



141st Stated Meeting
of the Presbytery of Arkansas
Saturday, June 8, 2019
Second Presbyterian Church
Little Rock, Arkansas

PACKET

Second Presbyterian
Little Rock
June 8, 2019

Next Meetings

142nd Stated Meeting
Ferncliff Camp and Conf.
Ctr.
October 4-5, 2019

143rd Stated Meeting
Lyon College
Batesville
March 6-7, 2020

141st Stated Meeting

The Presbytery of Arkansas

Meeting Schedule

Saturday, Sanctuary

8:30 am. Registration in the Narthex
9:30 am Call to Order
10 am Morning Worship
10:45 am Recess to Move to the Great Hall

Saturday, The Great Hall

11 am The Presbytery Reconvenes
12 pm Lunch
12:45 pm Order of the Day - Theological
Discussion
1:45 pm Resume Business
2:30pm Adjournment

Presbytery Leadership

Moderator RE David Stricklin
Vice-Moderator MWS Marion Humphrey
Moderator of CT MWS Leslie Roper
General Presbyter MWS Stewart Smith
Temporary Stated Clerk MWS Leslie Belden

Moderator of Administration

RE Jan Enke

Moderator of COM RE Cyril Hollingsworth

Moderator of CPM MWS Jeff Price

Moderator of Subcommittee on Disaster
Preparedness and Response

RE Ray Stephens

Moderator of Future of the Church

RE Ted Belden

Co-Moderators of the Subcommittee on
Honduran Ministry

Leah Woodruff & MWS Phil Butin

Moderator of Mission of the Church

MWS Gordon Garlington, HR

Moderator of Nominations

MWS Robert Hadley, HR

Co-Moderators of Presbyterian Women

REs Ila Wolfe & Cathy Rogers

Moderator of Representation

RE Nancy Bateman

Moderator of Youth, Young Adults, and

Campus Ministry

MWS Brian Brock

Preliminary Docket

Saturday, June 8, 2019

We Gather in God's Name

- 8:30 am. Registration in the Narthex and Continental Breakfast in the West Entry
- 9:30 am Call to Order in the Sanctuary
 - Opening Prayer
 - Report of Enrollment and Declaration of Quorum
 - Adoption of the Docket
 - Seating of Corresponding Members, Granting of Privilege of the Floor/Voice
 - Appointment of Leaves of Absence Committee and Tellers
 - Welcome to First Time Commissioners
 - Introduction of Presbytery Staff
 - Welcome from Host
 - Report of the Staff Search Committee
 - Adoption of the Consent Agenda – Section A

We Encounter God's Word

- 10 am Morning Worship in the Sanctuary
- 10:45 am Recess to Move to the Great Hall

We Respond to God's Call

- 11 am Reconvene in the Great Hall
 - Report of the General Presbyter
 - Report of the Treasurer
 - Report of the Stated Clerk – Section B
 - Report of the Coordinating Team – Section C
 - Report of the Committee on Ministry – Section D
- 11:50 pm Minute Announcements

12:00 pm. Lunch

12:45 pm Presbytery Reconvenes in the Great Hall

Order of the Day – Theological Discussion on the Book of Ruth by MWS

Becky Purcell

Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry – Section E

Report of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area – Section F

Report of the Administration Ministry Area – Section G

New Business

Report of the Leaves of Absence Committee

We Are Sent in God's Service

Commitment to God's Call-Referrals

Closing Prayer

2:30 pm Adjournment

Presbyterian to English Cheat Sheet

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

- **AC-** An **A**dministrative **C**ommission is a group of Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elders given specific responsibilities and authority to act on behalf of the presbytery between meetings. They are typically formed to ordain and/or install pastors, perform the tasks associated with dismissing, closing, or merging congregations, deal with difficulties in a particular church, or assist a church in times of transition.
- **Board of Pensions-** The General Assembly agency charged with overseeing the benefits plans for pastors and some other church employees.
- **Candidate-** A person in the latter portion of the ordination process for the ministry of Minister of the Word and Sacrament.
- **COM-** The **C**ommittee **o**n **M**inistry provides oversight and advocacy for congregations and Ministers of the Word and Sacrament. It receives Ministers of the Word and Sacrament from other presbyteries, approves calls for pastoral services, oversees congregations without pastors, dissolves pastoral relationships, dismisses Ministers of the Word and Sacrament to other presbyteries, determines of the criteria for validating ministries of non-parish clergy, and oversees Commissioned Ruling Elders serving congregations.
- **CPM-** The **C**ommittee **o**n **P**reparation for **M**inistry oversees the process of preparation for the ministry of Ministers of Word and Sacrament, training of Commissioned Ruling Elders, and the process of certification for Christian Educators.
- **Council-** In the context of Presbyterian polity and governance, a council is a governing body of the church. The councils of the PC(USA) are the session, the presbytery, the synod and the General Assembly.
- **CT-** The **C**oordinating **T**eam of the presbytery acts on the presbytery's behalf on routine matters between stated meetings, coordinates the ministries of the presbytery, and plans for presbytery meetings.
- **GA-** The **G**eneral **A**ssembly of the PC(USA) is the highest council of the church. It meets in even numbered years for a week. The 2020 meeting will be held June 16-23 in Baltimore, Maryland.
- **HR-** **H**onorably **R**etired is a designation for Ministers of the Word and Sacrament retired from active service to the church who remain in good standing with the PC(USA).
- **Inquirer-** A person in the initial phase of the process of preparation for ministry as a Minister of Word and Sacrament.
- **MIF-** A **M**inistry **I**nformation **F**orm is the standardized format for advertising certain church professional positions through the PC(USA) Church Leadership Connection.

- **MWS** - **M**inister of the **W**ord and **S**acrament is an ordained Presbyterian minister member of the clergy, formerly called a **T**eaching **E**lder.
- **Moderator**- The Moderator is the person elected to keep order and chair the meetings of the presbytery. The pastor or CRE of a local congregation serves as the moderator of the local session.
- **NCD**- **N**ew **C**hurch **D**evelopments are new ministries of the presbytery engaged in a formal process to work toward establishing a new congregation.
- **PDA**- **P**resbyterian **D**isaster **A**ssistance is an agency of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Mission Agency. PDA assists communities coping with natural and human-caused disasters.
- **PJC**- **P**ermanent **J**udicial **C**ommission implements the disciplinary procedures required by the *Book of Order*. There is a Judicial Process Manual which gives details on these duties.
- **PMA**- The **P**resbyterian **M**ission **A**gency is part of the larger PC(USA) and is located at national church headquarters in Louisville, KY.
- **PNC**- **P**astor **N**ominating **C**ommittee is a search committee elected by a congregation to seek, interview, and recommend a new pastor.
- **RE/Ruling Elder**- **R**uling **E**lder is a lay member of a congregation who has been elected, ordained and installed to serve on the session of a church. Ruling elders are eligible for election as commissioners to presbytery, synod and General Assembly. Once ordained as a ruling elder one maintains that office whether serving on a session or not.
- **Stated Clerk**- Stated Clerk is the officer elected by the presbytery to maintain the official records, provide extracts when asked, prepare the docket for presbytery meetings, and answer questions about the records, Presbyterian polity, policies, procedures and history. The Stated Clerk is authorized to certify ministers and congregations are in good standing and qualify under the tax exemption of the PC(USA).
- **Synod of the Sun**- The governing body council which includes all the presbyteries in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. It coordinates the work of the PC(USA) in this region.
- **TPF**- **T**exas **P**resbyterian **F**oundation is a financial service organization for Presbyterian members, councils and institutions. It invests funds and provides bookkeeping services for Arkansas Presbytery.
- **Validated Ministries**- Positions served by chaplains, professors and other Ministers of the Word and Sacrament who are not currently serving a congregation. Sometimes they are referred to as non-parish clergy.

