

The Presbytery of Arkansas
131st Stated Meeting **February 12-13, 2016**
Lyon College, Batesville, Arkansas

Friday, February 12

- 3:30 p.m. Registration in the Narthex of Brown Chapel
Displays in Bevins Music Room
- 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Pre-Presbytery Workshops in Lyon Building
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner available for purchase in Edwards Commons
- 6:30 p.m. Presbytery convenes in Brown Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Evening Worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the
installation of Teaching Elder Lacy Sellars as Moderator of Presbytery,
and the installation of Stewart Smith as General Presbyter
- 8:30 p.m. Reception in Bevins Music Room

Saturday, February 13

- 8:30 a.m. Morning Worship in Nucor Auditorium
- 12:30 noon Lunch break
- 1:30 p.m. Business resumes (as needed)

PROPOSED DOCKET FOR THE 131st STATED MEETING

*(New Business should be placed in the hands of the Assistant Stated Clerk
no later than 3:00 p.m., Friday, February 12)*

FRIDAY, February 12, 2016

OPENING SESSION OF BUSINESS

Brown Chapel

- 6:30 p.m. Call to Order.....
Ruling Elder Ed Wilkinson, Moderator of Presbytery
- 1. Adoption of the Docket..... Moderator
- 2. Report of Enrollment.....
Teaching Elder David Dyer, Assistant Stated Clerk
- 3. Greetings from the College
- 4. Welcome to first-time Elder Commissioners..Assistant Stated Clerk
- 5. Introduction of Presbytery Staff.....Moderator
- 6. Seating of Corresponding Members.....Moderator
- 7. Granting Privilege of the Floor.....Moderator
- 8. Consent Agenda (addenda packet)..... Assistant Stated Clerk
- 9. Report of the Stated Clerk (addenda packet)..... Stated Clerk

- 10. Appointment of Standing Committees..... Moderator
Leaves of Absence; Tellers
- 11. General Committee (addenda packet)..... TE Clare Kelley

7:00 p.m. Evening Worship

**SATURDAY, February 13, 2016
Nucor Auditorium, Lyon Building**

8:30 a.m. Morning Worship

9:00 a.m. Theological Discussion Dr. Paul Hooker

- 12. Committee on NominationsTE Elizabeth Gabbard
- 13. State of the Presbytery.....General Presbyter Stewart Smith
- 14. Report of Youth Advisory Delegates
- 15. Committee on MinistryTE Dari Rowen
- 16. Fermcliff Camp and Conference CenterTE David Gill
- 17. Committee on Preparation for Ministry.....TE Kade Curry
- 18. Report on Arkansas Gives
- 19. Christian Education Committee
..... CCE Kristi Button and TE Susan Rose
- 20. Committee on Administration TE Catherine Allsbury
- 21. Minute announcements
- 22. Report of Leaves of Absence Committee ...Assistant Stated Clerk
- 23. New Business
 - a. Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns
..... TE Susan CarterWiggins
 - b.
 - c.
- Other Business
 - a.

Closing Prayer

NOTE ON PACKETS: Other packets also posted on the presbytery website are: host information and preliminary information. Informational flyers, minutes of previous meeting, addendum packet, and financial statements will be posted on February 4th, so commissioners may download and print out only those items they need. Blessings on you all.

Minutes of the 131st Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas February 12-13, 2016-

Call to Order

The 131st Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was called to order by Moderator Ruling Elder Ed Wilkinson on February, 12, 2016 at 6:30pm in Brown Chapel of Lyon College in Batesville, 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.

TEACHING ELDERS: DC Adams, Catherine L. Allsbury, Bill Bailey, Robert Brian Brock, Janet B. Butin, Philip W. Butin, Joy Carrington, D. Breckinridge Castleman, Kris Crawford, Katie Cummings, Kade Curry, Ruskin Falls, Steven Frazier, Debra Carl Freeman, Paul Fulks, Elizabeth Gabbard, Gordon F. Garlington III, David E. Gill, Robert Hadley, Steve Hancock, Marion A. Humphrey, Chris Jones, Clare Martin Kelley, Young Doo Kim, Liz Lindsey, Robert Lowry, Ray McCalla, "Mike" McCracken, Larry Mitchell, Rebecca Purcell, Leslie Bethell Roper, Susan Rose, Dari Rowen, Anne Russ, Cindi Saul, David Schaller, William Seitz, Lacy Sellars, Georgia Senor, J. Stewart Smith, Terry Tallent, Michael Ulasewich, Michael Vinson, Lindy Vogado, Elizabeth R. Wagner, Marci Ward, Susan Carter Wiggins.

