

Minutes of the 130th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas October 9-10, 2015

Call to Order

The 130th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was called to order by Moderator Ruling Elder Ed Wilkinson on October 9, 2015 at 6:30pm in the Nave of Central Presbyterian Church Russellville, Arkansas. The Moderator opened the meeting with prayer and the lighting of the Christ Candle.

Adoption of the Docket

The docket was presented as printed in the Presbytery Meeting Packet. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the docket as presented. MOTION PASSED

Report of Enrollment

Assistant Stated Clerk Teaching Elder David Dyer informed the body that a quorum was present, and such was declared by the Moderator.

NOTE: The sign-in sheets for the October meeting were misfiled. The final version bound for the presbytery records includes the attendance recorded at the meeting in hard copy.

TEACHING ELDERS:

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS FROM CONGREGATIONS:

AT-LARGE COMMISSIONERS:

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS:

CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:

CERTIFIED ASSOCIATE CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:

VISITORS:

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:

TEACHING ELDERS ABSENT:

SESSIONS ABSENT:

AT-LARGE MEMBERS ABSENT:

CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS ABSENT:

ASSOCIATE CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS ABSENT:

Welcome from Host

Teaching Elder R. Brian Brock, the host pastor, brought greetings from the members and friends of Central Presbyterian Church.

Welcome from First-Time Elder Commissioners

The Assistant Stated Clerk welcomed first-time commissioners.

Seating of Corresponding Members

A motion to seat TE Dan Saperstein (Synod of the Sun), RE Melinda Hunt (TPF), TE Lemuel Garcia (Austin Seminary), TE Michael Ulasewich, TE Ray McCalla, and TE Paul Fulks as Corresponding Members with privilege of the floor and voice was made and seconded.

MOTION PASSED

Granting Privilege of the Floor

A motion to grant members of the Listening/Restructure Team Mike Szabo, First Searcy, and RE Julie Adkisson, First Conway privilege of the floor and voice was made and seconded.

MOTION PASSED.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was presented.

1. Motion to approve the minutes of the 129th Stated Meeting June 6, 2015 as printed.
2. Motion to approve the request of Westminster Presbyterian, Little Rock to waive terms of service of ruling elders as allowed in G-2.0404 in the Book of Order.
3. Motion to give final approval to the documents on Restructuring the Presbytery which were presented and initially approved at the 129th Stated Meeting of the presbytery. They are on the presbytery website and limited copies available at the registration table.
4. Motion to authorize celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at the PW Spring Gathering to be held at FPC Bentonville on April 16, 2016.

The Restructure of the Presbytery (item #3) was removed. It will be considered during New Business.

The remaining consent items were moved and seconded. MOTION PASSED.

Appointment of Standing Committees

The Moderator appointed the Leaves of Absence Committee and Tellers.

Report of the General Committee

Teaching Elder Clare Kelly reported the actions of the General Committee taken on behalf of the presbytery since the 129th Stated Meeting. The full report of the GC is appended to the indexed minutes of the presbytery.

TE Kelly brought a motion from the General Committee that the presbytery adopt the policy titled "Policy on Press Inquiries." THE MOTION PASSED. A copy of the policy is appended to the indexed minutes of the presbytery.

Evening Worship

The Presbytery ended the business of the evening and moved to a time of worship and sacrament. A copy of the worship bulletin is appended to the indexed minutes of the presbytery.

Recess for the Evening

The Presbytery adjourned in recess until 8:30am Saturday October 10, 2016.

Morning Worship

The Presbytery reconvened with worship at 8:30am Saturday October 10, 2016 in the Nave of Central Presbyterian Church.

Order of the Day: Theological Discussion

The Presbytery was led in a theological discussion on the question "Who is Jesus?" Copies of resource materials used in the presentation are appended to the indexed minutes of the presbytery.

Report of the Committee on Ministry

Teaching Elder Dari Rowen brought a report from the Committee on Ministry. The committee brought 8 motions for the presbytery's consideration.

