



143rd Stated Meeting
of the Presbytery of Arkansas
Friday-Saturday, March 6-7, 2020
Lyon College
Batesville, Arkansas

PACKET

Lyon College, Batesville
March 6-7, 2020

Next Meetings

144th Stated Meeting
Trinity Presbyterian Church,
Little Rock
June 6, 2020

145th Stated Meeting
First United Presbyterian
Church, Fayetteville
October 23-24, 2020

143rd Stated Meeting

The Presbytery of Arkansas

Meeting Schedule

Friday, Maxwell Room, Edwards Commons

3:30 pm Workshop for those Pre-Registered

Friday, Brown Chapel

5:00 pm Registration and Displays – Bevans
5:00 pm Youth – Ellebracht Chapel in Brown
6:30 pm The Presbytery Convenes - Brown
7:30 pm Worship – Brown Chapel Auditorium
8:30 pm Reception – Bevans Music Room

Saturday, Edwards Commons

9:00 am The Presbytery Re-Convenes
10:00am Order of the Day:
MWS Diane Moffett, Executive
Director and President of the
Presbyterian Mission Agency
12:00pm Lunch – Patterson Dining Hall
12:45pm Resume Business

Presbytery Leadership

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

Moderator of Administration
RE Tom Verdery

Moderator of COM RE Cyril Hollingsworth
Moderator of CPM MWS Susan Gray
Moderator of Subcommittee on Disaster
Preparedness and Response
RE Ray Stephens

Moderator of Future of the Church
RE Ted Belden

Co-Moderators of Subcommittee on
Honduran Ministry
RE Leah Woodruff
MWS Phil Butin

Moderator of Mission of the Church
MWS Gordon Garlington, HR

Moderator of Nominations
CRE Chuck Olson

Co-Moderators of Presbyterian Women
RE Maryann Sweeney
RE Vicki Erickson

Moderator of Representation
MWS Marie Mainard O'Connell

Moderator of Youth, Young Adults, and
Campus Ministry - MWS Brian Brock

Docket

Friday, March 6, 2020

- 3:30-5 pm Pre-Presbytery Workshop by MWS Diane Moffett
- 5:00 pm Registration and Display Tables in Bevens Music Room of Brown Chapel
- 5:00 pm. Youth Advisory Delegates register in Ellebracht Chapel, north Brown Chapel
- 5:00 pm **New Business must be in the hands of the Stated Clerk by 5:00 pm** on Friday evening, March 6, 2020.

We Gather in God's Name

- 6:30 pm Call to Worship/Order and the Lighting of the Christ Candle in Brown Chapel

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made!

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Opening Prayer

Moderator RE David Stricklin

Worshipful Work:

Report of Enrollment and Declaration of a Quorum

Adoption of the Docket

Appointment of Tellers and Leaves of Absence Committee

Seating of Corresponding Members

Granting of Privilege of the Floor/Voice

Welcome to First Time Commissioners

Introduction of Presbytery Staff and Officers

Welcome from President W. Joseph King, Lyon College

Report of the Staff Search Committee, MWS Steve Hancock

Adoption of the Consent Agenda, including Minutes of the October 4-5, 2019 meeting (Section A for Consent Agenda, Minutes in separate packet)

Report of the General Presbyter, MWS Stewart Smith

Report of the Stated Clerk, MWS Leslie Belden (Section B)

Treasurer's Report, RE Bob Boehmler

Report of the Coordinating Team (Section C)

7:30 pm Prelude and Continue in Worship

8:30 pm. Reception Hosted by Lyon College

Saturday, March 7, 2020

We Celebrate God's Presence with Us

8:00 am Late Registration and Display Tables

We Respond to God's Call (*Continued*)

9:00 am Worship Service led by Candidate for Ministry Jocelyn Wildhack (30)

Worshipful Work

Report of the Committee on Ministry (Section D)

Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (Section E)

Hearing from the Youth and Young Adults in Attendance

10:00 am Order of the Day: Introduction to the Matthew 25 Focus
RE Diane Moffett, Executive Director and President of the
Presbyterian Mission Agency

Worshipful Work:

Report of the Future of the Church Ministry Area (Section F)

Report of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area (Section G)

Report of the Administration Ministry Area (Section H)

Report of Young Adults attending the Synod Event at the Border

12:00 pm Recess for Lunch with Prayer

Minute Announcements

12:45 pm Presbytery Reconvenes

Worshipful Work:

Request to Submit an Overture from MWS Ainsley Herrick (Section I)

