



136th Stated Meeting
of the Presbytery of Arkansas
Friday and Saturday, October 6-7, 2017
Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church
Forrest City, Arkansas

PACKET



PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS

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Little Rock, Arkansas 72227

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September 15, 2017

Dear Commissioners,

I am honored to invite you to the 136th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, meeting in Forrest City, Arkansas. As I write this there are 48 refugees from City of Faith Church in West Palm Beach, Florida, packing up their belongings preparing to go home, in the very space that we will be having our welcome reception following worship on Friday evening, October 6. They have called Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church “home” for over a week as Hurricane Irma devastated the state of Florida. During our walk-through yesterday at Graham Memorial we were surrounded by the Holy Spirit filling the church with love and hope. I trust that God’s Holy Spirit will be with us as we gather to worship and work October 6-7.

The theme for this meeting is “Spirituality,” so for those so inclined please wear red for the meeting – the liturgical color representing God’s Holy Spirit. We will be treated to three theological discussions, one on Friday evening and another Saturday morning by Dr David Johnson of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and on Saturday afternoon by Rev. Rebecca Spooner, Director of Wellspring Renewal Center. In addition, the second workshop in a series of four on “Mapping Congregational Transformation” will be led by Rev. Michael Vinson, and co-sponsored by the Future of the Church Ministry Area, at 1 pm on Friday afternoon, October 6, at the Woodruff Electric Community Room, 3201 Hwy. 1 North. Churches who want (or need) a little boost by the Holy Spirit - these workshops are designed for you! Registration information is included in this packet.

Most of the materials that you will need for the meeting are included in this packet. Another packet with financial information, fliers, and other information will be posted to the presbytery’s website a week prior to the meeting. In the event there is last minute business it will be available to you in hard copy form at the registration table. For those of you who have not made a reservation for overnight accommodations please refer back to the “Host Packet” previously posted on the website.

Meetings of the Presbytery of Arkansas are not merely business meetings but are an opportunity for the Body of Christ to discern God’s will, to grow in faith, and to be filled with God’s Holy Spirit. Please take some time to review the materials in the packet and make note of any questions you would like answered about the business before the presbytery. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at lesliebeld@aol.com. I look forward to seeing you in Forrest City – the hometown of Rev. Stewart Smith and me!

Peace,

The Rev. Dr. Leslie Frances Smith Belden
Temporary Stated Clerk

Stewart Smith
General Presbyter

Kenneth Rich
Director of Mission Support

NiAnn Thompson
Resourcing Center Director

Leslie Smith Belden
Temporary Stated Clerk

Britton Varn
Youth Ministry

Michael Vinson
Vital Congregations

Graham Memorial
Forrest City
October 6-7, 2017

Next Meetings

137th Stated Meeting
Lyon College, Batesville
February 9-10, 2018

138th Stated Meeting
First Presbyterian, Conway
June 2, 2018

136th Stated Meeting

The Presbytery of Arkansas

Meeting Schedule

Friday, Woodruff Electric Community Room

1:00 pm Workshop for those Pre-Registered

Friday, Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City

5:00 pm Registration and Display Tables – Pettus

6:30 pm The Presbytery Convenes – Sanctuary

7:00 pm Order of the Day - Theological Discussion

8:00 pm Worship

9:30 pm Reception in the Christian Activity Bldg.

Saturday, Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City

8:30am The Presbytery Re-Convenes - Sanctuary

10am Order of the Day - Theological Discussion

12:15pm Lunch – Christian Activity Building

1:00 pm Resume Business

2 pm Order of the Day – Theological Discussion

Presbytery Leadership

Moderator RE Ruth Hamilton

Vice-Moderator MWS Leslie Roper

Moderator of CT MWS Lacy Sellers

General Presbyter MWS Stewart Smith

Temporary Stated Clerk MWS Leslie Belden

Moderator of Administration

RE Jan Enke

Moderator of COM MWS Dari Rowen

Moderator of CLD MWS Kade Curry

Moderator of Future of the Church

RE Leah Shell

Moderator of Mission of the Church

RE Kelly Pearson

Moderator of Representation

RE Ledridge Davis

Moderator of Nominations

MWS Elizabeth Gabbard

Docket

Friday, October 6, 2017

- 1-5:00 pm Workshop by Rev. Michael Vinson on “Mapping Congregational Transformation, Aligning with Your Purpose as a Congregation”
Woodruff Electric Community Room, 3201 Highway 1 North
- 5-6:30 pm Registration and Display Tables
Pettus Hall, Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church

We Gather in God’s Name

- 6:30 pm Call to Order in the Sanctuary
Opening Prayer
Report of Enrollment and Declaration of Quorum
Adoption of the Docket
Seating of Corresponding Members, Granting of Privilege of the Floor/Voice
Welcome to First Time Commissioners
Introduction of Presbytery Staff
Welcome from Host
- 7:00 pm Order of the Day – Theological Discussion:
“Reformed Spirituality and Current Trends and Patterns and Practices,” led by
Dr. David Johnson of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
- 7:45 pm Break

We Encounter God’s Word

- 8:00 pm Worship
- 9:15 pm Recess until Saturday Morning
- 9:15 pm Reception in the Gymnasium

Saturday, October 7, 2017

We Celebrate God's Presence With Us

- 7:30 am Light Continental Breakfast in Pettus Hall
8:30 am Call to Order in Sanctuary
Devotional – Spiritual Health of Congregations

