



128th Stated Meeting
of the Presbytery of Arkansas
Friday and Saturday, February 20-21, 2015
University of the Ozarks and
First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS
PRESBYTERY MEETING (Oct. 2014)**

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**MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH STATED MEETING OF THE
PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS
OCTOBER 10 & 11, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

The 127th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas on Friday, October 10, 2014 by Teaching Elder Clare Kelley, Moderator of the Presbytery.

OPENING WORSHIP, INCLUDING PRAYER

Teaching Elder Kade Curry opened the meeting with the reading of Scripture, singing the hymn "Here in This Place," lighting of the Christ candle, and offering prayer.

BUSINESS SESSION

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

The moderator moved the adoption of the docket as printed, adding an item 12 Care and Nurture of Church Professionals. **The docket was approved as amended.**

REPORT OF ENROLLMENT

Assistant Stated Clerk Teaching Elder David Dyer declared a **quorum present** with 29 Teaching Elders and 37 Ruling Elders present at the time of the meeting opening.

TEACHING ELDERS (who checked the sign-in sheet): Karen Kokles Akin, Catherine L. Allsbury, Bill Bailey, Tasha Blackburn, Robert Brian Brock, Janet B. Butin, Philip W. Butin, Joy Carrington, D. Breckinridge Castleman, Kade Curry, Fern M. Davis, Ruskin Falls, Debra Carl Freeman, Elizabeth Gabbard, Bill Galbraith, Gordon F. Garlington III, David E. Gill, Steve Hancock, Al Henager, Marion A. Humphrey, Chris Jones, Lance Jones, Clare Martin Kelley, Young Doo Kim, Frank LeBlanc, Liz Lindsey, Robert Lowry, Carl McCormack, "Mike" McCracken, Marie Mainard O'Connell, Jeff Price, Rebecca Purcell, Dennis Ritchie, Leslie Bethell Roper, Susan Rose, Anne Russ, Lacy Sellars, Georgia Senor, Rebecca Spooner, Nancy Taylor, Michael Vinson, Lindy Vogado, Elizabeth R. (Liz) Wagner, Linda Whitworth-Reed, Susan Carter Wiggins, and Rita Wilson.

Honorably Retired Active Teaching Elders: Ben H. Bateman, David H. Dyer, Howard H. Gordon, John E. King, David Reed, C. Michael D. Seitz, and Frederick A. Taylor.

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS FROM CONGREGATIONS (who signed in): Amity, Alpine, Thomas A. Robertson, Jr.; First, Batesville, James Anderson; Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, Marinell Anderson; First, Bentonville, Jean Horan; First, Dardanelle, Marty Shepherd; First, Eureka Springs, Virginia Miller; First United, Fayetteville, Bo Newton and Sally King; Central, Fort Smith, Charles Cook; Good Shepherd, Greenwood, Ed Wilkinson; First, Heber Springs, Kay Coil; Holiday Island, Don Shafer; Westminster, Hot Springs, Janie Russell; First, Huntsville, Wendy Kurry; First, Jacksonville, Billie Ann Myers; First, Jonesboro, David Clark; First, Little Rock, Roberta Saxon; Grace, Little Rock, Debbie Buckalew; Pulaski Heights, Little Rock, Charles Gray; Second, Little Rock, Beth Highsmith, Sam Highsmith, and Jeanne Lloyd; Westover Hills, Little Rock, C. Deanine Rogers; First, Malvern, John Strauss; First, Mena, Bill Hays; Hopewell, Morrilton, Susan Morris; Central, Pine Bluff, Laura Pierce; First, Pine Bluff, Karen Needler and Don Harris; First, Prairie Grove, Lynda Bottom; First, Rogers, Gwen Blue; Central, Russellville, Cheryl A. Coleman; First, Searcy, Ty Hendricks; First, Springdale, Mary Shaw; First, Walnut Ridge, Mary Ann Jackson; and First, Yellville, Charles Lewis.

