

**MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SECOND STATED MEETING OF THE  
PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS  
JUNE 4, 2016**

**Call to Order/Opening Prayer**

The 132<sup>nd</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was called to order at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday, June 4, 2016 in the sanctuary of Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock. Teaching Elder Lacy Sellars, presbytery moderator, lit the Christ candle, read scripture, and gave the opening prayer.

**Declaration of Quorum/Report of Enrollment**

At the time of the gavel, 27 Teaching Elders and 38 Ruling Elders were enrolled, which is a **quorum** as declared by the Moderator.

**TEACHING ELDERS:** Bill Bailey, Leslie F. Belden, Joy Carrington, D. Breckinridge Castleman, Carol Clark, Katie Cummings, Fern M. Davis, Ruskin Falls, Debra Carl Freeman, Paul Fulks, Elizabeth Gabbard, David E. Gill, Steve Hancock, “Chip” Hatcher, Chris Jones, Clare Martin Kelley, Young Doo Kim, Courtney Bacon-Latina, Frank LeBlanc, Robert Lowry, Larry Mitchell, Marie Mainard O’Connell, Dennis Ritchie, Leslie Bethell Roper, Dari Rowen, Cindy Saul, William Seitz, Lacy Sellars, Rebecca Spooner, Michael Vinson, Lindy Vogado, Elizabeth R. (Liz) Wagner. **Honorably Retired Teaching Elders:** Catherine L. Allsbury, Ben H. Bateman, William W. Branch, Ira Brighton, David H. Dyer, Sally Johnson, Lance Jones, David S. King, Richard Shinkle, Rita Wilson. **Non-Active Honorably Retired Teacher Elder:** Marilyn Rauch

**RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS FROM CONGREGATIONS:** West End, Arkadelphia, Mable Buckley; First, Batesville, Shelly Moser; Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, Ronnie Prevost; First, Benton, Joan B. DuBois; First, Bentonville, Chris Rogers and Cathy Rogers; First, Clarksville, Linda Castleman; Harmony, Clarksville, Cindy Lanphear; First, Dardanelle, Marty Shepherd; First, Eureka Springs, Katie Johnsonius; Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay, Betsy Slaughter; First United, Fayetteville, Tom Verdery and Fred Shefte; Central, Fort Smith, Linda Riley and Charles Cook; First, Harrison, Harry Cikawek; First, Heber Springs, Scott Rezabek; Holiday Island Presbyterian, Mary Diehl; Faith, Horseshoe Bend, George Jackson; First, Hot Springs, Frances Bateman; Westminster, Hot Springs, Judy Coleman; Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village, Dennis Zymboly and Jerral Johnson; First, Huntsville, Nancy Marsh; First, Jacksonville, Margot Sheets; Allison, Little Rock, Dorothy Nayles; First, Little Rock, Sherry Joyce; Pulaski Heights, Jana Barfield; Second, Little Rock, Julie Honeycutt, Diedra Gaskalla, Melinda Raley; Westminster, Little Rock, Danny Thomas; Westover Hills, Little Rock, H. K. Stewart; First, Malvern, Tom Poston; Barr Memorial, Norman, Noah Williamson; Park

Hill, North Little Rock, Jim Clyde; Mount Vernon, Pea Ridge, Ronnie L. David; Central, Pine Bluff, Betty Coles; First, Rogers, David Webb; First, Siloam Springs, Nell Bryant; First, Springdale, Mary Shaw; First, Yellville, Claudia Brigham.

**AT-LARGE COMMISSIONERS:** Ex-Officio Members of Coordinating Team: Ruth Hamilton, Vice Moderator and Bob Boehmler, Treasurer; Ruling Elder Members of Coordinating Team, Ted Belden, Justin Clark, Emily Laurel, Patty Minga; Moderators of Presbytery Ministry Areas/Committees: RE Ledridge Davis, Representation; CRE Kelly Pearson, Church and Its Mission Ministry area; RE Leah Shell, Future of the Church Ministry Area; Moderator, Presbyterian Women, Jeanne Lloyd; Moderator, Coordinating Team, Ed Wilkinson.

**COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS:** G. Hartley Jones, Barr Memorial, Norman; Chuck Olson, Memorial, Atkins; Claire Rhodes and Kenneth Rhodes, West End, Arkadelphia.

**CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:** Kristi Button; Jeannie Ford; Linda LeBron, retired; Nancy Irving Smith, retired; NiAnn Thompson.

**CERTIFIED ASSOCIATE CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:** None present

**VISITORS:** 34 enrolled.

**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:** TE Rick Young, Texas Presbyterian Foundation, Grace Presbytery; RE Catherine Lowry, Administrative Commission member, Second Presbyterian, Little Rock; TE E. W. “Bo” Lewis, HR, Sierra Blanca Presbytery.

**TEACHING ELDERS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE:** DC Adams, Karen Akin, Nancy Benson-Nicol, Bryan Bond, Brian Brock, Lance Clemmons, Jeff Cranton, Lewis R. Donelson IV, James J. Farley III, Steven Frazier, Susan Gray, Robert Hadley, Al Henager, Jennifer Lord, Emmett Powers, Timothy C. Reeves, Susan Rose, Rachel Shepherd, Shauna Silmon, Debbie Spangler, Michael Ulasewich, Robert Williamson, Harry Young. **Honorably Retired Active Teaching Elders Absent with excuse:** Guy Delaney, Bill Galbraith, William F. Henning, Frederick A. Taylor, Nancy Taylor.

**TEACHING ELDERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE:** Phillip Blackburn, Tasha Blackburn, Janet B. Butin, Philip W. Butin, Mark Clark, Kris Crawford, Kade Curry, Clifton P. Ford, Gordon F. Garlington III, John Gibson, Marion A. Humphrey, Libby Lizarraga, Ray McCalla, “Mike” McCracken, Jeff Parker, Jeff Price, Rebecca Purcell, Ward Rudolph, Anne Russ, David Schaller, Patricia Schaller, Georgia Senior, Terry Tallent, Marci Ward, Susan Carter Wiggins, Daniel Wooley **Honorably Retired Active Teaching Elders Absent without excuse:** Donald K. Campbell II, Milton B. Davis, Heinrich B. Eiler, Alan Ford, Orin M Frank, Howard H. Gordon, Robert Hyatt, John E. King, Mark Lenneville, Carlos Lopez, James B. Miller, Richard H. Miller, Jerry Rice, C. Michael D. Seitz, W. Kennedy Upham, Don Wardlaw, Darwin Wolfe.

**SESSIONS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE:** Vaughn, Bentonville; First, Stuttgart.

**SESSIONS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE:** First, Alma; Alpine, Amity; First, Arkadelphia; Memorial, Atkins; First, Beebe; second commissioner, Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista; First, Brinkley; Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals; Cane Hill; First, Conway; Elkins Federated; Mount Comfort, Fayetteville; Graham Memorial, Forrest City; second commissioner, Central, Fort Smith; second commissioner, First, Fort Smith; One-O-One, Gamaliel; First, Gravette; First, Gurdon; Spring River, Hardy; First, Helena; Holly Grove Presbyterian; Woodlands, Hot Springs Village; First, Jonesboro; First, Lincoln; Grace, Little Rock; fourth commissioner, Second, Little Rock; Trinity, Little Rock; First, Lonoke; First, Marianna; First, McGehee; First, Mena; First, Morrilton; Hopewell, Morrilton; First, Mountain Home; Mountainburg Presbyterian; First, Newport; First, North Little Rock; First, Ozark, First, Paragould; Faith, Pine Bluff; First, Pine Bluff; First, Pocahontas; First, Prairie Grove; second commissioner, Central, Russellville; First, Searcy; second commissioner, First, Springdale; First, Van Buren; First, Walnut Ridge; Cleburne Avenue, West Helena; Wynne Presbyterian.

**AT-LARGE MEMBERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE:** Ruling Elder Members of Coordinating Team: Ken Coker, Jan Enke, Peg Falls-Corbitt, Karene Jones, Laura Pierce. Committee moderators: RE Elizabeth Branch; Ruling Elder Commissioner to General Assembly, Mary Beth Lysobey,

**COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE:** Carolyn Beane and K. C. Chanthorn.

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

**CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE:** Lynn King, retired.

**ASSOCIATE CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE:** Lynn Condra, retired; Sheila Reddig; Theresa Spragins; Susie Wright.

### **Adoption of Docket**

Stated Clerk announced the following amendments to the docket: approval of Oct. 2015 and Feb. 2016 minutes delayed so that commissioners could pick them up and review them and moved to new business; removal of Austin Seminary greetings; two additional motions from both Committee on Nominations during their report and from Committee on Church and Its Ministries will be presented where docketed rather than under new business. **Amendment to docket was approved. Main motion to approve the docket as amended was approved.**

### **Seating of Corresponding Members/Granting Privilege of Floor/Voice**

The following corresponding members were welcomed and granted privilege of the floor with voice: TE Rick Young, Texas Presbyterian Foundation, Grace Presbytery; TE E. W. “Bo” Lewis, HR, Sierra Blanca Presbytery; and RE Catherine Lowry, member of the Administrative Commission, Second, Little Rock..

### **Welcome to First-time Elder Commissioners**

Fifteen first-time teaching or ruling elder commissioners stood, were introduced individually and welcomed by the moderator.

### **Introduction of Presbytery Staff**

The following staff members working in the Little Rock office were introduced: General Presbyter TE Stewart Smith; Stated Clerk TE Robert Lowry; Resourcing Director and Recording Clerk NiAnn Thompson; Director of Mission Support RE Kenneth Rich; Staff for Youth Britton Varn; and in Conway, Staff for Vital Congregations TE Michael Vinson.

### **Welcome from Host Churches**

TE Ruskin Falls welcomed commissioners and gave housekeeping information as well as the history of Pulaski Heights, Little Rock. TE David Dyer spoke about Westminster, Little Rock.

### **Adoption of Consent Agenda**

Stated Clerk TE Robert Lowry, Harmony, Clarksville moved the following: *NB: In the past, actions of the General Committee have been included on the Consent Agenda. Because the Coordinating Team (and formerly General Committee) is a commission of the presbytery, only certain actions require affirmation by the presbytery.*

- 1. Approve the dates for Communion of the Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage for 2017, as: April 26th-30th (ARPP 26), May 13th (Ultreya), October 25th-29th (ARPP 27), and November 8th (Ultreya).**
- 2. Receive the report of the Committee on Representation (included farther down in these minutes).**

**The consent agenda was approved.**

### **Appointment of Standing Committees: Leaves of Absence and Tellers**

Moderator Sellars appointed the following:

Tellers: RE Joan DuBois, First, Benton; TE Leslie Belden, FUPC, Fayetteville; TE Bill Seitz, First, Mena; RE Frances Bateman, First, Hot Springs.