We Respond to God's Call

- 8:45 am Adoption of Consent Agenda, including Minutes of June 6, 2017 (Section A for Consent Agenda, Minutes in separate packet)
Treasurer's Report
Report of the Stated Clerk (Section B)
Report of the Coordinating Team (Section C)
Report of the Committee on Leadership Development (Section D)
10:00 am Order of the Day – Theological Discussion:
“Encouraging Opportunities for Spiritual Development across the Generations” led by Dr. David Johnson of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
10:45 am Break
11:00 am Report of the Committee on Ministry (Sections E)
Report of the Committee on Nominations (Section F)
Report of the Future of the Church Ministry Area (Section G)
12:15 pm Break for Lunch
1:00 pm Presentation by Presbyterian Village (See flier)
Greetings from the Presbyterian Foundation
Report of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area (Section H)
Report of the Subcommittee on Honduras Ministry (Section H – Exhibit 2)
Report of the Polity Committee on the Overture: On Excluding Campaigning in the Church (Section I)
2:00 pm Order of the Day - Theological Discussion:

“Spirituality as a Caregiver at Any Age (a Family, Congregation, or Community)” led by Rev. Rebecca Spooner of Wellspring Renewal Center

2:45 pm Report of the Administration Ministry Area (distributed in a separate packet)

Minute Announcements

New Business

a.

b.

c.

Report of the Leaves of Absence Committee

We Are Sent in God's Service

Commitment to God's Call - Referrals

Closing Prayer

3:30 pm Adjournment

Presbyterian to English Cheat Sheet

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

- **AC-** An Addministrative Commission 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 Committee on Ministry provides oversight and advocacy for congregations and Ministers of the Word and Sacrament. It receives Ministers of the Word and Sacrament from other presbyteries, approves calls for pastoral services, oversees congregations without pastors, dissolves pastoral relationships, dismisses Ministers of the Word and Sacrament to other presbyteries, determines of the criteria for validating ministries of non-parish clergy, and oversees Commissioned Ruling Elders serving congregations.
- **CLD-** The Committee on Leadership Development 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 Coordinating Team 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 General Assembly of the PC(USA) is the highest council of the church. It meets in even numbered years for approx. 12 days. The 2018 meeting will be held in late June in St. Louis, Missouri.
- **HR-** Honorably Retired is a designation for Ministers of the Word and Sacrament retired from active service to the church who remain in good standing with the PC(USA).

- ***Inquirer-*** A person in the initial phase of the process of preparation for ministry as a Minister of Word and Sacrament.
- ***MIF-*** A **Ministry Information Form** 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.
- ***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 national church headquarters in Louisville, KY.
- ***PNC-*** **Pastor Nominating Committee** is a search committee elected by a congregation to seek, interview, and recommend a new pastor.
- ***RE/Ruling Elder-*** **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-*** 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-*** **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 Ruling Elder or Honorably Retired. You may speak to a pending motion or ask a question. The person making the motion will have first opportunity to speak to the motion. Only motions coming from individuals need a second. A motion made on behalf of a committee already has a second: the majority vote of the committee.

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

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

Section A

Consent Agenda

MWS Leslie Smith Belden
Temporary Stated Clerk

1. Motion to approve the minutes of the 135th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, June 3, 2017, held at Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, AR. (distributed in a separate packet)
2. Motion to receive the final report of the Rogers Administrative Commission, which served in an advisory capacity to the session of First Presbyterian Church, Rogers, during their time of transition, and dismiss the members of the Administrative Commission with thanks. See Exhibit 1 at the end of Section A.
3. Motion to dismiss MWS William Fred Galbraith, HR, to Indian Nations Presbytery, effective October 7, 2017, who was received by that presbytery on July 11, 2017.
4. Motion to receive Rev. Mike Clark, a minister in good standing in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), serving as the Transitional Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Mountain Home, as a Temporary Member of the Presbytery of Arkansas per *Book of Order* G-2.0506, which reads:

G-2.0506 Temporary Membership in Presbytery for a Period of Service

A presbytery may enroll a minister of another Christian church who is serving temporarily in a validated ministry in this church, or in an installed relationship under the provisions of the Formula of Agreement (*Book of Order*, Appendix B; G-5.0202), when the minister has satisfied the requirements of preparation for such service established by the presbytery's own rule.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is in "Full Communion" with the PC(USA) through the Formula of Agreement (*Book of Order*, Appendix B).

5. Motion to approve the Compensation Report. See Section A – Exhibit 2.
6. Motion to receive the report of the Administrative Commission that installed MWS Kade Curry as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Springdale, and dismiss them with thanks.

Section A - Exhibit 1

First Presbyterian Church of Rogers Administrative Commission (AC) Report

RE Leah Lasley Shell

Moderator of the Rogers Administrative Commission

The Rogers AC was formed to aid this congregation in the transition between a part time Pastor and being ready to call a Pastor. This Administrative Commission began its work with a face-to-face meeting with the Rogers session on August 23, 2015. Members of the Rogers AC included : MWS Leslie Belden, RE Dr. Peg Falls-Corbitt, MWS Brian Brock, RE Charles Cook, RE Ed Wilkinson, and RE Leah Shell. MWS Dr. Robert William Lowry, Stated Clerk served in an advisory capacity. The scope of the Rogers Administrative Commission was outlined by Rev. Dr. Robert William Lowry, Stated Clerk:

- (1) to inquire into the life and ministries of the Rogers church
- (2) to determine the financial situation of the church;
- (3) to consult with the church on models for ministry and mission;
- (4) to assist the congregation to secure temporary pastoral leadership; and
- (5) to assume original jurisdiction of the church, if necessary.

Basically the AC had the authority to act on Presbytery's behalf.

The Administrative Commission met several times with the Rogers session. Discussion with the session included the history of the congregation, the financial position of the congregation, and the desire of the congregation to take the next steps. The first several meetings with the session included much of the history of the congregation, including the past pastoral leadership. During the first few meetings it was determined that there was not a consensus on the Rogers Session on what should be the next steps for the congregation. The session brought the financial documents to the second meeting and members of the AC reviewed these documents. The session asked for help with funding a mission study. Members of the former Committee on Congregation Care who are also members of this AC took a request back to request funding this study. MWS Michael Vinson proposed a study with a cost of \$10,000. Funding for the study was approved by the CC&D Committee.