1. Motion to enroll TE Ray McCalla, Chaplain at Lyon College, as a member-at-large of the Presbytery of Arkansas, and to request that he be dismissed by Homestead Presbytery. TE McCalla was introduced to the Presbytery and his statement of faith is appended to the indexed minutes of the presbytery. MOTION PASSED
2. Motion to enroll TE Paul Fulks, Chaplain at the Tucker Intermediate or Moderate Unit of the Arkansas Department of Corrections, as an at-large-member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, and to request that he be dismissed from the Presbytery of Flint River. TE

Fulks was introduced to the Presbytery and his statement of faith is appended to the indexed minutes of the presbytery. MOTION PASSED

3. Motion to approve the call of TE Michael Ulasewich as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Conway, effective August 10, 2015 with terms of call as outlined in the presbytery packet. Full Terms of Call are appended to the indexed minutes of the presbytery. MOTION PASSED
4. Motion that TE Michael Ulasewich be enrolled as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and request dismissal from Central Florida Presbytery, and to be installed as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Conway on November 1, 2015 at 5:00 pm, with the offering recipient designated as the Theological Education Fund of the PC(USA), and the following to serve on the Administrative Commission to Install:
 - a. RE Ed Wilkinson, Good Shepherd, Greenwood to Moderate and Propound the Constitutional Questions
 - b. TE Marie Mainard O'Connell, at Large, to preach
 - c. TE Robert Wm Lowry, First and Harmony Clarksville, to charge the Pastor
 - d. RE Cyril Hollingsworth, Second LR
 - e. RE Julie Adkisson, First, Conway, to Charge the Congregation
 - f. TE Anne Russ, First, NLR
 - g. TE Ruskin Falls, Pulaski Heights, LRMOTION PASSED
5. Pending her successful examination on the floor of presbytery, motion to approve the call of Courtney Bacon-Latina as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Malvern, effective October 25, 2015 with the terms of call outlined in the presbytery packet. Full Terms of Call are appended to the indexed presbytery minutes. MOTION PASSED
6. Pending her successful examination on the floor of presbytery, motion that Courtney Bacon-Latina be ordained and installed as Pastor at First Presbyterian, Malvern, on Sunday October 25, 2015 at 3:00 pm, with the offering recipient designated as Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, and the following to serve on the Administrative Commission to Install:
 - a. RE Ed Wilkinson, Good Shepherd, Greenwood to Moderate and Propound the Constitutional Questions
 - b. TE Dari Rowen, First, Benton
 - c. TE Anne Russ, First, NLR to preach
 - d. RE Cyril Hollingsworth, Second LR to Charge the Pastor
 - e. TE Sally Johnson, HR, to Charge the Congregation
 - f. RE NiAnn Thompson, First Arkadelphia
 - g. RE Pat Watkins, First, Malvern
 - h. To sit with the Commission:
 - i. TE Erin Potter Kaye First, Camden Presbytery of the Pines
 - ii. RE Corbet Lamkin, Tate's Bluff Presbytery of the Pines

MOTION PASSED

7. Motion to approve the call of TE Elizabeth Gabbard as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Arkadelphia, effective September 1, 2015, with the terms of call outlined in the presbytery packet. Full Terms of Call are appended to the indexed presbytery minutes.

MOTION PASSED

8. Motion that TE Elizabeth Gabbard be installed as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Arkadelphia on Sunday, October 18, 2015 at 3:00 pm, with the offering recipient designated to the Disaster Response and Preparedness, and the following to serve on the Administrative Commission to Install:

- a. RE Ed Wilkinson, Good Shepherd, Greenwood to Moderate and Propound the Constitutional Questions
- b. TE Bill Galbraith to Charge the Congregation
- c. TE Dari Rowen, First Benton
- d. RE Charlotte Scott, First, Fort Smith to Charge the Pastor
- e. RE Julie Gillaspy, First, Conway
- f. TE Lacy Sellars, First, Hot Springs, to preach
- g. CRE Claire Rhodes, West End, Arkadelphia
- h. RE Ed McCorkle, First, Arkadelphia

MOTION PASSED

Report of the Committee on Nominations

Teaching Elder Elizabeth Gabbard brought the report from the committee on nominations.

