

130th Stated Meeting
of the Presbytery of Arkansas
Friday and Saturday, October 9-10, 2015
Central Presbyterian Church
Russellville, AR

Addenda Packet

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Note:

Two other packets, “For Your Information: Financials” containing presbytery financial reports and “For Your Information: Flyers” containing flyers about opportunities and events around the presbytery, are also posted on the website, and the Minutes of the 129th Stated Meeting will be posted shortly.

Who is Jesus? – Nine responses to ponder in the New Testament (NRSV):

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. And the word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. (John 1:1-4, 14, 18)

Simeon took [the baby Jesus] in his arms and praised God, saying, . . . "my eyes have seen your salvation, . . . a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." (Luke 2:28-32)

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." . . . When the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority. (Mark 1:14-15, 21-22)

When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." (Mark 3:21-22)

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." (Mark 8:27-33) (see also Matthew 16:3-23; Luke 9:18-22)

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus . . . They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him . . . and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. (Matthew 27:27-31)

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:5-11)

Jesus [is] the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)

Grace to you and peace . . . from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 1:4-6)

Jesus Christ today. – Four theological challenges to ponder:

Karl Barth (*Church Dogmatics, IV/2*)

We shall begin with a statement concerning the way in which Jesus was present as a man among the men of His time according to the presentation of the New Testament witnesses. . . . [He] is ignored and forgotten and despised and discounted by men. . . . He has nothing of what the world counts as recognition and authority and honour and success. . . . His power is present to men in the form of weakness, His glory in that of lowliness, His victory in that of defeat. . . . His kingdom—although in—is not of this world. And because it is not, . . . it is an inconsiderable and from the human point of view an insignificant kingdom. . . . He ignored all those who are high and mighty and wealthy in the world in favour of the weak and meek and lowly. . . . We can only call . . . revolutionary . . . His relationship to the orders of life and value current in the world around Him. . . . Jesus was not in any sense a reformer championing new orders against the old ones, contesting the latter in order to replace them by the former. He did not range Himself and His disciples with any of the existing parties. . . . Nor did He set up against them an opposing party. He did not represent or defend or champion any programme—whether political, economic, moral or religious, whether conservative or progressive. He was equally suspected and disliked by the representatives of all such programmes, although he did not particularly attack any of them. Why His existence was so unsettling on every side was that He set all programmes and principles in question.

James Cone (*God of the Oppressed*)

Who is Jesus Christ for us today? If twentieth-century Christians are to speak the truth for their sociohistorical situation, they cannot merely repeat the story of what Jesus did and said in Palestine, as if it were self-interpreting for us today. Truth is more than the retelling of the biblical story. Truth is the divine happening that invades our contemporary situation, revealing the meaning of the past for the present so that we are made new creatures for the future. It is therefore our commitment to the divine truth, as witnessed to in the biblical story, that requires us to investigate the connection between Jesus' words and deeds in first-century Palestine and our existence today.

Rosemary Radford Ruether (*To Change the World*)

The gospels are written from the perspective of converted betrayers, disciples who knew that they had been unable to hear the radical character of his message of abnegation of power in his own lifetime, and only in the light of the resurrection were able to re-evaluate this mistake. Yet we have to ask whether that mistake has not, in fact, been perpetuated by the successors of the apostles in the church. Even as the church picks up the cross as a symbol of triumph over death and as a rebuke to the Jews, they continue the betrayal of Jesus, which is to use his name as a means of power and domination over other people. The Jesus who made himself one of the poor, one of the outcasts, and finally, one of the dead, in order to witness to the true conditions for entering God's reign, witnesses against this betrayal of his name. He flees from those who use his memory as a means of power and domination.