At the end of 2016 and beginning of 2017, in conjunction with the former Committee on the Church's Ministry, MWS Leslie Belden began to work on compiling names of temporary pastors for the congregation. Rev. Ronnie Prevost, an ordained Baptist minister also ordained as a PC(USA) Ruing Elder, was hired to be the temporary pastoral leadership in February of 2016. Rev. Prevost attended meetings with the Rogers Administrative Commission and the Rogers Session.

By the end of 2016, a Pastor Nominating Committee had been formed. In April of 2017 the Rogers Session reported to the AC that the mortgage on the existing church facility had been paid. The Rogers Session and the PNC also completed the Ministry Information Form. The scope of the AC for the Rogers Congregation was deemed complete and the congregation is now working with the COM on the next steps in calling a Pastor.

Section A - Exhibit 2

Clergy Compensation Worksheets Amounts for 2017																	
Name	Location	Salary	Housing	Utilities	Deferred Comp (403-B)	Other Allowances	Pension & MM	Auto Exp.	Business/ Professional Expenses	SECA (Social Security) Supplement	Cont. Ed.	Benefits --Other	Other	Total			
Adams	Harrison--First	46,788	15,000	5,000							2,000			93,089			
Akin	Little Rock--Grace	29,154	18,000						2,000		3,500			71,065			
Alsbury	Little Rock--Second													-			
Bacon-Latina	Maivern--First	44,310	7,800				19,195	3,780		4,049	1,500			80,634			
Bailey	Hot Springs Village--Kirk	51,681	28,014	2,646			30,056	6,000		6,299	3,400	905	3,822	132,823			
Beane	CRE--Norman, Barr Memorial (co-pastor)		3,120	2,080										5,200			
Belden	Presbytery Office	18,880												18,880			
Benson-Nicol	At Large													-			
Blackburn, P	Ft. Smith--First	49,985	12,000				18,500	1,000	2,000		2,000			85,485			
Blackburn, T	Ft. Smith--First	49,985	12,000				18,500	1,000	2,000		2,000			85,485			
Bond	Van Buren--First													-			
Branch	Walnut Ridge--First (Pulpit Supply)													-			
Brnegar	Yellville--First	31,800	9,673				15,138	3,000			1,200	443	5,420	66,674			
Brock	Russellville--Central													-			
Bulin, J	Fayetteville--First United	58,438	17,500				27,717		5,000	5,809	1,200			115,664			
Bulin, P	Fayetteville--First United	58,438	17,500				27,717		5,000	5,809	1,200			115,664			
Chanthorn	CRE--Ft. Smith Laotian Ministry													-			
Clark, Carol	North Little Rock--Park Hill (Transitional Pastor)	38,679	19,125				21,790	1,550		4,301	600			86,045			
Clark, Mike	Mountain Home (Transitional Pastor)													-			
Cummings	Bentonville--First													-			
Curry	Springdale--First	34,000	28,000				15,190	3,000		4,743	1,200		1,200	87,333			
Davis	Holly Grove													-			
Dyer	LR--Westminster (Stated Supply)		18,800											-			
Falls	Little Rock--Pulaski Heights	31,000	20,000				18,615	2,000		3,902	2,000	1,166		78,683			
Ford	Alma, First (Temp. Supply)													-			
Frazier	Morrilton--First	26,677	20,497	7,416			20,471			4,177			2,575	81,813			
Freeman	Jacksonville (Interim)													-			
Fulks	Heber Springs	30,000	18,000				20,086		1,200	930	1,200	218		71,633			
Gabbard	Arkadelphia--First	35,500	15,000			3,863	18,876				1,000		4,000	78,239			
Gill	Fenciliff Camp		20,000											20,000			
Gray	Bentonville--Vaughn (Stated Supply)	6,000	12,000										4,000	22,000			
Hadley	Fairfield Bay	39,500	13,000	4,000		1,000	24,155	6,200						88,687			
Hancock	Little Rock--Second	80,374	43,440				45,192	5,000			1,500		732	175,506			
Hatcher	Hot Springs--Westminster	42,840	18,360	4,080			24,732	3,500		4,994	900		3,200	102,606			
Humphrey	Little Rock--Allison Memorial													-			
Jones	CRE--Norman, Barr Memorial (co-pastor)		3,120	2,080										5,200			
Kelley	NWA Larger Parish	33,375	21,000				19,847	4,500			1,200			79,921			
Kim	At Large													-			
Kleinjan	Helena--Stated Supply (NonMember)													-			
Kwak	Pine Bluff--Central	15,868	12,000			11,653	10,172	1,200			1,200			52,092			
Landis	Pine Bluff--First (Pulpit Supply)	36,000	18,000											54,000			
LeBlanc	Little Rock--Westover Hills													-			
Mainard-O'Connell	Little Rock--Second (Transitional Associate Pastor)	24,100	25,000				17,922	1,800			1,500			70,322			
Menske	CRE--Cane Hill													-			
McCracken	Wynne													-			
Montgomery	West Helena (Pulpit Supply)													-			
Moody	Jonesboro--First (Pulpit Supply)	73,000	(Estimate)										200	73,200			
Olson	Atkins--Memorial (CRE)													-			
Parker	Mountainburg (Transitional Pastor)													-			