Tips for Commissioners on Procedure and Parliamentary Practice

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

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

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

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

Only commissioners may speak and vote on motions (Minister of Word and Sacrament members of the Presbytery; Ruling Elders elected by their Session; Ruling Elders elected as General Presbyter, Stated Clerk, Assistant Stated Clerk, or Treasurer; Commissioned Ruling Elders in current service; members of the Coordinating Team; current commissioners to General Assembly; and Ruling Elders who are Certified Christian Educators). It is advisable to speak only once on a subject, but you may seek to speak a second time only after everyone who wishes to speak has spoken. All remarks during debate shall be addressed to the Moderator. Questions seeking information from a person who has the floor shall be addressed to the Moderator. Speeches to an individual or the whole presbytery are not permitted during debate. Reading reports or documents out loud requires the permission of the body. In debate, remarks shall be confined to the pending motion. Remarks shall not impugn another commissioner or that person's motives. Commissioners' names shall not be used.

To end debate, a commissioner must go to a microphone and, when recognized by the Moderator, state: "I move the previous question." It is not appropriate to call the question without going to a microphone. If you offer a substitute motion or a new item of business, you should give the Moderator and Stated Clerk advance notice and written copy. An electronic copy is preferred – using Microsoft Word on a memory stick or thumb drive. Not only will this help these officers facilitate the work of presbytery, they may also be able to help you with suggestions as to how and when it would be appropriate to make the motion. The Stated Clerk and the Moderator are available to advise commissioners on the wording of any motion so that it can clearly express the concerns of the commissioner. When in doubt, ask. The Moderator and the Stated Clerk are eager to help you understand and use the process.

In Preparation for the Meeting

The Matthew 25 Initiative

MWS J. Stewart Smith
General Presbyter

It seems to me that the Christian church (all denominations) is struggling with the questions of "how to turn around the decline?" and "how to become more relevant?" in this complex and changing world in which we live. In June of 2018 our presbytery confirmed three priorities to focus on, and yet as we move into the implementation of those three priorities, the way forward is not entirely clear and mapped out. As many of our congregations have experienced decline in membership and resources, the only activity for many is to gather for a worship service on Sunday morning. That may have drawn people in 50 years ago but more is needed today to reach people with the good news of Christ. Our denominational leadership is wrestling with these same questions and the Presbyterian Mission Agency has recently announced the "Matthew 25 Initiative". I think the intent both of the implementation of our presbytery priorities and the Matthew 25 initiative is to encourage our congregations to become more actively engaged in our communities. That engagement will not necessarily provide the abundance of new members that we all would like to see, but it will perhaps help our congregations become a more vital and relevant presence in the world.



At its meeting on April 27, 2019 the Presbytery of Arkansas' Coordinating Team voted to become a "Matthew 25" presbytery. The Presbyterian Mission Agency recently announced a denominational wide vision and invitation to become a "Matthew 25 Church". The Matthew 25 account of the Son of Humanity placing sheep on the right and goats on the left "calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities," the initiative states. Our commitment as a Matthew 25 presbytery is to encourage 20% or more of our congregations to become Matthew 25 churches. So, this is your initial encouragement to begin prayerful consideration to become a Matthew 25 church.

What is a Matthew 25 church?

Matthew 25:31-46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes

alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor. Congregations can become a Matthew 25 church by embracing **one or more** of three areas of focus:

--**Building congregational vitality** by challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world.

--**Dismantling structural racism** by advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.

--**Eradicating systemic poverty** by working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

You can learn more about the Matthew 25 initiative by visiting pcusa.org/matthew25. And if your congregation decides to become a Matthew 25 congregation, please let the presbytery office know so we can report on our progress to meet the goal of 20% of our congregations.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming presbytery meeting on June 8 at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. I continue to be thankful to all of you who are working hard on the challenging issues we face as we work together to share the good news of Jesus Christ in this beautiful part of God's creation.

Section A

Consent Agenda

MWS Leslie Smith Belden
Temporary Stated Clerk

- 1. Motion to approve the minutes of the 140th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, March 1-2, 2019, held at the University of the Ozarks, Clarksville, Arkansas. (distributed in a separate packet)**
- 2. Motion to receive the minutes as the report of the Administrative Commission installing MWS Ainsley Herrick at First Presbyterian Church, Morrilton, and dismiss them with our thanks.**
- 3. Motion to receive the report of the Committee on Representation, Section A - Exhibit I, with thanks and encourage the Committee on Nominations and other groups to follow their recommendations.**
- 4. Motion to receive the report of the Future of the Church Ministry Area, Section A - Exhibit II.**
- 5. Motion to receive the report of the Presbyterian Women, Section A - Exhibit III.**

Section A – Exhibit I

Report of the Committee on Representation

RE Nancy Bateman
Moderator

The Presbytery's Committee on Representation examines and compares the statistics of who is serving in elected positions to the statistics reported to General Assembly by local churches of their membership and makes commendation and recommendations for wider inclusion and closer representation.

This year 62 of the 79 congregations in the presbytery (78-1/2%) submitted statistical reports to General Assembly for 2018 by the February, 2019 deadline (compared to 64 reporting last year). Comparison of ages, genders, races, and disabilities "in the pews" to those elected to serve can be more accurately done. COR is grateful for this excellent response immeasurably assisted by Temporary Stated Clerk Leslie Belden. (Note: if a church does not submit statistical reports, General Assembly "brings forward" that church's statistics on membership numbers from the last year a local church report was submitted. For most churches, this inflates their membership, and Presbytery is charged a "per capita" fee for a larger membership than is realistic.)

*The Presbytery's Committee on Representation met by conference call on April 25, with 4 of 8 voting members present to examine the following statistics and sent out the report to absent members for approval.

1. **Number of positions filled by people** serving Presbytery as of March 1, 2019: **210 (4 fewer, compared to 214 last year)**. Active members reported by those churches which actually reported to G.A. by deadline (or their 2017 number brought forward if the church did not report) totaled 10,129 plus 741 friends and 40 baptisms (compared to 10,996 active members reported last year).
 - Persons counted as elected have been nominated by the Committee on Nominations and approved by the Presbytery of Arkansas, or nominated to commissions by committees as officers, members of committees or commissions of the Presbytery or to fulfill specific tasks of the Presbytery. (Not included are the Ferncliff Board and the Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team, both of which are self-perpetuating groups; Youth Advisory Team, filled by application process; and all subcommittees which are populated by invitation or volunteers.)
 - Seven (7) Administrative Commissions and a staff search committee are in place this year as compared to nine (9) Administrative Commissions this time last year.
 - This number (210) includes **forty-four (44) persons who serve in more than one position (and some in several positions)**. They are counted multiple times – once for each chair each fills. (This number of people serving in multiple positions (44) is two more than last year's 42 persons in dual or more roles. **There are 154 different**

people participating, four fewer than the 158 last year.) It should be noted here that restructuring requires 11 people elected to ministry areas or committees to serve also on the Coordinating Team as representatives of those groups, so by definition those 11 must serve in two positions simultaneously.

