00
Norman	-	2,000.00	-
NLR, First	-	-	-
NLR, Park Hill	16,000.00	16,000.00	11,125.00
Paragould, First	-	-	-
Pea Ridge	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,750.00
Pine Bluff, Central	-	-	-
Pine Bluff, Faith	500.00	-	-
Pine Bluff, First	4,999.92	4,999.92	3,749.94
Prairie Grove	7,700.00	7,150.00	4,640.00
Rogers	7,000.00	6,999.96	4,666.64
Russellville	-	-	-
Searcy	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
Springdale	30,000.00	30,000.00	20,000.00
Van Buren	4,000.00	-	-
Walnut Ridge	-	6,400.00	-
Wynne	7,500.00	7,500.00	3,750.00
Yellville	6,000.00	6,000.00	4,500.00
Total	588,601.33	589,342.59	221,942.94

THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS								
Operating Income Statement								
For the Eight Months Ending August 31, 2021								
		Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Over/(Under) Budget		Year to Date Actual	2021 Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
6000-01	Mission Acceptance	\$ 24,504.49	31,666.67	(7,162.18)		\$ 221,942.94	580,000.00	(358,057.06)
Misc. (Acct. 6015)	Investment Spend Rate	17,278.04	16,970.47	307.57		136,831.51	203,645.64	(66,814.13)
6000-01-1-101	Previous Years Pledges	0.00	0.00	0.00		4,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
6001-00-1-000	Miscellaneous Revenue	950.00	1,333.33	(383.33)		9,875.00	16,000.00	(6,125.00)
	Total Revenues	42,732.53	49,970.47	(7,237.94)		372,649.45	801,645.64	(428,996.19)
Expenses								
7000-01-1-000	Coordinating Team--Meeting Exp, Meals, Worship	0.00	100.00	(100.00)		1,382.00	1,200.00	182.00
7000-06-1-000	Coordinating Team--Gifts	0.00	4.17	(4.17)		0.00	50.00	(50.00)
7000-09-1-000	Coordinating Team--Moderator's Expense	0.00	37.50	(37.50)		0.00	450.00	(450.00)
7000-10-1-000	Coordinating Team--Vice moderator's Expense	0.00	91.67	(91.67)		0.00	1,100.00	(1,100.00)
7000-20-1-000	Coordinating Team--Presbytery Workshop/Speaker	0.00	33.33	(33.33)		750.00	400.00	350.00
7000-31-1-000	Coordinating Team--Background Checks	21.45	25.00	(3.55)		21.45	300.00	(278.55)
		21.45	291.67	(270.22)		2,153.45	3,500.00	(1,346.55)
7100-01-1-000	Administration--Meeting Expense, Financial Review	0.00	583.33	(583.33)		912.71	7,000.00	(6,087.29)
7100-04-1-000	Administration--Debt Reduction Contingency (e.g. land appraisal)	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
7100-05-1-000	Administration--Ferncliff General Site Support	0.00	2,333.33	(2,333.33)		14,000.00	28,000.00	(14,000.00)
8400-46-1-000	Repay CCD -- Building mortgage	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00		16,000.00	24,000.00	(8,000.00)
		2,000.00	4,916.66	(2,916.66)		30,912.71	59,000.00	(28,087.29)
7200-01-1-000	Min. of the Church--Cmte on Prep. for Ministry--Travel, food, lodging, suppl	0.00	41.25	(41.25)		0.00	495.00	(495.00)
7200-02-1-000	Min. of the Church--Cmte on Prep. for Ministry--ConEd--Emergency Fund, Etc.	0.00	83.33	(83.33)		0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)
7700-01-1-000	Committee on Ministry--travel,food,mtg. support	0.00	416.67	(416.67)		0.00	5,000.00	(5,000.00)
8000-01-1-000	Min. of the Church--Cmte on Prep. for Ministry--Mtg. Expenses, etc.	0.00	42.08	(42.08)		0.00	505.00	(505.00)
8000-09-1-000	Min. of the Church--Cmte on Prep. for Ministry--Eval, Retreat, Support, Bkg Checks	1,450.00	250.00	1,200.00		1,450.00	3,000.00	(1,550.00)
8400-08-1-000	Min. of the Church--Wellspring Contract	0.00	644.58	(644.58)		8,330.00	7,735.00	595.00
		1,450.00	1,477.91	(27.91)		9,780.00	17,735.00	(7,955.00)
7300-29-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--Campus Ministry/Program Support	2,356.66	2,500.00	(143.34)		16,496.62	30,000.00	(13,503.38)
7300-71-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--Planning Retreats & Materials	0.00	83.33	(83.33)		110.75	1,000.00	(889.25)
7300-73-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT Scholarships	0.00	41.67	(41.67)		0.00	500.00	(500.00)
7300-74-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT Denomination Trips	0.00	166.67	(166.67)		0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)
7300-75-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT-Youth @ Presbytery	0.00	41.67	(41.67)		430.74	500.00	(69.26)
7300-76-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT YouthQuake	0.00	416.67	(416.67)		4,663.93	5,000.00	(336.07)
7300-78-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT Montreat	2,857.33	208.33	2,649.00		4,352.49	2,500.00	1,852.49

THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS								
Operating Income Statement								
For the Eight Months Ending August 31, 2021								
		Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Over/(Under) Budget		Year to Date Actual	2021 Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
7300-79-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--JrHi Jubilee	0.00	208.33	(208.33)		8.45	2,500.00	(2,491.55)
7300-80-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--Matthew 25 Account	0.00	208.33	(208.33)		0.00	2,500.00	(2,500.00)
7300-84-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--Young Adult Ministries	0.00	208.33	(208.33)		0.00	2,500.00	(2,500.00)
7300-86-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--Student Leadership Development	0.00	41.67	(41.67)		325.71	500.00	(174.29)
7300-99-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--Campus Ministry-Special Event Support	0.00	1,250.00	(1,250.00)		623.25	15,000.00	(14,376.75)
		5,213.99	5,375.00	(161.01)		27,011.94	64,500.00	(37,488.06)
7500-01-1-000	Future of the Church--CCD--Admin., Listening	1,090.00	83.33	1,006.67		1,090.00	1,000.00	90.00
7500-06-1-000	Future of the Church--CCD--Black Caucus--Al Branch	0.00	64.33	(64.33)		0.00	772.00	(772.00)
7500-21-1-000	Future of the Church--CCD--West End Operation Support	0.00	1,125.00	(1,125.00)		6,750.00	13,500.00	(6,750.00)
7500-25-1-000	Presbytery Technology Needs	0.00	625.00	(625.00)		3,500.00	7,500.00	(4,000.00)
7500-51-1-000	Future of the Church--CCD--New Ministries' Development	0.00	2,208.33	(2,208.33)		34,856.66	26,500.00	8,356.66
7500-53-1-000	Future of the Church--Laotian Ministry support	0.00	300.00	(300.00)		1,800.00	3,600.00	(1,800.00)
7500-98-1-000	Future of the Church--Faith Presbyterian Operation Support	0.00	594.00	(594.00)		3,564.00	7,128.00	(3,564.00)
		1,090.00	4,999.99	(3,909.99)		51,560.66	60,000.00	(8,439.34)
7300-01-1-000	Christian Education--Meeting Expenses	0.00	37.50	(37.50)		0.00	450.00	(450.00)
7300-10-1-000	Christian Education--Special train. Events/presb	0.00	166.67	(166.67)		0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)
7300-21-1-000	Christian Education--Ferncliff Prog/Supt. Summer Camp	12,000.00	2,000.00	10,000.00		24,000.00	24,000.00	0.00
7300-24-1-000	Mission of the Church--Ferncliff--Block Grant	0.00	416.67	(416.67)		0.00	5,000.00	(5,000.00)
7300-30-1-000	Christian Education--Presbyterian Pilgrimage	0.00	166.67	(166.67)		0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)
7300-41-1-000	Christian Education--Diversity--Scholarship	0.00	31.25	(31.25)		0.00	375.00	(375.00)
7300-90-1-000	Christian Education--Resource Center Resources	200.00	166.67	33.33		333.98	2,000.00	(1,666.02)
7300-91-1-000	Christian Education--Resource Cntr. Admin.	280.00	91.67	188.33		280.00	1,100.00	(820.00)
7600-03-1-000	Mission of the Church--Scholarship for Mission Trip	0.00	83.33	(83.33)		0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)
7600-05-1-000	Mission of the Church--International Mission Emphasis	0.00	166.67	(166.67)		0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)
7600-26-1-000	Mission of the Church--Arkansas Interfaith Conference	0.00	291.67	(291.67)		1,750.00	3,500.00	(1,750.00)
7600-44-1-000	Mission of the Church--Lyon College	0.00	83.33	(83.33)		500.00	1,000.00	(500.00)
7600-45-1-000	Mission of the Church--Presby. Village Support	0.00	41.67	(41.67)		250.00	500.00	(250.00)
7600-49-1-000	Mission of the Church--Univ. of Ozarks	0.00	83.33	(83.33)		500.00	1,000.00	(500.00)
7600-51-1-000	Mission of the Church--Vera Lloyd Mission	0.00	208.33	(208.33)		1,250.00	2,500.00	(1,250.00)
7600-62-1-000	Mission of the Church--Unified Mission Emphasis	0.00	1,172.92	(1,172.92)		4,400.00	14,075.00	(9,675.00)
7600-96-1-000	Mission of the Church--Solar Under the Sun	0.00	83.33	(83.33)		500.00	1,000.00	(500.00)
8300-01-1-000	Mission of the Church--PW Exp., travel, postage, etc.	0.00	41.67	(41.67)		0.00	500.00	(500.00)
8300-07-1-000	Mission of the Church--PW--Spring & Fall Retreats, Synod Gathering	0.00	291.67	(291.67)		0.00	3,500.00	(3,500.00)
9400-01-1-000	Mission of the Church--Disaster Preparedness	0.00	41.67	(41.67)		50.00	500.00	(450.00)
		12,480.00	5,666.69	6,813.31		33,813.98	68,000.00	(34,186.02)
PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS								