Report from Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center

Time to Fill Out and Turn in Evaluation Forms

New Business

Report of the Leaves of Absence Committee

Commitment to God's Call - Referrals

We Are Sent in God's Service

* Adjournment/Benediction

Presbyterian to English Cheat Sheet

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

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

- **MWS - Minister of the Word and Sacrament** is an ordained Presbyterian minister member of the clergy, formerly called a **Teaching Elder**.
- **Moderator**- The Moderator is the person elected to keep order and chair the meetings of the presbytery. The pastor or CRE of a local congregation serves as the moderator of the local session, or a moderator will be appointed for that church.
- **NCD- New Church Developments** are new ministries of the presbytery engaged in a formal process to work toward establishing a new congregation.
- **PDA- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** is an agency of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Mission Agency. PDA assists communities coping with natural and human-caused disasters.
- **PJC- Permanent Judicial Commission** implements the disciplinary procedures required by the *Book of Order*. There is a Judicial Process Manual which gives details on these duties.
- **PMA**- The **Presbyterian Mission Agency** is part of the larger PC(USA) and is located at the national church headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky.
- **PNC**- A **Pastor Nominating Committee** is a search committee elected by a congregation to seek, interview, and recommend a new pastor.
- **RE/Ruling Elder**- A **Ruling Elder** is a lay member of a congregation who has been elected, ordained and installed to serve on the session of a church. Ruling Elders are eligible for election as commissioners to presbytery, synod and General Assembly. Once ordained as a ruling elder one maintains that office whether serving on a session or not.
- **Stated Clerk**- The Stated Clerk is the officer elected by the presbytery to maintain the official records, provide extracts when asked, prepare the docket for presbytery meetings, and answer questions about the records, Presbyterian polity, policies, procedures and history. The Stated Clerk is authorized to certify ministers and congregations are in good standing and qualify under the tax exemption of the PC(USA).
- **Synod of the Sun**- The governing body council which includes all the presbyteries in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. It coordinates the work of the PC(USA) in this region.
- **TPF**- The **Texas Presbyterian Foundation** is a financial service organization for Presbyterian members, councils and institutions. It invests funds and provides bookkeeping services for Arkansas Presbytery.
- **Validated Ministries**- Positions served by chaplains, professors and other Ministers of the Word and Sacrament who are not currently serving a congregation. Sometimes they are referred to as non-parish clergy.

Tips for Commissioners on Procedure and Parliamentary Practice

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

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

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

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

Ordinarily, only commissioners may speak and vote on motions (Minister of the Word and Sacrament members of the Presbytery; Ruling Elders elected by their Session; Ruling Elders elected as General Presbyter, Stated Clerk, Treasurer, Moderator, or Moderator-in-Waiting (Vice Moderator); Commissioned Ruling Elders in current service; members of the Coordinating Team; current commissioners to General Assembly; and Ruling Elders who are Certified Christian Educators).

At the Spring meeting of the Presbytery Youth Advisory Delegates and Young Adult Advisory Delegates have “privilege of the floor,” meaning that they have permission to speak to motions, and they take an advisory vote prior to the vote by commissioners. At any meeting someone in attendance may be given privilege of the floor, allowing that person to speak to the body, which is ordinarily given near the beginning of the meeting. Privilege of the floor does not mean that person may vote.

It is advisable to speak only once on a subject, but you may seek to speak a second time only after everyone who wishes to speak has spoken. All remarks during debate shall be addressed to the Moderator. Questions seeking information from a person who has the floor shall be addressed to the Moderator. Speeches to an individual or the whole presbytery are not permitted during debate. Reading reports or documents out loud requires the permission of the body. In debate, remarks shall be confined to the pending motion. Remarks

shall not impugn another commissioner or that person's motives. Commissioners' names shall not be used.

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

Commissioners should always read all information provided in the packets and subsequent information provided at the registration table. Whenever possible questions concerning reports or motions should be directed to the Moderator of a ministry area or committee making the report or motion prior to the meeting. Contact info on moderators may be obtained through the presbytery office. Often concerns may be cleared up prior to a meeting rather than on the floor of presbytery.

Section A

Consent Agenda

MWS Leslie Smith Belden
Stated Clerk

For Action:

- 1. Motion to approve the minutes of the 142nd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, October 4-5, 2019, held at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Ferndale, Arkansas. (distributed in a separate packet)**
- 2. Motion to receive the minutes as the report of the Administrative Commission to install MWS Emily Hook as Pastor of Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church in Forrest City on November 17, 2019 at 3:00 pm, and to dismiss them with thanks.**
- 3. Motion to receive the minutes as the report of the Administrative Commission to ordain MWS Susan Arnold as Pastor of Wynne Presbyterian Church in Wynne on November 3, 2019 at 3:00 pm, and to dismiss them with thanks.**

Section B

Report of the Stated Clerk

MWS Leslie Smith Belden
Stated Clerk

For Action:

1. **Recommendation to grant permission for Wynne Presbyterian Church to sell their manse, a request which was approved at a duly constituted congregational meeting on January 26, 2020.** The property is located at 27 Shannon Drive, is on .999 acres, and the assessed value of which was \$200,000 on September 16, 2013.
2. **Recommendation to grant the request of Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, to sell a house that was gifted to the church, which is located at 404 S Martin Street, Little Rock, AR 72205, the request for which was approved at a duly constituted congregational meeting on January 26, 2020.** The Session is in the process of having the property appraised.

For Information:

The Priorities of the Presbytery of Arkansas:

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

Annual Statistics of the Presbytery

Churches: 1/1/2019 – 79 1/1/2020 – 76 Dissolution of:

- Cleburne Avenue, West Helena, 6/6/19 (worship service yet to be scheduled)
- First Presbyterian Church, Stuttgart, 11/3/19 (worship service held on 1/12/20)
- First Presbyterian Church, Lonoke, 11/10/19 (worship service will be held on 3/15/20)

Minister Members of the Presbytery: 1/1/2019 – 141 1/1/2021 – 142

Administrative Commissions

- First, Clarksville Administrative Commission charged with selling the property – RE Ted Belden and MWS Clare Kelley, Co-Moderators
- First, Little Rock Administrative Commission – RE Cyril Hollingsworth, Moderator
- Northwest Arkansas Hispanic Ministry Administrative Commission – MWS Phil Butin, Moderator
- Pine Bluff Administrative Commission – RE Ruth Hamilton, Moderator
- Standing AC for the Dissolution of Churches – RE Leah Shell, Moderator
- Washington County Property Administrative Commission – RE Ted Belden, Moderator
- First, North Little Rock/Argenta – MWS Carol Clark, Moderator

Congregational Reports and Reviews

Many thanks to the Clerks of Session who submitted their Statistical Reports to the Office of the General Assembly on time. The Presbytery of Arkansas is dependent on this information so that the Committee on Nominations can attempt to align presbytery leadership with the membership of the Presbytery in terms of diversity: gender representation, racial/ethnic representation, age group representation, etc. Membership numbers also need to be updated annually so that per-capita is only paid on true membership. On February 12, 2020 there were 45 of our 76 congregations who had reported.