Clergy Compensation Worksheets													
Amounts for 2017													
Name	Location	Salary	Housing	Utilities	Deferred Comp (403-B)	Other Allowances	Pension & MMI	Auto Exp.	Business/ Professional Expenses	SECA (Social Security) Supplement	Cont. Ed.	Benefits --Other	Other
Pearson	CRE--Dardanelle	22,202	14,000			594	12,534	2,500		3,000	250		56,330
Prevost	Rogers--First (Pulpit Supply)	17,640						2,880			600		21,120
Price	Little Rock--Trinity												-
Purcell	Prairie Grove--First	10,000	20,000				15,000				900		45,900
Qualls	Forrest City--Graham Memorial (Pulpit Supply)	5,000	6,000				10,500	4,000			500		28,000
Reeves	Suitgart--First	9,100	2,840	1,300			4,833	2,600		1,013	600		22,286
Rhodes, C & K	GREs, Arkadelphia--West End	16,000							12,000				28,000
Richie	Bella Vista	41,401	21,000			15,000	28,922	3,500	2,000	5,921	4,500		122,244
Roper	Batesville, First	31,840	20,000				18,922	1,000	2,700		1,800		76,262
Rose	Fayetteville--United Campus Mtn.		8,000		24,000								32,000
Rowen	Benton	38,856	13,560				19,974	3,000			1,200		76,590
Rudolph	Scott												-
Russ	NLR--First (Stated Supply)												-
Saul	Al Large												-
Schaller	Horseshoe Bend--Faith												-
Seltz	Mena--First (Transitional Pastor)												-
Sellers	First--Hot Springs	40,626	39,000				29,063	3,000	1,500	6,091	2,000	905	122,185
Senor	Bentonville--First	38,401	20,000				21,454		3,000	4,468	3,000		90,323
Smith	Presbytery Office	40,000	35,000				27,375		15,000	6,196	1,500	866	125,937
Spooner	Wellspring Renewal Center												-
Strong	Manama--First (NonMember)												-
Tallent	MecGehee (Stated Supply)												-
Taylor	Bull Shoals (Stated Supply)	12,000	12,000					500					24,500
Ulasewich	Conway--First	36,091	29,518				23,947		7,841	5,019			102,416
Vinson	Al Large/Presbytery Staff	7,800											7,800
Vogado	Little Rock--Second	29,670	26,000				20,320	1,800			1,500		79,290
Wagner	Bella Vista	18,268	15,600				15,250	2,000	1,000	2,775	6,500		63,793
Wilkinson	CRE--Good Shepherd				2,400								-
Wilson	Ft. Smith--Central												-
Woolley	Fayetteville--Mt. Comfort & Lincoln--First (Stated Supply)												-
Wright	CRE, Pine Bluff--Faith												-
Total Ministers		80											

Section B

Report of the Stated Clerk

MWS Leslie Smith Belden
Temporary Stated Clerk

Reminder of Quorum:

The quorum for a meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was established by the General Committee and passed by the Presbytery on February, 20, 2015: The quorum for stated meetings of the Presbytery of Arkansas is twenty (20) Ruling Elders and twenty (20) Ministers of the Word and Sacrament from at least twenty (20) congregations.

Report on Administrative Commissions:

- Cane Hill/Walnut Grove Administrative Commission – Phil Butin, Moderator

The Walnut Grove property was sold for \$45,000 on July 15, 2017. The presbytery received \$19,787 at the closing of the sale and will receive another \$25,000 on or before July 14, 2018. This money, as approved by the presbytery at its last meeting, will be used to support the CLP program of the Presbytery. The AC is in communication with the Historic Cane Hill Society, who wishes to restore the Cane Hill Presbyterian Church property and grant permission for the church to continue meeting there.

- Clarksville Administrative Commission – Ted Belden and Clare Kelley Co-Moderators

The AC is charged with working with the session of First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville, with the primary responsibility of selling the property. The AC has met multiple times and is establishing the value of the building and talking with various entities about the future use of the building.

- Gamaliel 101 Presbyterian Church – Blake Brinegar, Moderator

The congregation seeks dissolution with the PC(USA). The AC has received financial records and continues to work with the session of Gamaliel 101. The church wants to be non-denominational with the new name “Grace.”

- La Comunidad Hispanic Administrative Commission – Phil Butin, Moderator

The ministry, as it has been, has closed and the sign is down at First, Springdale.

- First, Little Rock Administrative Commission – Cyril Hollingsworth, Moderator

The AC continues to work closely with the session during the congregation's transitional period without a pastor.

- First, Lonoke Administrative Commission – Marie Mainard-O'Connell Moderator

The AC was established June 4, 2016 to assist church in discerning the next steps, with the session, for the congregation. They will meet on Thursday, September 28, at 2:00 pm.

- First, Ozark Administrative Commission – Brian Brock, Moderator

The AC is charged, among other tasks, with selling property that the church holds in trust for the presbytery, as the congregation expressed their desire to leave the PC(USA).

- First, Rogers Administrative Commission - Leah Shell, Moderator

The AC believes that they have fulfilled their charge, and they have turned in their final report to the Temporary Stated Clerk, and asked to be dissolved. See the Consent Agenda, Section A.

- Washington County Property Administrative Commission – Ted Belden, Moderator

The AC is charged with selling a property on Crossover Road valued at \$500,000.

Report on Pastoral Status:

- MWS Ray McCalla, dismissed by Arkansas Presbytery, received by Des Moines Presbytery 2/11/17
- MWS Robert Lowry, dismissed by Arkansas Presbytery 2/3/17, received by MS Presbytery 2/18/17
- MWS Susan Carter Wiggins, dismissed by Arkansas Presbytery, received by Mid South Presbytery 8/14/16

Report on the Synod's Review of the 2016 Presbytery of Arkansas Minutes:

One of the responsibilities of governing bodies is to review the records of the councils immediately below them. That is why the Presbytery reviews the records of congregations and the Synod reviews the records of presbyteries. The Synod of the Sun employed a new process for reviewing presbytery minutes and the results

of that review were reported to the Temporary Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Arkansas on September 18, 2017.