- The 44 persons counted above, filling more than one position include twenty-four (24) active Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and twenty (20) Ruling Elders or members.

2. **Number of different churches represented by persons elected: 53 of 79 churches.** (Four churches were either dissolved or dismissed in 2018. Six of the seven Administrative Commissions are also working with churches, usually at their request, and some of these are struggling churches, of which some may be dissolved or dismissed in the future.)

- **67% of churches within the presbytery bounds are participating** in the work of the Presbytery. This is 3% less than the percentage which participated last year.
- **26 churches** that do not have any staff or members serving (one more than last year) are as follows, accompanied by region numbers and AC (Administrative Commission, if they are assigned):

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a) Amity, Alpine (Region 2) | n) Marianna, First (4) |
| b) Arkadelphia, West End (2) | o) McGehee, First (3) |
| c) Brinkley, First (4) | p) Morrilton, First (4) |
| d) Cane Hill (1) | q) Mountain Home, First (1) |
| e) Clarksville, First (2) -- AC | r) Mountainburg Presbyterian (2) |
| f) Eureka Springs, First (1) | s) Newport, First (4) |
| g) Fayetteville, Mount Comfort (1) | t) Norman, Barr Memorial (2) |
| h) Hardy, Spring River (4) | u) Paragould, First (4) |
| i) Helena, First (4) | v) Pine Bluff, Central (3) – AC |
| j) Holiday Island (1) | w) Pine Bluff, Faith (3) -- AC |
| k) Little Rock, First (3) | x) Pine Bluff, First (3) – AC |
| l) Little Rock, Westminster (3) | y) Stuttgart, First (4) -- AC |
| m) Lonoke, First (3) -- AC | z) West Helena, Cleburne Ave. (4) |

Note: Six (6) of the above churches are under Administrative Commissions, and several of the churches above are pastor-less or operating with pulpit supplies only.

3. **Age Groups:** There were changes in all age groups-- **70% of the elected persons, 5% more than last year, are age 56 or older.** (Observation: The Youth Advisory Team, a 25-member subcommittee of presbytery’s Ministries with Youth, Campus and Young Adults Area comprised predominately of young adults and youth, is not in this count since they are appointed, not elected.)

Age Group # of Persons Elected % of Total Elected Comparison to Report from Churches

25 & Under	3	2%	11%
26 - 35	7	5%	13%
36 - 55	36	23%	14%
56 - 64	58	38%	23%
65 and Up	50	32%	39%

(While divided differently, those elected from under 25 through age 55 total 30% and those in these ranges reported in the churches total 38%. Again divided differently, those elected age 56 and up total 70% and those reported in the churches, 62%. In most cases, elected people in place simply moved to the next age range.)

4. **Genders** of persons and percentage of elected group (There is a slight change from last four years' percentages of 49% male and 51% female)

Gender # Persons Elected % of Total Elected Group Comparison to Report from Churches

Male	74	48% of those elected	46% of reported members
Female	80	52% of those elected	54% of reported members

Note: Genders reported for residents of AR are: 49% male and 51% female, per research on <http://www.discover.arkansas.gov/Population-by-Race-and-Sex>

5. **Ethnic Heritage** of elected persons and percentage of group compared to reported members

Ethnicity # Persons Elected % of Elected Group % of Reported Members

African American/Black	6	4% (same as last year)	1-1/2%
Caucasian/White	146	95% (1% more than last year)	97%
Hispanic	2	1% (1% less than last year)	1-1/2% (all others combined)
Asian, Native American, Middle Eastern, African	0		

(Note: Of the presbytery's churches that reported to General Assembly earlier this year about their 2018 statistics, racial ethnic breakdown included: Asian, Middle Eastern, Native American, White, Black/African American, African, Hispanic, Multiracial.)

Also Note: Ethnic Heritage reported for residents of AR by comparison are:

White	Black	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	Other	Two or more races	Hispanic or Latino
77.31%	15.45%	0.65%	1.42%	0.24%	2.52%	2.41%	7.16%

*per research on <http://www.discover.arkansas.gov/Population-by-Race-and-Sex>, as of 5/2/19 for 2017 Census Data. See Also graphics at <http://worldpopulationreview.com/states/arkansas-population/> Arkansas Population. (2019-04-01). Retrieved 2019-05-02.

6. **Type of Ordination** represented by number of persons and percentage of elected group

<u>Ordination</u>	<u># Persons</u>	<u>% of Total Elected Group</u>
Minister of Word and Sacrament	60 (9 of whom are HR)	39% (3% less than last year)
Ruling Elder	84	55% (3% more than last year)
Non ruling elders (deacons or members)	10	6 % (same as last year)

(This is a change from last year's 66 MWSs, 84 REs and 10 deacons or members, reflecting fewer minister members of Presbytery.)

7. Number of persons with **Disabilities** who are elected
- This category is defined as hearing, sight, and mobility disabled, from the categories given on the statistical report questions to congregations.
 - **Sixteen (16) persons** elected to serve have a disability: 8 related to hearing, 6 to mobility, and 2 to sight. This is 10% of the people elected, 3% less than last year.
 - Comparison to disabilities reported by local churches: 14% of total membership, reported disabilities. (COR believes that this determination is made by those preparing the report rather than by the members themselves. It is also unclear whether churches are reporting those with “managed” disabilities.)

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION ON SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FROM LOCAL CHURCHES AND FROM THOSE ELECTED TO SERVE IN PRESBYTERY:

1. A goal for future reference would be to research which Christian denominations in AR have substantial numbers of people of color as members. (It was suggested that Baptist, United Methodist and COGIC have a substantial number of African American members.)
2. Suggestion to open contacts with honorably retired ministers to consider future nomination and election to service on committees, etc.
3. Suggestion to contact moderators of ministry areas and committees/subcommittees/teams to ask them to confirm the lowest number of members that they actually need to carry out their work.

RECOMMENDATIONS from Committee on Representation to Committee on Nominations and other committees and groups for their work in 2019 through mid-2020:

1. As was given as a comment last year, concern for small churches who are not growing, are running out of finances, and need help and information on how to handle their circumstances as they pray for rebirth and fear dissolution.
2. Become informed as to where populations of people of color live in our communities and to Committee on Nominations favor “diversity over geography” in choosing nominees.

Section A – Exhibit II

Report of the Future of the Church Ministry Area

RE Ted Belden
Moderator

For Action:

No action items.

For Information:

The Future of the Church Ministry Area approved matching funds of \$7,500 for the Ferncliff Forest Church project with monies to be taken from the old category of New Church Development. We are excited about this new worshipping community that will take place at Ferncliff.

We have good news to announce related to our new web site. We have launched the new site and it can be viewed at presbyark.org. That is the good news. The bad news is that we need to keep working on the content and other features to make this a web site we all want to use. We are getting new and updated photographs of all of our pastors so that we will have a pictorial directory of everyone serving the Presbytery. We will continue to have the old web site for several months while the new site is filled out. When we feel confident that the new web site will give us what we want we will direct all traffic to this new web site.