Operating Income Statement								
For the Eight Months Ending August 31, 2021								
		Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Over/(Under) Budget		Year to Date Actual	2021 Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
7800-01-1-000	Nominations--travel, food	0.00	25.00	(25.00)		0.00	300.00	(300.00)
8100-01-1-000	Representation--Meeting Expenses	0.00	3.75	(3.75)		0.00	45.00	(45.00)
8400-01-1-000	POA/Supplies & Office Exp.	53.99	291.67	(237.68)		1,534.50	3,500.00	(1,965.50)
8400-02-1-000	Utilities/Telephone	654.81	625.00	29.81		4,337.99	7,500.00	(3,162.01)
8400-03-1-000	Copy Machine	485.67	500.00	(14.33)		4,096.48	6,000.00	(1,903.52)
8400-05-1-000	Technology	922.49	1,233.33	(310.84)		10,671.05	14,800.00	(4,128.95)
8400-07-1-000	Replace Equipment	0.00	83.33	(83.33)		0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)
8400-09-1-000	Insurance	4,689.00	683.33	4,005.67		16,238.00	8,200.00	8,038.00
8400-10-1-000	Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	41.67	(41.67)		130.00	500.00	(370.00)
8400-12-1-000	Maintenance(Grounds,Bldg Upkeep)	684.45	833.33	(148.88)		6,458.75	10,000.00	(3,541.25)
		7,490.41	4,291.66	3,198.75		43,466.77	51,500.00	(8,033.23)
8400-22-1-000	K. Palmer/Travel	0.00	41.67	(41.67)		0.00	500.00	(500.00)
8400-25-1-000	S. Smith/Professional Ex	0.00	1,250.00	(1,250.00)		3,419.15	15,000.00	(11,580.85)
8400-29-1-000	Salaries	14,933.35	18,500.00	(3,566.65)		144,850.16	222,000.00	(77,149.84)
8400-30-1-000	Pension/Major Medical	1,458.00	1,598.83	(140.83)		11,664.00	19,185.96	(7,521.96)
8400-31-1-000	S. Smith/Continuing Ed.	0.00	125.00	(125.00)		0.00	1,500.00	(1,500.00)
8400-33-1-000	Payroll Taxes	849.78	1,122.64	(272.86)		8,740.13	13,471.68	(4,731.55)
8400-34-1-000	Housing	2,975.00	2,975.00	0.00		23,800.00	35,700.00	(11,900.00)
8400-40-1-000	S. Smith/FICA	526.66	583.33	(56.67)		4,213.28	7,000.00	(2,786.72)
8400-41-1-000	Builder/Connector Professional Expenses	0.00	833.33	(833.33)		3,927.47	10,000.00	(6,072.53)
8400-49-1-000	B. Christiansen Professional Expenses	0.00	125.00	(125.00)		1,163.00	1,500.00	(337.00)
8400-53-1-000	TPF Bookkeeping Fees	111.69	916.67	(804.98)		4,817.95	11,000.00	(6,182.05)
		20,854.48	32,363.13	(4,018.24)		206,595.14	336,857.64	(138,295.73)
8600-01-1-000	General Assembly	2,425.00	2,425.00	0.00		19,391.67	29,100.00	(9,708.33)
8700-01-1-000	GA Per Capita	7,250.67	7,250.67	0.00		58,005.36	87,008.00	(29,002.64)
8800-01-1-000	Synod Mission	2,008.33	2,008.33	0.00		16,058.31	24,100.00	(8,041.69)
		11,684.00	11,684.00	0.00		93,455.34	140,208.00	(46,752.66)
	Total Expenses	62,284.33	66,803.80	(4,519.47)		498,749.99	801,645.64	(302,895.65)
	Net Income	(\$ 19,551.80)	(\$ 16,833.33)	(\$ 2,718.47)		(\$ 126,100.54)	\$ 0.00	(\$ 126,100.54)