Another thank-you to those Clerks of Sessions, Moderators, and Office Staff who sent in contact information changes to the Stated Clerk. The ability of the Presbytery and its congregations to communicate well is dependent on accurate contact information, so please continue to communicate any changes in contact information to the Stated Clerk at lesliebeld@aol.com.

Records reviews will be conducted differently this year. Thanks go out to those Clerks and former Clerks of Session who have agreed to serve as “regional reviewers.” Clerks of Session should look forward to receiving information from the Stated Clerk about who to get their records to this Spring and Summer so that they may be reviewed.

Section C

Report of the Coordinating Team

RE David Stricklin
Moderator

For Action:

1. **Motion to concur with the Coordinating Team's election of the following to fill immediate vacancies:** (Nominations may be made from the floor.)
 - a. **Permanent Judicial Commission, Class of 2025: MWS Rita Wilson Perry, HR (region 2)**
 - b. **Alternate Young Adult Advisory Delegate to 2020 General Assembly, or Delegate for 2022: Connor Button, First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville (region 1)**
 - c. **Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Class of 2020: CRE Susie Wright of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Hot Springs**

2. **Motion to concur with the Coordinating Team's election of the following to serve on the Committee on Nominations:** (Nominations may be made from the floor.)
 - a. **Vacancies in the Class of 2021:**
 - i. **MWS Krista Denne'; First, Clarksville (region 2)**
 - ii. **RE Jeff Roper; First, Batesville (region 4)**
 - b. **Regular vacancies in the Class of 2022:**
 - i. **CRE Chuck Olson; Memorial, Atkins - 2nd term (region 2)**
 - ii. **RE/CRE Mary Shaw; Elkin, Federated (regions 1 & 3)**
 - iii. **At-large MWS Lindy Vogado; Second, Little Rock**
 - c. **Moderator of Committee on Nominations, Class of 2020: CRE Chuck Olson (region 2)**

3. **Motion to approve the proposed amendments to the Presbytery of Arkansas' Ministry Manual.** (These amendments were included in a separate packet posted on the Presbytery's website, and need to be voted on as individual parts.)
 - a. **Part I: Organization and Structure** (requires a 3/5 majority to approve)
 - b. **Part II: Ministry and Committee Duties** (requires a simple majority to approve)
 - c. **Part III: Standing Rules** (requires a 3/5 majority to approve)

For Information:

1. The Coordinating Team will dedicate time at their next meeting to review how the priorities of the Presbytery of Arkansas are being addressed. Those priorities are:
 - Building strong congregations that faithfully and effectively share the gospel through mission and ministry;
 - Connecting congregations, resources and expertise to support life giving practices in congregations and fellowships; and
 - Developing and supporting ministries with youth and young adults, including collegiate and campus ministry.
2. The Coordinating Team elected an Administrative Commission to work with First Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock (Argenta), details of which are included as Section C – Exhibit I. (RE Sarah Keith Bolden resigned her position on the Administrative Commission to serve as legal counsel and the Coordinating Team elected RE Joel Gill of First Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock (Argenta) to fill that position.)
3. The Coordinating Team accepted the resignation of MWS Dari Rowen from the Administrative Commission working with congregations wishing to be dissolved and elected MWS Emmett Powers, HR, to fill the vacancy.
4. The Coordinating Team approved funding (transportation, registration fees, lodging, and meals not covered by registration) for eligible CREs, or those in training to become a CRE (if eligible), to attend the Synod's training event for CREs.
5. The Coordinating Team approved allocating money market funds from the sale and closure of prior churches for no more than \$25,000, at this time, for the care of Argenta, North Little Rock for the use by decisions of the Administrative Commission.

Section C – Exhibit I

First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock/Argenta, Arkansas Administrative Commission

Motion to the Coordinating Team to form an Administrative Commission with the following members and authority, and the responsibility to report to the Presbytery of Arkansas:

1. Members:
 - a. MWS Carol Clark, HR
 - b. MWS Mike Ulasewich, First Conway; Future of the Church representative
 - c. RE Leah Shell, Second Little Rock
 - d. RE Ted Belden, First United Fayetteville; Future of the Church representative
 - e. RE Melanie Gibson, Grace Little Rock
 - f. RE Karene Jones, Park Hill North Little Rock
 - g. RE Joel Gill, First North Little Rock (Argenta)
 - h. MWS Leslie Belden, Stated Clerk (ex-officio)
 - i. MWS Stewart Smith, General Presbyter (ex-officio)
 - j. RE Sarah Keith-Bolden, First Little Rock (legal counsel, ex-officio)

2. Charged with the authority to:
 - a. Determine the financial situation of First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock/Argenta;
 - b. Counsel the Session of First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock, in the Session's discernment of the financial needs of the church;
 - c. Counsel the Session and membership of First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock, in the Session's and congregation's deliberations and actions toward the "selling of real property" (G-1.0503d) or redevelopment of the property;
 - d. Serve as the presence of the Presbytery of Arkansas in determining what the needs of the property are and taking steps to address those needs;
 - e. Serve as the presence of the Presbytery of Arkansas in the development of any covenants or partnerships;
 - f. Sell or encumber any real property;
 - g. Assume original jurisdiction of the church, if necessary.
 - h. Dissolve the congregation if requested, taking the necessary steps on behalf of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

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

Section D

Report of the Committee on Ministry

RE Cyril Hollingsworth
Moderator

For Action:

1. **Motion to enroll MWS Kris Crawford as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and request her dismissal from Grace Presbytery.** Kris's Statement of Faith is included in the packet as Section D – Exhibit I. She was approved by the Committee on Ministry to serve as the Transitional Pastor of Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock.
2. **Motion to examine Candidate Jocelyn Wildhack for ordination to the validated ministry of Chaplain of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center and to enroll her as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas.** Jocelyn's Statement of Faith is included in the packet as Section D – Exhibit II, and she is under care of Middle Tennessee Presbytery.
3. **Motion to accept the examination for ordination of Candidate Jordan Akin by Middle Kentucky Presbytery, on February 14, 2020, and to conduct the ordination service on their behalf on March 29, 2020 at Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock.** Jordan is under care of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

For Information:

1. The Committee on Ministry approved the Transitional Pastor covenant between Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock and MWS Kris Crawford, effective October 15, 2019, with the following terms of call:

Effective Salary		
Cash Salary	\$35,000	
Housing	\$24,000	
		\$59,000
Reimbursable Expenses		
Professional Expenses (cell phone)		
Automobile (IRS rate/mile) and		
Continuing Education	\$6,000	
SECA Supplement	\$4,514	
		\$10,514
Board of Pensions Allowance		
Medical/Pension	\$23,500	
TOTAL		\$93,014

2. The Committee on Ministry approved the Transitional Pastor covenant between First Presbyterian Church of Benton and MWS Emmett Powers, HR, effective November 3, 2019, with the following terms of call:

Salary	\$35,000 annually
Housing	N/A
Pension and Medical Benefits	N/A
Reimbursement of Ministry Expenses including:	
Reimbursable mileage	up to \$400 per month

3. The Committee on Ministry approved the covenant between CRE Rita Manske and Cane Hill Presbyterian Church for her to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder for three years effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022, for a position not to exceed 20 hours per week with the terms of call of \$600 per month, and two weeks off per year.

4. The Committee on Ministry approved the covenant between CRE Harlis Wright and Faith Presbyterian Church, Pine Bluff, for him to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder for three years effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022, for a position of 24 hours per week with the terms of call of \$37,000 per year, with four weeks off per year and \$.50 per mile for mileage.

5. The Committee on Ministry dismissed MWS Susan Rose to the Presbytery of St. Augustine, effective October 15, 2019. She is serving as the Parish Associate at St. Augustine Presbyterian Church and was enrolled in their Presbytery as of October 15, 2019.

6. The Committee on Ministry dismissed MWS Max Hill to Giddings Lovejoy Presbytery, effective October 1, 2019. He has been installed and was enrolled into membership into Giddings Lovejoy Presbytery.

7. The Committee on Ministry approved an ordainable position of Chaplain as a validated ministry at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center.

8. The Committee on Ministry approved renewing the Covenant between RE Stephen Moody and First Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, effective October 21, 2019, with the following terms of call:

Salary	\$40,000
Housing	\$20,000
Vacation of one week per quarter	

9. The Committee on Ministry dissolved the relationship between First Presbyterian Church of Stuttgart and MWS Tim Reeves due to the dissolution of the church, effective November 3, 2019.

Celebration of the Retirement of DCE Theresa Spragins DCE NiAnn Thompson, HR

Section D – Exhibit I

MWS Kris Crawford Statement of Faith

God's grace is like a thread sewn throughout the tapestry of my life. It is constant and sure. I am a child of God, nurtured in a Christian home and strengthened in a faith community. Within my family and the church, I was taught God is love and that I was loved by God, yet as a teen in the midst of my parents' divorce I felt judgment, not love. I found myself silently crying, "Where is that love when I need it the most!" I defiantly declared that I had no need to congregate in order to live out my baptism. I set myself adrift clutching prayer without the Word and facing high school and college without community.

After college, God's grace called me back into community in the Reformed tradition. It was exhilarating. I felt like the lost sheep who had been found and the prodigal child who had been called home. Through the hearing of the Word preached in the Reformed tradition I learned that Christians are called into community, not isolation.

Participation in the life of the church as a lay leader wove within me an increased understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ. Through participation in worship, I learned prayer is a central act of corporate life and the heart of my personal devotion. Through the study of Scripture, my understanding of God and how God has acted in history and in my own life was freshly revealed and a thirst for more was sparked. The reaffirmation of my faith, acknowledging my sin while affirming my dependence upon God's incredible grace, fueled within me a new sense of Jesus' Lordship. When I witnessed God's unmerited love at my children's baptism I was awed by the breadth and depth of God's grace. Over and over again as I come to the table I gain an increased sense of God's sustaining presence through this sacramental meal. Set apart for leadership as a Teaching Elder has been joyful, provocative, humbling, and filled with immeasurable growth.

My life is full of integrative moments of grace fashioned by God's renewing power, even though I have pushed and pulled from God in anger and sin, only to return again and again in guilt and sadness. Throughout my life God has persistently forgiven me, loved me, and called me to service and new life. Accordingly, I believe God is the sovereign Creator and the loving Redeemer exalted in the risen Lord. That Jesus Christ, God incarnate, is my Lord and Savior. God in Christ is separate and just and personal and gracious ----fully human and fully divine. I believe that the Holy Spirit, God's gift to us through Jesus Christ, is the dynamic, life-giving force of the Church in the world. I believe Scripture witnesses to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and to the redeeming love of God for all of humanity. I believe the Christian life is an invitation to a relationship with the divine, to a life lived in community, and a call to respond in grateful praise and joyful obedience to almighty God.

God has embellished my life with a variety of vocations: daughter, sister, wife, mother, friend, teacher and pastor. Through the years I have come to see the church as a hope-filled, motley, but wonderful bunch of forgiven sinners, reconciled by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. I remain steadfast in my desire to be led by the Spirit to proclaim God's redeeming grace in Jesus Christ for all people and all of creation.