AT-LARGE COMMISSIONERS: Ruling Elder Members of General Committee: Ed Wilkinson (Vice Moderator), Janis McClure and Patty Minga; Moderator of Presbytery, and Teaching Elder Clare Kelley.

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS: G. Hartley Jones, Barr Memorial, Norman.

CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS: Jeannie Ford, Second, Little Rock, and NiAnn Thompson, First, Malvern and Presbytery Staff.

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VISITORS TO THIS MEETING: 10 registered.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS: Kevin Keaton, New Covenant Presbytery, Board of Pensions; Melinda Hunt, Grace Presbytery, Texas Presbyterian Foundation, Sherry Kenney, Denver Presbytery, Presbyterian Foundation, Howard Reed, New Covenant Presbytery, First, Conway; Lemuel Garcia, Mission Presbytery, Austin Seminary; Valerie Young, Synod of the Sun.

TEACHING ELDERS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES: Leslie F. Belden, Nancy Benson-Nicol, Jeff Cranton, Susan Gray, Robert Hadley, Larry Mitchell, Emmett Powers, Timothy C. Reeves, Dari Rowen, Shauna Silmon, J. Stewart Smith, Debbie Spangler, Catherine Ulrich, Thomas A. Ulrich, Marci Ward, and Robert Williamson.

HONORABLY RETIRED TEACHING ELDERS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES: Heinrich B. Eiler, Orin M. Frank, William F. Henning, David S. King, Mark Lenneville, Carlos Lopez, James B. Miller, Richard H. Miller, and Richard Shinkle.

TEACHING ELDERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: DC Adams, Phillip Blackburn, James J. Farley III, John Gibson, Terry Tallent, Libby Lizarraga, Cindy Saul, David Schaller, Patricia Schaller, Daniel Wooley, and Harry Young.

HONORABLY RETIRED TEACHING ELDERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: William W. Branch, Donald K. Campbell II, Milton B. Davis, Guy Delaney, Alan Ford, Richard Fronthingham, Robert Hyatt, Jerry Rice, Maetta Snyder, W. Kennedy Upham, and Don Wardlaw.

SESSIONS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES: Arkadelphia, West End; Benton, First; Bull Shoals; Gamaliel, One-O-One; Holly Grove; Hot Springs, First; Little Rock, Westminster; Marianna, First; McGehee, First; Norman, Barr Memorial; North Little Rock, Park Hill; and Van Buren, First.

SESSIONS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: Alma, First; Arkadelphia, First; Atkins, Memorial; Beebe, First; Bella Vista, second commissioner; Bentonville, First, second commissioner; Brinkley, First; Cane Hill, Clarksville, First; Clarksville, Harmony; Conway, First, two commissioners; Elkins; Fairfield Bay, Kirk of the Hills; Farmington, Walnut Grove; Fayetteville, Mt. Comfort; Forrest City, Graham Memorial; Fort Smith, Central, second commissioner; Fort Smith, First, two commissioners; Gravette, First; Gudron, First; Hardy, Spring River; Harrison, First, two commissioners; Helena, First; Hot Springs, Westminster, second commissioner; Hot Springs Village, Kirk in the Pines, two commissioners; Hot Springs Village, Woodlands; Lincoln, First; Little Rock, Allison; Little Rock, Trinity, two commissioners; Lonoke, First; Morrilton, First; Mountain Home, First; Mountainburg; Newport, First; North Little Rock, First; Ozark, First; Paragould, First; Pea Ridge, Mount Vernon; Pine Bluff, Faith; Pocahontas, First; Rogers, First, second commissioner; Russellville, Central, second commissioner; Siloam Springs, First; West Helena, Cleburne Avenue; and Wynne.

AT-LARGE RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES: none.

AT-LARGE RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: General Committee: Frances Bateman, Ron David, and Rose Ann Scheiderer; Committee on Clusters: Russ Mathis, Jean Pope, and Wally Thacker; Moderators of Presbytery Committees: James Anderson, Disaster Preparedness & Response; Kim Danehower, Mission; Ledridge Davis, Representation; Julie Gillaspay, Nominations; Moderator of Presbyterian Women: Betty Glenn; and Sheree Niece, Moderator of General Committee.