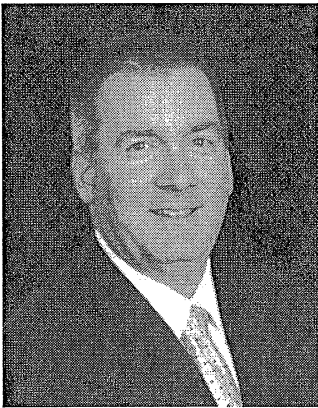
Pope Francis (Angelus Address, August 23, 2015)

Each one of us can ask himself, right now, "Who is Jesus for me? Is He a name? an idea? Is He simply a person from history? Or is He really the person Who loves me, Who gave His life for me and walks with me?" Who is Jesus for you? Do you remain with Jesus? Do you seek to know Him in His word? Do you read the Gospel every day, a passage from the Gospel in order to know Jesus? Do you carry the little Gospel in your pocket, in your bag, in order to read it everywhere. Because the more we are with Him the more the desire to remain with Him grows. Now I kindly ask you, let us take a moment of silence, and each one of us, in silence, in his or her heart, ask yourself the question: "Who is Jesus for me?" In silence, everyone answer in his or her heart. "Who is Jesus for me?"

**Report of the General Presbyter Search Committee
to the Presbytery of Arkansas
October 9-10, 2015**

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13



With gratitude to God for the Spirit's guidance during this process, the General Presbyter Search Committee presents the name of the Reverend Stewart Smith as the next General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Sam Anderson
Krista Denné
Donna Ellison
Susan Gray

Mike McCracken
Jeff Price, Moderator
Leslie Roper
Dan Saperstein, Synod Resource

On behalf of the General Presbyter Search Committee, I move the following:

1) 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.

2) The following terms of call be approved:

Effective Salary: \$80,000

Salary: \$40,000

Housing: \$35,000

403B Retirement Contribution: \$5,000

Full Medical, Pension, Disability, and Death Coverage under the Board of Pensions

Social Security Tax Reimbursement: \$6,196

Professional expenses (including travel): \$18,000

Continuing Education: \$1,500

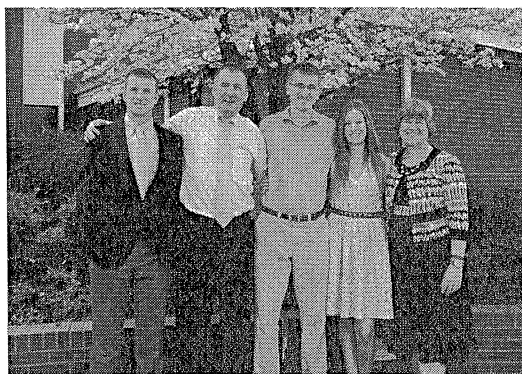
Full moving expenses paid

One time computer allowance: \$3,000

Paid Vacation leave of 4 weeks annually, paid continuing education leave of 2 weeks annually.

Three month Sabbatical in the seventh year of work.

3) The General Presbyter Search Committee continue to function for one year as a team of support and encouragement for the new General Presbyter.



Stewart and his wife, Laura, sons, Ryan and Alex, and daughter-in-law, Jessica

Stewart Smith was born in the Presbyterian hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina to the Rev. Robert L. (Bob) and Betsy Smith. He spent the first three years of his life in the manse at Indian Trail, North Carolina. The family moved to Memphis, TN and spent 3 and a half years at the Frayser Presbyterian Church before moving to Forrest City, Arkansas when Stewart was in the first grade. Stewart was nurtured and confirmed in the Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church in Forrest City and served on an earlier version of the Presbytery's youth council that planned youthquakes in the late 1970's.

Stewart attended college at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX and graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration degree with concentrations in Accounting and Religion. After graduation, he worked for six years in a variety of positions in the Accounting Department of Diamond Shamrock Refining and Marketing Company in San Antonio. It was during this time that he joined the First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio and where he met his future wife, Laura Duncan, while they were attending a young adults bible study at the church. They were married in March of 1988. Stewart was elected a deacon at the church and during this time applied for a financial position for the Synod of the Sun. During an interview with Bill Fogleman, Stewart articulated his desire to use his gifts to serve the church. At the end of the interview, Bill Fogleman said, "Stewart, you are not going to get this job. But I suggest to you that you have just articulated to me a calling into the ministry. I want you to go home, and pray about this and talk about this with your family and your pastors."