Section D – Exhibit II

Candidate Jocelyn Wildhack Statement of Faith

I believe in one, triune God - creator, redeemer, sustainer - always present. I believe in God, three in one, three divine persons in constant communion as one. I believe this triune God created the world good and continues to love it. Out of nothing, God created everyone and everything. I believe God created us and this world with love – a love that is given equally to all without regard to gender, race, sexual orientation, age, or income level.

I believe in Jesus Christ - fully human, fully God - God who took on flesh in order to accessibly communicate with humanity and teach us how to live with each other. Jesus came to teach us the way - the way to worship, the way to pray, the way to treat each other, the way to love. In Jesus, we see God's love for us and suffering with us. Sin separates us from God's will and adds distance to our relationship, but through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, grace overcomes our inclination away from God, forgives our sins, and restores our relationship with God.

I believe in the Holy Spirit - present and moving in everyone, connecting us to God and to the community of believers. The Holy Spirit is the way we experience the presence and power of God, actively moving in the world and in us. The Holy Spirit is comfort in times of mourning, hope in times of pain, joy in times of despair, and guidance in times of confusion. I believe the Holy Spirit is the way we encounter God with us.

I believe the Word of God is communicated through the Old and New Testaments. I believe scripture to be historically and contextually influenced by the times in which the writers lived. I believe scripture guides us in the way we should live in the world, and that this requires peeling away the layers of historical context, translation, interpretation, and human authors. I believe we read and interpret the Bible always under the influence of our own contexts and life experiences, and that we need to be aware of these factors in our interactions with scripture. I believe all of this interpretation can only be done with the Holy Spirit as our guide.

I believe in the Church - that together as a community of faith we are better able to serve God and serve one another. I believe we hear God's call in community. I believe God's presence is often felt most when people are gathered together. I believe the Church gathers people together to connect them to the message and mission of God and then sends them out into the world to carry that to others. I believe the Church is necessarily about justice, love, and compassion. I believe the Church is at its best when all are truly welcome at the table.

As we enter into this community of faith, our baptism is the sign and seal of our integration into Christ and the people of God. In baptism, we are given new life as a part of the community of faith. Like Jesus' baptism in the Jordan, our baptisms mark a transition point from one way of living to another. Baptism is a sign of our participation in God's gracious covenant with us; we become members of the family of God.

I believe that we remember Jesus' life with us and the covenant we have with God when we celebrate together the Lord's Supper. This meal is a sign of our communion with God. In the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup, we remember Christ's presence with us, reminding ourselves that God is with us always.

I believe faith in God and love of God leads us to grateful action for the wider mission of the Church. I believe God calls us to live lives of love – loving God, loving neighbor, and loving ourselves. I believe this to be true for everything we do, every day of our lives.

Section E

Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

MWS Susan Gray
Moderator

For Information:

Jordan Akin has accepted a call to Second Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY. She will be examined by Mid Kentucky Presbytery on Feb. 15. and details will be worked out with Mid Kentucky for Jordan to be ordained at Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock.

Molly Dewitt was ordained in the fall of 2019 by the Presbytery of Ohio Valley in southern Indiana.

Katherine (Norwood) Kubar has filed with the COM of the Presbytery of Florida for ordination to a validated ministry. Pending our committee's affirmation that Katherine has been certified ready for a call, their COM will examine her on March 10, followed by examination and preaching on the floor of their presbytery on May 19. Jeff Price will affirm her readiness for a call with the Presbytery of Florida.

Interviews:

Michelle Hall an elder from the First Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, was interviewed and after she left the interview, the committee approved her as an applicant for the CRE program. She is already studying at Austin Seminary, and feels called to serve a small church such as the Lincoln church.

Carla Taylor, an elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville, had her annual consultation with the committee. She is also studying the CRE curriculum at Austin Seminary. She is excited and open to God's call, and hoping to receive instruction on the Sacraments from the Presbytery. She is taking Old Testament, and her next class will be Worship and Preaching.

Requests for Financial Assistance:

Mary Jane Fischer, applicant for CRE, requested funding to attend the CRE conference in Richardson, TX on Mat 13-16. The committee approved up to \$300 to be reimbursed from CRE funds from the sale of the Walnut Grove Church.

Michelle Hall, applicant for CRE, requested \$380 for tuition at Austin Seminary during fall, 2019. The committee approved payment of \$380 to Michelle.

Candidate for MWS Julianna Whitson requested a partial scholarship for CPE this summer. This committee does not normally give seminary scholarship, is not sure what other

financial obligations they will have in 2020, and regretfully declined the request. Julianna is encouraged to find scholarships through the Synod of the Sun, her seminary, and other avenues.

Inquirers, Candidates and Applicants with Liaisons:

Inquirers

Brianne Christiansen	Liaison, Susan Anderson
David Mills	Liaison, Jeff Price
Jeannie Shear	Liaison Matt Bussell

Candidates for MWS

Jill Acree	Liaison NiAnn Thompson
LaWanda Harris	Liaison, Susan Gray
Stephen Moody	Liaison Matt Bussell
Julianna Whitson	Liaison Kim Danehower

Applicants for CRE Program

Margaret (Peg) Falls-Corbitt	Liaison, Susie Wright
Mary Jane Fischer	Liaison, Katie Cummings
Michelle Hall	Liaison, Katie Cummings
Allan Huddleston	Liaison, Susan Anderson
Ellen McEwen	Liaison, NiAnn Thompson
Carla Taylor	Liaison, Susan Anderson
Ministers from other Denominations	Liaison, Jeff Price

Section F

Report of the Future of the Church Ministry Area

RE Ted Belden
Moderator

For Information:

The Future of the Church Ministry Area and the Mission of the Church Ministry Area completed a survey to help us identify best practices of our Congregations. We will both use this information to share ideas with you. We thank the following churches for completing and returning the surveys. If your church is not on the list, we would still appreciate you completing the survey which can be found on the Presbytery's website at www.presbyark.org.