Leaves of Absence: RE Jerral Johnson, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village; RE Claudia Brigham, First, Yellville; RE H.K. Stewart, Westover Hills, Little Rock; CRE Hartley Jones, serving at Barr Memorial, Norman.

### **Order of the Day: Presbytery at Worship**

A brief worship service based on Morning Prayers was led by the host pastors and including the commissioning of youth going on presbytery-sponsored summer trips and the commissioners to General Assembly. CRE Claire Rhodes was recognized as a member of the search committee for the new Stated Clerk of the denomination.

### **Report of the Stated Clerk**

TE Robert William Lowry, Stated Clerk gave the report.

#### **For Information:**

1. Issued advice on interpretation of the new structure to the Nominations Committee. A copy of that advice is included in the Documents Section of the packet (Section P)
2. With the General Presbyter, met with GA Commissioners to review procedures and preparation for GA in Portland June 17-25.
3. Represented the presbytery at the closing of the Pocahontas property.
4. Consulted with Presbytery counsel on pending Administrative Commissions business.
5. Consulted with the Office of the Stated Clerk and Office on Mid-Council Relations on judicial and constitutional questions.
6. Consulted with all current ACs on their progress.
7. Completed presbytery statistical reporting for 2015. The full report will be published in the minutes of the General Assembly this summer. The summary of data collected and forwarded to General Assembly:
  - a. Congregational Totals
    - i. Total Membership
      1. Total Members (2014) 13419
      - a. Total Gains 350
      - b. Total Losses 1297
      2. Total Members (2015) 12472
    - ii. Average Attendance 3787
    - iii. Age Distribution
      1. 25 & Under 987
      2. 26-45 1360
      3. 46-55 1011
      4. 56-65 1345
      5. 66 & Over 3306
  - NB: Totals represent only those churches reporting statistics.*
  - iv. Total Contributions of members to their congregations \$14,198,323

- b. 59% of congregations representing more than 75% of the membership of the presbytery posted statistics this year. This placed the presbytery in the lower middle of the national averages for presbytery participation.
- c. The reduction in reported membership (“cleaning up the rolls”) will result in more than \$8000 in per capita savings in 2016.
- 8. Continued to prepare records of closed churches for deposit in the Presbyterian Historical Society archives.
- 9. Began the process of assessing all active congregation files. *NB: Congregations will be notified of information or documents needed to complete the presbytery’s file.*
- 10. Trained new Clerks of Session at 131st Stated meeting.
- 11. Distributed new Clerk of Session manuals to all churches.
- 12. Received referrals of business and forwarded them to relevant committees and commissions.
- 13. On behalf of the presbytery and on instruction from the Administrative Commission, concluded the sale of the Pocahontas church property and deposited the proceeds with the presbytery. The records of the Pocahontas church are now closed and will be sent to the Presbyterian Historical Society for storage.
- 14. Made editorial changes to the Organization and Structure (pursuant to 8.C) to correct errors in publication. The editorial changes are as follows:
  - a. Preface “will remain” changed to “remains”
  - b. 2.B Authority and Order “Ministry Guide” changed to “Ministry Manual”
  - c. 3.D Membership “Standing Rules” changed to “Organization and Structure”
  - d. 3.D.1 Attendance “except those honorably retired” changed to “except those honorably retired on inactive status”
  - e. 5.A corrected names of ministry areas to “Administration, the Church and Its Ministries, the Mission of the Church, the Future of the Church, and Ministries with Youth, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry”
  - f. 7.D All references to “General Committee” changed to “Coordinating Team”
  - g. 8.A “Organization and Structure” changed to “Ministry Manual”
  - h. *NB: Additional changes to the Ministry Duties will be brought in October.*

**For Action:**

- 1. (On referral from Future of the Church and Administration) That the presbytery authorize the sale of presbytery owned property in Washington County (Fayetteville) and that:**
  - a. An administrative commission be formed with the power to:**
    - i. enter into an agreement with a sales agent;**
    - ii. on behalf of the presbytery, accept an offer for sale of the property;**
    - iii. finalize the sale of the property.**
  - b. The members of the AC be:**
    - i. TE Stewart Smith, General Presbyter**
    - ii. TE Robert Wm Lowry Stated Clerk**
    - iii. RE Ryan Holder Second, LR**

**iv. RE Ted Belden FUPC, Fayetteville**

**v. RE Leah Shell, Second, LR**

*(NB: Smith and Lowry are legal signatories for the presbytery, Holden has worked with Administration on property issues, Belden and Shell are in the real estate business and serve on Future of the Church Committee).*

**c. The proceeds of the sale be deposited in the Presbytery of Arkansas General Fund and earmarked to reduce the principle of the “Ferncliff loan.” Motion was approved.**

**2. That the presbytery approve the following editorial changes to the Organization and Structure:**

**a. 3.C Special Meetings “meetings shall be held” changed to “meetings should be held”**

**b. 3.D.f add the following text to the end of the section “serving at least ½ time”**

**c. 5.H.1.c add Moderator and Vice-Moderator of Presbytery as ex-officio members of the Coordinating Team**

**d. 5.H.1 change “16” to “17”**

**e. Add new 5.H.1.c “The Moderator of the Coordinating Team shall be the most recent Moderator of the Presbytery. S/he shall serve with voice and vote. In the event the most recent past moderator is unable or unwilling to serve, the Nominations Committee shall bring a name to the presbytery to fill the role of Moderator of the Coordinating Team. The nominee will normally come from the roster of past moderators.” NB: Upon adoption of this change, present sections 5.H.1.c and 5.H.1.d will be renumbered as 5.H.1.d and 5.H.1.e respectively. Motion was approved.**

**Report of the Coordinating Team**

Team moderator RE Ed Wilkinson, Good Shepherd, Greenwood, gave the report, pointing out the minutes that follow.

For Information:

**DRAFT Minutes of the Coordinating Team Meeting May 7, 2016**

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer at 12:58pm by RE Ed Wilkinson (CT Moderator).

TE Robert Lowry (Stated Clerk) took the roll of the meeting.

**Members Present:** RE Emily Laurel, RE Karene Jones, RE Laura Pierce, RE Peg Falls-Corbitt, TE Ruskin Falls, TE Mike McCracken, RE Patty Minga, RE Jan Enke, RE Kelly Pearson, RE Justin Clark, TE Leslie Roper, RE Ed Wilkinson

**Ex-officio Present:** RE Ruth Hamilton, TE Lacy Sellers, TE Stewart Smith, TE Robert Lowry, RE Bob Boehmler (via conference call)

**Not Present (excused):** TE D.C. Adams, TE Chris Jones, **Not Present (not excused): none**

A quorum was present and such was declared by the moderator.

The docket was approved with three additional items included in new business.

**Overview of Coordinating Team Documents**

The Stated Clerk walked the group through the relevant duties and responsibilities of the Coordinating Team under the new presbytery structure.

Members’ questions for clarification and explanation were answered.

As requested by the Implementation Team, the CT discussed whether or not any changes were needed and determined that for now they will operate under the structure as originally passed by the presbytery. Most notably, the Moderator and Vice-Moderator of the presbytery will remain ex-officio members with voice but not vote.

If, in the future, the CT feels it is important for them to have vote a recommendation to amend the Presbytery Ministry Manual will be sent to the presbytery.

Some confusion was raised over terms for at-large members of the CT. The Stated Clerk will work with the Nominating Committee to clarify terms and update the directory for members.

### **Report of the General Presbyter**

TE Stewart Smith offered the report of the General Presbyter. He expressed hope that the CT can serve as a sounding board for ideas in the presbytery and a place where urgent issues can be discussed thoughtfully and prepared for presbytery consideration. He hopes that this can be a group that will “test the waters” on new ideas.

Smith had just returned from Seattle and a meeting of new presbytery leaders. The gathering was part of a leader formation program. Smith noted how much energy and talent there is throughout the church.

Smith reports that the property of the Pocahontas church has been sold. Two churches are currently in the process of discernment for leaving the denomination- Siloam Springs and Woodlands HSV. Both are working with ACs appointed by the presbytery. He expressed his gratitude and confidence for the groups working with these churches.

### **Report of Stated Clerk**

TE Lowry reported that the other current ACs (Ozark, Rogers) continue with their work and have no reports for the CT at this time.

Updated Ministry Manuals for all CT members will be sent following the presbytery meeting in June.

### **New Business**

FUPC, Fayetteville

requests presbytery approval to sell real property left to the church in an estate. The monies will be used for the mission of the church.

**MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.**

Nominating Committee nominations for three at-large positions were made for the following:

TE Terry Tallent Reg. 5

TE Robert Hadley Reg. 4

TE Marion Humphrey Reg. 3

**MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.**

Nominating Committee nominations for alternate nominees in the event others decline were made for the following:

TE Mike McCracken Reg. 5

TE Patty Schaller Reg. 4

**MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.**

The Lonoke session requests that an AC be named to assist the church as it discerns its next steps. The AC is empowered to assist the church as it discerns its next steps and assume original



jurisdiction of the church if necessary. Two members named by the Future of the Church Ministry and two by the Committee on the Church's Ministries to make up the AC as follows:

TE Lindy Vogado- CCM

RE Cyril Hollingsworth- CCM

TE Marie O'Connell- FC

TE Anne Russ- FC

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.

FPC Brinkley requests an exception from the Book of Order requirement for the rotation of Ruling Elders.

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.

The Presbytery of Arkansas Foundation requests ratification of a reconstituted Board of Directors. Per their by-laws those nominated for membership must be ratified by the Presbytery of Arkansas. (*NB: POA Foundation holds title to the property leased to Ferncliff Camp.*) After lengthy discussion of the history of the Foundation, its ongoing purpose, and the desire of the presbytery to ensure the continued health of Ferncliff, the motion was put before the CT to ratify the following members of the POA Foundation Board:

RE Jackson Farrow

TE Karen Akin

TE Gordon Garlington

RE Bob Boehmler

RE Mary Ellen Holder

RE Tony Booth (Ferncliff Board of Trustees representative)

TE Stewart Smith (ex -officio)

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.

A recommendation came from the Mission of the Church Ministry to designate the offering at the October Presbytery meeting to reduce the loan taken to make the \$1million gift to Ferncliff.