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES: none.

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: Gary Adler, First, Mountain Home; Carolyn Beane, Barr Memorial, Norman; Bill Bush, First Gravette; K. C. Chanthorn, Laotian, First,

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Fort Smith; Bruce Schlegel, Walnut Grove, Farmington and Cane Hill Presbyterian; and Harlis Wright, Faith, Pine Bluff.

CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES: Kristi Button, Lynn Condra, Lynn King, Linda LeBron, Nancy Irving Smith, Theresa Spragins, and Susie Wright.

CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS WITHOUT EXCUSED ABSENCES: none

WELCOME FROM HOST

Teaching Elder Chris Jones, the host pastor, greeted the presbytery.

WELCOME TO FIRST-TIME ELDER COMMISSIONERS

The Assistant Stated Clerk welcomed first-time commissioners.

INTRODUCTION OF PRESBYTERY STAFF

Moderator Kelley introduced members of the presbytery staff: TE Bill Galbraith, General Presbyter; Ruling Elder NiAnn Thompson, Resourcing Director; TE David Dyer, Assistant Stated Clerk; Ruling Elder Kenneth Rich, Director of Mission Support; and TE Michael Vinson, staff for congregational vitality.

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Kevin Keaton, New Covenant Presbytery, Board of Pensions; Melinda Hunt, Grace Presbytery, Texas Presbyterian Foundation, Sherry Kenny, Denver Presbytery, Presbyterian Foundation, Lemuel Garcia, Mission Presbytery, Austin Presbyterian Seminary; and Howard Reed, New Covenant Presbytery, First, Conway were seated as corresponding members.

GRANTING PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Members of the Listening/Redesign Task Force Mike Szabo, First, Searcy and Julie Adkisson, First Conway were given the privilege of the floor.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was presented and **PASSED**:

1. The minutes of the June 7, 2014 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery were **APPROVED** as presented.
2. The Administrative Commission to install Teaching Elder David Cole (DC) Adams as Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Harrison has finished its work and filed its report, therefore the Assistant Stated Clerk moved **to dissolve the commission with the thanks of the presbytery.**
3. The Administrative Commission to ordain and install Rebecca Jean (Becky) Zorn Purcell as Co-Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Prairie Grove, has finished its work and filed its report, therefore the Assistant Stated Clerk moved **to dissolve the commission with the thanks of the presbytery.**
4. Gave notice that the Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Sun has notified the presbytery that the 2013 minutes of the Presbytery of Arkansas have been read and approved without exception.
5. Gave notice that the Assistant Stated Clerk has received the Session records reviews from Clusters I and V and part of Cluster VII.
6. CCE Susie Wright, Westminster, Hot Springs was nominated to serve on the Committee on Nominations beginning January 1, 2015 through 2016. There being no other nominations from the floor, she was **ELECTED.**
7. TE Carl McCormack was nominated to serve as Moderator of the Committee on Nominations for 2015. There being no other nominations from the floor, he was **ELECTED.**

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REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

It was reported, in accordance with the *Book of Order* D 10.0103, that an offense has been alleged and an investigating committee formed.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Moderator appointed Ruling Elder Patty Minga and Teaching Elders Rita Wilson and Mike McCracken to the Leaves of Absence Committee and Teaching Elders Liz Lindsay, Susie Wiggins, and CRE Hartley Jones as Tellers.

REPORT OF THE LISTENING/REDESIGN TASK FORCE

Led by Teaching Elder Robert Lowry, the Listening/Redesign Task Force presented the vision they discerned from the presbytery. The presbytery voted the following:

1. To receive the report. (full report is in the appendix) **PASSED.**
2. To adopt the new Regional Map of the presbytery to replace the current Cluster Map. **PASSED.**
3. To instruct the Moderator and the Moderator of General Committee, in consultation with the General Presbyter, to appoint three additional members to the Task force. **PASSED.**

Following the report, the Moderator offered a prayer of thanksgiving to Almighty God.