We will be reviewing 6 grants that have been received. The following churches have submitted grant requests: First, Mena; Good Shepherd, Greenwood; First, Jonesboro; Grace, Little Rock; First, Eureka Springs; and First, Prairie Grove. We thank these churches for their applications and wish them well in their ministry.

Our committee will be addressing two of the five strategies associated with the priorities of the Presbytery. These are the two strategies we will focus on.

- 1) The Future of the Church Ministry Area will activate the rebuilt website and invest in additional technology.
- 2) The Future of the Church Ministry Area will work with other ministries to discern the life-giving practices of our congregations to better all congregations.

At the last Presbytery meeting we talked about having more zoom room locations. Five churches volunteered to become host sites, First, Jonesboro; First, Springdale; Fort Smith; First, Conway; and Central, Russellville. The ministry area is developing guidelines on how this new technology can be accessed and used by the ministry areas and committees of the Presbytery and the congregations of our Presbytery. We want to find new ways to better connect to one another and do ministry.

Section A – Exhibit III

Report of the Presbyterian Women

REs Ila Blacketter-Wolfe and Cathy Rogers
Co-Moderators

The Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery Coordinating Team want to express our thankfulness to you, the Presbytery of Arkansas, for your graciousness in providing us with funding that allows us to go about the business of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Arkansas. Monies go toward Spring and Fall Gatherings, scholarships for retreats, Synod, and Churchwide Gatherings. It also covers partial funding for the Co-Moderators to attend Presbytery, Synod and Churchwide meetings.

PWP Spring Gathering

The Spring Gathering and Business Meeting of Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Arkansas was held on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at First Presbyterian Church in Jonesboro and was based on the theme “Let Your Light Shine.” Fifty-six official registrants attended the event. We were welcomed by the Rev. Matt Bussell and PW Moderator Marlita Stuart of FPC Jonesboro the host church. The Ingathering offering was received for “In His Wings” and “Breaking Bonds Ministries,” Jonesboro organizations actively helping people break the bonds of addiction.

Mission speaker was Melinda Hunt, recently retired Executive Director of Solar Under the Sun, a project of the Synod of the Sun. She updated the group on the continuing success of Solar Under the Sun. An offering of \$771.00 was received for Solar Under the Sun during the worship service. The worship leader was the Rev. Carol Clark of Little Rock who delivered the message “Be the Light,” celebrated the Sacrament of Communion and concluded by leading the congregation in a rousing rendition of the song “This Little Light of Mine.” The Keynote speaker was the Rev. Stewart Smith, General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Arkansas. Stewart challenged Presbyterian Women to adapt to changes in the Church and in our culture.

Other presentations during the meeting included: A puppet presentation directed by Maryann Sweeney encouraging women to attend the 2019 PW Synod Gathering in Tulsa this July. Updates were from: Vera Lloyd Home in Monticello by Katie Cacy; University of the Ozarks in Clarksville by Dawn Dvoracek; and Presbyterian Village in Little Rock by Melissa Jenkins. Words from Outgoing Arkansas PW Co-Moderators Ila Blacketter-Wolfe and Cathy Rogers and the Synod PW Moderator-Elect Kathy White.

Outgoing members of the Arkansas PW Coordinating Team are Jeanne Lloyd, Karene Jones, and Renee Nestor. The following were confirmed as the PW Presbytery Coordinating Team for 2019:

- Maryann Sweeney and Vicki Erickson – Co-Moderators
- Sharon Warner and Sharyl Ritschel – Co-Vice-Moderators
- Kathy White – Secretary/Historian
- Gail Phillips - Treasurer
- Mary Shaw – Mission/Peace/Justice Coordinator
- Carolyn Willis – Cluster 1 Leader
- Sally Pierce – Cluster 3 Leader • Patty Minga – Cluster 4 Leader
- Ila Blackketter-Wolfe and Cathy Rogers – Members-at-Large

Section B

Report of the Temporary Stated Clerk

MWS Leslie Smith Belden
Temporary Stated Clerk

For Action:

1. **On behalf of the Committee on Nominations, motion to elect Emma Gillaspay of First Presbyterian Church, Conway, and a student at Lyon College, to serve on the Ministries with Youth, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry Area in the Class of 2019, filling the vacancy created by the resignation of MWS Robert Williamson.** Nominations may be made from the floor.

For Information:

Report of Pastors on the “Active Honorably Retired Roll”

Honorably Retired pastors who are on the Active Honorably Retired Roll remain the same in 2019 as in 2018, and include:

MWS Catherine Allsbury, HR	MWS Sally Johnson, HR
MWS Bill Branch, HR	MWS Lance Jones, HR
MWS Ira “Ike” Brighton, HR	MWS Clare Kelley, HR
MWS Don Campbell, HR	MWS David King, HR
MWS Carol Clark, HR	MWS John King, HR
MWS Danny Daniel, HR	MWS Elton “Bo” Lewis, HR
MWS Joyce Daniel, HR	MWS Terry McLellan, HR
MWS Milton Davis, HR	MWS Jim Miller, HR
MWS David Dyer, HR	MWS Richard Miller, HR
MWS Orin Frank, HR	MWS David Reed, HR
MWS Dick Frothingham, HR	MWS Dick Shinkle, HR
MWS Gordon Garlington, HR	MWS Fred Taylor, HR
MWS David Gill, HR	MWS Don Wardlaw, HR
MWS “Flash” Gordon, HR	MWS Linda Whitworth-Reed, HR
MWS Robert Hadley, HR	MWS Rita Wilson-Perry, HR
MWS Bill Henning, HR	MWS Darwin Wolfe, HR

Report on Administrative Commissions

Seven Administrative Commissions continue to work with congregations or on property issues, including:

First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville – RE Ted Belden and MWS Clare Kelley, Co-Moderators

First Presbyterian Church, Little Rock – RE Cyril Hollingsworth, Moderator

First Presbyterian Church, Lonoke – MWS Lindy Vogado, Moderator

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

Pine Bluff (Central, Faith, and First Presbyterian Churches) – MWS Dari Rowen, Moderator

Standing Administrative Commission (currently working with First, Stuttgart) – RE Leah Shell, Moderator

Washington County Property – RE Ted Belden, Moderator

Section C

Report of the Coordinating Team

MWS Leslie Bethell Roper
Moderator

Actions Taken by the Coordinating Team on Behalf of the Presbytery:

1. Approved that the Presbytery of Arkansas commit to being a “Matthew 25” Presbytery.
2. Set the date of the Winter/Spring meeting in 2020 at Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas, as March 6-7, 2020.
3. Approved the request of First Presbyterian Church, Newport, for permission to sell a duplex that the church owns which has become a financial burden.
4. Approved the request of First Presbyterian Church, Harrison, for permission to sell four acres behind the church.
5. Dismissed two task forces of the Coordinating Team with thanks – the Task Force on Financial Resources Beyond the Normal Budgeting Process and the Task Force Looking at the CRE Process. The Coordinating Team also began a process of putting together a new Task Force that will be more directed, charged to develop a policy, or policies, to assist the Presbytery of Arkansas and its various ministry areas and committees in the use of non-budgeted funds.

The “Matthew 25” Initiative

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,^[a] you did it to me.’ ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison,

and did not take care of you?’⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” New Revised Standard Version

Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor.