Stewart enrolled at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 1990. Stewart and Laura's first child (Ryan) was born in Austin after his second year of seminary. The family spent a year in Lynchburg, VA while Stewart did a year-long internship at the St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Lynchburg, VA. During his final year of seminary, Stewart served as a student co-pastor at the Youngblood Memorial Presbyterian Church in Robinson, TX, where Laura's father, Rev. David C. Duncan had previously served.

During his senior year of seminary, Stewart re-directed his search for a call to Arkansas to be close to his father, who while serving as pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Bella Vista was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Stewart accepted a call to be the Associate Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas in 1994 and began serving there just days before his father died. The following year, Stewart and Laura's second child was born (Alex). After serving in Fort Smith for 7 years, Stewart accepted a call to be pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Springdale, where he has served for the past 14 years.

Stewart has served on numerous committees of the Presbytery. He was a commissioner to the 216th General Assembly meeting in 2004. In 2007 he served as moderator of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Stewart's wife Laura teaches at J.O. Kelly Middle School in Springdale. His son Ryan and wife Jessica have recently moved to Lexington, KY. His youngest son Alex is a junior at the University of the Ozarks.

Report of the Stated Clerk

130th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas

October 8-9, 2015

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

1. Issued two written opinions to requests for constitutional advice from the COM. (Copies are available by request from the Stated Clerk and will be included in the new Presbytery Ministry Manual following adoption of the new presbytery structure)
2. On behalf of the presbytery, attended the Mid-Council Consultation of the PC(USA) in Knoxville, TN.
3. On behalf of the presbytery, attended the COM event in Irving, TX with members of the COM.
4. 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. A new Clerk of Session Manual is being prepared and will be released along with the new Presbytery Ministry Manual later this fall. All clerks of session and moderators will receive a copy and any future updates.
2. The Administrative Commission appointed to consult with the Ozarks church reports no actions since the June 2015 Stated Meeting.
3. Administrative Commissions have been appointed to consult with First Rogers, First Siloam Springs, and Woodlands Hot Springs Village. (Report to come from GC)
4. The Administrative Commission appointed to consult with the Walnut Grove and Cane Hill congregations report no actions in need of presbytery action. (Progress reports may come from the AC).
5. The Administrative Commission appointed to consult with the Gravette church reports no actions in need of presbytery action.
6. Reports on annual review of presbytery minutes were received from the Synod of the Sun. Exceptions noted by the reviews will be addressed. Assistant Stated Clerk David Dyer is owed the gratitude of the presbytery for his diligent and detailed work!
7. Pursuant to the request of the General Committee, a special Bills and Overtures Committee has been appointed to review proposed GA business for concurrence by the presbytery. The members are: RE Don Harris Jr. First Pine Bluff, RE Jane Webb First Rogers, TE Marie Mainard O'Connell Member At-Large, TE Mike Ulasewich First Conway (subsequent to reception to membership in presbytery).
8. An overture to the 222nd General Assembly from the Eureka Springs church has been received and will be proposed for adoption under New Business. *(NB: Due to the requirement that all overtures to amend the Book of Order receive concurrence from at least one presbytery, this overture must be decided at the October Stated Meeting in order to meet GA deadlines. The demands of this timing are the reason the overture is proposed directly from the session rather than through the Special Bills and Overtures Committee.)*

9. A schedule for the deposit in the Presbyterian Historical Society of records and memorabilia of closed churches has been arranged. Church records will be sent to Philadelphia over the next several months. *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.
10. Presbytery records are being updated. Congregations are asked to submit **copies** of the following for records in Little Rock:
 - 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 (if not already submitted)
11. Session minutes review assignments will be available on the presbytery website and sent directly to clerks of session.
12. The following requests for excused absence from the 130th Stated Meeting were received (others may be added by the Assistant Stated Clerk):
 - a. Teaching Elders and CREs- Robert Lowry, Don Campbell, Ike Brighton
 - b. Ruling Elders- None
 - c. Certified Educators- Lynn Chondra
 - d. Congregations- None