When something is omitted it is considered an “exception.” There were very few exceptions noted, and the Temporary Stated Clerk will address the information requested. The findings of the Synod are reported below. The Temporary Stated Clerk respectfully requests that congregations/Clerks of Session please assist with the review of the records of sister congregations so that those reviews may be recorded and reported to the Synod.

EXCEPTIONS: *Required by the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) the following matters shall be included in the minutes, as applicable.*

Page Number	Item Number	Description
164?	8	Independent financial review not received as noted on form. The Independent Auditor’s report for year ended 12/31/2014 was included in the Appendix - p. 164
	3	No indication of the number specified as a quorum in the presbytery bylaws or standing rules
	18	Reports of all actions regarding the sale, or transfer of real property should include: address, kind of property, present use, price paid, use of proceeds.
		COMMENTS:
8	11-12	No indication of how many Session minutes reviewed, including the number of exceptions noted, if any.
157	14	Should “A Vision for Children and the Church” be renamed to reflect the suggested name of “Child and Youth Protection Policy”?

For Action:

1. Motion to limit all speakers to three minutes when speaking to a motion.

Rationale:

When the Presbytery of Arkansas gathers we gather to worship, fellowship, learn together, celebrate our ministry together, and to conduct the business before us – with the intent that all that we do is to the glory of God. All of these aspects of our meeting are important. At this meeting there are three 45-minute theological discussions and much business before us. In an attempt to honor the voices of all, and allow the business that is later in the docket to receive as much attention as the business earlier in the docket, those wishing to speak to a motion should be concise in their remarks so that others may also have time to speak.

Section B - Exhibit 1

Report of the Task Force on Staffing Model

MWS Leslie Bethell Roper
First Presbyterian Church, Batesville

Our task force was charged with the work of looking at the current staffing model of the Presbytery of Arkansas, with particular attention to the direction and priorities set forth in the latest restructuring of the Presbytery, and recommending any changes to that staffing model that we see fit. We were asked to report back to the October 2017 meeting of the Presbytery.

The basis of our report is this: we are working on it! This is significant work, and we remain grateful for the Presbytery's trust in us to complete it. So far, our work has included:

- Seeking definition among ourselves for our task, and in particular distinguishing our calling from the important and ongoing work of the Administrative Committee;
- Exploring the history of our current staffing model as well as its past iterations to be able to fully understand how we arrived at the model we have today;
- Comparing our own staffing needs and structure with other presbyteries, with particular focus on the eleven presbyteries within the Synod of the Sun;
- Determining other voices, including current and past staff and current leaders in our presbytery with distinct perspectives on our staffing needs, from which we need to learn and contacting said individuals; and
- Praying together as we seek with hope and joy to discern what staffing model might carry our Presbytery most faithfully into the future.

As we continue our work, we covet your prayers, as we seek to find the most faithful way to staff our Presbytery that we might all “make visible the body of Christ” in our state and in God’s world.

Section B - Exhibit 2

Prayer List for Congregations, Presbytery of Arkansas - 2018

Jan.	7	First, Clarksville	Park Hill, North Little Rock
Jan.	14	Mt. Vernon, Pea Ridge	First, Huntsville
Jan.	21	First, Benton	Active Ruling Elders
Jan.	28	University of the Ozarks, Clarksville	Faith, Horseshoe Bend
Feb.	4	First, McGehee	Inquirers and Candidates for Ministry
Feb.	11	First, Lincoln	First, Heber Springs
Feb.	18	Synod of the Sun	Church Musicians
Feb.	25	First, Jacksonville	Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Mar.	4	Church Secretaries	Holiday Island Presbyterian
Mar.	11	Second, Little Rock	First, Yellville
Mar.	18	Directors of Children's Programs	First, Mena
Mar.	25	First United, Fayetteville	Lyon College, Batesville
Apr.	1	First, Harrison	First, North Little Rock
Apr.	8	Mt. Comfort, Fayetteville	First, Dardanelle
Apr.	15	Good Shepherd, Greenwood	Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista
Apr.	22	Central, Fort Smith	Active Deacons
Apr.	29	Alpine Church, Amity	Cleburne Avenue, West Helena
May	6	First, Lonoke	Vaughn, Bentonville
May	13	First, Hot Springs	Ministries to Hispanic Persons in Arkansas
May	20	Westover Hills, Little Rock	Allison Memorial, Little Rock
May	27	Holly Grove Church, Holly Grove	First, Alma
June	3	Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village	First, Searcy
June	10	Mission Trip Participants	First, Fort Smith
June	17	Pulaski Heights, Little Rock	Harmony Church, Clarksville
June	24	New Worshipping Communities	First, Pine Bluff
July	1	Graham Memorial, Forrest City	Elkins Church, Elkins
July	8	Grace, Little Rock	First, Malvern
July	15	Barr Memorial, Norman	Hopewell Church, Morrilton
July	22	First, Mountain Home	First, Newport
July	29	First, Little Rock	Presbytery Staff
Aug.	5	Trinity, Little Rock	Spring River, Hardy
Aug.	12	First, Bentonville	Westminster, Little Rock
Aug.	19	First, Conway	First, Prairie Grove
Aug.	26	First, Morrilton	First, Springdale
Sept.	2	Wynne Church, Wynne	Commissioned Ruling Elders
Sept.	9	Faith, Pine Bluff	First, Beebe
Sept.	16	Central, Pine Bluff	Church Camp Ministries
Sept.	23	First, Brinkley	First, Jonesboro
Sept.	30	First, Gurdon	Churches in Presbyteries in Honduras
Oct.	7	Cane Hill Church, Cane Hill	Active and Retired Christian Educators and Youth Directors
Oct.	14	First, Van Buren	First, Batesville
Oct.	21	First, Eureka Springs	Central, Russellville
Oct.	28	First, Helena	West End, Arkadelphia
Nov.	4	Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals	First, Arkadelphia
Nov.	11	Campus Ministries	Hospital Chaplains and Counselors
Nov.	18	Church Nursery Workers	First, Rogers
Nov.	25	First, Marianna	Westminster, Hot Springs
Dec.	2	First, Paragould	Church Custodians
Dec.	9	Mountainburg Church, Mountainburg	Active and Retired Ministers
Dec.	16	Laotian Ministry, Fort Smith	First, Stuttgart
Dec.	23	Memorial Church, Atkins and First, Walnut Ridge	Dec. 30 Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay and Church Pre-Schools