The Matthew 25 Initiative encourages synods, presbyteries, and congregations to commit to at least one of three “focus areas”:

1. Building Congregational Vitality
2. Dismantling Structural Racism
3. Eradicating Systemic Poverty

The Coordinating Team recognized that the first focus area, “Building Congregational Vitality,” offered encouragement and tools for congregations in line with the three priorities of the Presbytery:

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

We believe that by committing ourselves to being a “Matthew 25” presbytery we are uniting ourselves with the PC(USA) in a concentrated effort to work together toward common goals, and we are encouraging our congregations to take the pledge to become “Matthew 25” congregations. Our denomination has developed recommendations and resources to assist congregations, presbyteries, and synods in our effort to live into Christ’s admonition to serve Christ’s own self by feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, and visiting the sick and those in prison.

By accepting the Matthew 25 invitation, the Presbytery of Arkansas and its congregations can help our denomination become a more relevant presence in the world. The PC(USA)’s Presbyterian Mission Agency recognizes Christ’s urgent call to be a church of action, where God’s love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious. And all Presbyterians can rejoice how our re-energized faith can unite all Presbyterians for a common and holy purpose: our common identity to do mission.. For the next three presbytery meetings we will take one of the focus areas at each meeting and look at it more in-depth. Congregations can look forward to more information in the future, and can find more details on-line at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>

Section D

Report of the Committee on Ministry

RE Cyril Hollingsworth
Moderator

For Action:

- 1. **Motion to grant honorable retirement to MWS Libby Lizarraga, effective June 8, 2019.**
- 2. **Motion to grant honorable retirement to MWS Karen Akin, effective October 15, 2019, and to also approve the dissolution of call of MWS Karen Akin as Pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church, Little Rock effective October 15, 2019, the congregation concurring with that dissolution in a duly called congregational meeting on April 28, 2019.**
- 3. **Motion to approve the call of MWS Bradley Rito as Pastor of Holiday Island Presbyterian Church, Holiday Island, effective May 19, 2019, with the following terms of call:**

Cash and Housing-----	\$46,400.00
Continuing Education-----	\$ 1,200.00
Professional Reimbursable Expenses-----	\$ 1,200.00
Board of Pensions -Full Family-----	\$17,168.00
Vacation-----	4 weeks paid
Continuing Education Time-----	2 weeks paid
Parental Leave-----	6 weeks paid
Sabbatical Leave-----	12 weeks paid
to be taken in the 7th year with Presbytery approval	
Total Compensation Package -----	\$65,968.00

And to enroll him as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, requesting his dismissal from Wabash Valley Presbytery. MWS Bradley Rito’s Statement of Faith is included as Section D – Attachment I. Motions concerning the worship service and Administrative Commission to install him will come before the Presbytery in an addendum.

For Information:

1. The Committee on Ministry approved the covenant of MWS Michael Vinson to serve as the half-time Stated Supply Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in North Little Rock/Argenta, effective April 1, 2019, with an annual salary of \$24,700.
2. The Committee on Ministry approved Rev. Jason Smith to serve in a Temporary Pastoral Relationship at First Presbyterian Church, Arkadelphia, with an effective date of May 7, 2019. Rev. Smith is a member in good standing of the Alliance of Baptists denomination, which is in full-communion with the United Church of Christ, with whom the PC(USA) is in full-communion. Rev. Smith was granted authority to celebrate the sacraments and officiate weddings, but not to moderate the Session, in accordance with the Presbytery of Arkansas' policy on Pastors from Other Denominations Serving Presbyterian Congregations. The terms of call for this part-time position include a salary of \$1,666.67 per month and the reimbursement of travel expenses at \$.42 per mile for travel outside of a twenty-mile radius from the church, plus the government's required social security match on the salary. Six weeks of paid vacation is also provided per calendar year. MWS Chip Hatcher will continue to serve as the Moderator of First Presbyterian Church, Arkadelphia. Rev. Jason Smith's Statement of Faith is included as Section D – Attachment II.
3. The COM granted permission for RE Kelly Pearson to celebrate the Lord's Supper at First Presbyterian Church, Prairie Grove, in the absence of Pastor Becky Purcell and at her request.

Section D – Exhibit I

MWS Bradley Rito Statement of Faith

I believe there is one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, distinct but inseparable; that God is all powerful, all-knowing, and present everywhere; that God's power, mercy, and perfectly-just will is shown through God's graceful forgiving of our sins.

I believe God the Father is a loving, wise, patient, slow to anger, and kind parent to us; that God is the Creator of all things, and it is in God's image we are made; that God loved God's creation so much that God sent God's only Son to reconcile humanity to God and to show God's love for humanity.

I believe Jesus Christ has and continues to guide us on our spiritual journey, lifting us when we fall, carrying us when we cannot or refuse to go any further, and sharing in the emotions along the way; that he sacrificed himself as a once and for all payment for the forgiveness of sins, including mine, which showed forth the love of the Father for God's creation; that he continues to connect us with our fellow Christians in the one body as we experience God's presence through worship, mission, Scriptural study, and prayer; that he is the model we are to follow in walking the path God has set before us.

I believe, through God the Holy Spirit, we are truly able to lift our hearts in prayer for what is needed and in God's plan rather than what we want and that we are guided to do what it is God has called us to do at any given place or time.

I believe Baptism is the means by which God has marked us as one of God's own; that baptism is a beautiful sign of God's sealing us and is our rebirth as one of God's children, no longer condemned to Death. I believe Communion then reminds us of the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross, the reconnection with God and the forgiveness that resulted, and the undeniable love of God for us. In Communion, we are brought up to Christ, where we have a foretaste of the divine banquet.

I believe the purpose of the Church, as granted by God, is to serve as a beacon of hope in the darkness for all humanity; that as a Christian guided by the Holy Spirit, we are called to serve as the eyes, hands, and mouth of God in this world, doing and saying as God would have us do and say; that we are called to share the graces of joy, peace, and love with the rest of the world, just as God has shared them with us.

I believe the Scriptures are the basis and the guiding rule for any and all traditions in the church, the means by which we come into a more intimate relationship with the triune God, and the means by which God directs our lives.

I believe that, when life ends, having been made clean through Christ, our spirit shall ascend the Kingdom of God. There we shall find an absence of hate, sand, or sadness, finding only

the paradise God envisioned, and, feeling so completely filled with love, peace, righteousness, and purity, we will be able to do nothing but join in the eternal praising of God Almighty. Once Christ comes again, this kingdom will defend and replace the world that is.

Section D – Exhibit II

Rev. Jason Smith Statement of Faith

As a youth in high school and college, I sang with the Maranatha Touring Choir. Maranatha was an ecumenical choir of young people and we counted Catholics, Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, Pentecostals, Episcopalians, and non-denominational youth in the choir. We gathered every Saturday morning to practice, sing, and fellowship together. It was in Maranatha that I, a Baptist, first learned the words of the Apostle's Creed through the song *Credo* by Mark Hayes. In music and word, I reflected upon this ancient statement of faith and the fact that I was a part of an ecumenical group of 75 students from different Christian traditions who affirmed in one voice the unity of "the Church universal on earth." When I think about my definitions of God, the Church, and my understanding of faith, I often come back to the Maranatha Choir, believing that the body of Christian believers should be striving toward unity. As followers of the Way, we should collectively call upon the Lord Jesus to "Come" and dwell within our midst.