Items for Presbytery Action (required annually by the Book of Order):

1. That the presbytery approve the Consent Agenda.
2. That the presbytery attest that a Sexual Misconduct Policy is in effect in the Presbytery of Arkansas in 2015.
3. That the presbytery attest that a Child Safety Policy is in effect in the Presbytery of Arkansas in 2015.
4. That the presbytery attest that a Manual of Operations is in effect in the Presbytery of Arkansas.
5. That the presbytery attest that the Presbytery of Arkansas has property and liability insurance coverage in effect through Church Mutual and that said coverage is deemed sufficient for the needs of the presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,



TE Robert Wm Lowry
Stated Clerk

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE TO THE PRESBYTERY OF
ARKANSAS

October 9, 2015

The General Committee of the Presbytery of Arkansas met at First Presbyterian Church, Conway, Arkansas on Saturday, August 22, 2015. It adopted the following motions and actions:

1. Motion that the General Committee instruct the Moderator and the Stated Clerk to appoint a Bills and Overtures Committee of no less than four members to review requests for concurrence and original business for the 2016 General Assembly and bring recommendations to the presbytery at its stated meetings in October 2015 and/or February 2016. Commissioners and alternates to the 2016 General Assembly shall not be appointed. PASSED

2. Motion to form an Administrative Commission to inquire into issues facing the Rogers church with the following members and authority:
 - a. Members:
 - i. TE Brian Brock, Central Russellville
 - ii. TE Leslie Belden, First United Fayetteville
 - iii. RE Charles Cook, Central Fort Smith
 - iv. RE Leah Shell, Second Little Rock
 - v. RE Peg Falls-Corbitt, First Conway
 - vi. RE Ed Wilkinson, Good Shepherd Greenwood
 - vii. TE Robert Lowry, Stated Clerk (ex-officio)
 - b. Authority:
 - i. Inquire into the life and ministries of the Rogers church;
 - ii. Determine the financial situation of the church;
 - iii. Consult with the church on models for ministry and mission;
 - iv. Assist the congregation to secure temporary pastoral leadership;
 - v. Assume original jurisdiction of the church, if necessary.
 - c. Reporting: The AC shall communicate to the Stated Clerk all actions taken on behalf of the presbytery. Actions shall be reported within two weeks of having been taken. (Email is a satisfactory way to report actions taken). Written reports of the AC's actions shall be submitted no less than 30 days prior to each stated meeting of the presbytery. Prior to dissolution, minutes of all meetings of the AC shall be submitted to the Stated Clerk. PASSED

3. Motion that all sessions be required to forward to the office of the Stated Clerk, no later than December 31, 2015:
 - a. A copy of the congregation's Child Protection Policy required by the *Book of Order* G-3.0106
 - b. A copy of the minutes of the session indicating that the policy has been adopted by the session.Motion PASSED

4. Motion pursuant to GAPJC decision 222-05, to clarify to the Nominating Committee that all members of committees or commissions empowered to act on behalf of the presbytery between meetings (COM, CPM, Admin., GC, Nom.) must be member TE or RE in good standing in the Presbytery of Arkansas. PASSED

5. A motion to approve forming an Administrative Commission for the Siloam Springs church
 - a. Members: to be appointed by

 - b. Authority:
 - i. Inquire into the life and ministries of the Siloam Springs church;
 - ii. Determine the financial situation of the church;
 - iii. Consult with the church on models for ministry and mission;
 - iv. Assist the congregation to secure temporary pastoral leadership;
 - v. Assume original jurisdiction of the church, if necessary.
 - c. Reporting: The AC shall communicate to the Stated Clerk all actions taken on behalf of the presbytery. Actions shall be reported within two weeks of having been taken. (Email is a satisfactory way to report actions taken). Written reports of the AC's actions shall be submitted no less than 30 days prior to each stated meeting of the presbytery. Prior to dissolution, minutes of all meetings of the AC shall be submitted to the Stated Clerk. PASSED