Honorably Retired Teaching Elders: Ben H. Bateman, William W. Branch, Ira Brighton, David H. Dyer, Howard H. Gordon, William F. Henning, David S. King, John E. King, James B. Miller, Richard H. Miller, Richard Shinkle.

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS FROM CONGREGATIONS: First, Arkadelphia, Betty McCorkle; First, Batesville, Karen Lange; First, Benton, Emily Laurel; First, Bentonville, Ila Blackketter-Wolfe and Dacia Boehmler; First, Clarksville, Linda Castleman; First, Conway, Mary Mosley; First, Dardanelle, Marty Shepherd; First, Eureka Springs, Margie Bullock; First United, Fayetteville, Pamela J. Andersen; Central, Fort Smith, Charles Cook; Spring River, Hardy, Jenise Baber; First, Harrison, Harry Cikanek; First, Heber Springs, Anton Bucher; Faith, Horseshoe Bend, George Jackson; First, Hot Springs, William Randall; Westminster, Hot Springs, Lawrence Grubb; Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village, Norma Stevens; First,

Jacksonville, Mary Lee Schultz; First, Jonesboro, Dick Freer; Allison, Little Rock, Tim Anthony; First, Little Rock, Roberta Saxon; Pulaski Heights, Little Rock, LaWanda Harris; Second, Little Rock, Ralph Cotham, Carol Williams; Westover Hills, Little Rock, H. K. Stewart; First, Malvern, Richard Rogers; First, Mena, Edrich Sauer; Barr Memorial, Mary Beth Lysobey; First, North Little Rock, Joseph Yancar; Park Hill, North Little Rock, Karene Jones; Central, Pine Bluff, Laura Pierce; First, Pine Bluff, Don Harris; First, Prairie Grove, Lynda Bottoms; First, Rogers, David Webb; Central, Russellville; Michael Stokes and Cheryl Massengale; First, Searcy, Mike Szabo; First, Siloam Springs, Jane Greuel; First, Springdale, Mary Shaw and Loretta Mansell; First, Van Buren, Jan Enke; First, Walnut Ridge, Vicki Davis; Wynne, Charlie Brown; First, Yellville, Mike Simpson.

AT-LARGE COMMISSIONERS: Ruling Elder Members of General Committee, Frances Bateman and Bob Boehmler; Ruling Elder Moderators of Presbytery Committees, James Anderson, Disaster Preparedness and Response; Leah Shell, Congregational Care and Development. Moderator, Presbyterian Women, Jeanne Lloyd; Moderator of Presbytery, Ed Wilkinson.

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

CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS: Kristi Button, NiAnn Thompson. Certified Associate Christian Educators: Susie Wright.

VISITORS TO THIS MEETING OF PRESBYTERY: 37 registered.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS: Melinda Hunt, Grace Presbytery, Texas Presbyterian Foundation; Jim Freeman, Pines Presbytery, Broadmoor, Shreveport; Paul Hooker, New Covenant, Austin Seminary; Max Hill, United Campus Ministry, Fayetteville; Valerie Young, Synod of the Sun, Grace, Arlington; Carol Clark, Western North Carolina Presbytery, Unity Presbyterian; Mark Clark, Western North Carolina Presbytery, Unity Presbyterian; Jeff Parker, North Alabama Presbytery; "Chip" Hatcher, St. Andrew Presbytery.

YOUTH ADVISORY DELEGATES: 12 registered. 2 College Students, 2 Young Adult Volunteers, 3 Adult Leaders.

TEACHING ELDERS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES: Karen Kokles Akin, Leslie F. Belden, Nancy Benson-Nicol, Lance Clemmons, Jeff Cranton, Fern M. Davis, Lewis R. Donelson IV, Al Henager, Courtney Bacon-Latina, Jennifer Lord, Carl McCormack, Jeff Price, Timothy C. Reeves, Dennis Ritchie, Patricia Schaller, Shauna Silmon, Debbie Spangler, Rebecca Spooner, Thomas A. Ulrich, Linda Whitworth-Reed, Robert Williamson, Harry Young.

HONORABLY RETIRED ACTIVE TEACHING ELDERS WITH EXCUSED

ABSENCES: Donald K. Campbell II, Bill Galbraith, Robert Hyatt, Sally Johnson, Mark Lenneville, Carlos Lopez, David Reed, C. Michael D. Seitz, Frederick A. Taylor, Nancy Taylor, Rita Wilson, Darwin Wolfe.