Words cannot capture the immensity of the divine forces swirling throughout the cosmos since the beginning of time. So I tend to associate God with personal experiences: the love woven into a warm meal prepared by my grandmother for our family on one of the rare occasions we were all together under one roof; the justice swirling around my Salvadoran siblings and I at an immigration rally at the U.S. Capitol, as we plead, advocated, and prayed together for just immigration reform; the tears that well up during worship when singing "When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun," and the goosebumps I feel when taking the Eucharist and hearing the words "bread of life" and "cup of love." I believe God is within all of these experiences and beyond, as the divine life force guiding our sacred stories, our traditions, and the Word.

God is the Creator and connects us back to the world, rooting us in the earth as sacred vessels to be in harmony with all of creation, hearing our prayers, forgiving our debts, and serving as a loving parent to all. God is Christ and calls us to act, to love neighbor, to comfort the afflicted, to afflict the comfortable, to preach and advocate for justice and peace in the world. Christ provides for us life everlasting, and we are called to remember the death of Jesus Christ and celebrate his resurrection on the third day. God is Spirit, and she is a gale-force wind, emanating from the same *ruach* that was present in the beginning and nurturing within us fruits and gifts to share with the world.

The purpose of the Church is to serve as Teresa of Avila says, as the "hands and feet" of Christ Jesus in the world through performing acts of justice, peace, and solidarity with the marginalized and the poor. I believe that the Church manifests itself ecumenically. As someone who grew up and was ordained Baptist, played piano at my grandmother's Methodist church in college and attended a Methodist seminary, preached at and formed close relationships with dually aligned UCC/Alliance of Baptists congregations around the country, and served in pulpit supply with First Presbyterian Church, Arkadelphia, for four

years, I believe many different denominations, movements, churches, and traditions form the body of Jesus Christ's Church on earth.

The Church also exists to provide a space to engage with the sacraments. The sacraments are divine rituals that bring humanity into an intimate experience with God. While I come from a Baptist tradition and have practiced baptism and the Lord's Supper as ordinances being outward symbols of inward grace per Augustine, I believe that the sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist are holy rituals that bring us deeply close to God and impart grace. Rooted in scripture, the sacraments must be open to all persons just as Jesus Christ invited all to bathe in the Jordan River and sought for all to feast with him.

The Table should never be denied to anyone for any reason just as God showered grace in the form of manna upon all of the Hebrew people wandering in the desert and blessed the five thousand with a bounty of fish and bread for all to enjoy. I believe that Eucharistic bread and wine must be accessible and open to all just as Christ was physically accessible and open to all.

Likewise, I believe the waters of baptism should be open to all persons of all ages. I am proud that the congregation that ordained me, Calvary Baptist Church, practices open communion and accepts both infant and adult baptism as marks of God's grace. Baptism, whether immersed or christened, is a demonstration that God through Christ adopts all of humanity within the fold.

The Reformed Tradition roots itself in the covenant God made with Abraham and Sarah, to bring God's self closer to humanity. It has continued for thousands of years and through the Protestant Reformation, has brought about an orderly system for organizing the Church. Because individual human beings are not perfect, an organized Church working together in community with protocol and systems can help us better seek justice and discern God's will in our lives.

I believe God passionately seeks to connect with people, and one of the ways God can connect with humanity is through sacred scripture. Through the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, we learn God's unfolding and interactive story with humanity. The good news of the Gospel message centers us, grounding us in the past, present, and future and we should use responsible scholarship and biblical research methods along with the inspiration of the Spirit to read and preach the Word.

Salvation for many is a one-time activity. But I believe salvation is a journey, a process of constantly asking questions, finding answers, then having more questions. Humans are in desperate need of salvation from our personal sin, from our failure to live up to Christ's example of love, peace, and justice. Likewise our systems, economic, political, social, and religious are also in constant need of salvation. It is up to us as individuals and communities of faith to courageously risk ourselves in seeking personal and communal deliverance.

As I reflect upon my own understanding of faith, I will always remember the words, beat, and tune of *Credo*. Through this song and through saying the Apostles Creed every Sunday in

Methodist and Presbyterian churches, I have cemented the words “I believe” into my memory and refer to the ancient words to inform, nurture, and expand my faith. As I continue my journey, I hope to continue asking questions, to continue searching for answers in prayer, and to continue to proclaim boldly, “I believe.”

Section E

Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

MWS Jeff Price
Moderator

For Action:

1. **Motion for the Presbytery of Arkansas to examine Inquirer Julianna Whitson for candidacy and to approve moving her from Inquirer to Candidate.** Julianna is a member of First Presbyterian Church in Prairie Grove and a student at Columbia Theological Seminary. Her Statement of Faith is included as Section E – Exhibit I. The examination may only pertain to her Statement of Faith.
2. **Motion for the Presbytery of Arkansas to enroll Jeannie Shear as an Inquirer.** Jeannie is a member of First Presbyterian Church of Conway and a student at Austin Seminary. Jeannie Shear’s Statement of Faith is included as Section E – Exhibit II.

For Information:

Stacey Hammons: The Committee on Preparation for Ministry met with candidate Stacey Hammons who is serving as the Chaplain at Presbyterian Village, Little Rock. *Having determined that she had satisfied all ordination requirements, the Committee voted to certify her ready to receive a call.*

Jordan Akin: The Committee met with candidate Jordan Akin, a member of Second, Little Rock and a soon to be graduate of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. *Having determined that she had satisfied all ordination requirements, the Committee voted to certify her ready to receive a call.*

Harold Eichelberger: Harold Eichelberger is from Gary, Indiana, and grew up in an American Baptist church. He attended Howard University and Harvard Divinity School. He was a hospice chaplain and Associate Pastor for six years in Boston and served as Pastor to United Methodist congregations in Georgia and Arkansas. The Committee will continue to work with Harold in the process of transferring ordination to the PC(USA).

Susie Wright: Susie Wright has previously completed course work to be a Commissioned Lay Pastor, the Commissioned Ruling Elder’s predecessor, and now has been asked by Westminster Presbyterian Church of Hot Springs to be their CRE. She is also a Certified Christian Educator. *The committee voted to approve Susie Wright*

ready to become a CRE if she has previously completed a CLP exam, or in the future completes a CRE exam.

Current Applicants

Inquirers – First Phase of the Preparation for Ministry Process

Brianne Christiansen - First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville
David Mills - Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
Julianna Whitson – First Presbyterian Church, Prairie Grove (to be presented for candidacy at the June 8, 2019 meeting of Presbytery)

Candidates – Second Phase of the Preparation for Ministry Process

Jill Acree – First Presbyterian Church, Conway
LaWanda Harris - Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
Keith Dove – Central Presbyterian Church, Russellville (certified ready to receive a call)
Max Hill – Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock (certified ready to receive a call)
Stacey Hammons – Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock (certified ready to receive a call)
Stephen Moody – First Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
Jordan Akin – Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock (certified ready to receive a call)
Katherine Norwood – Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock (certified ready to receive a call)
Molly DeWitt – Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock (certified ready to receive a call)

Pending Applicants

Teila Creekmore - United Campus Ministry, Fayetteville
Jeannie Shear – First Presbyterian Church, Conway (to be presented for Inquirer status at the June 8, 2019 meeting of Presbytery)

CRE Candidates – Ruling Elders in the Educational Process toward serving as a Commissioned Ruling Elder

Peg Falls-Corbitt – First Presbyterian Church, Conway
Allan Huddleston – First Presbyterian Church, Springdale
Mary Jane Fisher – First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville
Carla Taylor – First Presbyterian Church, Huntsville

Section E – Exhibit I

Inquirer Julianna Whitson Statement of Faith

I believe in the Triune—God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit—the three in one that molds and shapes our lives and the world. God is the Creator, Advocate, and Teacher of this world who walks alongside us wherever we go and sits in the depths with us wherever we may find ourselves. God’s unconditional love for us was shown through Jesus Christ’s act of sacrifice to save us from our sins as he was crucified, dead, buried, and rose again. I believe this to be a true miracle of our Savior.