6. A motion to approve forming an Administrative Commission for the Woodlands Hot Springs Village church
 - a. Members: to be appointed by

 - b. Authority:
 - i. Inquire into the life and ministries of the Woodlands church;
 - ii. Determine the financial situation of the church;
 - iii. Consult with the church on models for ministry and mission;
 - iv. Assist the congregation to secure temporary pastoral leadership;
 - v. Assume original jurisdiction of the church, if necessary.
 - c. Reporting: The AC shall communicate to the Stated Clerk all actions taken on behalf of the presbytery. Actions shall be reported within two weeks of having been taken. (Email is a satisfactory way to report actions taken). Written reports of the AC's actions shall be submitted no less than 30 days prior to each stated meeting of the presbytery. Prior to dissolution, minutes of all meetings of the AC shall be submitted to the Stated Clerk. PASSED

7. The request of the Nominations to immediately elect the following to fill unexpired terms (there being no other nominations): TE Stewart Smith

as Commissioner to the Synod of the Sun, Class of 2017; TE Larry Mitchell, as Commissioner to the 2016 General Assembly; and TE Brian Brock to serve on the Congregational Care and Nurture Committee, Class of 2016. ELECTED.

8. Motion to approved budgets for the Stated Clerk Search Committee of \$500 and for the General Presbyter Search committee of \$5,000.
9. A motion to assign Sessional Records reviews by pairing congregations through the Stated Clerk's office PASSED.
10. A motion to have the Theological Discussion for the October presbytery meeting be "Who is Jesus?" PASSED. A motion to have Dr. Paul Hooker of Austin Seminary invited to speak to the February, 2016 presbytery meeting as the Theological Discussion PASSED.
11. A motion to form the Implementation Team (Transition Team) with their work to be finished by the conclusion of the February presbytery meeting, consisting of TE Chris Jones, RE Julie Atkinson, RE Jackson Farrow, TE Elizabeth Gabbard, and Deacon Mike Szabo, and alternate TE Leslie Roper; and a budget of \$500 PASSED.
12. TE Elizabeth Gabbard was elected moderator of the Nominations Committee.

On Tuesday Sept. 1, three Motions recommended by the Stated Clerk were made and submitted to the GC for email vote, as follows:

1. Motion for the General Committee concerning the Ozark AC

Motion: That the GC clarify the membership, authority, and reporting requirements of the Administrative Commission appointed to inquire into issues facing the Ozark Church:

- a. Members:
 - i. TE Brian Brock, Central Russellville
 - ii. TE Dari Rowen, First Benton
 - iii. RE Leah Shell, Second LR
 - iv. RE Cynthia Lanphear, Harmony Clarksville
 - v. TE Robert Wm Lowry, Stated Clerk- staff
- b. Authority:
 - i. Inquire into the life and ministries of the Ozark church;
 - ii. Consult with the session and congregation on their desire to disaffiliate with the PC(USA)
 - iii. Assume original jurisdiction of the church, if necessary
 - iv. Recommend to the presbytery the dismissal or dissolution of the congregation including determination of a faithful remnant (if any) according to the presbytery "Policy for Schismatic Churches."
 - v. Take other steps as necessary to accomplish the requirements of the presbytery policy "Policy for Schismatic Churches"

- c. Reporting: The AC shall communicate to the Stated Clerk all actions taken on behalf of the presbytery. Actions shall be reported within two weeks of having been taken. (Email is a satisfactory way to report actions taken). Written reports of the AC's actions shall be submitted no less than 30 days prior to each stated meeting of the presbytery. Prior to dissolution, minutes of all meetings of the AC shall be submitted to the Stated Clerk.