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND FAILED.

A secondary recommendation from Mission of the Church to designate the October offering to the Rice Depot Delta Initiative partnership was made.

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.

TE Lowry presented data about Presbytery Meetings gathered by the Restructure Team as well as analysis of past meeting attendance. After lengthy discussion, the CT chose to take the information under advisement and return to it at a future meeting.

The Docket for 132nd Meeting was presented by TE Lowry. By consensus, the CT decided the following:

Theological Discussion will be included in this meeting with TE David Dyer and TE Ruskin Falls to coordinate that conversation.

Worship will include commissioning of General Assembly Commissioners and summer youth trip participants. TE Dyer and TE Falls will coordinate worship. TE Leslie Roper will assist with finding the commissioning of the youth trip participants. TE Smith will forward liturgy for commissioning of GA participants.

Permission is granted for a representative of Austin Seminary to bring a short (5 minutes) greeting from the seminary.

What has traditionally been the short welcome from the host church will instead be a time to highlight the ministries of the host churches (Pulaski Heights and Westminster, LR)

The docket is approved to reflect the above.

A recommendation to accept the invitation of First, Harrison to host the 133rd stated meeting October 21-22, 2016 with First, Bentonville as a back-up was considered.

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.

A recommendation to set the dates and location of the 134th stated meeting as February 17-18, 2017 at University of the Ozarks was considered.

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.

A recommendation to set the date of the next CT meeting as 10 am October 1 at Grace, LR was considered.

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.

A request was received from FUPC that the presbytery approve their grant request to General Assembly.

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED.

There being no further business before the team, and a motion to adjourn being approved by consensus, the moderator closed the meeting of the Coordinating Team with prayer at 3:40pm.

### **Report of the Administration Ministry Area**

Committee moderator TE Catherine Allsbury, HR, Second, Little Rock gave the report.

#### **Information:**

#### **Proposed change in job description for the Stated Clerk:**

David Dyer resigned as Assistant Stated Clerk, effective February 29, 2016. The Administration Ministry Area is proposing that this position be eliminated, duties transferred to the position of Stated Clerk. At the May committee meeting, a new job description was approved, which combined the duties of Assistant Stated Clerk and Stated Clerk, with the exception of taking minutes for meetings of the Presbytery. A recording clerk will be hired to take minutes at each meeting, to be paid a stipend.

Administration recognizes that this presbytery is in transition – from the old structure to the new; from the previous General Presbyter to the current G.P. This change in job descriptions marks another transition. These job descriptions could be reevaluated at the end of the term of the current Stated Clerk (February, 2017).

#### **Loans taken for the Ferncliff Capital Campaign**

Presbytery continues making payments on interest only on both the larger and smaller loan.

The Administration and Future of the Church areas are having conversation about the possibility of selling other property in order to pay down this debt.

It appears that the property on Chenal Blvd. in Little Rock will not sell in time to help with debt reduction in this calendar year.

#### **Financial Reports**

See attached financial reports as of April 30, 2016. At their meeting Administration noted that interest income for the first four months has been higher than was anticipated for 2016.

#### **For Presbytery Action:**

**1. That the presbytery adopt the revised Stated Clerk Job Description (below). Motion was approved.**

**2. That Stated Clerk TE Robert Wm Lowry's compensation be revised as follows:**

**a. Salary increased \$2400 to \$18,879.96 retroactive to January 1, 2016.**

**b. Board of Pensions increased per salary change.**

**c. Professional Expenses (travel, etc. line item 8400-13-1-000) increased \$2000 to \$6300.**

**Motion was approved.**

**3. That the position of Assistant Stated Clerk be suspended and unfilled for an indefinite period of time. Motion was approved.**

***PROPOSED REVISED* Job Description**

**Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Arkansas**

NB: Text to be added is indicated in ***bold italic***. Text to be removed is indicated with a ~~strike through~~.

The Stated Clerk shall be a Teaching or Ruling Elder and shall be enrolled as a member of Presbytery. The Stated Clerk shall serve a term of three years (or a portion thereof for special elections) and is eligible for reelection by the Presbytery. The Stated Clerk shall function in accordance with the Book of Order (~~G-3.0104 and other relevant provisions of the Book of Order~~).

1) Duties related to Stated Clerk's training/continuing education:

Attend denominational annual polity conference ***when possible***.

Attend General Assembly meetings ~~at least once during Stated Clerk's three year term.~~

Maintain membership in the Stated Clerks' Association.

2) Duties related to training of others:

Train Permanent Judicial Commission ~~as needed.~~

Train administrative commissions assigned to churches ~~as needed.~~

Facilitate the training of new General Assembly (GA) commissioners with General Presbyter and possibly former GA commissioners.

Work with the current GA commissioners as the polity task force to advise Presbytery on votes on the proposed constitutional amendments.

~~In cooperation with the Christian Education and Nurture (CE&N) Committee, arrange~~ ***Lead*** annual training of clerks of session.

~~Train the cluster records review teams prior to the June Presbytery meeting each year.~~ ***With the Coordinating team, establish a process for the regular review of session minutes and congregational registers.***

3) Duties related to legal signatory:

Serve as one of the elected signers of legal documents for the Presbytery, along with the Moderator of Presbytery and the General Presbyter.

Sign deeds, contracts, etc. as directed by presbytery authorization.

Certify personal information forms from church professionals with Church Leadership Connection.

4) Duties related to staffing:

Serve as staff resource to ***the*** Permanent Judicial Commission, ***Coordinating Team, Nominating Committee, and, with the General Presbyter, Committee on the Church's Ministries.*** ***Other duties may be assigned by the General Presbyter.***

In consultation with the Moderator of Presbytery ~~and the Moderator of the Committee on Ministry (COM)~~, appoint and train an Investigating Committee when an accusation has been filed.

In consultation with the Moderator of ~~COM~~ **relevant presbytery committees** and the General Presbyter, define the scope of duties, the goals and name the members of an Administrative Commission to address issues in churches.

~~Communicate with the moderator of the Committee on Ministry (COM) prior to each stated COM meeting, participate in the annual COM training retreat and may attend COM meetings, if necessary. Serve as a member of the Presbytery Crisis Response Team. NB: Unnecessary if staffing the committee.~~

5) Duties related to polity **Constitutional Interpretation:**

Make polity rulings and ~~do~~ **prepare** polity interpretations for churches, leaders, committees, boards, and councils of the Presbytery, in dialogue with the PC(USA) Stated Clerk and the Office of the General Assembly, when necessary.

6) Duties related to communications:

Receive requests and communications from governing bodies, churches and individuals and as appropriate, refer them to committees of Presbytery or the Presbytery as a whole.

Possess and use appropriate technological skills.

~~Maintain, publicize and adhere to set “office hours” during which the Presbytery may contact the Stated Clerk~~ **Be available to the presbytery for consultation on a regular basis.**

Regularly participate in presbytery staff meetings and at least monthly update the General Presbyter ~~and Assistant Stated Clerk~~ on work completed and works pending related to the job description.

7) Duties related to Presbytery meetings:

Act as parliamentarian for all meetings of the Presbytery, assisting the Moderator in the orderly conduct of the business of the council.

Work with the Moderator of Presbytery to perform the duties of the “presbytery meeting task force” for any special called meeting of presbytery.

~~Coordinate with the Assistant Stated Clerk the responsibilities for staff resource for the presbytery meeting task force.~~

Work with Moderator of Presbytery ~~and Assistant Stated Clerk~~ in preparing the Presbytery meeting packet and proposed docket.

Solicit, receive and report invitations to host Presbytery meetings, then respond with pertinent information to host to help them prepare for the meeting.

Receive display requests from “regular displayers” at Presbytery meetings ~~and report to host group at walk-through. Refer extraordinary requests to General Committee in accordance with polity.~~

Receive, report and record requests for excused absences.

Meet with and instruct Leave of Absence committee and Tellers.

8) Duties related to General Assembly:

Sign, as needed, any reports required of the Presbytery by the General Assembly ~~that the Assistant Stated Clerk may prepare.~~

Receive and report, as appropriate, all correspondence from the PC(USA) Stated Clerk and the Office of the General Assembly.

9) Duties related to record keeping:

Maintain in the *Presbytery office* ~~on-premise and provide to the Presbytery office~~ files of all official actions by Presbytery, commissions and the Stated Clerk.

Edit and file a full and accurate record of the minutes of the Presbytery, coordinating reading and revising of the minutes with the Presbytery Moderator, ~~General Committee Coordinating Team~~ Moderator and Stated Clerk within three weeks after each meeting.

Present each year properly attested copies of the Presbytery minutes to the Synod for its review (with table of contents, index, appendix in accordance with Synod's requirements) and ~~shall~~ preserve 5 said copies as the official records of the Presbytery. One copy should be submitted to the Presbyterian Historical Society annually.

Make and keep accurate rolls of the Ministers, Certified Christian Educators, Commissioned Ruling Elders, and Candidates under care of the Presbytery.

Maintain files in the Presbytery office of all official actions by Presbytery, commissions and the Stated Clerk.

~~10) Supervise work of the Assistant Stated Clerk.~~

~~With the General Presbyter and the Personnel sub-committee, participate in the annual evaluation of the Assistant Stated Clerk.~~

10) Perform other duties as needed for Presbytery to abide by the Book of Order and the Presbytery of Arkansas Ministry Manual

11) Accountability and evaluation of the Stated Clerk shall be in accordance with the Presbytery's Standing Rules. The Stated Clerk shall report to the General Presbyter and Personnel Subcommittee.

### **Report of the Committee on the Church's Ministries**

Committee moderator TE Dari Rowen, First, Benton gave the report.

#### **For Information:**

The CCM approved the Validated Ministries of TEs David Gill, Marie Mainard-O'Connell, Ray McCalla, Rebecca Spooner, and Susan Rose. The CCM also approved adopting a new policy of only needing to re-consider validated ministries if and when there are changes in the ministry.

The CCM approved adopting a plan titled "Regional Teams of Connection"

The CCM approved the membership transfer of TE Carl McCormack to Palo Duro Presbytery.

The CCM approved the membership transfer of TE Liz Lindsey to Heartland Presbytery, to serve as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Higginsville, MO.

TE Chris Jones was elected to serve as Vice Moderator of the Committee on the Church's Ministries.

The CCM approved requesting the Board of Pensions to not require Second Presbyterian Church to pay vacancy dues on the newly vacated position of Associate Pastor (recently vacated by Rachel Shepherd in a temporary capacity and by Camille LeBron Powell in a called capacity), as this position is being eliminated.