TEACHING ELDERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: Phillip Blackburn, Tasha Blackburn, Bryan Bond, James J. Farley III, Clifton P. Ford, John Gibson, Susan Gray, Frank

LeBlanc, Libby Lizarraga, Marie Mainard O'Connell, Emmett Powers, Ward Rudolph, Rachel Shepherd, Daniel Wooley.

HONORABLY RETIRED TEACHING ELDERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: Milton B. Davis, Guy Delaney, Heinrich B. Eiler, Alan Ford, Orin M. Frank, Richard Frothingham, Lance Jones, Jerry Rice, W. Kennedy Upham, Don Wardlaw.

SESSIONS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES: Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista; Vaughn, Bentonville; Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals; Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay; Holiday Island Presbyterian; First, Huntsville; Westminster, Little Rock; Mount Vernon, Pea Ridge; First, Stuttgart.

SESSIONS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: First, Alma; Alpine, Amity; West End, Arkadelphia; Memorial, Atkins; First, Beebe; First, Brinkley; Cane Hill; Harmony, Clarksville; Elkins; second commissioner, First United, Fayetteville; Mt. Comfort, Fayetteville; Graham Memorial, Forrest City; second commissioner, Central, Fort Smith; First, Fort Smith; One-O-One, Gamaliel; First, Gravette; First, Gurdon; second commissioner, First, Harrison; First, Helena; Holly Grove; second commissioner, Westminster, Hot Springs; second commissioner, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village; Woodlands, Hot Springs Village; First, Lincoln; Grace, Little Rock; third and fourth commissioner, Second, Little Rock; commissioners, Trinity, Little Rock; second commissioner, Westover Hills, Little Rock; First, Lonoke; First, Marianna; First, McGehee; First, Morrilton; Hopewell, Morrilton; First, Mountain Home; Mountainburg; First, Newport; First, Ozark; First, Paragould; Faith, Pine Bluff; second commissioner, First, Pine Bluff; First, Pocahontas; second commissioner, First, Rogers; Cleburne Avenue, West Helena.

AT-LARGE RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCE: Ruling Elder Moderators of Presbytery Committees, Kim Danehower, Mission.

AT-LARGE RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: Ruling Elder Members of General Committee: Joel Bunch, Ken Coker, Ron David, Patty Minga. Ruling Elder Moderators of Presbytery Committees, John Alderson, Representation; Evelyn Mills, Christian Education.

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCE: Carolyn Beane, Barr Memorial, Norman; K. C. Chanthorn, Laotian Ministry, First, Fort Smith; Claire Rhodes, West End, Arkadelphia; Kenneth Rhodes, West End, Arkadelphia.

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: Jim Keyes, 101, Gamaliel; Rita Manske, Cane Hill Presbyterian; Harlis Wright, Faith, Pine Bluff.

CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCE: Jeannie Ford, Lynn King, Linda LeBron, Nancy Irving Smith. Certified Associate Christian Educators: Lynn Condra, Theresa Spragins.

Welcome from Host
Representatives of Lyon College brought greetings from the college community.

Welcome for First-Time Elder Commissioners
The Assistant Stated Clerk welcomed first-time commissioners.

Introduction of the Presbytery Staff
The Moderator introduced the staff and leadership of the Presbytery.

Seating of Corresponding Members
A motion to seat Melinda Hunt, Grace Presbytery, Texas Presbyterian Foundation; Jim Freeman, Pines Presbytery, Broadmoor, Shreveport; Paul Hooker, New Covenant, Austin Seminary; Max Hill, United Campus Ministry, Fayetteville; Valerie Young, Synod of the Sun, Grace, Arlington; Carol Clark, Western North Carolina Presbytery, Unity Presbyterian; Mark Clark, Western North Carolina Presbytery, Unity Presbyterian; Jeff Parker, North Alabama Presbytery; "Chip" Hatcher, St. Andrew Presbytery. as Corresponding Members with privilege of the floor and voice was made and seconded. MOTION PASSED

Consent Agenda
The Consent Agenda was presented.

1. Motion to approve the honorable retirement of TE Catherine Allsbury effective February 10, 2016 (her birthday).
2. Motion to enroll TE Carol Clark as a member-at-large of the Presbytery of Arkansas, transferring from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. Her statement of faith is appended to the indexed minutes of the presbytery.
3. Motion to enroll TE Mark Clark as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, transferring from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, and approve his call as Pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, effective January 1, 2016 with the terms of call outlined in the meeting packet. His statement of faith and terms of call are appended to the indexed minutes of the presbytery.
4. Motion to approve the Administrative Commission to Install Mark Clark:
 - a. TE Lacy Sellars, First Hot Springs, to Moderate and Propound the Constitutional Questions.
 - b. TE Carol Clark, at large, to preach
 - c. TE Stewart Smith, to Charge the Pastor
 - d. TE Don Campbell, HR, to Charge the Congregation
 - e. RE Cyril Hollingsworth, Second LR
 - f. RE Doug Hanson, Grace LR
 - g. RE Elizabeth Branch, Westover Hills LR
 - h. To sit with the commission:
 - i. TE Sam Pope, HR
5. Motion to approve the call of TE Georgia Senor as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Bentonville, effective January 24, 2016, with the terms of call

outlined in the presbytery packet. Her complete terms of call are appended to the indexed minutes of the presbytery.