Arkadelphia, First	Hot Springs, First
Arkadelphia, West End	Jacksonville, First
Batesville, First	Lincoln, First
Bella Vista, Presbyterian	Little Rock, Allison Memorial
Benton, First	Little Rock, Grace
Bentonville, First	Little Rock, Pulaski Heights
Bentonville, Vaughn	Malvern, First
Conway, First	Norman, Barr Memorial
Elkins, Community	Pine Bluff, First
Fairfield Bay, Kirk of the Hills	Prairie Grove, First
Fayetteville, First United	Searcy, First
Fayetteville, Mount Comfort	Springdale, First
Harrison, First	Van Buren, First
Holiday Island, Holiday Island	Wynne, Wynne
Horseshoe Bend, Faith	Yellville, First

Grant Applications - The Future of the Church Ministry Area is now accepting grant applications. Over the last two years we have awarded over \$50,000 in grants to 16 churches. Grant information can be found under resources, presbytery documents, on the Presbytery's website at www.presbyark.org

Zoom Rooms – The Ministry Area has completed a host covenant agreement to provide funds for the installation cost of equipment for churches to host a zoom room. These systems will allow the churches of the presbytery to connect to one another in new ways. It is hoped that churches will be thinking outside the box and use the technology. One possibility would be to do elder training in a new way. Maybe churches could meet via a zoom room for elder training? Future of the Church has heard from the following churches who expressed an interest in being a host site: Springdale, Central Ft. Smith, Russellville, Conway, and Jonesboro. The Ministry Area will be in contact with these churches to find out what equipment they currently have and discuss entering into an agreement with the Presbytery to host a zoom room.

Section F – Exhibit I

October 4, 2019

Dear Leaders of Presbytery of Arkansas Congregations:

The Mission of the Church and the Future of the Church Ministry Areas have prepared a short survey to help us in the task of identifying practices in our congregations that may help us better serve you and help other churches in our Presbytery become stronger. Our hope is that we develop and nurture one another in growing our ministries by learning and sharing the strengths of our congregations.

We encourage you as you complete this survey to gather with other friends in your congregation – in a Session meeting, or Sunday school class, or after worship one Sunday – and brainstorm all the ways in which you are serving Christ.

Please as you complete the survey “think outside the box!”

Christian education includes, certainly, Sunday school classes. But are there other ways your church is helping folks grow in the knowledge of and love for the God we’ve come to know in Jesus Christ -- midweek Bible studies, Presbyterian Women’s Bible studies, providing devotional aids such as These Days, etc.?

Likewise, mission and service in Christ’s name includes formal mission projects of your congregation, a food pantry or prison ministry, for example, as well as mission dollars shared through your Presbyterian Church (USA) benevolent dollars, but are there other ways your congregation in Christ’s name is serving those less fortunate -- individuals delivering Meals on Wheels, tutoring at a local school, caring for a person in your community who has little or no family nearby, etc.?

Notice we also invite you to share with us what worship opportunities are offered in your church. Sunday morning worship, yes, but are there other things like midweek worship, special services during Advent and Christmas, Lent and Holy Week, prayer groups, etc.? Or joint, interdenominational worship such as a community Thanksgiving service?

Why are we asking you to share this information? What will happen as a result of your completing the survey?

First, we hope it will be helpful for you to intentionally review in these different areas, ways your congregation is seeking to live out our calling as Christ’s disciples, that that process of review might be encouraging as you see the list of things you are doing, But also that it might spark ideas of new ministries you might undertake, or perhaps different ways to cooperate with the Spirit seeking to nurture fruitful discipleship in us all.

We also hope that hearing from all of our congregations, we might discover potential partnerships among neighboring churches, opportunities for doing things together that perhaps as solo congregations might not seem possible. Whether in areas of worship, or Christian education, or mission, we might discover additional ways to cooperate and in so doing multiply the opportunities for Christian nurture and service we have.

Our hope is that hearing from congregations across the Presbytery, we might learn of ways we might better resource congregations as they seek to offer and carry out ministries.

Thanks for your attention to this survey, and for all your efforts to share the love of Christ through the life of your congregation and the life of the Presbytery of Arkansas!

We ask that this survey be returned to both of us by December 1st.

Sincerely,

Gordon Garlington - ggarlington3@hotmail.com
Moderator, Mission of the Church Ministry Area

Ted Belden – TedBelden@aol.com
Moderator, Future of the Church Ministry Area

Survey of the Presbytery of Arkansas Congregations

1. All churches are unique, just like every person is unique. What is something your church does regarding the following areas that has been especially important to the vitality of your congregation and extending Christ's love to all? Feel free to brag about your church! List as many things as you wish.

Worship –

,

Education –

Fellowship –

Outreach and partnerships -

2. What works well in one church may be very different from what works well in another. Are there particular aspects about your church or local community that you think make the items you have described in Question 1 important and helpful? Please describe.

3. What forms of support from the Presbytery have been, or if available could be helpful to the vitality of your congregation?

4. What collaborations does your church have with other Presbyterian churches or other non-profits?

Church _____

Person submitting this information _____

Section G

Report of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area

MWS Gordon Garlington
Moderator

For Information:

The members of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area for 2020 are: the Rev. Jan Butin (First United, Fayetteville), Mrs. Kristi Button (First United, Fayetteville), the Rev. Dr. Paul Fulks (First, Van Buren), the Rev. Dr. Gordon Garlington (H.R., home church Westover Hills, Little Rock), the Rev. Ainsley Herrick (First, Morrilton), Dr. Bruce Johnston (First, Batesville), Mrs. Emily Laurel (First, Benton), Dr. Sally Roden (First, Conway), and Ms. Vicky Rogerson (First, Springdale).