Section H

Matthew 25 Task Force Report



The Matthew 25 Task Force was brought together by combined efforts of the Future of the Church Committee and the Coordinating Team with the intent to have a small group that could work nimbly to help our congregations and Presbytery imagine new ways to live into all three prongs of the Matthew 25 Initiative. At its first meeting, while discussing a breadth of issues related to the part calling us to seek an end to racism, the Taskforce discussed a recent policing incident that happened to one of the African American young adults of AR Presbytery,

Marion Andrew Humphrey, Jr. Marion, a law student at the University of Arkansas, was pulled over on August 2, 2020 in Russellville, Arkansas for changing his mind on which exit to take from Interstate 40 in Russellville. Based on the video of the traffic stop (full dash-cam video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cT5FL9-LhAA>), Taskforce members believe the traffic stop and manner of the search that followed exemplify the implicit bias that people of color are subjected to on a daily basis, whether intentionally or unintentionally. The Taskforce agreed that a concrete action that members of our Presbytery can take now towards dismantling racism is to make our objections known to the Governor of Arkansas and the Director of Arkansas State Police Colonel Bill Bryant.

All members of the Matthew 25 Task Force have signed the letter below to Governor Hutchinson and Colonel Bryant. We invite other ministers, ruling elders, and members of congregations of Arkansas Presbytery to add their names.

If you would like to be among the signers, please email Peg Falls-Corbitt (RE) at fallscorbitt@hendrix.edu before Thanksgiving with:

Your full legal name

Church title (member, ruling elder, CRE, MWS

Church



PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS

9221 North Rodney Parham Road

Little Rock, Arkansas 72227

501.663.2424

www.presbyark.org

[September 23, 2021](#)

Dear Governor Asa Hutchinson and Colonel Bill Bryant,

Concerned citizens from the seventy-six Presbyterian Church (USA) congregations in the Presbytery of Arkansas write to confess our own complicity and express our desire for changes to occur to address the issues of systemic racism and implicit biases in our state and nation.