2. Motion for the General Committee concerning the Walnut Grove/Cane Hill AC:

Motion: That the GC clarify the membership, authority, and reporting requirements of the Administrative Commission appointed to inquire into issues facing the Walnut Grove and Cane Hill churches:

a. Members:

- i. TE Phil Butin, First United Fayetteville
- ii. RE Charles Cook, Central Fort Smith
- iii. TE Marie Mainard O'Connell, YAV Coordinator
- iv. RE Ted Belden, First United Fayetteville
- v. TE John King, HR
- vi. TE Robert Wm Lowry, Stated Clerk- staff

b. Authority:

- i. Assume original jurisdiction of the church(es)
- ii. Take such actions necessary to fulfill the requirements of the presbytery "Steps for Closing a Congregation" policy including the disposition of assets, real property, and records of the congregation(s)

- c. Reporting: The AC shall communicate to the Stated Clerk all actions taken on behalf of the presbytery. Actions shall be reported within two weeks of having been taken. (Email is a satisfactory way to report actions taken). Written reports of the AC's actions shall be submitted no less than 30 days prior to each stated meeting of the presbytery. Prior to dissolution, minutes of all meetings of the AC shall be submitted to the Stated Clerk.

3. Motion for the General Committee concerning the Pocahontas AC:

Motion: That the GC clarify the membership, authority, and reporting requirements of the Administrative Commission appointed to close the Pocahontas church and dispose of its real property:

a. Members:

- i. TE Chris Jones, First Jonesboro
- ii. RE Leah Shell, Second LR
- iii. TE Dari Rowen, First Benton
- iv. TE Robert Wm Lowry, Stated Clerk- staff

d. Authority:

- i. Assume original jurisdiction of the church(es)
- ii. Take such actions necessary to fulfill the requirements of the presbytery "Steps for Closing a Congregation" policy including the

disposition of assets, real property, and records of the congregation(s)

- e. Reporting: The AC shall communicate to the Stated Clerk all actions taken on behalf of the presbytery. Actions shall be reported within two weeks of having been taken. (Email is a satisfactory way to report actions taken). Written reports of the AC's actions shall be submitted no less than 30 days prior to each stated meeting of the presbytery. Prior to dissolution, minutes of all meetings of the AC shall be submitted to the Stated Clerk.

All three motions passed.

On Thursday Sept. 24, Motions to elect members of the Administrative commissions created by the General Committee in its regular meeting (motions #5 and #6 above) were made and submitted to the GC for email vote, as follows:

To serve on the AC for Woodlands Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs Village:

TE Frank Leblanc
TE Susie Wiggins
RE Ruth Hamilton (Kirk HSV)
RE Catherine Lowry (Second LR)
RE Susie Wright (Westminster Hot Springs)
Staff Resource TE Robert Lowry

To serve on the AC for First Presbyterian Church, Siloam Springs

TE Leslie Belden
TE Phil Blackburn
TE Katie Cummings
TE Phil Butin
RE Krista Denne

Both motions passed.

For action by the Presbytery:

- 1. Motion to adopt the attached "Policy on Press Inquiries"**

Respectfully submitted,

Clare Kelley
Moderator of the General Committee

Policy on Press Inquiries

Overview

This policy covers public statements to the press in the name of or on behalf of the Presbytery of Arkansas. The policy covers all employees, members, and any other person under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Arkansas. This policy does not cover statements made by individuals on their own behalf or sessions on behalf of their congregation.

Procedure

When an inquiry is received from any media source, it shall be forwarded immediately to the Stated Clerk.

The Stated Clerk shall inquire in the presbytery minutes to determine if the presbytery has taken an official stand on the issue at hand in the request.

The Stated Clerk shall consult with the General Presbyter and the Moderator of the Presbytery to determine whether or not a public statement is appropriate.

- If it is determined that no public statement shall be made, the Stated Clerk shall inform the media outlet making the inquiry that the presbytery has “no comment.”
- If it is determined that a statement is warranted, the Stated Clerk shall draft a statement and, with the concurrence of the General Presbyter and Moderator, issue the statement to the press.

Reporting

All public statements to the press on behalf of the presbytery shall be reported to the presbytery at its next stated meeting and included upon the minutes.