Our Mission of the Church Ministry Area met by Zoom on January 10, 2020. Among our actions at that meeting were:

- 1) Approval of grants to First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville for their hunger ministry, and to Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, helping with their costs providing housing to an out-of-state Presbyterian family receiving critical medical care at UAMS requiring them to stay no more than an hour from UAMS;
- 2) Discussion of plans for P.L.A.C.E. event(s) in 2020. First Presbyterian Church of Springdale had expressed a willingness to house such an event this year.
- 3) Hearing an update on the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) event to be held in Little Rock on January 29 - February 1, 2020, encouraging attendance at the event and commending those who worked so hard to plan, organize and carry out this national meeting of Christian educators.
- 4) Reviewing the congregational surveys currently being circulated and requested jointly by our Mission of the Church Ministry Area and Future of the Church Ministry Area. Some 30 odd completed surveys had been received. Congregations that have not completed and returned the survey are encouraged to do so. If your congregation needs another copy of the survey, please contact our Moderator, Gordon Garlington (ggarlington3@hotmail.com; 501-940-8008) or Ted Belden, Moderator of Future of the Church (tedbelden@aol.com; 501-580-3762). Plans are being to share results of the survey in ways that highlight the various ministries of our churches and encourage collaborative mission efforts wherever possible.
- 5) Commending the Rev. Carol Clark and her Resource Center Board for the great work they are doing through their work with the Resource Center and its Facebook page, "Resource ARK."
- 6) Scheduled a next meeting for April 24, 2020, by Zoom.

The primary focus of our meeting was work currently underway to encourage all of the congregations of the Presbytery of Arkansas to participate between September 27 – October 4, 2020, in the PRESBYTERIAN DAYS OF CARING, CONNECTING, AND CELEBRATING. The hope is for each of our churches to actively demonstrate our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ by sharing concretely Christ's love with our neighbors, especially "the least of these" (Matthew 25). Congregations will be able to choose to be involved in either a new or continuing ministry in our local communities during the week of September 27 through October 4, and will celebrate that calling and those ministries in worship on either Sunday, September 27, or on World Communion Sunday, October 4, 2020. Our thanks to the task force at work on these plans: Jan Butin and Mary Shaw, co-moderators, Emily Laurel, Renee Nestor and Mary Beth Lysobey.

Section I

Request to Approve an Overture to the General Assembly

MWS Ainsley Herrick

For Action:

Motion to approve submitting the Overture included in the packet as Section I – Exhibit I for consideration by the 224th General Assembly (2020).

For Information:

In the 1950s, Presbyterians first identified companies that we would not invest in. The so-called “sin stocks” included tobacco, alcohol, and gambling. Although the church recognized that some members of our denomination work in these industries, and many others drink, smoke, and maybe even gamble, it was decided that these are industries that we should not be profiting from as a church. In the 1980s, military related investments were added to this list.

At other times the GA has added individual companies to the divestment list. We did so during Apartheid and more recently with Caterpillar, HP, and Motorola. However, those instances were different. We did not divest from those companies because we believe there is something unethical about computers or bulldozers. We divested because we believed specific business practices were unethical.

This is where the debate about fossil fuels comes in. Mission Responsibility Through Engagement (MRTI) is charged with doing shareholder engagement with the companies in which we invest. When companies are engaged in unethical business practices, MRTI goes in to ask them to change their practices. If they are unsuccessful, the final step is to recommend divestment. These efforts have proved successful in the past and this is how MRTI is currently engaging fossil fuel companies. They believe that they can convince the companies to change enough that we can prevent a climate crisis.

However, I and many others in our denomination disagree with this approach for one major reason: the problem is not with how the companies make or sell their products, the problem is with the product itself. Presbyterians did not try to engage with alcohol companies to try to convince them to make soft drinks instead. Ultimately what MRTI has to ask of these companies, if we continue to engage them, is to completely give up producing fossil fuels, the very thing that their profits depend upon. In the end, that is simply too big of an ask, especially considering the urgency of climate change. We can't wait decades while they phase out fossil fuels; we need to end our reliance on them now.

As a member of Fossil Free PC(USA), I believe that fossil fuels are not an industry we should be profiting from. Yes, many of our members rely on the industry for jobs. That does not mean we condemn them anymore than Presbyterians in the 50s condemned those who work in the alcohol industry or Presbyterians in the 80s condemned those who join the military. In fact, we are

concerned for what will happen to them when fossil fuels inevitably become obsolete (as they will whether or not we vote to divest) and their jobs are lost as society transitions to renewable energy. But we are also concerned for those who are already suffering the effects of climate change. Although we may not see the effects as much where we live, rising temperatures and more frequent natural disasters are already killing people around the globe.

Each week members of my church make an offering to support the mission of the church. A portion of that money is paid to the Board of Pensions (BOP) for my insurance and pension plan. They support me so that I may be free to do the ministry to which the congregation called me. Knowing that money is being invested in an industry that is harmful to God's creation and quickly driving us towards a climate crisis, I wonder how I, in good conscience, can continue to ask my church to give. God made us stewards over creation. We are charged with caring for the earth. How can I expect my congregation to care for creation, when I myself profit from its destruction? No, divestment will not magically fix the problem of climate change, but I believe it is one necessary step (out of many) to saving God's creation.