A recent traffic stop of one of our young African-American Presbyterian members highlighted for us the need to address these issues. Marion Andrew Humphrey, Jr., a law student at the University of Arkansas, was pulled over on August 2, 2020 in Russellville, Arkansas for changing his mind on which exit to take from Interstate 40 in Russellville. An officer stopped him when he didn't exit when his turn signal was on. After watching the video of the traffic stop, we believe this is an example of the implicit bias that people of color are subjected to on a daily basis. Marion was moving his belongings in a U-Haul truck from Fayetteville to Little Rock since the law school was meeting electronically for the semester. Marion was subjected to a lengthy interrogation and was subsequently handcuffed and detained in the back of a police car for well over an hour. Other police officers with a canine unit were called and Marion's rented U-Haul vehicle was searched for drugs. No drugs were found and Marion was released. We believe that this incident would have been handled differently if Andrew had been white.

The unfair treatment of Mr. Humphrey provides an opportunity for this predominantly white group of Christians to make a statement in support of Marion Humphrey, Jr. We believe that Marion represents other black and brown persons who suffer at the hands of law enforcement personnel. Our group is calling on our state government and all law enforcement agencies to provide more education and training to remove intentional and unintentional biases and work towards dismantling systemic racism in our communities and in our state.

Systemic racism works on all of us to form intentional and unintentional biases that affect our suspicions and opinions of people. Our institutional systems have created unlevel playing fields for a state that is called "The Land of Opportunity". We recognize these unlevel playing fields and call upon all government agencies to better understand the issues and work towards creating a state where we grow closer in achieving equality for all people regardless of color, gender, sexual identity and orientation. People of color in particular, suffer the consequences of this in how they are treated in various places in society.

As a result of this incident and others in the state of Arkansas as well as other "high profile" incidents around our country, this group of Christians has been in a period of asking ourselves hard questions about our own systems. We pray that you, Governor Hutchinson and Colonel Bryant will be instrumental in

examining our **society's** complicity in the unfair and unjust systems in our communities and in our society and commit your offices [ever more thoroughly](#) to the work of eradicating [racially biased practices](#). We ask others to join us as we long and pray for a society that truly practices equality for all of God's people.

We in the church, we as Arkansans, and we as Americans need to strive to be better.

Sincerely,

Concerned Presbyterians from
the Presbytery of Arkansas

Rev. Steven Kurtz
Minister of Word & Sacrament
Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith, AR

Andrea Galindo
Member
Parkhill Presbyterian Church
Little Rock, AR

Kenneth Rhodes
Claire Rhodes
Co-Commissioned Lay Pastors
West End Church, Arkadelphia, AR

Margaret Falls-Corbitt
Ruling Elder
First Presbyterian, Conway, AR

Rev. Marie Mainard O'Connell
Minister of Word and Sacrament
Parkhill Presbyterian Church
Little Rock, AR

David Webb
Ruling Elder
First Presbyterian, Rogers, AR



FUTURE OF THE CHURCH ministry Presbytery of Arkansas, October 2021 report

When we met: Monday, August 16, 2021; 5:30 p.m. pm; ZOOM mtg **Who We Are:** Class of 2021- Ruth Amensen*, Richard Freer, Becky Purcell (moderator), Andrea Galindo; Class of 2022- Cameron Highsmith, Steven Kurtz, Michael Ulasewich, Marci Ward, David Webb; Class of 2023- Valerie Bell, Ty Hendricks*,

John Gibson; Presbytery: Stewart Smith, MWS, General Presbyter; Carol Clark, MWS, Presbytery Builder **What we did:** With only 5 of 11 members, we did not have a quorum so the following action was approved via an email vote the week of (after) the meeting:

FOTC Budget Request for 2022 was unanimously agreed upon by those voting. The request generally retains the 2021 Budget with one notable exception- the New Ministries (Grants) line item is increased from \$26, 500* to \$125,000. **Rationale:** (1) Covid-19 has made it clear that all churches in the Arkansas have critical needs. (2) The FOTC has shown the capacity to manage a grant review and award nearly \$100K in an efficient and equitable process which reflects stated priorities on congregational growth and spiritual vitality and/or extending ministries to new populations or communities. Many of the awards granted to churches in 2021 will submit proposals for continuation, expansion, or new projects in 2022. (3) The GRC21 is developing plans to increase the participation of minority and small churches in 2022. (*Note an additional \$75000 was approved for expenditure in 2021 resulting a total line item of \$101,500)

***FOTC Grants:** All checks sent & presumably received. Thank you messages were shared. Evaluations will be solicited. Mid-Year Report format and timeframe will be developed at the September 17-18 retreat.