TE Gabbard put before the presbytery two motions referred by the committee:

1. That the presbytery elect the following:
 - a. Jordan Akin, Second, Little Rock as Young Adult Advisory Delegate to General Assembly Class of 2016.
 - b. RE Bob Boehmler, First, Bentonville as Presbytery Treasurer, Class of 2017.

MOTION PASSED

2. That all presbytery committees and committee members remain in place until the February 2016 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery. MOTION PASSED

Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

CRE Clare Rhodes brought the report from the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. There were no items for presbytery action. The following items were presented for information:

1. The CPM approved the Covenant Agreement for 12 month supervised internship required of those under care of the Presbytery of Arkansas.
2. Enrolled Katherine Norwood, Second, LR as an inquirer.
3. Enrolled Molly Dewitt, Second, LR, as an inquirer.

4. Conducted the annual review of inquirer Krista Denne, First, Clarksville.
5. Examined Brittany Fiscus, First, Jacksonville for enrollment as a candidate at the February 2016 Stated Meeting.

Report from Mercy Church 1001 Community

TE Bobby Williamson brought a report and update from Mercy Church, Little Rock. Mercy Church is a nontraditional worshipping community serving the downtown Little Rock community with emphasis on serving the homeless. Mercy Church is supported through the PC(USA) 1001 Worshipping Community program.

Report of the Committee on Mission

The Committee on Mission put five motions before the presbytery:

1. That the Presbytery of Arkansas approve being a covenanting partner in the PC(USA) relationship with the Presbyterian Church of Honduras. MOTION PASSED.
2. That the Presbytery establish a subcommittee of the Mission Committee, under the oversight of the Mission Committee, authorized to represent the Presbytery of Arkansas in covenantal relationship with Presbyterian World Mission of the PC(USA), the Presbyterian Church of Honduras, Tampa Bay Presbytery, the Presbytery of Carlisle, Solar Under the Sun, Living Waters for the World, and other entities involved in the PC(USA) partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Honduras. MOTION PASSED.
3. That the Presbytery approve and endorse requests for funding from congregations and individuals in the Presbytery of Arkansas to support the salary of the PC(USA) mission co-worker(s) and funding of other programmatic needs of the partnership of the PC(USA) with the Presbyterian Church of Honduras. MOTION PASSED.
4. That the Presbytery approve establishing a fund through the Texas Presbyterian Foundation, under the authority of the Presbytery and in accordance with policies, to receive gifts given for the purpose of funding the Presbytery of Arkansas's ministry through the covenantal relationship. MOTION PASSED.
5. That the Presbytery approve authorizing a structure of the subcommittee of the Mission Committee charged with representing the Presbytery of Arkansas in the covenantal relationship of the PC(USA) with the Presbytery of Honduras through which approval of expenditures necessary for the ministry can be made, as well as decisions necessary to the covenantal relationship with PC(USA) entities. MOTION PASSED.

Report of the General Presbyter Search Committee

Teaching Elder Jeff Price brought the report and recommendation for the General Presbyter Search Committee. The Committee unanimously recommended TE Stewart Smith, First, Springdale, as the new General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Arkansas. A biography and terms of call were included in the Addenda Packet for the meeting.

TE Price brought three motions from the Search Committee:

1. That Rev. Stewart Smith be elected to a five-year term of service as General Presbyter for the Presbytery of Arkansas. His term of service may be renewed. His term of service begins November 23, 2015. MOTION PASSED
2. That the following terms of call be approved:
 - a. Effective Salary \$80,000
 - i. Salary \$40,000
 - ii. Housing \$35,000
 - iii. 403(b) \$5000
 - b. Full medical, pension, death and disability coverage through the Board of Pensions
 - c. SSI reimbursement \$6,196
 - d. Professional expenses \$18,000
 - e. Continuing Education \$1,500
 - f. Full Moving expenses
 - g. One-time Computer Allowance \$3,000
 - h. Paid Vacation of 4 weeks annually, paid continuing education leave of 2 weeks annually, Three-month Sabbatical after the seventh year of work. MOTION PASSED
3. That the General Presbyter Search Committee continue to function for one year as a team of support and encouragement for the new General Presbyter. MOTION PASSED

The Presbytery enthusiastically welcomed Stewart to his new role.