REPORT TO 130TH STATED MEETING OF PRESBYTERY
FROM COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

1) The Committee on Nominations moves the election of:

Jordan Akin, Second Presbyterian, Little Rock as Young Adult Advisory Delegate to General Assembly, Class of 2016

Ruling Elder Bob Boehmler, First, Bentonville as Presbytery Treasurer, Class of 2017

2) The Committee on Nominations moves:

That all presbytery committees and committee members remain in place until the February, 2016 stated meeting of presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,

Teaching Elder Elizabeth Gabbard, committee moderator

Report of the Mission Committee
to the Presbytery of Arkansas, October 9-10, 2015

1. That the Presbytery of Arkansas approve being a covenanting partner in the PC(USA) relationship with the Presbyterian Church of Honduras.
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.
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.
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.
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.



Behind the Recommendation for the Presbytery of Arkansas to be a covenanting partner in the PC(USA) relationship with the Presbyterian Church of Honduras:

For two years, a cooperative effort of congregations in northwest and central Arkansas, plus the United Campus Ministry and Solar Under the Sun, has been conducting ministry with the Presbyterian Church of Honduras through our PC(USA) mission co-workers.

Ministry of our Arkansas Presbyterian Congregations to date includes:

- Spring Break hands-on community development construction projects in rural communities, encouraging adult, youth, and college student involvement. These trips build relationships as well as homes, and transform lives – not just the lives of those in Honduras, but the Arkansas participants as well.
- Solar Under the Sun projects, partnered with Living Waters for the World, to provide safe drinking water and sustainable energy for communities off the grid.
- Scholarships for 7th-12th grade children to attend school. Public schools are free up through the 6th grade, and a child's education can be extended for only \$100 per year per child. College scholarships are also made possible.
- Purchasing Spanish-language children's Bibles for rural congregations.
- Women's Sewing Ministry. With simple sewing machines and a few supplies we can change women's lives, providing them with opportunities to support themselves and their families.

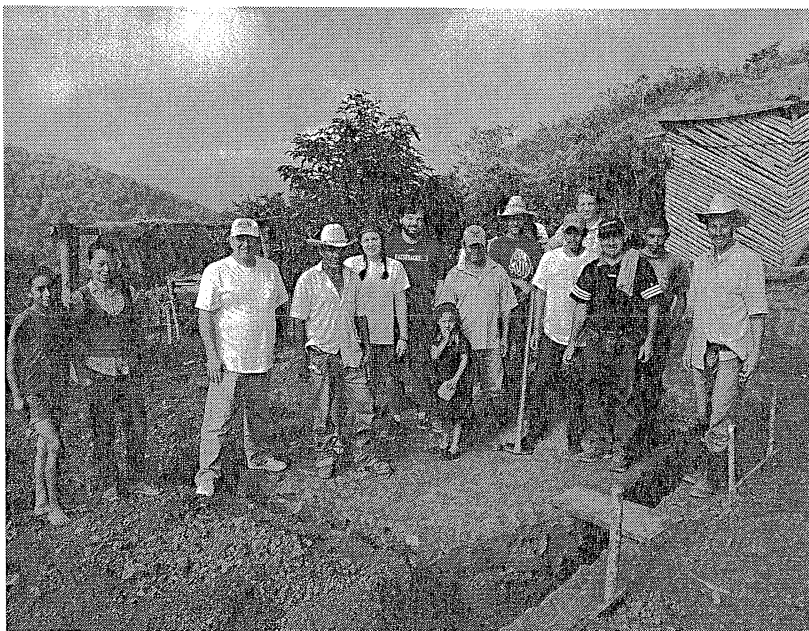
In an effort to better coordinate our ministries, pool our efforts, and reinforce our theological commitment to build-up our brothers and sisters in Christ rather than create dependencies, Presbyterian World Mission called together representatives from all presbyteries involved in ministry with the Presbyterian Church of Honduras. Although our group from the Presbytery of Arkansas did not officially represent our presbytery we were included as equal partners with two other presbyteries: the Presbytery of Tampa Bay, in Florida, and the Presbytery of Carlisle, in Pennsylvania.