***Retreat, Sept 17-18:** 17 of 21 members of FOTC + the Grants Review 2021 subcommittee + the Matthew 25 Task Force attended in person at Ferncliff. It was exhausting, engaging and promises to bear much fruit.

***Coordinating Team liaison from FOTC** will be Steven Kurtz for the remainder of 2021.

FOTC meetings for the remainder of the year are October 18 and December 20 (?, maybe earlier in the month).

The **Matthew 25 Taskforce** has been formed and has begun our work. As an independent Task Force, reporting to the Future of the Church committee and the Coordinating team, we began by discussing

our purpose and goals. Our discussions ranged from large picture issues, such as the discomfort some congregations have about some of the Matthew 25 language, to up-close issues such as the challenge of responding effectively by well-meaning churches that do not have relationships with minority communities. As our discussions progressed, specifically on the topic of "dismantling structural racism" we reviewed the recent incident in which Marion Andrew Humphry, Jr was pulled over and detained by police as he was returning from law school. We concluded that one concrete, specific action we could take, that could be seen as an example of addressing racially motivated policing, was to send a letter to the Governor and to Colonel Bill Bryant, expressing our concern about the role racism may have played in his detention and treatment. We believe that sending such a letter and making it available for all of our church members to co-sign if they wish, would be an important step to take. The letter, signed by members of the taskforce, will be in the October Presbytery packet with information on how others can electronically add their signature up until Thanksgiving. It will also be publicized through the Presbytery newsletter. We have much work to do to try to understand how we can help our congregations live into the challenge of the Matthew 25 Initiative, but we believe we have begun that process. We will be meeting in November to discuss next steps. Our members are Steven Kurtz (MWS, Central, Ft Smith), Peg Falls-Corbitt (RE, First, Conway), Andrea Galindo (RE, Park Hills Presbyterian, LR), David Webb (RE, First, Rogers), Dick Freer (RE, First, Jonesboro), Claire & Kenneth Rhodes (CREs, West End, Arkadelphia), and Marie Mainard-O'Connell (MWS, Park Hills Presbyterian, LR).

Report from Youth, Young Adult, and College Ministry

MWS Margaret Alsup
Moderator of Committee

The fall always brings excitement as trips, retreats, and social gatherings pick up. And this year, we value them more! We are grateful that we are able to host events and trips for our youth, young adults, and college aged persons of the presbytery. Your Youth, Young Adult, and College Ministry committee has been hard at work preparing for events and trips.

The month of September was a busy one for our committee as we hosted not one, but TWO retreats! And we hosted the two events back-to-back (what were we thinking!?!).

The first retreat was our *Grounded in God: Exploring Spirituality Amidst Uncertainty*. This retreat was for our young adults and college aged students. It was a time to gather together for rest, fellowship, study, and fun. It was the first event of its kind for our committee and these age groups of the presbytery. We had 15 young adults and college students join us for this retreat. It was a success and so much fun, especially the escape room on Saturday night!

Our second retreat was for the youth of the presbytery. The theme for Youthquake was *Peace-ing Together*. After having to reimagine Youthquake during Covid, we were beyond thrilled to be in person and at Ferncliff. We had a great time of learning, fun, energizers, and even had a tacky prom!

After our committee survived these two awesome retreats, we had a brief pause before we began planning for the Montreat College Conference. The theme for the College Conference is *What's Next* and will be held January 2-5, 2022. For more information, check out the Banner.