Jesus was full of the grace, mercy, and love that we should strive to embody in even the most uncomfortable spaces—spaces of fear, spaces of unfamiliarity, spaces of doubt, spaces of vulnerability—so that we may go forth with listening hearts and open minds.

The Holy Spirit is omnipresent as it moves through me, uses me, and guides me through a life that honors my baptism. My baptism is symbolic of God’s connection with me, where life and death are celebrated. Partaking in Holy Communion connects me in community within the church and with all who are invited to the Table, where we remember Jesus’ sacrifice.

I believe that God is always present in the covenantal relationships with us, even when we may find it hard to accept the relationship, God’s grace abounds.

In our creation, I believe that God trusts us to take care of creation and to make a sustainable life for all. I believe that the Church’s potential lies in God’s continued message about love, about not turning people away, but welcoming them to learn and grow alongside each other. The role of the church is to acknowledge the intersectionality of all people and make visible those who feel hidden in the depths of doubt and difference. In times of tension, violence, and loss, I believe that there is hope found in the grace that is freely given to us, and that living into that can bring us hope.

I believe that every time we read Scripture, God breathes through the history, lessons, and stories showing us new lenses of guidance. I feel God’s call to not only use my gifts to teach and walk alongside people along their journeys, but to have those gifts manifest into the embodiment of gratitude I have for the healing, providing, and sustaining life that God grants.

Section E – Exhibit II

Jeannie Shear Statement of Faith

I believe that God is a God of Love; that out of love God created the world, and out of love God became human in Jesus Christ, and that it is to the task of loving that God calls, and by the Holy Spirit, guides us still.

I believe that God is a God of Grace; that in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus we receive our fullest revelation of the person of God and find at the center of that person love for even the most broken, forgiveness for even the gravest of sins. By grace we who are broken and sinful are claimed, forgiven, and brought into communion with God.

I believe that God is a God of Justice; that in a special way God is present to and standing with the poor, oppressed, suffering and vulnerable. When we who have much answer God's urgent call to stand there also, we are met by God. I believe that God is God of All; that every person regardless of race, gender, class, sexuality, or ability is made in the divine image and is immeasurably precious to God. There is nothing a person can do to lose God's love.

I believe that God is a God of Redemption; that in a broken world of sin, evil, death, cruelty, pollution, and pain, God is ushering forth the Kingdom of the lion and lamb, where none shall hurt or destroy. In Jesus, brokenness is made whole, darkness turned to light, and death turned to life eternal. I believe that in the very darkest moments of history and our lives Jesus is present—weeping, acting, speaking, transforming, and calling into.

Section F

Report of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area

MWS Gordon Garlington, HR
Moderator

Email, U.S. Postal Service, Telephone, Morse Code, Carrier Pigeon, Any Way Possible!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

That's the main thing we want to say as our Mission of the Church Ministry Area seeks to encourage and resource your congregation as our Presbytery of Arkansas works at *"Building strong congregations that faithfully and effectively share the gospel through mission and ministry."*

Specifically, we would love to hear what your church is doing in the areas of **Christian Education** and **mission and outreach**.

Tell us, please, what your church is offering in terms of Sunday school classes, study groups, or paths of personal devotion/spiritual enrichment, things you are doing in traditional, or new, "out of the box" ways, helping folks in your church and community grow and mature in Christian faith.

And, tell us please, what your congregation is doing as you share the love of Christ in concrete ways with "the least of these," those most vulnerable in your community and beyond. We know of and will be sharing stories of some amazing things in mission congregations are doing across our state. But we want to know more!

Why do we want to hear from you? First, so others across the Presbytery may rejoice with you in the difference these programs of Christian education and/or mission and outreach are making in the lives of those inside and beyond the walls of your church! Secondly, so as we share your stories they may inspire others to initiate similar programs or service in our local communities. And, related, because we are "Better Together," we hope that in some cases learning what neighboring congregations are doing might spark cooperative efforts, folks in communities not too distant joining together in opportunities for mission and service or Christian education and spiritual enrichment!

We plan to share your stories in every way we can think or imagine -- Facebook, email, the Banner, through Presbyterian Women, youth events, etc! And please help us by suggesting new ways of sharing what we are doing in our congregations across the state!

Specifically, we are planning for our report at this year's October meeting of Presbytery to be a celebration of ways congregations are "singing to the Lord a new song," doing Christian education and mission and service in new, significant ways!

We are also inviting each of our congregations on the Sunday previous to that Presbytery meeting, September 29, to plan a "Presbyterian Day," celebrating in their services and activities that day the ways they are sharing the love of Christ both within and without the walls of their churches!

We invite you, please, to share with us your congregation's stories of Christian education and mission and outreach by emailing or mailing them to our Moderator, Gordon Garlington, at ggarlington3@hotmail.com or 204 Birnham Cove, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72116, telephone 501-940-8008. Or share them with any member of our Mission Area, listed below. If you have questions, please contact our Moderator or any member of the Ministry Area!

Members of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area for 2019 are: the Rev. Jan Butin (First United, Fayetteville), Mrs. Kristi Button (First United, Fayetteville), the Rev. Dr. Paul Fulks (First, Van Buren), the Rev. Dr. Gordon Garlington (H.R., home church Westover Hills, Little Rock), Dr. Bruce Johnston (First, Batesville), Mrs. Emily Laurel (First, Benton), Mrs. Renee Nestor (First, Bentonville); Mr. Kelly Pearson (CRE, H.R., home church First, Prairie Grove), Dr. Sally Roden (First, Conway), Ms. Vicky Rogerson (First, Springdale), Ms. Mary Shaw (CRE, Elkins Federated); and Mrs. Marty Shepherd (First, Dardanelle).

Through the year we may also be contacting you, personally inviting you to share your stories, as well as asking if there are specific ways we as a Ministry Area might be helping resource and encourage the ministries of your congregation!

Speaking of resourcing and encouraging, we want to thank and express hearty "Kudos" to Carol Clark and the very active Board and volunteers who are now staffing and working with our Presbytery of Arkansas' Resource Center! Please read Carol and the Resource Center's report attached below (Exhibit I)!

And, we want to invite you to the very special P.L.A.C.E. (Presbytery Leadership Academy for Congregational Enrichment) event being planned for the morning of August 10, 2019. Our thanks to our host congregation this year, Trinity Presbyterian Church of Little Rock! See the highlights of the event in the attachment below (Exhibit II)!