Living Waters for the World, the Presbyterian Church of Honduras, and Solar Under the Sun are also partners in this new way of doing ministry.

PC(USA) funding for global ministry is reduced every year as giving by congregations decreases, which has necessitated the need for a new model for doing ministry. Our partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Honduras is being designed as the new way of ministering with global partners. Rather than Presbyterian World Mission making top-down decisions our group of three presbyteries involved with the global partner, together with Living Waters for the World and Solar Under the Sun, will work with the Presbyterian Church of Honduras in discerning God's will in their context.

Future Plans Include:

- Continuing our current ministry in Honduras and expanding the possibilities as they arise.
- Involving more congregations in our Presbytery in our Honduran ministry.
- Funding our PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers' salaries so that the partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Honduras will continue to include missionaries in the field.
- Working more closely with our partners in the Presbyteries of Tampa Bay and Carlisle.
- Providing opportunities for theological education for Honduran pastors.



It is important for this ministry to be a ministry of the Presbytery of Arkansas, within the structure of the PC(USA), rather than a loose collaboration of Presbyterian congregations and agencies. To request financial support from congregations and individuals for our ministry in Honduras there must be transparency, and accountability, only possible within the Presbytery's structure. Funds can be deposited in, and managed through, the Texas Presbyterian Foundation, avoiding the lengthy process of budget line-items. Only funds designated for the ministry in Honduras will be used for that purpose. And it is equally important for this ministry to be a ministry within the structure of the Presbytery as we coordinate with other presbyteries, Presbyterian World Mission, Living Waters for the World, Solar Under the Sun, and the Presbyterian Church of Honduras.

In light of the tragedy of Honduran refugees stranded on the US border due to the lack of opportunities in their own country, and the rampant crime in their cities, the need for our ministry to this poverty-stricken nation is even more apparent. We provide Christ-centered relationships, and hope for rural communities.

Celebration and Recognition of Anniversaries of Ordination, Certification and Commissioning of Church Professionals in the Presbytery of Arkansas

Continuing a practice begun in 2004, the Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals will recognize at the **130th Stated Meeting on October 9-10, 2015** all Teaching Elder members of the presbytery who this year celebrate anniversaries in five-year increments. The Presbytery will also recognize currently serving Commissioned Ruling Elders and active and retired Certified Christian Educators and Certified Associate Christian Educators celebrating anniversaries in five-year increments. The list below is based on information compiled in the office. Please check to make sure the information is correct and notify the Presbytery of any changes (501.663.2424 or email niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org)

The following Church Professionals are Receiving Engraved Keyrings as First-time Honorees:

<u>Teaching Elders 10 Years</u>	<u>10 Years (continued)</u>
Ira (Ike) Brighton, honorably retired	Ward Rudolph
“Katie” Cummings	<u>20 Years</u>
Elizabeth “Liz” Lindsey	Nancy Taylor

**Church Professionals (below) who were first honored in 2010 in the sixth year of the
celebration of five-year increments will this year receive a certificate**

<u>10 Years</u> Susan Gray Dari Rowen	<u>45 Years</u> Burle Mattingly, HR	<u>Certified Christian Educators</u>
<u>15 Years</u> John Gibson Jeff Price	<u>50 Years</u> Howard Gordon, HR John King, HR Frank Young, HR	<u>15 Years</u> Jeannie Ford
<u>20 Years</u> Leslie Smith Belden Robert Cox, HR Kris Crawford Carl W. McCormack	<u>55 Years</u> Orin Frank, HR Don Trent, HR	<u>35 Years</u> Anna Bedford, retired
<u>25 Years</u> Mark Lenneville, HR Jennifer Lord	<u>60 Years</u> Ken Upham, HR	<u>Commissioned Ruling Elders</u>
<u>30 Years</u> Thomas A. Ulrich	<u>65 Years</u> Park Moore, HR	<u>15 Years</u> K. C. Chanthorn
<u>35 Years</u> Lacy Sellars		
<u>40 Years</u> Bill Bailey William F. Galbraith Ron Jones, HR		