□ The CCM approved TE Sarah Strong of Mid-South Presbytery as the Pulpit Supply of First Presbyterian Church of Marianna, Arkansas.

Necrology: TE Reinhold Schmidt, HR

Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Teaching Elder Reinhold Schmidt, Jr., 83, who died on April 18, 2016 in Townsend, MT. He was an honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of AR.

A native of Chicago, “Reiny” earned a MA from the University of KS., BD and Th. D from San Francisco Seminary where he was part-time faculty. He was ordained in 1963 in Salina, KS. He served churches in Missouri and Kansas and came to AR in 1978 as pastor of Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock. Later he served as interim pastor at St. Andrews, Little Rock and Central, Pine Bluff, before retiring in 1998. He later served as interim at First, Benton. He is gratefully remembered for establishing the Laurence E. Schmidt Counseling Center through the Vera Lloyd Home to minister to church professionals and other individuals in need of therapy. He served on this presbytery’s personnel committee and Committee on Ministry and with Presbyterian Family Services, after establishing the AR Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

At his request no memorial service was held, and his ashes were scattered near his home. He is survived by a son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren of Sherwood, AR.

**For Action:**

- 1. Motion to enroll TE E. W. “Bo” Lewis, honorably retired, upon dismissal from Sierra Blanca Presbytery.** Lewis was introduced and spoke to the commissioners about his third time to be a member of this presbytery. **Motion was approved.**
- 2. Motion to approve the call of TE Paul Fulks as pastor of First, Heber Springs, effective June 1, 2016, with the following terms of call:**

**Effective salary**

**Cash Salary           \$30,000**

**Housing Allowance   \$18,000**

**TOTAL   \$48,000**

**Reimbursable expenses (by voucher)**

**Continuing Education       \$1,200**

**Professional Expenses       \$1,200**

**Vision Insurance Provided, Paid vacation – 4 weeks, Paid Continuing Education – 2 weeks, Paid Parental Leave – 6 weeks, Sabbatical plan to be approved by CCM at end of five years of full time ministry. Motion was approved.**

**Report of the Committee on Leadership Development**

No report was given.

**Theological Discussion**

The topic for this meeting’s Theological Discussion, “What does the Bible mean to you?” was introduced by TE Falls. Speakers were TE Debra Carl Freeman, RE H. K. Stewart and RE and Certified Christian Educator NiAnn Thompson. Other speakers were then invited to the microphone for further comments.

Moderator Sellars called on TE Falls to pray God's blessings of the noon meal which was served in Fellowship Hall.

### **Presbytery Meeting Resumes**

Meeting resumed at 1:15 p.m. and it was announced that the offering during worship for United Campus Ministry at UofA, Fayetteville totaled \$1,375.

### **Report of the Administrative Commission for First, Siloam Springs**

TE Katie Cummings, member of the AC, reported on the history of the COM Task Force since 2014 related to the request for dismissal. (Full report in Appendix). The AC replaced the TF in October, 2015 and their work is documented in the report covering Jan. through May. The congregation chose the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to which to be dismissed. Those who wish to remain in the PC(USA) have been given attention and care.

**Motion that the Presbytery dismiss the First Presbyterian Church of Siloam Springs from the PC(USA) in order to be received by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. This dismissal is subject to the completion of all documents related to the financial settlement of \$250,000. Motion was approved.**

(This amount is appraised value of church property.) Pay period will extend from June 4, 2016 to June 4, 2021.

TE Breck Castleman, Siloam Springs pastor, spoke in appreciation of the work of the AC which has represented the presbytery well with respect and no adversarial feeling, been respectful of FPC and shown a spirit of mutual respect as the congregation moves to another denomination. He encourages consideration of using funds from the settlement for Hispanic NCD. Kelly Pearson asked about the relationship of TE Breck Castleman with presbytery. Castleman replied that he asked to be released to Evangelical PC and asked if a motion was appropriate now. Moderator referred him to CCM. Stated Clerk will work with him to take care of that process. TE Rebecca Spooner grieves the loss of the congregation and asks where the funds will be going. Cummings said the AC has not discussed this matter. Moderator and SC agreed that there is no policy, SC said funds will initially go into general fund. TE Cindy Saul thanked the commission and asked what will happen if the church defaults on debt and who retains the name of the church. Cummings answered that the church retains its name and that the default would not affect the presbytery. Sellars prayed for all involved in this departure. Spooner's motion will be received under New Business.

### **Report of the Administrative Commission for Woodlands, Hot Springs Village**

TE Frank LeBlanc, clerk of the AC, gave the report. The AC was elected on Sept. 21, 2015, met with Session of WPC on October 5, 2015, and LeBlanc reported congregational discontent had gone on a long time. The discernment was unilateral without presbytery involvement. Presbytery offer was rejected. Counter offer was offered on May 12, 2016. AC presented a counter offer in the neighborhood of the amount of Siloam Springs' offer of \$250,000. WPC noted the 2008 quitclaim deed. AC has consulted with the Stated Clerk and counsel.

**Motion is that the Presbytery DECLINE Woodlands Presbyterian Church's request to be dismissed to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church; and Reject as inadequate the financial offer of Woodlands Presbyterian Church in their letter of May 12, 2016, as set forth and direct the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Arkansas to correspond the presbytery's decision to the appropriate parties. Motion was approved.**

Falls asked what issues were causing these congregations to seek dismissal to EPC rather than to any other religious body. Castleman replied that either one would be compatible with his congregation, but ordination of women was an issue with some other denominations.

RE Ruth Hamilton, vice moderator, moderated the next portion of the meeting.

### **Report of the Committee on Nominations**

Committee Moderator TE Elizabeth Gabbard, First, Arkadelphia gave the report.

#### **For Information:**

The form to self-nominate or nominate someone from individual congregations is in packet and she invited nominations. (Section M (Forms and Registration Documents)).

1. **The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following persons to fill unexpired terms and begin service immediately:**
  1. **Ruling Elder Charlie Brown, Wynne Presbyterian (region 5), Committee on Church and Its Ministries, Class of 2018**
  2. **Teaching Elder Karen Akin, Second, Little Rock (region 3), Synod Commissioner, Class of 2017**
  3. **Ruling Marty Shepherd, First, Dardanelle (region 2), Committee on Church and Its Mission, Class of 2016. Vice Moderator called for nominations from the floor, and there were none. Nominees were elected.**
2. **The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following person:**

**Teaching Elder Leslie Bethell Roper, First, Batesville (region 4), Vice Moderator of Presbytery, Class of 2017.** Call for nominations from the floor yielded none. **Nominee was elected.**

### **Report of the Future of the Church Committee**

Committee moderator RE Leah Shell, Second, Little Rock, pointed out the written report which follows but gave no verbal report.

#### **For Information:**

The Future of the Church committee met on April 7, 2016. Committee duties were discussed in depth and subcommittees were formed. The following subcommittees now have title and members.

**Property:** This subcommittee deals with property like Chenal and the Crossover property in Fayetteville. This committee is also charged with maintaining property once congregations fold. Please reach out to either Leah Shell or Ted Belden with any questions pertaining to property issues.

**Visioning and Vitality.** This subcommittee is charged with reaching out to the congregations and ministries committee currently serve as well as to congregations who might need help in the future. Peg Falls-Corbitt is the chair of this subcommittee. Also serving with her are Steven Frazier and Suzanne Bethell.

**New Worshipping Communities:** This committee works with congregations and groups on new types of worshipping communities. Chairing this subcommittee is Anne Russ. Also serving on this committee are Anne Russ, Jeff Price, Dick Freer, Theresa Spragins and Mike Vinson.



**Community Resourcing:** This subcommittee works with congregations who are seeking support. Brian Brock is chairing this subcommittee. Some of the first work this subcommittee will be tackling is developing policies for grant requests.

**Branding and Technology:** This subcommittee is charged with using technology to lead change in organization work flow for ministries within this Presbytery. Chairing this subcommittee is Phil Blackburn. Also serving on this subcommittee is Becky Purcell.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to send 2 ministry members to serve on the presbytery Coordinating Team: Ted Belden (region 1) & Peg Falls-Corbitt (region 2).

Ted Belden made the committee aware of a conference in Irving, Texas on April 25th and 26th. The title of the conference is “The Presbyterian Church in A Changing Landscaping”

Transportation costs will be paid with Future of the Church Funds. Ted Belden and Becky Purcell attended this conference.

Several members of the Future of the Church continue working on Administrative Commissions. These commissions include Rogers, Pocahontas and Ozark. Anne Russ and Marie Mainard O’Connell are also serving on the Lonoke Commission, but have yet to meet.

Other old business from the former CC&D was discussed. The Chenal Property continues to be listed by Melanie Gibson at Colliers. Ted Belden will meet with agents in Fayetteville to begin the process of listing the Crossover Property.

Ted Belden will work on a worship service to celebrate the Gravette Congregation.

Brian Brock will work with the Van Buren Church to apply for a historic designation for their church. The hope is to have new sources of funding for some of the needed repairs.

Ted Belden made the committee aware of the Uncommon Worship at the Walnut Grove Church.

Ted made a motion to approve UCM’s adding liability-only insurance for Walnut Grove to the UCM policy, to be paid for through UCM’s grant funding. Motion was seconded and passed.

Committee meeting and reported ended.

### **Report of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area**

Committee Moderator RE Kelly Pearson, CRE First, Dardanelle gave the report.

#### **For Information:**

The Church and Its Mission Ministry-Area is off and running. As a hybrid of the former Mission Committee and portions of the Christian Education Committee, it thus far has been a process of reviewing the past ministries of these two and the new policies to ascertain the present. With God’s help they have begun to understand what the ministry-area is to be about in relation to the vision for the entire presbytery.

There have been two meetings for the Church & Its Mission: February 27th and May 3rd. There are eleven members, including the moderator. NiAnn Thompson of the presbytery staff is our resource. And her knowledge has been invaluable to this process of beginning anew.

The budget-items of the ministry-area have been reviewed. Some unpaid commitments from 2015 have been executed through the presbytery office. And there will be continued effort to establish priorities from the many needs in the mission and Christian education areas. And, of course, this takes place under the financial restraints placed upon all of the ministry-areas and work of the presbytery.

Arkansas Interfaith was sent its final support for 2015 to indicate the ministry area’s good-faith and the presbytery’s continued support to ecumenical relations.