By common consent, the council agreed to amend the docket, allowing the meeting to continue until the dinner hour.

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

Teaching Elder Catherine Allsbury made the report of the Committee on Administration. The 2015 budget was **RECEIVED** pending adoption at the February Stated Meeting.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Teaching Elder and Campus Minister at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Susan Rose gave an inspiring report on the state of campus ministry in the presbytery today, including an audio/visual presentation.

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Ruling Elder Ed Wilkinson, Vice-Moderator of presbytery, gave the report of the General Committee. (full report is in the appendix)

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

The Committee on Nominations made the following motions, which, there being no further nominations from the floor, all **PASSED.**

- 1) The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following to fill unexpired term vacancies:
 - a. Committee on Christian Education, Class of 2016, Ruling Elder Doug Denne, First, Clarksville
 - b. Committee on Congregational Care and Development, Class of 2016, Ruling Elder David Mills, Second, Little Rock (living in Fayetteville)
- 2) The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following to serve three-year terms in the Class of 2017:

Committee on Administration

Ruling Elder Elizabeth Balls, First, Van Buren
Mr. Ryan Holder, Second, Little Rock
Teaching Elder Fred Taylor, honorably retired, Bull Shoals

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Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals

Teaching Elder Ira "Ike" Brighton, honorably retired, Maumelle
Ruling Elder Sarah Jones, First, Batesville
Ruling Elder Becky Williams, First, Harrison

Committee on Christian Education

Teaching Elder Gordon Garlington, Park Hill, North Little Rock
Teaching Elder Mike McCracken, Wynne Presbyterian
Ruling Elder Mattie Seward, First, Searcy

Committee on Congregational Care and Development

Ruling Elder Ted Belden, First United, Fayetteville
Ruling Elder Peg Falls-Corbitt, First, Conway
Teaching Elder Anne Russ, First, North Little Rock

Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response

Ruling Elder Liz Branch, Westover Hills, Little Rock
Teaching Elder Jeff Cranton, at-large member, Hot Springs
Ruling Elder Scott Howard, First, Searcy

Committee on Ministry

Teaching Elder Bill Bailey, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village
Ruling Elder Ruth Hamilton, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village
Ruling Elder Cyril Hollingsworth, Second, Little Rock
Ruling Elder Wendell Phillips, First, Jacksonville
Teaching Elder Dennis Ritchie, Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista
Teaching Elder Dick Shinkle, honorably retired, Harrison
Ruling Elder David Stricklin, Westover Hills, Little Rock
Teaching Elder Liz Wagner, Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista

Committee on Mission

Ruling Elder Kim Danehower, Graham Memorial, Forrest City
Commissioned Ruling Elder G. Hartley Jones, serving at Barr Memorial, Norman
Teaching Elder David Schaller, Faith, Horseshoe Bend

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Ruling Elder Susan Anderson, First, Springdale
Teaching Elder Phil Blackburn, First, Fort Smith
Ruling Elder Sherry Miller, First, Hot Springs
Ruling Elder Kathy White, First, Hot Springs

Counselor at Law

Ruling Elder Bill Walmsley, First, Batesville

Synod Commissioner

Teaching Elder Tom Ulrich, Central, Fort Smith

General Committee, Class of 2017

- Cluster Representative Ruling Elder Arvil Burks, First, Conway (cluster 7)
- Cluster Representative Ruling Elder Karene Jones, Park Hill, North Little Rock (cluster 9)
- At-large Representative Ruling Elder Joel Bunch, Elkins Presbyterian (cluster 1)
- At-large Representative Teaching Elder Liz Lindsey, First, Newport (clusters 4 and 3)

- 3) The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following to serve two-year terms in the Class of 2016:

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Committee on Representation

Ruling Elder Led Davis, First, Malvern
Ruling Elder Jeannie Steen, First, Harrison
Ms. Yuri Hernandez Ramos, Barr Memorial, Norman
Ruling Elder/CRE Bruce Schlegel, Cane Hill and Walnut Grove, Farmington