Section C

Report of the Coordinating Team

MWS Lacy Sellers
First, Hot Springs

For Information:

According to the Presbytery of Arkansas' Ministry Manual:

"The Coordinating Team serves as the coordinating and program oversight body of the Presbytery between meetings. When necessary, the Coordinating Team may act on behalf of the presbytery for routine business or when a called, special, or regular meeting of the presbytery is impractical."

The Coordinating Team met on August 5, 2017, and took the following actions on behalf of the Presbytery of Arkansas:

1. Granted Grace Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, permission to encumber the property for up to \$65,000 so that they may take out a loan to pay for repairs to the portico over the walkway surrounding the courtyard of the church.
2. Approved the request of the Presbyterian Women to celebrate the Lord's Supper at their 2018 Spring Gathering, April 21, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith, with PC(USA) MWS officiating.
3. Directed the Temporary Stated Clerk to send an email to all Moderators of Ministry Areas, Committees, and Sub-Committees in The Presbytery of Arkansas Ministry Manual, plus the Moderator of Presbyterian Women and the Permanent Judicial Commission, requesting that the groups review the Ministry Manual and send the Stated Clerk any recommended changes to the Manual that would benefit their ministry.
4. Elected an Administrative Commission to assist the Presbyterian Churches in Pine Bluff, as the presence of the Presbytery of Arkansas, as they look toward their future ministry, including Pine Bluff First, Central, and Faith. See Section C – Exhibit 1.
5. Approved the following dates and locations for meetings of the Presbytery of Arkansas in 2018:

February 9-10, 2018 at Lyon College

June 2, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church of Conway

October 19-20, 2018 at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center

Report on Coordinating Team Task Forces:

There are two Coordinating Team Task Forces working on (1) financial assets beyond the budget, and (2) Commissioned Ruling Elder education and process, that were to report back to the October 2017 meeting. Those Task Forces report that their work is on-going and that they will report back at the February 8-9, 2018 meeting.

For Action:

According to the Presbytery of Arkansas' Ministry Manual, Part 1: Organization and Structure, 8) Amendment, A. Amendments, on page 15:

"Amendments – The **Ministry Manual** may be amended by vote of the Presbytery as follows:

1. Amending Organization and Structure – The **Organization and Structure** section may be amended by 3/5 vote of the Presbytery present and voting if the proposed amendment is distributed to all members and member congregations no less than 30 days prior to the meeting during which the vote is to take place. This rule may be waived by a 2/3 vote of the Presbytery present and voting.
2. Ministry Duties and Presbytery Policies – The Ministry Duties and Presbytery Policies sections may be amended by majority vote of the Presbytery."

The proposed changes were posted to the Presbytery's website more than 30 days prior to the October 6-7, 2017 meeting in the folder containing documents for the October 6-7, 2017 meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas. All congregations, members of the Presbytery of Arkansas, and those required to attend and vote due to their service to the Presbytery were notified of that posting.

The following two motions are amendments to Part 1: Organization and Structure, requiring a 3/5 vote of the Presbytery present and voting to approve.

1. Pertaining to the Committee on Leadership Development - Motion to amend the Presbytery of Arkansas Ministry Manual Part I: Organization and Structure, 5) Ministry Areas and Standing Committees, C. 1. a) Committee on Leadership Development, (1) Membership on page 8 to reflect the following:

Delete: "Membership: One member from each region of the Presbytery shall be elected to serve a three-year term. Five at-large members representing the diversity of the Presbytery shall be elected. At least one member of the CLD shall be a Certified Christian Educator or Certified Associate Christian Educator."

Add: "Membership: One member from each region of the Presbytery shall be elected to serve a three-year term. Seven at-large members representing the diversity of the Presbytery shall be elected. At least one member of the CLD shall be a Certified Christian Educator or Certified Associate Christian Educator."

Rationale:

The number of members was reduced in the Presbytery's restructuring and has caused difficulties in serving the needs of the candidates under care and elders in the Commissioned Ruling Elder education process. Approval of this motion will add two much needed additional members to the committee.

2. Pertaining to the Committee on Ministry - Motion to amend the Presbytery of Arkansas Ministry Manual Part I: Organization and Structure, 5) Ministry Areas and Standing Committees, C. 1. b) Committee on Ministry, (1) Membership on page 8 to reflect the following:

Delete: "Membership: Two members from each region of the Presbytery shall be elected to serve a three-year term. Ten at-large members representing the diversity of the Presbytery shall be elected to serve a three-year term."

Add: "Membership: Two members from each region of the Presbytery shall be elected to serve a three-year term. Sixteen at-large members representing the diversity of the Presbytery shall be elected to serve a three-year term."