The ministry-area immediately launched into examination of the covenanted partners and entities related to the Presbytery of Arkansas, seeking revisions of covenants (generally they are reviewed/revised every five-years); reports of activities and budgets, that are in turn relayed as reports to the presbytery. These partners and entities are: Presbyterian Women, Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center, the Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage (ARPP), the Honduras Ministry, the Presbytery Resource Center Advisory Board, and the Arkansas Black Presbyterian Caucus (ABPC).

As well, the Disaster Preparedness (and Response) Committee is the ministry area's single "permanent sub-committee." And the single major event supported is The P.L.A.C.E. For its third year, it will again be held at Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, on August 6, 2016. Kristi Button is the director of this year's event. All churches and all members are encouraged to participate.

Presently, the revised covenants of ARPP, ABPC, and Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center are before the presbytery for review and approval.

Future decisions and allocation of funds will regard such things as a Haiti mission-trip, allocations of the Centsability Offering, amidst the discernment of prioritizing former and new commitments.

The offering received at the June Presbytery Meeting shall go to the United Campus Ministry of the University of Arkansas. This will symbolize not only the moral support via the new Church and Its Mission Ministry-Area, since it no longer reports to this portion of the former Christian Education Committee, but to the support from the entire presbytery for UCM.

The upcoming meetings for this ministry-area will be July 14th, 10:00, at the presbytery office conference room; and, November 1st, 10:00, with the meeting location undecided.

The Church and Its Mission ministry-area invites you to pray for its discernment on how best to serve God among so many opportunities and with decreasing budgets.

**For Presbytery Action:**

**1. That the presbytery approve the reviewed and revised covenant between the Presbytery of Arkansas and the Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center (below).** This was on page 27 of the original packet. **Covenant was approved.**

**2. That the presbytery approve the reviewed and revised covenant between the Arkansas Black Presbyterian Caucus and Presbytery of Arkansas (below).** This was on page 33 of the original packet. **Covenant was approved.**

**3. That the presbytery approve the reviewed and revised covenant between the Presbytery of Arkansas and the Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage (below).** This was on page 30 of the original packet. **Covenant was approved.**

**COVENANT BETWEEN FERNCLIFF CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER  
AND  
THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS**

*(revised June 2016)*

**Nature of the Covenant**

The covenant is a traditional document honored by people of faith. It represents a continuing agreement between Ferncliff and the Presbytery of Arkansas to affirm and support one another as

distinct entities yoked in mutual mission. This covenant articulates commitments from and to each organization and seeks to perpetuate the good relations currently enjoyed. It is the hope of both parties that this document of faith will serve to bring even greater effectiveness and esteem to a positive and growing relationship.

### **Agencies in the Covenant**

The agencies involved in this covenant agreement are the Presbytery of Arkansas PC(USA) and Ferncliff Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center represented by the Ferncliff Board of Directors.

### **Mission of the Agencies**

The vision of the Presbytery of Arkansas is “to make visible the body of Christ. Called by Christ, we share the promise of our baptism and the hope of God’s coming realm. The Presbytery of Arkansas seeks to make visible the body of Christ in Word and Sacrament, through teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer and acts of compassion. Trusting the Holy Spirit’s guidance, we work to order our life together with glad and generous hearts.”

The mission of Ferncliff is “to make a positive impact in the world by opening eyes, minds, and hearts to God’s transforming love.”

### **History of the Relationship**

In 1937 Ferncliff was purchased by a group Presbyterians ‘for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church in Arkansas.’ Through the years Ferncliff has been gradually developed into a camp and conference facility of service to Presbyterians in ministry and mission. With 1,209 acres, Ferncliff is one of the largest sites among the denomination’s 122 camps. In 1976 Presbytery voted to transfer title to the Presbyterian Foundation of Arkansas. In 1983 a long-term lease (99 years) was established between the Foundation and Ferncliff’s Board of Directors.

### **Governance**

The reorganized Ferncliff Board of Directors, a 501(c)3 non-profit, had their first meeting in 1985. Ferncliff’s Board is comprised of 18 members in three classes. The Board elects its members, paying attention to diversity and representation, and with an eye to bringing together the gifts and talents to effectively manage such a significant asset and diverse program. New members are brought to the Presbytery for approval. At least one member of the Ferncliff Board shall also be serving concurrently as a member of the Board of the Presbyterian Foundation of Arkansas that holds title to the Ferncliff property. The General Presbyter is an ex officio member.

Ferncliff’s minutes are sent to the Coordinating Team and regular reports given to the Church and Its Mission Ministry Area.

### **Commitments to One Another**

In order to nourish this covenant, there is a mutual commitment to active and open communication.

#### Presbytery’s Commitment to Ferncliff

1. The Presbytery understands that Ferncliff, like virtually all Presbyterian camps and conference centers, needs the financial support of the Presbytery, its churches and laypersons. Facilities, staffing and programs at Ferncliff will be considered among the priorities in the Presbytery annual budget.
2. The Presbytery and its professional staff will actively encourage and promote the use of Ferncliff by its churches, committees, adults and youth. In selecting locations for camps, conferences, retreats and meetings, the Presbytery will look to give preference to Ferncliff while

maintaining the need for responsible financial stewardship and constituency concerns. This covenant document will be shared with new ministers and Christian Educators in their orientation to the Presbytery.

3. The Presbytery commits itself to prayer and spiritual support for the staff and programs of Ferncliff.

4. While Ferncliff is host site for events, it is also a valued partner in mission and the Presbytery commits itself to considering Ferncliff in strategic plans and visioning.

#### Ferncliff's Commitment to the Presbytery

1. Ferncliff commits to viewing the Presbytery (its churches, committees, laypeople, educators, ministers) as its primary constituency. In scheduling facilities, setting rates and selecting programs, Ferncliff will look to give preference to Presbyterians while balancing the need for financial sustainability, ecumenical relations and mission opportunities.

2. Ferncliff will seek to be a good steward of those material and natural resources entrusted to it. It will aim to be transparent in disclosing its finances and all decisions with regular reports to Presbytery and minutes available on request.

3. Ferncliff will work collaboratively with Presbytery, committees, staff and church professionals. Among services presently offered are one free weekend or two free nights annually to all ministers and Christian Education professionals for rest and relaxation; a pool of scholarship funds for campers needing financial assistance; a reduced rate to congregations of the presbytery, and to the presbytery and its committees; complimentary rooms for Presbyterians needing short term respite accommodations or attending to family members in hospitals.

4. Ferncliff will work to honor the denominational commitment to issues such as diversity, inclusiveness, peacemaking, sound ecological principles and social justice

5. Ferncliff is committed to connectionalism among other camps and conference centers. It will continue as an active participant in the Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center Association (PCCCA) and will meet the accreditation standards of the American Camp Association.

#### **Schedule for Reviewing the Covenant**

The Presbytery of Arkansas and the Ferncliff Board of Directors will appoint two members each to work with the Ferncliff Executive Director and the General Presbyter no less often than every five years to review this covenant and make recommendations concerning the reformation of the covenant relationship.

#### **Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage Program Covenant**

#### **The Relationship of Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage to the Presbytery of Arkansas**

**Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage (ARPP)** is a lay led Spiritual Renewal Program Certified by the National Council of Presbyterian Fourth Day Movements. By virtue of this Certification and through this relationship, ARPP is guided and authorized to utilize the procedures and methodology of the Presbyterian Pilgrimage Program which have been modified to be consistent with the tenets of the Reformed Faith as interpreted by the Presbyterian Church (USA). ARPP is one of 24 such Presbyterian Programs in the USA. The ARPP Council is under the care of the

Committee on the Church and Its Mission of the Presbytery of Arkansas for the purpose of support and accountability.

“Presbyterian Pilgrimage” is a “short course” in living the Christian Faith and is available to those who, as a part of their spiritual “journey”, are seeking an opportunity for renewal and growth in that “journey”. The initial phase of the Program is a three-day Pilgrimage Weekend which seeks to provide Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) members, those associated with the Presbyterian Church and committed Christians an opportunity to experience a closer and more personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, discussion, music, and just plain fun, participants in the Program are provided with the opportunity to explore and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. This normally deepens their faith, heightens their joy, and invigorates their life in Christ, expanding and deepening their leadership roles in the church. The Weekend is only the beginning as the experience becomes a part of the participant’s life. In the second phase, the participants return to their environments with a new perspective and enthusiasm for expanded Christian action in their family, their local congregation, and their community. The Program also encourages participants to participate in weekly meetings of small informal groups where they support each other as they daily strive to live the Christian life and to continue growing in their spiritual “journey”. The combination of the Weekend experience and the continuing supportive relationship between those who have participated motivates them to share this new relationship with Christ with those around them and to do so in a non-threatening way.

**The Vision of Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage:**

ARPP seeks to glorify God through its programs and activities, which are guided by the Great Commission of our Lord, Jesus Christ “to proclaim the Gospel” of God’s grace and to encourage those who have participated to daily live the Christian life set by Christ’s example.

**The Mission of Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage:**

ARPP exists to make the Presbyterian Pilgrimage Program available to members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), those associated with the Presbyterian Church and committed Christians. The Pilgrimage Program is an intentional presentation and proclamation of the Gospel, providing the opportunity for participants to develop a greater consciousness and to generate a deliberate awareness of the presence of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in their lives at all times. The Program also provides them with support mechanisms for the conscious and deliberate living of the Christian faith daily, according to the example of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**How ARPP’s Mission helps the Presbytery fulfill its vision:**

The Presbyterian Pilgrimage Program is uniquely designed and has demonstrated its ability to generate enthusiastic leaders for Christ and the church. As such, it is uniquely capable of supporting the Presbytery of Arkansas in the accomplishment of its Vision.