6. Motion to enroll TE Jeff Parker as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, transferring from the Presbytery of North Alabama.

The consent items were moved and seconded. MOTION PASSED.

Report of the Stated Clerk

TE Robert Wm Lowy presented the report of the Stated Clerk.

Actions taken on behalf of the presbytery by the Stated Clerk since July 1, 2015:

1. Consulted with the Office of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly on behalf of sessions, commissions, and committees of the presbytery.

Items for Information:

1. Statistical Reports must be entered by *February 16*. If you need assistance, please remember "*the 10 minute rule*" and call the Stated Clerk if you get stuck.
2. The new Clerk of Session Manual is ready and a copy for each church is available at the registration table.
3. The new Organization and Structure and Ministry Committee Duties documents are available on the presbytery website. These replace the old Standing Rules and Manual of Operations.
4. Administrative Commissions appointed to work with Rogers, Siloam Springs, Woodlands HSV, and Ozark continue their work and report no items needing presbytery action.
5. The Administrative Commission appointed to consult with the Gravette church has reached an agreement with the City of Gravette for transfer of the church property to the city. The General Committee authorized the Stated Clerk to execute a deed for the property. Upon receipt of the minutes of the commission, its work will be completed and the commission dissolved.
6. The overture from the Eureka Springs session and approved by the presbytery in October was forwarded to the Office of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. Having received the necessary concurrence from another presbytery it will go to the GA in June.
7. TE AL Hencgar is unavailable to serve as GA alternate for 2016. Because the deadline for changes has past, TE Leslie Roper will be alternate for both TE positions.
8. Scheduled deposits of records and memorabilia of closed churches with the Presbyterian Historical Society continue. *All churches are strongly encouraged to deposit minutes books older than 25-30 years with the PHS.* Records remain the property of the congregation, however they are stored in a safe archival environment. This is an especially appropriate action for any records more than 100 years old.
9. Presbytery records continue to be updated. Congregations are asked to submit *copies* of the following for records to the presbytery office:
 - a. Deeds (including church property, education buildings, manses, cemeteries, etc.)
 - b. Articles of incorporation
 - c. By-laws
 - d. Manual of operations

- e. Organizing documents for entities related to the church (foundations, etc.)
 - f. Church histories
 - g. Church directories
 - h. Annual Report for 2014 and 2015 (if not already submitted)
10. Session minutes review is ongoing. Sessions whose minutes are in need of review should contact the office of the Stated Clerk.
11. The following requests for excused absence from the 131st Stated Meeting were received:
- a. Teaching Elders and CREs- KC Chanthorn, Nancy Taylor, Jeff Price, Courtney Bacon-Latina, Al Henegar, Shauna Silmon, Tim Reeves, Karen Akin, Frederick Taylor, Claire Rhodes, Kenneth Rhodes, Fern Davis
 - b. Ruling Elders- Kim Danehower
 - c. Certified Educators-Lynne Chondra
 - d. Congregations- Mt. Vernon (Pea Ridge), First Stuttgart, Vaughn Bentonville

Appointment of Standing Committees

The Moderator appointed the Leaves of Absence Committee and Tellers.

Report from the Synod of the Sun

RE Emily Laurel, Commissioner to the Synod of the Sun, brought greetings from the synod and shared new opportunities for ministry and partnership through the synod.

Report of the General Committee

Teaching Elder Clare Kelly reported the actions of the General Committee taken on behalf of the presbytery since the 130th 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 set June 4, 2016 and October 21-22, 2016 as the dates of the 132nd and 133rd Stated Meetings of the Presbytery of Arkansas. THE MOTION PASSED.

Evening Worship

The Presbytery ended the business of the evening and moved to a time of worship and sacrament including the installation of TE Lacy Sellars as the new Moderator of the Presbytery and TE Stewart Smith as General Presbyter. 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 February 13, 2016 in the Lyon Business Building Nucor Auditorium at Lyon College.