Report of the Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals

The following Church Professionals were honored on the occasion of anniversaries in their respective professional roles. The Presbytery honors Church Professionals on 5 year increments in time of service to the church.

Teaching Elders

Ten Years

Ira (Ike) Brighton, HR
Katie Cummings
Elizabeth "Liz" Lindsey
Ward Rudolph
Susan Gray

Dari Rowen

Fifteen Years

John Gibson

Jeff Price

Twenty Years

Leslie Smith Belden

Bob Cox, HR

Kris Crawford

Carl W. McCormack

Nancy Taylor

Twenty-five Years

Mark Lenneville, HR

Jennifer Lord

Thirty Years

Thomas Ulrich

Thirty-five Years

Lacy Sellars

Forty Years

Bill Bailey

William F. Galbraith

Ron Jones, HR

Forty-five Years

Burle Mattingly, HR

Fifty Years

Howard Gordon, HR

John King, HR

Frank Young, HR

Fifty-five Years

Orin Frank, HR

Don Trent, HR

Sixty Years

Ken Upham, HR

Sixty-five Years

Park Moore, HR

Certified Christian Educators

Fifteen Years

Jeannie Ford

Thirty-five Years

Anna Bedford

Commissioned Ruling Elders

Fifteen Years

K.C. Chanthorn

New Business

The Session of Eureka Springs asks the Presbytery of Arkansas forward the following overture to the 222nd General Assembly.

Overture: On Including a New Category “Partners in Ministry” in Congregational Records and Statistical Reporting of Membership

The Presbytery of Arkansas respectfully overtures the 222nd General Assembly (2016) to instruct the Office of the General Assembly to amend the Annual Statistical Report to include a new category “Partners in Ministry.” This number shall be reported by the OGA in the statistical data for each congregation which is accessible through the OGA or its website, in order that the vitality of a congregation is accurately reflected in those statistics.

“Partners in Ministry” are defined as individuals fully participating in the ministry of the church. Full participation is defined as their willing inclusion on a register of Partners in Ministry and their willingness to make a financial pledge to the ministry of the church, their inclusion in a congregational care list kept by the Session or Board of Deacons, or their inclusion in a phone list designed for notification of members and regular participants in the event of temporary cancellation of church programs or events, (e.g. cancellation due to weather, etc.)

Rationale

It has been observed that in ever greater numbers, many of the congregants, worshippers and participants in congregations choose to delay or never formally become members of any congregation or denomination. This trend is evident not only congregations of the PC(USA) but of most Christian denominations in the

United States, and was one of the considerations behind the “1001 Worshipping Communities” movement. This reluctance may be for many personal and cultural reasons including (but not limited to) loyalty to the denomination or congregation of the participants birth or family, a sense of one’s residence being temporary, a distrust of institutional stability, a discomfort with some of the exact words of the affirmation of faith, a desire to be certain that the affirmation of faith is one that they can state with absolute sincerity, or a cultural/generational trend to try many things out before making a commitment to one.

In some cases, the participant’s desire is not to become part of the structure of the church or denomination but simply to participate in the worship and/or mission of the congregation, whether for a short, long or extended period of time. Nonetheless, the congregation’s ability to serve Christ in its community and the world is affected by the non-members’ participation. The congregation’s ability to do ministry and mission is expanded even as pastoral and congregational care are owed to this larger number of congregants also expands.

These are considerations that may affect a future pastoral call, and the upward or downward trend of this aspect of the congregation’s ministry should be as verifiable as the congregational growth or decline in membership, attendance in worship or Christian education, and financial stability, all of which are currently included in the statistical information available.

A motion was made and seconded to endorse the overture as presented and instruct the Stated Clerk to forward the overture to the Office of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly.
MOTION PASSED

A motion was made and seconded to approve the renewed covenant between the Presbytery of Arkansas and Wellspring Renewal Center and Rebecca Spooner LPC/PLLC. The full covenant is appended to the indexed minutes of the presbytery. MOTION PASSED.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Presbytery, a motion was made and seconded that the presbytery adjourn. MOTION PASSED.

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.