*"The vision of the Presbytery of Arkansas is to make visible the body of Christ. Called by Christ, we share the promise of our baptism and the hope of God's coming realm. The Presbytery of Arkansas seeks to make visible the body of Christ in Word and sacrament, through teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer and acts of compassion. Trusting the Holy Spirit's guidance, we work to order our life together with glad and generous hearts."*

**ARPP’S Commitment to the Presbytery of Arkansas**

Under the care of the Committee on the Church and Its Mission, ARPP is prepared to make the Presbyterian Pilgrimage Program available to all individuals who are members of the

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), those associated with the Presbyterian Church and committed Christians within the area covered by the Presbytery of Arkansas, as well as to those from other Presbyteries. The activities that ARPP would endeavor to provide under this Covenant would include:

1. To offer one or more weekends per year guided by the Cursillo Model that has been adopted by the National Council of Presbyterian Fourth Day Movements and is under their oversight.
2. To be guided by the National By-Laws, as well as the ARPP By-Laws which have been approved by the "Community" of participants (includes both lay and clergy participants) who have experienced a Weekend. This includes governance by a Council of up to 13 lay members, as elected by the ARPP Community.
3. To provide full or partial scholarships (except Registration Fee) to all who are guided by the Holy Spirit to participate in the Program, but unable to cover the cost of the Weekend. (The implementation of this scholarship program will be dependent on ARPP's ability to raise the necessary funds through private donations, church donations and scholarships, private scholarships, and funding from the Presbytery of Arkansas.)
4. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to administer, through the ARPP Council, the Weekend Programs and the support activities for the Community. This will include selection of lay Moderators to guide the Weekends and those who are led by the Holy Spirit to "staff" Weekends, the encouragement of members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), those associated with the Presbyterian Church and committed Christians to participate in Weekends as they may be guided by the Holy Spirit to do so, to conduct the fund raising activities needed to provide scholarships and cover costs not recovered in fees, and to guide and support those other activities which are consistent with the Presbyterian Pilgrimage Program.
5. Through the support programs, to encourage continued study, prayer, worship, and the seeking of the guidance of the Holy Spirit as those who have participated seek to live and share the Christian life in their local environments.
6. That annually, ARPP will request of the Presbytery, the authorization for Presbyterian pastors to serve Communion at ARPP Weekends and during other appropriate activities for the succeeding Calendar Year. The request will come through the Committee on the Church and Its Mission and the Coordinating Team.
7. The ARPP Council will report at least annually of its activities and plans to the Committee on the Church and Its Mission or more frequently if requested.

### **Presbytery of Arkansas Commitments to ARPP**

The Presbytery will support ARPP in the implementation of its Presbyterian Pilgrimage Program in Arkansas. As such, the Presbytery of Arkansas would:

1. Recognize the Presbyterian Pilgrimage Program as one of the vehicles through which the Presbytery can achieve its Vision.
2. That ARPP can utilize the Banner, Presbytery Packets, the Presbytery Web Site, and other Presbytery communications vehicles (as approved by the editor or others responsible for those communications vehicles).
3. That, subject to periodic review by the Presbytery, ARPP would be granted permission to serve Communion (utilizing Teaching Elders) at official functions.
4. That the Presbytery would, to the extent possible, support ARPP financially.

**Reviewing and Refining the Relationship**

The Presbytery and the Coordinating Team Chair through the Committee on the Church and Its Mission will meet no less often than every five years to review this covenant and make recommendations concerning the reformation of the covenant relationship.

**Report of the Arkansas Black Presbyterian Caucus**

TE Joy Carrington, Hopewell, Morrilton gave the report, pointing out their budget and calendar.

**Covenant Between**

**The Arkansas Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus and  
The Presbytery of Arkansas**

The Arkansas Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, hereafter called A.B.P.C., hereby covenants with the Presbytery of Arkansas to work toward the overall enhancement of the Black Presbyterian congregations within the Presbytery (and State of Arkansas) through revitalization/redevelopment programming. With a cooperative effort of both parties, resources of people and funding, these churches will require less financial assistance from Presbytery, experience numerical and spiritual growth, become equipped to do more effective ministry, become a financial and resource asset to the Presbytery, develop lay and clergy leadership, and become more involved in the Presbytery's mission and ministry.

In order to make this covenant effective, both parties commit to the following:

**A.B.P.C. Commits to:**

- 1) Encourage each participating church to agree to and participate in A.B.P.C. revitalization/redevelopment, leader training development programs. Also to fulfill their overall commitments to Presbytery by becoming less dependent on financial assistance from Presbytery and more involved in the mission and ministry of Presbytery.
- 2) Encourage each participating church to follow through on all assignments made by the former Revitalization/Redevelopment Consultant.
- 3) Work with Presbytery in participating in events sponsored by PC(USA) governing bodies that promote leader training and development.
- 4) Report at a Stated Presbytery Meeting the status of A.B.P.C.
- 5) Provide Presbytery by way of The Church and Its Mission Ministry Area a schedule of events, seminars, etc. of A.B.P.C.
- 6) Forward Minutes and Financial Reports to the Presbytery by way of The Church and Its Mission Ministry Area.

**The Presbytery of Arkansas Commits to:**

- 1) Provide appropriate resources of people, materials, and funding within its budget to assist in the revitalization/redevelopment of A.B.P.C. churches within the Presbytery.
- 2) Appoint a representative to attend A.B.P.C. meetings to better understand and support its ministry and mission.
- 3) Provide for dialogue between A.B.P.C. representatives and appropriate Presbytery staff.
- 4) Provide opportunity for an A.B.P.C. representative to make a progress report during a Stated Presbytery Meeting and set up a display of A.B.P.C. activities as needed.

- 5) Encourage all A.B.P.C. pastors and churches to take an active role in implementing their commitment to Presbytery.
  - 6) Recognize and affirm A.B.P.C. as a vital entity of The Presbytery of Arkansas and include their scheduled events on the Presbytery Calendar.
- Both parties covenant to review this relationship no less than every five years on or about the anniversary of its past review and approval.

### **Arkansas Black Presbyterian Caucus Calendar 2016**

March 17 ABPC Board Meeting Conference Call at 7pm  
March 25 Good Friday Services Faith Presbyterian Church Pine Bluff at 6pm  
May 5 ABPC Board Meeting Conference Call 7pm  
June 11 Youth Extravaganza Held in Arkadelphia 9am-3pm  
July National Black Presbyterian Conference TBD  
October 1 ABPC Board Meeting Holmes Chapel Monticello at 10am  
December 11 Annual Yuletide Musical Allison Presbyterian Church Little Rock at 4pm

### **Presbytery Sponsored Youth Camps**

April 1-3 Sr. High Youthquake Ferncliff Camp  
July 3-7 Junior High Jubilee  
July 7-10 Multi-Cultural Youth Conference  
July 9-14 Junior High Jubilee- Session II Mo Ranch  
July 23-30 Montreat Youth Conference (entering 9th grade to graduated 12th grade)

### **Report of the Arkansas Presbytery Presbyterian Women**

RE Jeanne Lloyd, Second, LR, moderator of AR PW, sent in the report which follows:

#### **APRIL 2015 – APRIL 2016 ANNUAL REPORT MAY 18, 2016**

A BIG THANK YOU to the Presbytery of Arkansas for its generous grant to the Presbyterian Women (PW) of the Presbytery of Arkansas, allowing the Arkansas PW to continue their many local, national and international ministries. The PWs of Arkansas Presbytery have maintained an impressive history of giving, not only financially, but in the dedication of their time and talents to further the commitment of Presbyterian Women throughout the world, a history that began in the early 1800s when the first Presbyterian women's "group" defied societal and church conventions to become its own "organization." The PW Birthday Offering (first in 1922) and the Thank Offering (first in 1888) are two examples of the impact Presbyterian Women have made in creating new and existing ministry projects around the world, that continue to this day. Presbyterian Women began the 2015/2016 year with their 2015 Spring Coordinating Team meeting, conducted by Betty Glenn, Moderator, on Friday, April 10, at the Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Little Rock, Arkansas. The Spring Gathering followed on April 11, 2015, at First Presbyterian Church in Conway, Arkansas, assisted by the Mount Vernon Church in Pea Ridge, Arkansas. The theme for the gathering was "Refuse to Do Nothing." The Reverend Becky Purcell, Pastor of Prairie Grove Presbyterian Church, led the worship, and the Mission Speaker was the Reverend Kathy Reeves, Mission Associate, PWPCUSA, who focused her presentation on Opportunities for Mission work with an emphasis on Human Trafficking. The Horizons Bible Study overview leader was Jen Bluestein. Other participants were Rev. Dr. Leslie Belden, who



spoke about Honduras; Liz Branch, who spoke on Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and the PW-PDA collaboration on Preparedness Training; and Karene Jones, Treasurer for the PWPCT, who spoke on how our PW pledge money is used, an update from the PW Churchwide Gathering, and led a workshop on Officer Training. Officers for the 2016/2017 term were installed.

Cluster 1 held their 2015 Fall Gathering on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015, at First Presbyterian Church in Rogers, Arkansas. Cluster 2 churches also participated in this gathering. Worship was led by Rev. Becky Purcell and Jen Bluestein led an overview of the 2015-2016 Horizon Study Come to the Waters by Rev. Judy Record Fletcher. A presentation on the mission in Honduras was led by Leigh Woodruff Harvey and her mom, Marsha Woodruff.

Cluster 4 held their 2015 Fall Gathering at Wynne Presbyterian Church in Wynne, Arkansas, on September 19. Worship was led by the Rev. Mike McCracken and the Bible Study Overview, "COME TO THE WATERS" was led by the Rev. Liz Lindsey. The Mission speaker, the Rev. Ann Hagler, presented a program on the Community of St. Therese of Lisieux (CSTL)—one of the recipients of the PW Birthday Offering in 2015. CSTL provides support and education to women who have survived lives of prostitution, trafficking, addiction, and life on the streets. The thirty-three in attendance included Cluster 3 PW ladies from Jonesboro.

Cluster 5 held their Fall Gathering at First Presbyterian Church in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Worship leader was Reverend Marci Ward, former pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Clarksville, Arkansas. Mary Beth Lysobey reported the following: "We hand-delivered over \$4500 to our Carpathian team to maintain and supply needed parts to the 12 completed projects. The water systems are all working and being used. The people of each village send their thanks for this continued blessing in a bleak time for Ukraine. Vinsa and Ibolya, the minister and wife who were at the 2009 Churchwide Gathering are still alive, but Krisztina, who had her Master's degree said he was, unfortunately, not their minister at the village of Kigyos now. I have asked for more info and hopefully will receive it before our synod CT meeting."

Cluster 6 held their Fall Gathering on November 7 at Central Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Cluster 7 joined Clarksville's Tablearama in place of a Fall Gathering this year.

Cluster 9 held their 2015 Fall Gathering on September 26 at Westover Hills Presbyterian Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. Rev. Marie Mainard O'Connell, Young Adult Volunteer Site Coordinator for Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, led the group in worship in a beautiful service on baptism. The Rev. Sally Johnson led an overview of the Bible study, "Come to the Waters."