Morning Worship

The Presbytery reconvened with worship at 8:30am Saturday February 13, 2016 in the Lyon Business Building Nucor Auditorium at Lyon College. Following a time of music and prayer, RE Ruth Hamilton was installed as vice-Moderator of the presbytery. *NB: No worship bulletin was produced for this service.*

Order of the Day: Theological Discussion

The Rev. Dr. Paul Hooker from Austin Seminary led the presbytery in an exploration of the question "What Do We Mean When We Say Church?"

Report of the Committee on Nominations

TE Elizabeth Gabbard, First Arkadelphia, brought the report from the Committee on Nominations. In preparation for the start of the new presbytery structure, the Committee on Nominations presented the following slate for election:

1) COORDINATING TEAM (NOMINATIONS' PORTION)

Class of 2016:

TE Ruskin Falls, Pulaski Heights, Little Rock (3)

RE Laura Pierce, Central, Pine Bluff (5)

TE Liz Lindsey, First, Newport and First, Brinkley (5)

Class of 2017:

RE Ken Coker, Central, Russellville (4)

RE Karene Jones, Park Hill, North Little Rock (3)

TE D.C. Adams, First, Harrison (1)

Note: (10 additional people will be elected by committees in Feb., 2 from each of the 5 ministry areas.)

2) COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

Class of 2016:

TE Catherine Allsbury, Little Rock, at-large (3)

Class of 2017:

TE Fred Taylor, HR, Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals (4)

RE Tom Verdery, First United, Fayetteville (1)

Class of 2018:

RE Jan Enke, First, Van Buren (2)

RE Patty Minga, First, Jonesboro (5)

3) SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS (under Committee on Church and Its Mission)

Class of 2016:

RE Zac Cosner, Central, Pine Bluff (5)
RE Betty Powell, Park Hill, North Little Rock (3)
TE Susan Carter Wiggins, First, Pine Bluff (5)

Class of 2017:

TE Bryan Bond, First, Van Buren (2)
TE John Gibson, Mount Vernon, Pea Ridge
(1) RE Jeremy Hightower, First, Searcy (4)

Class of 2018:

RE Elizabeth Branch, Westover Hills, Little Rock (3)
RE Scott Howard, First, Searcy (4)
RE Ray Stephens, Westover Hills, Little Rock (3)

4) COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

TE Kade Curry, First, Searcy (4)
RE Mike Easley, Graham Memorial, Forrest City (5)
TE Debra Carl Freeman, First, Jacksonville (3)

Class of 2017:

RE Susan Anderson, First, Springdale (1)
TE Bill Henning, HR, Marshall (1)
RE Sherry Miller, First, Hot Springs (2)

Class of 2018:

CCE Lynn Condra, First, Fort Smith (2)
TE "Mike" McCracken, Wynne Presbyterian (5)
RE Kathy White, First, Hot Springs (2)

5) COMMITTEE ON CHURCH AND ITS MINISTRIES

Class of 2016:

RE Carolyn Buchanan, First, Batesville (4)
TE Phil Butin, First United, Fayetteville, at-large (1)
RE Max McElmurry, First, Batesville (4)
RE Jim Pedersen, First, Rogers, at-large (1)
TE Georgia Senor, First, Bentonville (1)
TE Lindy Vogado, Second, Little Rock, at large (3)

Class of 2017:

TE Bill Bailey, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village (2)
RE Cyril Hollingsworth, Second, Little Rock (3)
TE Dennis Ritchie, Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista (1)
TE Dick Shinkle, HR, Harrison, at-large (1)
RE David Stricklin, Westover Hills, Little Rock, at-large (3)
TE Liz Wagner, Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, at-large (1)

Class of 2018:

TE Leslie Belden, First United, Fayetteville, at-large (1)
RE Charles Cook, Central, Fort Smith, at-large (2)
TE Fern Davis, Holly Grove Presbyterian (5)
TE Chris Jones, First, Jonesboro (5)
RE Cynthia Lanphear, Harmony, Clarksville (2)
TE Dari Rowen, First, Benton (3)

6) THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION

Class of 2016:

RE Doug Denne, First, Clarksville (2)
CRE Kelly Pearson, First, Dardanelle (2)
Ms. Emily Robinson, First, Morrilton (4)

Class of 2017:

CCE Kristi Button, First United, Fayetteville (1)
RE Kim Danehower, Graham Memorial, Forrest City (5)
TE Gordon Garlington, Park Hill, North Little Rock (3)
RE Mattie Seward, First, Searcy (4)

Class of 2018:

TE Jan Butin, First United, Fayetteville (1)
TE David King, HR, Central, Pine Bluff (5)
RE Emily Laurel, First, Benton (3)
PW Designee Maryann Sweeney, Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista (1)