Synod Commissioner

Ruling Elder Emily Laurel, First, Benton

- 4) The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following to serve one-year terms in the Class of 2015:

Vice Moderator of Presbytery

Teaching Elder Lacy Sellars, First, Hot Springs

Moderators of Presbytery Committees:

Committee on Administration, Teaching Elder Catherine Allsbury, First, Malvern
Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals, Teaching Elder Dan Wooley, First, Lincoln
Committee on Christian Education, Ruling Elder Evelyn Mills, First, Harrison
Committee on Congregational Care & Development, Ruling Elder Leah Shell, Second, Little Rock
Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response, Ruling Elder James Anderson, First, Batesville
Committee on Ministry, Teaching Elder Dari Rowen, First, Benton
Committee on Mission, Ruling Elder Kim Danehower, Graham Memorial, Forrest City
Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Teaching Elder Kade Curry, First, Searcy
Committee on Representation, Ruling Elder John Alderson, Graham Memorial, Forrest City
General Committee, Teaching Elder Clare Kelley, Holiday Island/Eureka Springs

Presbytery of Arkansas Moderator, Ruling Elder Ed Wilkinson, Good Shepherd, Greenwood

MINUTE ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were minute announcements from Teaching Elder Karen Akin, Second Presbyterian, Little Rock inviting people to participate in their "Faith and Grief" program; from Teaching Elder Lemuel Garcia Austin Presbyterian Seminary, announcing an alumni gathering; from Teaching Elder Sherry Kenny, Presbyterian Foundation; from Teaching Elder Rita Wilson explaining the Congregational Care and Development grant process for small church ministries, and from General Presbyter Bill Galbraith noting the death of Teaching Elder Joe Sheeler in Pines Presbytery.

The council then adjourned for a barbeque dinner with live music in Heritage Hall.

The presbytery reconvened on Saturday, October 11, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Heritage Hall and heard a Theological Discussion on "The Land in God's Covenant with Israel" led by Teaching Elder Ruskin Falls.

The presbytery then processed to the sanctuary for **MORNING WORSHIP**. Those participating in service were: TE Chris H. Jones, First, Jonesboro; TE Al Henager, First, Heber Springs; TE Mike McCracken, the Presbyterian Church, Wynne; RE Kay Coil, First, Heber Springs; TE Kade Curry, First, Searcy; TE Leslie Roper, First, Batesville; RE Ty Hendricks, First, Searcy; RE Dick Freer, First, Jonesboro; RE Harriet OL'Neal, Organist, First, Jonesboro; Mrs. Day Arnoult, Choir Director, First, Jonesboro. The offering was equally divided between the Good Neighbor Food Pantry, Jonesboro and the Good Samaritan Ministry, Searcy.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

TE Frank LeBlanc, Moderator of the Committee on Ministry presented their report.

The presbytery voted on the following motions:

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1. That the process of the Korean group moving toward being a Fellowship be withdrawn, and that the Presbytery of Arkansas affirm the “at large” status of TE Young Doo Kim. **PASSED.**
2. To approve raising the “Minimum Compensation Package” of the Presbytery of Arkansas to \$52,400, which is the minimum total cost to the church. This Minimum Compensation Package will include a six-week paid parental leave, and at the end of five (5) years of a full-time pastor’s ministry in a particular congregation, the Session shall work with the pastor and present a plan to the Committee on Ministry for a sabbatical leave for the pastor during the 7th year of the pastor’s service. If a pastor’s salary is less than for a full-time position then the proportion of the time that they serve must correspond with the salary. If a pastor does not need to participate in the Board of Pensions program, as required by the Board of Pensions, then the total minimum effective salary (cash salary and housing) for a full-time call would be \$34,000. The same package is true for Certified Christian Educators and Temporary Pastoral Relationships. **PASSED.**
3. To approve the call of TE Georgia Senor as the Designated Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Bentonville, effective October 1, 2014 and to end on September 16, 2016, unless otherwise terminated on 30 day notice by the DAP, or the congregation and Presbytery. During the second year of the call all parties will be engaged in a discernment process (see full wording of the covenant) to consider one of three options. The call is for an average, or at least, 40 hours per week, with a compensation package to include:

Base Salary	\$34,000
Cash Housing Allowance	\$20,000
Social Security Offset	\$4,131
Reimbursed Expenses	\$6,000
Board of Pensions	\$18,900 (in full)
Anticipated total cost	\$83,031
Paid vacation of one full week per quarter	
Study leave two weeks annually	
Cell Phone	

Contingency for portions of the salary to be paid to the DAP for 3 months after the conclusion of the call if the DAP does not have another call.

Date of Installation Service: October 26, 2014 at 4 pm

Offering Recipient: Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center

Administration Commission Members:

Susan Anderson, RE, First, Springdale
Laura Fleetwood, TE, HR, Charge the Pastor
Al Hanna, RE, First United, Fayetteville
Clare Kelley, TE, Holiday Island/Eureka Springs, Moderate
Lynn Monroe, RE, First, Bentonville
Joe Tropansky, TE, HR, Charge the Congregation
Liz Wagner, TE, Bella Vista

Sitting with the Commission:

Barry Williams, TE, John Calvin Presbytery
Susan Wilder, TE, National Capitol Presbytery, Preach

At this point, the Moderator asked the Vice-Moderator, RE Ed Wilkinson to moderate the meeting.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

The Committee on Nominations placed into nomination the following:

Readers of Theological Exams, Class of 2015

Teaching Elder David Dyer, honorably retired, Westminster, Little Rock

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Teaching Elder Heinrich Eiler, honorably retired, Hot Springs Village
Teaching Elder Susan Gray, Vaughn Presbyterian, Bentonville
Ruling Elder Ruth Hamilton, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village
Ruling Elder Wendell Phillips, First, Jacksonville
Ruling Elder Karen Young-Vinson, First, Conway

Alternate Readers of Theological Exams, Class of 2015

Teaching Elder Phil Butin, First United, Fayetteville
Teaching Elder John King, honorably retired, Fayetteville

There being no further nominations from the floor, they were **ELECTED**.

COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

TE David Reed and TE Marie Mainard O'Connell presented information about the Resource Center.

At this point, the Moderator resumed the chair.

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

Teaching Elder Catherine Allsbury continued the report of the Committee on Administration, giving more information about the budget and disturbing congregational pledge cards.

A motion: That prior to any loan being taken by the Presbytery of Arkansas related to the Ferncliff pledge or any other loan, that loan be approved by the Presbytery of Arkansas. **PASSED**.

A motion: That the Presbytery of Arkansas secure the loan by the plan of the Administration Committee for an unsecured loan. (as per hand-out) (see appendix) **PASSED**.

COMMITTEE ON CARE AND NURTURE OF CHURCH PROFESSIONALS

RE Marty Shepherd gave the report of the Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals.

A motion to renew the Contract Covenant Agreement between the Wellspring Renewal Center (Wellspring) and the Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals of the Presbytery of Arkansas from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 **PASSED**. (Covenant text in appendix)

The anniversary of ordination and certification dates for twenty-six church professionals were celebrated.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE COMMITTEE

The Leaves of Absence Committee reported 53 Teaching Elders, two Corresponding Members, 36 Ruling Elder Commissioners and eleven other voting members in attendance, for a total of 102 voting commissioners present. There were 26 Teaching Elders excused and 44 Voting Ruling Elders excused. 36 Teaching Elders and 34 Sessions were absent without excuse.

MINUTE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following "Minute Announcements" were made:

RE James Anderson on Disaster Preparedness
TE Michael Vinson on the Spirituality Retreat, March 6-7, 2015
TE Gordon Garlington, encouraging support of the Arkansas Rice Depot

**OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS**

There was neither old nor new business.

RE Ed Wilkinson offered the closing prayer and the moderator adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David H. Dyer, Assistant Stated Clerk