Rationale:

Prior to the Presbytery's restructuring the Committee on Ministry had twenty-four (24) members serving the geographical regions of the presbytery. The reorganization added the responsibilities of the former Care and Nurture of Church Professionals Committee to the work of the re-named Committee on the Church's Ministry, and reduced the number on the committee to 18. The committee has struggled to provide liaisons to the growing quantity of congregations without pastoral leadership, and needs the additional six members to adequately address the needs of the presbytery. The committee will continue to be equally balanced between Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elders that was formerly mandated in the older version of the PC(USA) *Book of Order*.

The following motion is a proposed amendment to Part 2 of the Ministry Manual: Ministry Area and Committee Duties, requiring a simple majority vote of the Presbytery present and voting to approve.

3. Pertaining to the Committee on Nominations – Motion to amend the Presbytery of Arkansas Ministry Manual Part II: Ministry and Committee Duties, adding a "Number 10" under the Responsibilities of the Committee on Nominations, following line 740 on page 19 to read:

"The Committee on Nominations will do the best job possible to match gifts of people with needs of the presbytery while honoring parity between elders and Ministers of Word and Sacrament, and laity, where allowed, and representing both genders, several ethnicities and regional geography,

aspiring to the standards required in the documents. However, when these standards cannot be met despite their best efforts, it is up to the Committee on Nominations' discretion to bring names of persons to the presbytery as appropriately as possible, favoring those who volunteer for particular service."

Rationale:

There are some Ministry Areas, Committees, or Subcommittees with vacancies, or potential vacancies, although there are those in the Presbytery who are willing to serve but do not meet representational criteria.

4. Motion to confirm the action of the Coordinating Team, which elected the following to fill immediate vacancies:
 - a. RE Curtis Wright, Westminster, Hot Springs, Disaster Subcommittee, Class of 2017 (replacing Rev. Bryan Bond who resigned)
 - b. MWS Elizabeth Gabbard, serving First, Arkadelphia, Synod Commissioner, Class of 2017 (replacing Rev. Karen Akin who resigned)
 - c. RE Susan Presley, First, Huntsville, Permanent Judicial Commission, Class of 2019 (replacing Elder Sam Highsmith who resigned)
 - d. MWS Karen Akin, Grace, Little Rock, Ministries with Youth, Young Adult, Campus Ministry Area, Class of 2019
 - e. RE Karen Young-Vinson, First, Conway, Committee on Ministry, Class of 2018 (replacing Elder Charlie Brown who resigned)

According to the Presbytery of Arkansas Ministry Manual, Part 2: Ministry and Committee Duties, it is the responsibility of the Coordinating Team to, "Nominate individuals to the Presbytery to be elected to the Committee on Nominations" (The Presbytery Coordinating Team, lines 69-70)

5. Motion to elect the following to serve on the Committee on Nominations:

Vacancy:

CRE Chuck Olson, Class of 2019, replacing MWS Elizabeth Gabbard who resigns at the end of the year to serve as Synod Moderator.

Class of 2020

MWS Bob Hadley, HR, and to serve as Moderator for 2018.

RE Kim Brooks, First Presbyterian Church, Harrison

RE Keith Burt, First Presbyterian Church, Bentonville

Section C - Exhibit 1

Pine Bluff, Arkansas Administrative Commission

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

1. Charged with the responsibilities and authority to assist the Presbyterian Churches in Pine Bluff, as the presence of the Presbytery of Arkansas, as they look toward their future ministry. The Presbyterian Churches in Pine Bluff include First Presbyterian Church, Central Presbyterian Church, and Faith Presbyterian Church.
2. Members:
 - a. Ruling Elder Wynona Bryant-Williams, Allison Memorial Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
 - b. Ruling Elder Don Eilbott; Trinity Presbyterian Church, Little Rock; COM representative
 - c. MWS Debra Freeman, First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville
 - d. Ruling Elder Ruth Hamilton, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village
 - e. MWS Frank LeBlanc, Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
 - f. MWS Jeff Price, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
 - g. MWS Anne Russ, First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock, FotCMA representative
 - h. MWS Leslie Belden, Temporary Stated Clerk (ex-officio)
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 Leadership Development

MWS Kade Curry
First, Springdale

Report of Meeting - July 15, 2017

Arkansas Presbytery's Committee on Leadership Development met remotely via Zoom beginning at 10:00 am on Saturday, July 15, 2017. Kade Curry announced that two additional people have been asked to serve on this committee. The committee needs additional members, as we may have twenty candidates under care by the end of the year.

Format for Future Meetings

The committee discussed pros and cons of holding online versus in-person meetings. Options included all Zoom with candidates joining the meeting via Zoom, committee members meeting in person and candidates joining by Zoom, and all in-person meetings. The cost savings is dramatic when using Zoom, and it seems to be a waste of resources to bring candidates in for very short actual meeting times. There is still value to having some contact with other committee members. Kade will poll the committee on preferences.

Additional Candidates

Potential candidates who have not submitted an application were discussed. It was noted that this committee can offer the potential candidate a person to talk to while the candidate is going through the process of discernment. No action was taken on assigning a "point person" before an official liaison is assigned.

c

Liaison assignments for current candidates are included on the committee roster.

Preparing Candidates for Examination before Presbytery

Statements of Faith have been received from Inquirers and Candidates. Liaisons are asked to review these for content, making sure possible topics for questioning are covered. It was encouraged to review possible questions with the candidates in preparation for examination before Presbytery.

Preparation for Interviews

The committee discussed the process for interviewing CRE candidates. Arkansas Presbytery no longer has a Lay Academy, and there isn't much structure for training. Candidates had not been formally under care but had done academic work. Now we don't have much for them to do when they do come under care. Exams have consisted of answering specific questions, and there is no requirement for CRE candidates to be presented to Presbytery. There is no requirement relative to how long a candidate is to be under care.

INTERVIEWS

Candidates individually joined the meeting via Zoom.