7) The FUTURE OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY

Class of 2016:

TE Phillip Blackburn, First, Fort Smith (2)
TE Brian Brock, Central, Russellville (4)
TE Steven Frazier, First, Morrilton (4)
TE Marie Mainard-O'Connell, Little Rock, at-large (3)

Class of 2017:

RE Ted Belden, First United, Fayetteville (1)
RE Peg Falls-Corbitt, First, Conway, at-large (4)
TE Jeff Price, Trinity, Little Rock, at-large (3)
TE Anne Russ, First, North Little Rock (3)
CCE Theresa Spragins, serving at First, Conway, at-large (4)

Class of 2018:

RE Suzanne Bethell, Central, Fort Smith (2)
RE Dick Freer, First, Jonesboro (5)
TE Becky Purcell, First, Prairie Grove (1)
RE Andrea Schaffer, First, Lonoke (5)
RE Leah Shell, Second, LR (3)

8) Ministries with Youth, Campus, and Young Adults

Class of 2016:

Mr. Justin Clark, First, North Little Rock (3)

RE Joan Jones, First, Jonesboro (5)

TE Leslie Roper, First, Batesville (4)

Class of 2017:

RE Donna Ellison, Allison Memorial, Little Rock (3)

RE Mary Shaw, First, Springdale (1)

RE Krista Denne, First, Clarksville (2)

Class of 2018:

TE Bill Seitz, First, Mena (2)

RE Ashley Clark, First, Bentonville (1)

TE Ray McCalla, Lyon College, Batesville (4)

CRE Harlis Wright, Faith, Pine Bluff (5)

9) COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

Class of 2016:

RE Ledridge Davis, First, Malvern (3)

Ms. Yuri Hernandez, Barr Memorial, Norman (2) (college youth)

RE Jeannie Maples, First, Harrison (1)

RE Bruce Schlegel, First United, Fayetteville (1)

Class of 2017:

RE Nancy Bateman, Pulaski Heights, Little Rock (3)

TE Clif Ford, First, Alma (2)

Mr. Obed Gonzalez, First, Springdale (1) (college youth)

RE Susan Morris, Hopewell, Morrilton (4)

The floor was opened to nominations. There being no nominations from the floor, the slate was presented as proposed. MOTION PASSED.

State of the Presbytery

TE Stewart Smith gave the annual State of the Presbytery report. The report focused on the changing financial realities of the presbytery and the opportunities found in a more flexible presbytery structure. TE Smith shared his view that the presbytery is strong and possesses many valuable assets for ministry.

Report of the Youth Advisory Delegates

The YADs brought greetings to the presbytery and shared their thanks for the presbytery and its work. The assembly enthusiastically greeted the youth who attended the meeting and shared their insights.

Committee on Ministry

TE Dari Rowen presented the report for the Committee on Ministry (now Committee on the Church's Ministries). The new members of the presbytery received through actions on the consent agenda were welcomed and offered their greetings to the presbytery.

The Committee reported the death of two minister members of the presbytery. TE Leila (Lee) Lowery Power in Austin, TX December 31, 2015 and TE Elva Manuel Douthat in Bella Vista December 17, 2013.

Report from Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center

TE David Gill brought greetings from Ferncliff and shared a report on the 2015 activities at the camp and the plans for 2016.

Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

TE Kade Curry brought the report from the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (now the Committee on Leadership Development). The committee presented two motions for presbytery action:

1. That Krista Denne, First Clarksville, be advanced to Candidacy. Krista was invited to share her faith journey and sense of vocational call. Her statement of faith was included in the presbytery packet and is appended to the indexed minutes of the presbytery. Following an opportunity for commissioners to examine her sense of call and statement of faith, the motion from the committee was put before the assembly. MOTION PASSED. Members of First Clarksville were invited to come forward as the Moderator prayed for Krista and her discernment in ministry.
2. That Brittany Fiscus, First Jacksonville, be advanced to Candidacy. Brittany was invited to share her faith journey and sense of vocational call. Her statement of faith was included in the presbytery packet and is appended to the indexed minutes of the presbytery. Following an opportunity for commissioners to examine her sense of call and statement of faith, the motion from the committee was put before the assembly. MOTION PASSED. Members of First Jacksonville were invited to come forward as the Moderator prayed for Brittany and her discernment in ministry.

Report of the Bills and Overtures Committee

The Stated Clerk reported that the special Bills and Overtures Committee had reviewed all requests for presbytery concurrence on General Assembly business. The committee had no recommendations for concurrence.

Report on Arkansas Gives

The assembly was encouraged to participate in the annual Arkansas Gives day of giving. Several Presbyterian mission partners including Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services, Presbyterian Village, and Ferncliff are participating in Arkansas Gives.