Section I – Exhibit I

Overture

The Presbytery of Arkansas overtures the 224th General Assembly (2020) to:

1. Encourage all congregations and presbyteries to learn about and start the process of divestment from fossil fuels through The Presbyterian Foundation and the Board of Pensions using the Carbon Underground 200 and the S&P Global Industry Classification Standard's list of publicly-traded companies engaged in coal, oil and gas exploration, extraction, and production as the criteria to identify which companies are considered to be fossil fuel companies.
2. Direct Mission Responsibility Through Investment to add all companies on the Carbon Underground 200 and the S&P Global Industry Classification Standard's list to the divestment list and recommend divestment to the Board of Pensions.
3. Recognize that the fossil fuel industry has long provided employment for many, including members of our denomination, and therefore:
 - a. Affirm that working in the fossil fuel industry is a necessity for many and assure our members that divestment is not a condemnation or judgment of their choice of employment.
 - b. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to be in conversation with presbyteries whose members are most dependent on the fossil fuel industry, in order to discern ways that we can support them as our society transitions away from our dependence on fossil fuels and jobs are inevitably lost.
4. Recognize that the fossil fuel industry has also caused a climate crisis, and that many around the world are already suffering the impact of climate change, including many within our own denomination, and therefore:
 - a. Direct the PMA to be in conversation with presbyteries whose members are most affected by climate change to discern ways we can continue to support them and minimize the impact of climate change in their lives and communities as we divest from fossil fuels

Rationale:

Although human use of fossil fuels has caused economic and social growth, burning fossil fuels has already raised the average temperature of the earth by 1°C (1.8°F). The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change¹ (IPCC) shows the extent of the damage we will cause

¹ IPCC, 2018: *Summary for Policymakers. In: Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty* [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, H.-O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J.B.R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M.I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T.

to creation if we allow the earth's temperature to rise by 1.5-2°C, the targets agreed to by all nations of the world under the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.² Even at 1.5°C of warming, we can expect to see the extinction of over 300,000 species of animals, have an ice-free Arctic in most summers, expose 14% of people to extreme heat waves (especially in the Global South), expose 250 million people to severe drought, and raise sea levels by at least 1.3 feet.

Thus, knowing we must keep climate to 1.5°- 2°C of warming, we are limited to how much fossil fuel can be burned and how much time we have to use our prophetic and moral voices as people of faith called by God to love people and all creation..

We have about 10 years after GA 224 to stay within these warming limits. However, the fossil fuel industry's own estimates³ show that burning the proved reserves of fossil fuels will release almost three times the carbon budget at 2°C⁴ and an astounding five times the 1.5°C budget – CO₂ that will remain in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. Despite these dire realities, oil and gas production is increasing, and PC(USA)'s money has helped allowed oil and gas companies to spend over \$114 Billion in 2017⁵ to acquire new deposits of oil and gas that we can't afford to burn. We can not trust the industry to listen to us and to respond with urgency.

Climate change is no longer some future threat that we will have to contend with at a later date. The effects of climate change are already being seen around the world by a nearly incalculable number of people who are already experiencing due to the natural disasters, malnutrition, pollution, and disease, and death that are also caused by overconsumption of fossil fuels and climate change.

This number is rising every year as we continue to consume fossil fuels at an unsustainable rate. Natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and wildfires are becoming more common and more deadly. In 2017, Hurricane Maria caused the deaths of more than 4,600 people in Puerto Rico.⁶ That same year Hurricane Harvey caused an estimated \$125 billion of damage in Texas.⁷ Of California's 10 most destructive wildfires in history, 6 happened over a 10 month period in 2017-

Maycock, M. Tignor, and T. Waterfield (eds.)].

https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/SR15_SPM_version_report_LR.pdf

² United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2015. *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twenty-first session, held in Paris from 30 November to 13 December 2015.*

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

³ *BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2019*. 68th edition. <https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/business-sites/en/global/corporate/pdfs/energy-economics/statistical-review/bp-stats-review-2019-full-report.pdf>

⁴ Richard Heede and Naomi Oreskes 2016. *Global Environmental Change*. Potential emissions of CO₂ and methane from proved reserves of fossil fuels: An alternative analysis. doi: 10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2015.10.005

⁵ Robert Rapier 2018. *Forbes*. Oil Company Spending And Oil Reserves Are On The Rise.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/rrapier/2018/07/27/oil-company-spending-and-oil-reserves-are-on-the-rise/#207559c54a31>

⁶ Arelis R. Hernandez and Laurie McGinley 2018. *Washington Post*. Harvard Study Estimates Thousands Died in Puerto Ric because of Hurricane Maria. https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/harvard-study-estimates-thousands-died-in-puerto-rico-due-to-hurricane-maria/2018/05/29/1a82503a-6070-11e8-a4a4-c070ef53f315_story.html?noredirect=on

⁷ nhc.noaa.gov/news/UpdatedCostliest.pdf

2018.⁸ Droughts in Latin America are decimating crops, causing a spike in migration north towards the US/Mexico border.⁹

We simply cannot continue to invest in fossil fuels at the rate that we have been if we want to stop the damage already being done to the environment and the millions of people already suffering the impacts of climate change.

Our investments must switch to renewable energy now, before it is too late. That being said, many within our denominations rely on the fossil fuel industry as their main source of income. Just as our members in places already feeling the brunt of the damage from climate change worry about their futures, our members who work in the fossil fuel industry worry about their own futures, as they wonder how they will earn a living as jobs in the fossil fuel industry disappear. Jobs in the fossil fuel industry are already on a decline, as mining resources like coal become less profitable. Whether or not the PCUSA divests from fossil fuels, these jobs will inevitably disappear as our society makes the necessary transition to renewable energy. Just as we must continue to support those in our denomination most impacted by climate change, we must also begin searching for ways to support those who will lose their jobs as fossil fuels become obsolete.

⁸ Chris Dolce 2018. *The Weather Channel*. Six of California's Most Destructive Wildfires Have Struck in the Past 10 Months. <https://weather.com/news/news/2018-07-30-california-20-most-destructive-wildfires-carr-fire>

⁹ Miranda Cady Hallet 2019. *Latino USA*. How Climate Change is Driving Emigration from Central America. <https://www.latinousa.org/2019/09/09/climatechange/>