We are also working on plans for young adult gatherings to take place in central Arkansas and Northwest Arkansas. These plans are still in the development phase, but we want to share the idea so that if you are interested in joining in on these gatherings or know a young adult who might be interested, you can keep it on your radar. We will make sure to advertise these gathering on social media and in the Banner.

As always, we continue to seek ways to be a resource for the presbytery and to support our youth, young adults, and college aged students. If you ever have questions, ideas for programming, or need to connect with the committee, please do not hesitate to reach out to Maggie Alsup (margaret.alsup@lyon.edu).

Report from Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team

Report from PWPCT Retreat Maryann Sweeny and Vicki Erickson, past co-moderators

The Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Arkansas Coordinating Team held a fall retreat on August 21, 2021 at Mt. Sequoyah Center in Fayetteville AR. 52 women attended from 10 churches throughout the AR Presbytery. The Horizon's Bible Study 2021-2022 *What My Grandmother Taught Me* overview was prepared by Mary Shaw and presented by Maryann Sweeney. Our Mission speaker was Dawn Dvoracek from the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville AR who gave a PowerPoint presentation of the U of O Food For Thought Garden and Food Pantry. Music was provided by Mary Beth Lysobey and Marci Ward. An interactive Worship Service by Rev. Becky Purcell titled *Weaving From the Margins* closed the retreat.

At the annual business meeting, the following officers were elected and then installed by Rev. Becky Purcell.

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Presbyterian to English Cheat Sheet

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

- **AC-** An Addministrative Commission is a group of Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elders given specific responsibilities and authority to act on behalf of the presbytery between meetings. They are typically formed to ordain and/or install pastors, perform the tasks associated with dismissing, closing, or merging congregations, deal with difficulties in a particular church, or assist a church in times of transition.
- **Board of Pensions-** The General Assembly agency charged with overseeing the benefits plans for pastors and some other church employees.
- **Candidate-** A person in the latter portion of the ordination process for the ministry of Minister of the Word and Sacrament.
- **COM-** The Committee on Ministry provides oversight and advocacy for congregations and Ministers of the Word and Sacrament. It receives Ministers of the Word and Sacrament from other presbyteries, approves calls for pastoral services, oversees congregations without pastors, dissolves pastoral relationships, dismisses Ministers of the Word and Sacrament to other presbyteries, determines the criteria for validating ministries of non-parish clergy, and oversees Commissioned Ruling Elders serving congregations.
- **CPM-** The Committee on Preparation for Ministry oversees the process of preparation for the ministry of Ministers of Word and Sacrament, training of Commissioned Ruling Elders, and the process of certification for Christian Educators.
- **Council-** In the context of Presbyterian polity and governance, a council is a governing body of the church. The councils of the PC(USA) are the session, the presbytery, the synod and the General Assembly.
- **CT-** The Coordinating Team of the presbytery acts on the presbytery's behalf on routine matters between stated meetings, coordinates the ministries of the presbytery, and plans for presbytery meetings.
- **GA-** The General Assembly of the PC(USA) is the highest council of the church. It meets in even numbered years for a week. The 2020 meeting will be held June 16-23 in Baltimore, Maryland.
- **HR-** Honorably Retired is a designation for Ministers of the Word and Sacrament retired from active service to the church who remain in good standing with the PC(USA).
- **Inquirer-** A person in the initial phase of the process of preparation for ministry as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament.
- **MIF-** A Ministry Information Form is the standardized format for advertising certain church professional positions through the PC(USA) Church Leadership Connection.
- **MWS -** Minister of the Word and Sacrament is an ordained Presbyterian minister member of the clergy, formerly called a Teaching Elder.
- **Moderator-** The Moderator is the person elected to keep order and chair the meetings of the presbytery. The pastor or CRE of a local congregation serves as the moderator of the local session, or a moderator will be appointed for that church.