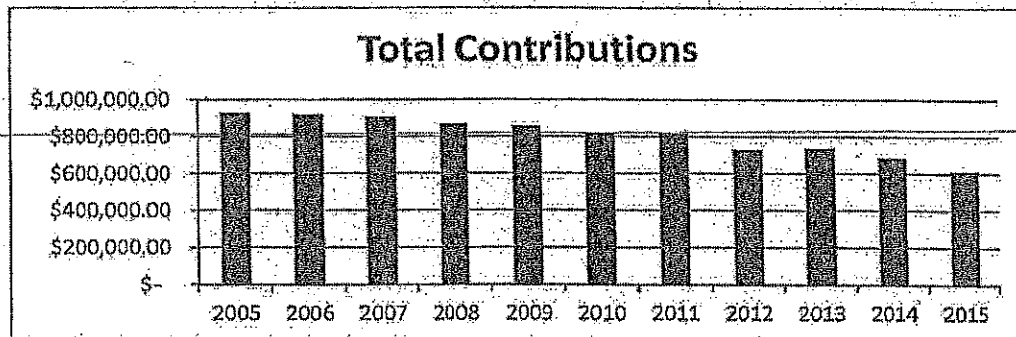
Christian Education Committee

The Christian Education Committee (now part of the Mission of the Church Ministry) presented information on the 2016 P.L.A.C.E. event to be held August 6 in Little Rock.

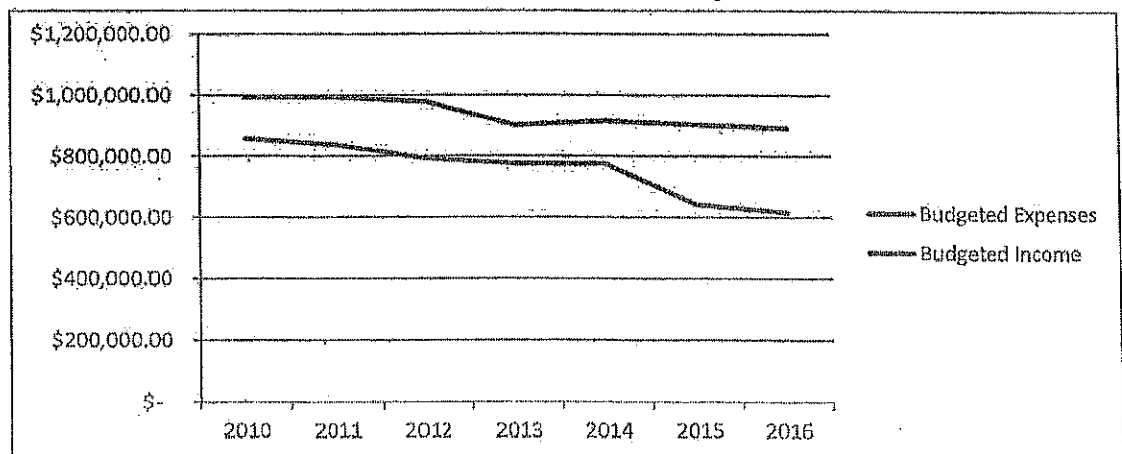
Report of the Committee on Administration

TE Catherine Allsbury brought the report of the Committee on Administration. The report was as follows:

In recent years the proposed budgets have reflected the expectation of decreasing contributions from congregations. Contributions have normally been even lower than projected. For 2015, the shortfall was nearly \$125,000. These shortfalls have required mid-year course corrections, when moderators have been asked to reign in their spending by 5% - 10%.



Reductions in expenses have not kept pace with shrinking income.



We are aware that this problem parallels the difficulties in our local congregations. We continue to be thankful to those churches that are thriving and able to support the mission work of the Presbytery.

The budget proposed for this year reflects a decrease in total expenses of nearly 5% from 2015. Even so, this plan forecasts a withdrawal from our investments of nearly \$134,000 in order to meet expenses (in addition to normal transfer of dividends, interest and growth).

Members of the Administration Ministry Area believe such withdrawals are unhealthy for the long-term.

The alternative of trying to slash over \$134,000 from a total budget of \$885,000 is equally problematic. In the very near future this Presbytery will need to make hard choices about priorities for mission, and to prayerfully consider the most just and compassionate way to use our financial resources.

In June 2013, the Administration Committee came to this presbytery with a proposal to give a grant of \$1,000,000 to Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, in order for Ferncliff to apply for a matching grant. The plan was to sell a piece of property in order to raise the funds needed. Borrowing against that property in order to fulfill the commitment was accepted as a contingency. The promise to Presbytery at that time was that the transaction would be Cash Neutral: financial support normally given to Ferncliff would be used to pay interest on a loan (if necessary).