Other actions of our Mission of the Church Ministry Area at our meeting on May 3 at Central Presbyterian Church of Russellville included:

- Confirmation of two grants approved by email earlier this year, 1) a grant of \$950.00 to help Candidate for the Ministry and Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Elder La Wanda Harris participate in a Dominican Republic mission trip organized by Dubuque Seminary, and 2) a grant of \$1,000.00 to First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville for their hunger ministry.

- Acting on a request from David Gill, approved a grant of \$2,000 to help David and the committee working on planning and hosting arrangements for the national meeting of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) to be held in Little Rock in the winter of 2020. The Ministry Area believes the APCE meeting will be a boon for us, and hopes as many interested persons as possible from our Presbytery will be able to attend.
- Approved a request Joel Gill, Director of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, for a grant of \$5,000.00 to fund “Rise Against Hunger” at Ferncliff this summer. This program has campers each week as a part of their time at Ferncliff packing non-perishable meals to be shared with the hungry.
- Recommended to the Coordinating Team that the offering to be received at the October 4-5, 2019, meeting of Presbytery be designated to support Solar Under the Sun or Living Waters for the World projects in Honduras under the direction of our Presbytery’s Honduras Subcommittee.
- Set meetings for the rest of the year as July 12 (Zoom) and September 27.

Section F – Exhibit I

Report of the Resource Center Board

MWS Carol Clark
Moderator

In these technological days when resources are available at our fingertips, the question is asked “Is a resource center needed?” Many Presbyteries abandoned the concept, and that is an open question in our own Presbytery. There are many amazing resources already in our center, but to move forward, the board would like to see the Resource Center be, not just a center for physical materials like books/DVD’s and magazines, but a true center of communication for all kinds of needs, thoughts, and ideas.

The Resource Center Board has launched a new Facebook group called “**Resource ARK**” in hopes of establishing a strong forum to share ideas, worship materials, recommendations for projects, connections to the wider community for speakers and musicians and all other ideas limited only by our imaginations. If you are a Facebook user, PLEASE type “**Resource ARK**” in your search engine and ask to join our 60+ members so that you can start posting your own good ideas!

One of our discoveries is that a lot of people don’t know about the Resource Center: that the materials can be mailed to you; that the materials are free; that if you find some material that you want to use but the cost is prohibitive that the Resource Center will ‘go half with you’; that the catalog of resources can be searched on the Presbytery’s website by clicking on resources and then the resource center. You can contact Carol Clark at cbclark05@aol.com or call 501-563-6279 to ask for materials. Visit our booth at the Presbytery meeting for a summer ‘give-away’, a chance to ‘check-out’ some materials and to learn more about the Resource Center. If you’d like to help out in the Resource Center, check in with Carol Clark. If you’d like us to send out a ‘resource-mobile’, we’d be glad to bring materials to parts of the Presbytery that are not near the Presbytery office in Little Rock where they are housed.

Our board members and volunteers who have helped on occasional tasks do such a great job, and we appreciate them: Marian Dyer (who works each Monday), Jeannie Ford, Betty Winter, NiAnn Thompson, Julie Price, Karene Jones, Mary Ellen Holder, Dari Rowen, Mark Clark and Kenneth Rich (who supplies us with financial reports and weekly help with the resource computer).

Section F – Exhibit II

The P.L.A.C.E. Event

SAVE THE DATE!

What: PLACE (Presbytery Leadership Academy for Congregational Enrichment) Event

When: Saturday morning, August 10, 2019

Where: Trinity Presbyterian Church of Little Rock

The Morning Will Include:

A brief worship service introduced by, you guessed it, bagpipes!

A keynote address by MWS Steve Hancock, pastor of Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, on the theme, “Following Jesus: The Discipleship Path.”

Of the theme, Steve says, “Jesus invited people into a relationship with God that was vibrant, dynamic, and fruitful. He said, “I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in you bear much fruit...” (John 15:5). Jesus wanted people to flourish. Scripture is sprinkled with phrases that point to fruitful living – the kingdom of God, eternal life, immeasurable riches, a peace that passes all understanding, abundant life. We will explore four core fundamental spiritual practices Jesus and his followers developed that sustained them in God and motivated them to relieve the burdens that restrain people from flourishing by protecting the vulnerable, embracing outcasts, healing the sick, welcoming children, caring for widows, confronting injustice, pardoning sin, preaching good news, releasing people from paralysis and suffering and the fear of death. Giving purposeful and repeated attention to these four essential practices is crucial for our growth in Christ: Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, Extravagant Generosity.”

Following worship and the keynote, participants will have the opportunity to attend two one-hour workshops. Four of the workshops will focus on the “essential practices” of discipleship:

Passionate Worship – MWS Carol Clark, Leader

Intentional Faith Development – Theresa Spragins and Kristi Button, Leaders

Risk Taking Mission & Service – David Gill, Leader

Extravagant Generosity – MWS Steve Hancock and Malinda Kirchner, Leaders

Two other workshops will be offered:

Clerk of Session Training – Both One Hour Sessions – MWS Leslie Belden, Leader

Bonus One Hour Class – “Why We Worship As We Do” – MWS David Dyer, HR, Leader

A packet with a fuller explanation of the classes, directions for registration, and other information will be distributed at the June 8 meeting of the Presbytery at Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, as well as emailed and distributed in other ways as we get closer to August 10. We hope each of our congregations will encourage their members and staff to take advantage of this great opportunity for both personal growth as well as gaining experiences and resources that can be shared in our local churches!

Our thanks to the Task Force who did the initial planning for the event, Emily Laurel, Bruce Johnston, Jeannie Ford Andrews, NiAnn Thompson, and Julie Price, and to the folks at Trinity Presbyterian Church who are doing yeoman work preparing for The PLACE: Julie Price, Jeff Price, Jared Brown, Julie Peak, Robin Brown, Deena Dougherty, and Cindy Birchfield!

Section G

Report of the Administration Ministry Area

RE Jan Enke
Moderator

Kenneth Rich, Director of Mission Support, has found a part-time position elsewhere, knowing that changes were coming to the position that he currently holds. His new position began on April 15, 2019, reducing his position at the Presbytery of Arkansas to a half-time position. The Administration Ministry Area made a salary adjustment to Kenneth's position based on 20 hours a week. The fact that this is a temporary position until the staffing is complete, and that the current budget will not be negatively affected, were factors considered in the decision concerning his salary.

The Administration Ministry Area reduced the Cash Salary of \$57,401.00 by half since Kenneth will now be working only 20 hours for the Presbytery, making the total package accordingly:

Kenneth Rich's Annual Package:

Cash Salary	\$28,700.00
Pension 11%	\$ 3,157.06
Death & Disability	\$ 287.01
Medical	\$12,263.76
Dental	\$ 1,168.44
Travel	\$ 500.00
Cont Ed.	\$ 500.00
 Annual Total	 \$46,576.76

The Administration Ministry Area also recently received Michael Vinson's resignation as the Presbytery of Arkansas' resource person for Congregational Vitality. Michael has been hired to be the part-time Stated Supply at First Presbyterian (Argenta) in North Little Rock. That became effective April 1, 2019. Our appreciation of Michael's years served on staff will be presented at this June 8, 2019 Presbytery of Arkansas meeting.

The Administration Ministry Area will be receiving budget requests in late August. The date for the submission of requests will be announced at a later date.