- **NCD- New Church Developments** are new ministries of the presbytery engaged in a formal process to work toward establishing a new congregation.
- **PDA- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** is an agency of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Mission Agency. PDA assists communities coping with natural and human-caused disasters.
- **PJC- Permanent Judicial Commission** implements the disciplinary procedures required by the *Book of Order*. There is a Judicial Process Manual which gives details on these duties.
- **PMA- The Presbyterian Mission Agency** is part of the larger PC(USA) and is located at the national church headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky.
- **PNC- A Pastor Nominating Committee** is a search committee elected by a congregation to seek, interview, and recommend a new pastor.
- **RE/Ruling Elder- A Ruling Elder** is a lay member of a congregation who has been elected, ordained and installed to serve on the session of a church. Ruling Elders are eligible for election as commissioners to presbytery, synod and General Assembly. Once ordained as a ruling elder one maintains that office whether serving on a session or not.
- **Stated Clerk-** The Stated Clerk is the officer elected by the presbytery to maintain the official records, provide extracts when asked, prepare the docket for presbytery meetings, and answer questions about the records, Presbyterian polity, policies, procedures and history. The Stated Clerk is authorized to certify ministers and congregations are in good standing and qualify under the tax exemption of the PC(USA).
- **Synod of the Sun-** The governing body council which includes all the presbyteries in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. It coordinates the work of the PC(USA) in this region.
- **TPF- The Texas Presbyterian Foundation** is a financial service organization for Presbyterian members, councils and institutions. It invests funds and provides bookkeeping services for Arkansas Presbytery.
- **Validated Ministries-** Positions served by chaplains, professors and other Ministers of the Word and Sacrament who are not currently serving a congregation. Sometimes they are referred to as non-parish clergy.

Tips on Parliamentary Procedure

Parliamentary procedure enables the presbytery to become a deliberative assembly, to seek the will of God, and to witness to our faith in Jesus Christ. It is never an end in itself. Parliamentary gamesmanship is never appropriate. The will of the majority shall prevail, but the rights of the minority shall always be protected. Parliamentary principles balance individual conscience with the will of the majority. It takes seriously the following rights of individual members:

- (1) the right to know (due notice)
- (2) the right to speak (rules of debate)
- (3) the right to vote (membership)
- (4) the right to hold office (fair representation)

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

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

Ordinarily, only commissioners may speak and vote on motions. That includes Minister of the Word and Sacrament members of the Presbytery; Ruling Elders elected by their Session; Ruling Elders elected as General Presbyter, Stated Clerk, Treasurer, Moderator, Vice Moderator; Commissioned Ruling Elders in current service; members of the Coordinating Team; current commissioners to General Assembly; and Ruling Elders who are Certified Christian Educators.

At the Spring meeting of the Presbytery Youth Advisory Delegates and Young Adult Advisory Delegates have “privilege of the floor,” meaning that they have permission to speak to motions, and they take an advisory vote prior to the vote by commissioners. At any meeting someone in attendance may be given privilege of the floor, allowing that person to speak to the body, which is ordinarily given near the beginning of the meeting. Privilege of the floor does not mean that person may vote.

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

To end debate, a commissioner must go to a microphone at an in-person meeting, or in the case of a technology aided meeting raise one’s hand, and, when recognized by the Moderator, state: “I

move the previous question.” It is not appropriate to call the question without going to a microphone or raising your hand electronically. If you offer a substitute motion or a new item of business, you should give the Moderator and Stated Clerk advance notice and written copy. An electronic copy is preferred – using Microsoft Word on a memory stick or thumb drive, or sent as an attachment to an email or within the chat function of a technology-aided meeting. Not only will this help these officers facilitate the work of presbytery, they may also be able to help you with suggestions as to how and when it would be appropriate to make the motion. The Stated Clerk and the Moderator are available to advise commissioners on the wording of any motion so that it can clearly express the concerns of the commissioner. When in doubt, ask. The Moderator and the Stated Clerk are eager to help you understand and use the process.

Commissioners should always read all information provided in the packets and subsequent information provided at the registration table. Whenever possible questions concerning reports or motions should be directed to the Moderator of a committee making the report or motion prior to the meeting. Contact info on moderators may be obtained through the presbytery office. Often concerns may be cleared up prior to a meeting rather than on the floor of presbytery.