The 2015 fall PWPCT meeting was held at the Arkansas Presbytery Office in Little Rock on October 1, 2015. After the customary welcome and opening, the Christ Candle was lighted signifying the presence of Christ at this meeting. Susan Heily shared her experience in being a member of Mission United to Stop Trafficking (MUST), a group working to bring issues involving human trafficking to the legislature and publicizing the need for more public awareness of the human trafficking escalating problems in Central Arkansas. Conversation followed on involvement already in place by PW groups in assisting the F.B.I. and Little Rock Police Dept. with donations to help the victims of trafficking get medical help, food, clothing and other needed items.

The PWPCT met at 2:00 p.m. on April 15 at FPC in Bentonville, Arkansas. Jeanne Lloyd, Moderator, called the meeting to order. Cathy Rogers lit the Christ Candle signifying the presence of Christ at this meeting. Jeanne Lloyd gave the devotion, the agenda was approved as distributed, and the minutes of the October 1, 2015 Coordinating Team meeting were approved. The Rev. Robert Lowry spoke on “Semper Reformanda: Reforming as Adapting in a Changed Church,” and noted that we are experiencing a cultural change in the life of the church similar in significance to the Protestant Reformation.

The PWPCT Treasurer, Karene Jones, distributed the following report on PW money from the Presbytery Budget, which has been used thus far in 2016:

Funds which passed through the PW Presbytery Treasurer included the following:

Mission to Churchwide \$10,107.30

Mission to Synod 2,400.00

Thank Offering 8,733.00

Birthday Offering 10,470.10

Honorary Life Memberships 1,140

Least Coin 1,629.26

Memorial 25.00

Honorarium 75.00

**TOTAL \$34,579.66**

Wider Church Mission

Conway Cradle Care \$1,833.00

Goodland Home 215.00

Vera Lloyd Home 215.00

Centsability 823.92

Historical Society 15.00

Evergreen Home & Services 15.00

**TOTAL \$4,117.00**

**TOTAL GIVING for 2015 \$37,696.66**

Financial books for 2015 have been audited and found to be in order. The CT voted to continue to send \$2,400 per year to Synod PW.

The Historian’s report was given by Kathy White, and the Mission report given by Maryann Sweeney. The CT discussed potential divisions of churches among the clusters/regions, and it was noted that five Presbytery Divisions are called “Regions” and do not have the same dividing lines as the five PW clusters.

Dates for the 2017 PWPCT meeting and Spring Gathering will be at FPC, Hot Springs, on April 21 and 22.

Karene Jones led a Cluster Leader Training Workshop during the dinner hour. The Christ Candle was extinguished and Jeanne Lloyd closed the meeting with prayer.

The 2016 Spring Gathering was held at FPC in Bentonville on April 16, at 9:30 a.m. The attendees were welcomed by Ila Blackketter-Wolfe and Cathy Rogers, Co-Moderators of the PWPCT, and who also Co-Chaired the Gathering. The theme for the Spring Gathering was “Rejoice, Renew, Restore.” Opening worship was led by Rev. Katie Cummings, pastor of FPC Bentonville, Rev. Georgia Senor, Assoc. Pastor at FPC Bentonville, Rev. Laura Fleetwood, HR, Rev. Jan Butin and Rev. Susan Gray. The mission offering was donated to the food pantry of

FPC, Bentonville, and In-Gathering donations of clothing, Wal-Mart gift or gas cards were given to the NW Arkansas Women's Shelter.

There were 18 churches represented from Arkansas, three churches from Texas and one church from Missouri. A total of 122 ladies were in attendance.

Jeanne Lloyd introduced the Keynote Speaker, Joy Durrant, Synod of the Sun PW Moderator, who spoke on Presbyterian Women serving beyond the Presbytery. Reports were made by Maryann Sweeney, Mission/Peace/Justice Coordinator, on current projects; Mary Beth Lysobey on the Carpathian Water Project; and Rev. Dr. Leslie Belden on the Honduras Mission project. Minute Announcements were made by Rev. Dr. Rose E. Niles, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Development Officer; Melissa Hendricks on Vera Lloyd Pink Hat Day; Karene Jones, PWPCT Treasurer's Report; and Betty Jean Moore, Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Election and installation of the 2016-2017 PWP Coordinating Team was conducted by Rev. Georgia Senor.

The PWPCT will meet next at the Presbytery Office in Little Rock on October 10, at 10:00 a.m. The 2017 PWPCT and Gathering will meet at FPC, Hot Springs, on April 21 and 22.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Lloyd, Moderator, Arkansas PWP

Continuing the committee's report, Ronda Sanders reported on merger of AR Foodbank and AR Rice Depot, a ministry supported by this committee. TE Gordon Garlington is on the board. New name is AR Foodbank but new logo is for former AR Rice Depot.

TE Joy Carrington spoke on AR Black Presbyterian Caucus, their calendar and budget.

Committee member RE Emily Laurel spoke on The PLACE educational event on August 6 at Second, LR. She drew attention to this opportunity for workshops. There are 7 workshops in each of the three time slots. Pearson noted the deadline to register is July 27. Leadership for 2017 is needed, and online registration is encouraged.

### **Report of the Synod of the Sun**

Commissioner to Synod RE Emily Laurel, First Benton gave the report on the Synod's Leadership Forum. Following is the text of her report:

The report consists of two parts: First, our 2016 Video Project, which we are calling "If it's worth doing, it's worth sharing," and, second, I'll provide an update on the Synod's grants and scholarships commission activities.

#### **The Communications Subcommittee's Continuing Effort to Bring Mission to Life**

We continue our effort to bring practical and up-to-date ways to facilitate connecting, equipping, and empowering the people of our synod. The work of the Communication Subcommittee of the Stewardship Committee is an important component of this effort.

Since the Communication Subcommittee began its work, we have sponsored two video challenges, and it is now my pleasure to tell you about our project for 2016, "If it's worth doing, it's worth sharing."

This project not only creates new ways to provide additional funds to congregations and presbyteries for mission activities, but also it will add videos for the Synod Video Bank on our YouTube channel, SynodSunPCUSA. An important reason for sponsoring the 2016 project is to

encourage the sharing of mission or ministry activities that will inspire others. Here is part of our announcement:

**If It's Worth Doing, It's Worth Sharing**

Are there good, innovative, inspiring, Spirit-filled ministries happening in your congregation or presbytery? If so, the Synod of the Sun would like you to share it. We want to celebrate what the Holy Spirit is accomplishing in the life of our synod with you, the people of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

We hope that your videos will help inspire, encourage, and invite others to develop their own similar ministries; and where these similar ministries already exist, that you connect with one another to share ideas and issues in a way that will enable us to further develop these ministries. Videos are intended to be made available to the public for view on the Synod of the Sun's YouTube Channel, "SynodSunPCUSA" (*don't wait, subscribe now*).

Videos should be creative, informative, and under 3 minutes. Those submitted before September 15, 2016, will be eligible for an award in our 2016 "If it's worth doing, it's worth sharing" project. Videos must be submitted to Synod of the Sun Video Entry, 6100 Colwell Blvd., Suite 200, Irving, TX 75039. The application and related information are available on the synod's website, [synodsun.org](http://synodsun.org).

**Synod Grants and Scholarships Commission Serves the People of the Presbytery of Arkansas**

As moderator of the Synod Grants and Scholarships Commission, I see the benefits the people of our presbytery are reaping as a result of the investments Synod is making in mission and ministry. In February I reported to you that the commission approved \$5,000 for a program called "Dignity through Technology" for Presbyterian Village, \$2,500 for First Presbyterian's Seventh Street Elementary Food Program in Little Rock, and \$4,000 for Lyon College's mission trip to Romania. So you can see how valuable this resource is in obtaining funding for projects that support the mission and ministry of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

The next meeting of the Synod Grants and Scholarships Commission is scheduled for Thursday, July 14, 2016. Meanwhile, our summer sub-group is actively working with the applications of many young people planning their summer trips to places such as the 2016 Triennium at Purdue University in Indiana, Synod Youth Workshop, or MO Ranch.

It is important that Synod coordinate with the congregations and the Presbytery of Arkansas in considering applications for scholarships and grants. We will be exploring the best ways to manage our resources to optimize opportunities for members of our presbytery while managing our collective resources responsibly.

Meanwhile, I urge you to visit the Synod's website to familiarize yourselves with the Synod's most recent listing of grant and scholarship availability.

**Report of the Youth, Campus, and Young Adult Ministry Area**

Committee moderator RE Mary Shaw, First, Springdale gave the report. She spoke of the work on the new committee and their consultation with Professor Rodger Nishioka.

**For Information:**

Draft Minutes

April 16, 2016

In attendance were: Mary Shaw, Robert Lowry, Leslie Roper, Britton Varn, Nora Johnson, Susan Rose, Ray McCalla, Stewart Smith, Bill Seitz, Donna Ellison, Justin Clark, and Ashley Clark.

Mary Shaw opened our meeting with prayer. Bill Seitz was elected co-moderator.

The committee then had a “question and answer” time regarding the ministry and committee duties. There was discussion on whether we should change the membership requirements, specifically the wording that requires campus ministries to be UKirk sanctioned. After discussion on campus ministry programs and research into what it requires to be UKirk sanctioned Leslie Roper made a motion to change the language in membership requirements from:

**Original Statement:** “Three members from each of the five regions of the presbytery shall be elected for a three-year term. Additionally, one member from each UKirk sanctioned campus ministry or congregation-based ministry within the bounds of the presbytery may elect one member with voice and vote. Two members of the permanent sub-committee on Youth Ministry shall be appointed to serve with voice and vote.”

**Proposed Change:** “Three members from each of the five regions of the presbytery shall be elected for a three-year term. Additionally, one member *from each UKirk registered* campus ministry or congregation-based ministry within the bounds of the presbytery may elect one member with voice and vote. Two members of the permanent sub-committee on Youth Ministry shall be appointed to serve with voice and vote.”

Susan Rose seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. There was also discussion on the committee’s desire to ultimately have college and young adult advisory teams similar to the Youth Advisory Team. Susan Rose volunteered to start and head a college advisory team. Ashley Clark volunteered to help with that. Mary Shaw, Donna Ellison and Leslie Roper agreed to start looking into young adult ministry and what some possible options for that might be.

Next, we began to brainstorm possible ways of reaching and connecting with college and young adults. Suggestions included:

- YAV’s at Ferncliff
- Use young adults already in the presbytery to guide us

Unanimously, we agreed that building relationships was key to any program development. Britton Varn will email the youth leaders throughout the presbytery asking them to enter information such as name and college for graduating seniors. This will at least give us a starting point.