We are working to keep that promise, but face some unexpected problems.

- The property has not sold. There has not even been an offer.
- The property was appraised for 1/3 of the value we were expecting.
- We have been paying interest only for 12 months, with the option of continuing to do so for 12 more months. The debt has not been reduced.
- We find ourselves making payments on debts we did not expect to have, with shrinking income.

These are the options we have considered (and prayed over) to best address this gaping hole in the budget.

- Our current plan is to continue paying interest only, while exploring options to pay off the unsecured loan by January, 2017. Those options include using other assets (property and/or investments) to pay down the debt.
- Support for Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center was reduced for this year by 10%, which is the amount that other ministry areas were asked to cut from their budgets.

- Support for Ferncliff in 2017 will be adjusted, based on payments needed for the two loans.

There are problems for the long term with each of these plans, for the presbytery and for Ferncliff.

The Committee presented two motions for consideration by the assembly.

1. Motion to approve the current plan for paying interest only on presbytery debt (Ferncliff loan). MOTION PASSED
2. Motion to adopt the proposed 2016 budget (below). MOTION PASSED

Presbytery of Arkansas 2016 Budget
(to be presented at 131st Stated Meeting--February 12-13, 2016)

Revenues	% of Total	
Mission Acceptance	\$ 615,000.00	69.5%
Miscellaneous Revenue	15,000.00	1.7%
Income from Investments	\$ 120,000.00	13.6%
Transfer from Investments	\$ 133,928.00	15.1%
Previous Year Pledges	1,500.00	0.2%
Total Revenues	\$ 885,428.00	
<hr/>		
Expenses	% of Total	
<hr/>		
Ministry Areas in New Structure		
Area: Administration		43,250.00 4.9%
Payment on Loans: Interest	\$ 32,304.00	
Contingencies for property sale	4,000.00	
Meetings, Financial Review, etc.	6,946.00	
Area: Future of the Church (formerly CC&D)		91,548.00 10.3%
Area: Ministry of the Church		22,275.00 2.5%
Committee on Leadership Development	5,400.00	
Committee on Church's Ministry	\$ 16,875.00	
Area: Mission of the Church		84,375.00 9.5%
Support of Ferncliff	\$ 28,490.00	
Area: Youth, Collegiate and Young Adults		42,730.00 4.8%
Coordinating Team		4,095.00 0.5%
Functions Required by the Book of Order		2,905.00 0.3%
Nominations	360.00	
Representation	45.00	

Administrative Commissions	\$ 2,500.00		
Administration of the Presbytery Office		440,750.00	49.8%
Commitment to the Greater Church		\$ 153,500.00	17.3%
General Assembly Per Capita	\$ 97,000.00		
General Assembly Benevolence	\$ 30,750.00		
Synod of the Sun Benevolence	\$ 25,750.00		
Total Expenses		\$ 885,428.00	
Net Income			
2015 Budget Total Expenses (approved Feb 2015)		\$ 938,135.00	
Increase (Decrease) from 2015 to 2016 (dollars)		\$ (52,707.00)	
Increase (Decrease) from 2015 to 2016 (percentage)		\$ (0.06)	

- (1) Committee on Administration's total includes payments on Chenal property loan. In prior years, this amount was included in Youth, Collegiate and Young Adults total (support for Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center).

Minute Announcements

Members shared brief announcements of upcoming events and updates of ongoing ministries of the presbytery.

New Business

TE Susie Wiggins, First Pine Bluff, brought a report from the Advisory Committee on Women's Concerns of the General Assembly on which she serves.

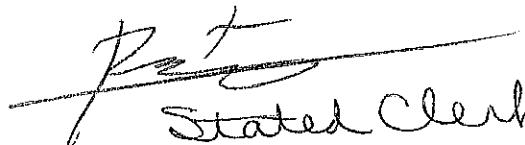
The Moderator noted that Assistant Stated Clerk TE David Dyer would be retiring following the 131st Stated Meeting. After reading a resolution from the presbytery giving thanks to God for TE Dyer's ministry and service, the Moderator offered a motion that the resolution be included in the minutes of the presbytery and the presbytery express its thanks to TE Dyer. The motion was made and seconded (by numerous voices). MOTION PASSED with enthusiastic applause and thanks to TE Dyer. A copy of the resolution is appended to the indexed minutes of the presbytery.

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.

Larry S. Sellars, Jr.
Moderator NT


Stated Clerk