The committee has been asked to send two members to serve on the Presbytery Coordinating Team. Justin Clark and Leslie Roper volunteered to serve on the CT.

Ray McCalla closed meeting with prayer.

**For Action:**

**1. That the presbytery amend the Organization and Structure as follows:**

**a. Delete from 5.E.1 Membership “...one member from each UKirk sanctioned campus ministry...”**

**b. Add to 5.E.1 Membership “...one member from each UKirk registered campus ministry...”**

**c. Delete from 5.E.3.b “UKirk sanctioned”**

**d. Add to 5.E.3.b “UKirk registered”**

**e. Rationale: UKirk, the PC(USA) campus ministry office, has changed its process for recognizing campus ministries. This change reflects the change at the national level.**

*f. NB: Original referral corrected by the Stated Clerk to reflect text of final Organization and Structure document. Motion was approved.*

Moderator resumed duties. He prayed for Woodlands, Hot Springs Village and the presbytery.

### **Committee on Representation**

2016 Statistical Report

Report to 132nd Stated Meeting of Presbytery--June 4, 2016

Revised 4/20/16

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. **48 of the 86 congregations in the presbytery (56%) submitted statistical reports** to General Assembly for 2015 by the deadline so comparison of ages, genders, races, and disabilities to those elected to serve is more accurately done this year than last year when fewer churches reported. (We commend the churches and the Stated Clerk for this improvement which COR requested last year.)

The Presbytery's Committee on Representation met by conference call on April 14, 2016 with a quorum present of 6 of the 8 voting members and examined the following statistics:

1) **Number of persons elected** and serving Presbytery as of March 1, 2016: **193**. Active members reported by those churches which actually reported to G.A. by deadline totaled 12,472 and grand total of 13,247 adherents, including baptized (not confirmed) and other participants for the presbytery.

Persons counted as elected have been nominated by the Committee on Nominations and approved by presbytery or nominated to commissions by committees as officers, members of committees or commissions of the Presbytery or to fulfill specific tasks of the Presbytery. (Ferncliff Board and Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team, self-perpetuating groups; Youth Advisory Team, filled by application process; and all subcommittees which are populated by invitation are not included.)

Nine (9) administrative commissions, one task force, and one support committee (for the General Presbyter) are in place this year as compared to two ACs and two search committees this time last year.

This number (193) includes thirty-nine (**39**) **persons who serve in more than one position**; they are counted multiple times –once for each chair they fill. (This number of people serving in multiple positions (39) is sadly a major increase from last year's twenty (20) persons in dual or more roles. There are 140 different people participating, 25 fewer than last year, due to restructuring.)

2) **Number of different churches represented by persons elected: 60 of 86 churches**

(This is four fewer than participated last year. However, one committee [Ministries with youth, campus and young adults] is awaiting representatives of UKirks and congregation-based campus ministries to be appointed so this number may improve. Nine administrative commissions are also working with 8 churches at their request, and some of these are struggling churches which may be dissolved in the future.)

**70% of churches within the presbytery bounds are participating** in the work of the Presbytery.

□ Persons counted above in more than one position include eighteen (18) active Teaching Elders, eighteen (18) Ruling Elders and three (3) laypeople.

**26 churches** that do not have any staff or members serving (two more than last year) are as follows, followed by region numbers and AC (administrative commission):

- a) Amity, Alpine (Region 2)
- b) Arkadelphia, West End (2)
- c) Cane Hill (1) --AC
- d) Elkins (1)
- e) Eureka Springs, First (1)
- f) Fairfield Bay, Kirk of the Hills (4)
- g) Fayetteville, Mount Comfort (1)
- h) Gamaliel, 101 (4)
- i) Gravette, First (1) --AC
- j) Gurdon, First (2)
- k) Helena, First (5)
- l) Holiday Island (1)
- m) Horseshoe Bend, Faith (4)
- n) Hot Springs Village, Woodlands (2) --AC
- o) Little Rock, Grace (3)
- p) Marianna, First (5)
- q) McGehee, First (5)
- r) Mountainburg (2)
- s) Ozark, First (2) --AC
- t) Paragould, First (5)
- u) Pocahontas, First (5) --AC
- v) Stuttgart, First (5)
- w) Walnut Ridge, First (5)
- x) West Helena, Cleburne Avenue (5)
- y) Yellville, First (4)

Note: Five (5) of the above churches are under Administrative Commissions and may be dissolved or dismissed. Seven of the churches above are pastor-less.

3) **Age Groups:** There was a slight decrease in the 25 and under and the 26-35 age group from previous years but an increase in those age 36-55--**63% of the elected persons, 4% less than last year, are age 56 or older.**

(Observation: The Youth Advisory Team, a 40-member subcommittee of presbytery's Committee on Ministries with Youth, Campus and Young Adults comprised predominately of young adults and youth, is not in this count since subcommittees are appointed, not elected. YAT is, however, invited to submit names to Committee on Nominations.)

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

25 & Under	4	3%	12%
26 -35	9	6%	17%
36 -55	42	30%	13%
56 -64	38	27%	17%
65 and Up	47	34%	41%

4) **Genders** of persons and percentage of elected group (There is no change from last two years' percentages of 49% male and 51% female)

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

Male 69 49% of those elected and 44% of reported members

Female 71 51% of those elected and 56% of reported members

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 5 4% (1% more than last year) 1%

Caucasian/White 133 95% (1% less than last year) 97%

Hispanic 2 1% (Same as last year) 2% all other ethnicities

Asian, Native American, Middle Eastern, African 0 combined

**(Note: Of the presbytery's churches that did report to General Assembly earlier this year**

**about their 2015 statistics, racial ethnic breakdown included: Asian, Middle Eastern,**

**Native American, White, Black/African American, African, Other, and Hispanic)**

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

Ordination # Persons % of Total Elected Group

Teaching Elder 54 39% (3% less than last year)

Ruling Elder 77 55% (3% more than last year)

Non ruling elders (deacons or members) 9 6% (same as last year)

7) Number of persons with **Disabilities** who are elected

This category is defined as hearing, sight, and mobility.

**Nine (9) persons** elected to serve reported themselves as having a disability: 4 related to hearing, 4 to mobility, and 1 to sight. This is 6% of the people elected.

Comparison to disabilities reported by local churches: 1256, 9% 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. Presbytery figures are those who self-identify as dealing with a disability.)

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

1) More churches should report their correct statistics by the deadline since only having 56% report makes comparison a challenge. Stated Clerk is to be commended for diligent efforts to encourage timely reporting and is encouraged to use some or all of these tactics: continue to contact this year's non-reporting churches to report next year, move presbytery reporting deadline to earlier date, impart reasons why the statistics are so important and needed by announcing at presbytery meetings, involve pastors in this process, offer a workshop on statistical reports at The PLACE, allow churches to send in hardcopy report for Stated Clerk to input electronically since some clerks or ruling elders may be uncomfortable inputting data.

2) Committee on Nominations has done a good job in this, the first year of restructuring, in abiding by the mandates for regions, parity and representation set forth in the new documents.

3) Committee on Representation is grateful to all teaching elders, ruling elders and laity who stand for election.

#### **Recommendations from Committee on Representation to Committee on Nominations for latter's work in 2016:**



- 1) **Encourage the participation of the youngest age group, age 25 and younger, in the work of the presbytery. One way to accomplish this was modeled by COR who contacted their college-age committee members and arranged the committee meeting to accommodate their schedule.**
- 2) **Continue to work to involve staff and members from more churches and to involve more minority members.**

**Note: Statistics on disability of elected persons is for information only.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruling Elder Ledridge Davis  
Moderator, Committee on Representation

#### **Stated Clerk's Advice to the Committee on Nominations**

5/24/2016

***NB: The advice of the Stated Clerk is not constitutionally binding on the presbytery and is meant solely to give advice and guidance to presbytery committees and ministries.***

*Question Presented: Do term limits for members of committees and ministries of the presbytery carry over from the old structure to the new? (i.e. Do five years of service on COM count against the six year term limit on CCM?)*

In my opinion, term limits do not carry over. The new structure is silent on the issue of whether or not past service should count toward current term limits.

Furthermore, the General Assembly, when adopting the present Form of Government in the Book of Order, chose to move from a more regulative to a normative form of governance in Church councils. Within a normative interpretive framework, that which the text does not explicitly forbid, is a permitted option for the council. That interpretive stance is legitimate for lower councils in interpreting their own governing documents. The presbytery may choose to toll past years of service for the purpose of establishing term limits, however it is not required to do so under the present structure.

My advice to the Nominations Committee is that all terms on committees and ministries, unless otherwise contradicted by the Book of Order, begin to toll January 1, 2016.

In Christ,

Dr. Robert Wm Lowry, Stated Clerk

#### **New Business**

- 1) Minutes of previous presbytery meetings. **Motion to approve the minutes of the October, 2015 presbytery meeting as printed passed. Motion to approve the minutes of the February, 2016 presbytery meeting as printed passed.**
- 2) TE Rebecca Spooner moved **“In the interest of financial stewardship, the Presbytery of Arkansas shall direct all funds from the settlement of the church property in Siloam Springs be used to reduce the principle of the ‘Ferncliff debt’.”** Motion was seconded. There was a question about spending money before it is received. A comment was made about how many years the settlement will take and that it is premature to be discussing using funds to be paid out. A statement was made that it would be wise to slow down on these decisions and realize what a shift such a vote would signal. Spooner said that payment on loan should be paid quickly to avoid interest payment. A commissioner asked that the AC be given time to minister to those who want to remain in

the PC(USA) and does not want all the proceeds to be tied up in debt repayment. TE Marie Mainard O'Connell asked if it is possible to table pending AC's final report. Stated Clerk gave opinion on polity. **Motion was made to refer Spooner's motion to AC. Motion was approved.** Spooner asked if her motion had been voted on and SC answered that it had been referred.

### **Report on Leaves of Absence Committee**

Attendance was reported as Teaching Elders 53, Corresponding Members 3, Ruling Elder Commissioners 43; Other Voting Ruling Elders 12, Commissioned Ruling Elders 4, Certified Christian Educators 5; Visitors 34, Total number who signed registration sheets 154.

### **Minute Announcements**

A number were made publicizing specific events and opportunities open to commissioners.

### **Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

Moderator gave the closing prayer including joys and concerns of the body. There being no further business before the Presbytery, a motion was made and seconded that the presbytery adjourn at 2:45 p.m. **Motion was approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Stated Clerk Robert William Lowry

Recording Clerk NiAnn Thompson

7/20/16