Mary Shaw

Mary stated that she started classes at Austin Seminary working on a Certificate in Ministry (CIM). She had no intent at that time to become a CRE. However, she became more interested as time went on. She was already engaged in ministry but was continually receiving God's call to do more. The committee made it clear that we do not commission; we just make sure you are appropriate to be commissioned. The Committee on Ministry does the placement. Mary indicated that the course that changed her direction was "Preaching and Worship." The committee asked where she would like to grow. Mary indicated that pastoral care comes to the forefront. Kade indicated that Mary has already met the requirements to become a CRE; the only requirement left is the final exam. Mary thinks that she is ready to be commissioned. The interview was closed with prayer led by Sarah Leer.

Motion was approved that Mary be authorized to take the CRE exam and move on to the next step.

Ronnie Prevost

Ronnie is a retired professor from a Baptist seminary. He actually served as Stated Supply for a Presbyterian Church during his time as a professor. He retired to northwest Arkansas and feels that churches there could use his services. Prevost has already been given permission by the COM to administer the Sacraments and moderate the First Presbyterian Church of Rogers Session.

Ronnie discussed his change from the Baptist to the Presbyterian Church. He is from a military family who was very active in Baptist Churches. He felt an early call to the ministry. He had always recognized the broader church, not just Baptists. Go where God leads you was his philosophy, which was not tied to a denomination. Ronnie stated that he "visited around" when he moved to Bella Vista and was drawn to the Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista. He noted that the seminary where he taught was more liberal than most Baptist seminaries and that he had an easy transition to Presbyterianism. Ronnie noted that his time he is now spending serving the Rogers Presbyterian Church has confirmed his direction. He has been granted permission to moderate the Session and has used the *Book of Order* when he had questions on the Presbyterian way. His beliefs have been consistent with the PC(USA). He feels confident that he has the training to do the work. He feels comfortable with things which are different in the PC(USA) and would like to be able to be a Transitional Pastor. The interview was closed with prayer led by Susan Anderson.

Motion was approved that Ronnie be authorized to take the CRE exam and move on to the next step. It was noted that he has done an excellent job serving as supply in Rogers.

Review of Candidates

- Katherine Norwood is halfway through CPE. She has just spent 2 weeks in Israel/Palestine and has interned in Louisville. She is ready for the Vital Content Exam. She will have a wedding in June.
- Molly DeWitt has completed her internship as a camp chaplain. She is an intern at the seminary library. First CPE exams are in two weeks. She is then traveling to Scotland.
- Krista Denne is taking a class in Bible/Exegesis. This is the only exam she lacks. Upon passing, she will have her final interview. She is now interning in Clarksville and Ft. Smith. She is leading worship at Clarksville, First, which is an ordainable position. If she does not pass the Bible Exegesis exam, we may need to determine an alternative.
- Brittany Fiscus-Van Rossum is still under care.
- Stacey Hammons is doing work at Dubuque.
- Stephen Moody has a two-week residency on campus.
- No report on David Mills.
- Jordan Akin has applied for a Presbyterian Study Grant.
- Max Hill has an internship this summer and had a good year at Princeton.
- David Clark took some courses at Austin Seminary and saw examples of diversity in worship. He is reading in preparation for the CRE exam.
- Mary Jane Fischer will be interviewed soon.

Committee Name

The Committee on Ministry has asked to be allowed to keep that name. This committee discussed the merits of keeping our original name, Committee on Preparation for Ministry. This would help in communicating with other bodies, as this is the name commonly associated with our function. Kade will investigate the possibility of our going back to this name.

Next Meeting

Kade will send out a notice of our next meeting. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:57 am with prayer led by Kade Curry.

Report of Meeting - September 30, 2017

The Committee on Church Leadership Development will meet on September 30th 2017 at Central Presbyterian Church in Russellville. A report of this meeting will be given verbally at the Oct. Presbytery meeting.

Issues to be discussed include a motion to ask the Presbytery's Coordinating Team to revert the committee name back to The Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

The Committee members will be reminded of the important role that liaisons play in the work of the committee. Liaison assignments can be found on the most recent CCLD Roster.

Interviews will be had with:

Alan Huddleston to come under care of CCLD for CRE Status. Alan is a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Springdale and is currently enrolled in ministry classes at Austin Theological Presbyterian Seminary.

Jill Acree of First Presbyterian Church in Conway, had been a candidate under care in Indian Nations but was not ordained by that presbytery. After relocating to Conway she is requesting to come under care of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Mary Jane Fischer to come under care of CCLD for CRE Status. Mary Jane is a member of the First Church in Jacksonville.

Check-in Interview for Inquirer Max Hill

Check-in Interview for Inquirer Jordan Akin

Check -in Interview for Inquirer David Mills

Acknowledgements and Introductions:

1. Acknowledge the completion of the CRE Preparation Process of Dr. Ronnie Prevost, Ruling Elder Bella Vista Presbyterian Church
2. Acknowledge the completion of the CRE Preparation Process of Mary Shaw DCE/ Ruling Elder, First Presbyterian Church, Springdale
3. Acknowledge Alan Huddleston of First Springdale as Under Care for CRE Process.
4. Acknowledge Mary Jane Fischer of First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, as Under Care for CRE Process.

Action Item:

Motion to enroll Jill Acree as an Inquirer under care of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Section D - Exhibit 1

Committee on Leadership Development of the Presbytery of Arkansas

Moderator

Rev. Kade Curry {1}
Clergy Springdale, First {1}
Region: Northwest

Rev. Dr. Debra Freeman {3}
Clergy Jacksonville, First {3}
Region: South Central

Ms. Susan Anderson {1}
At-Large Representative
Elder Springdale, First {1}
Region: Northwest

Rev. Bill Henning {1}
Clergy Honorably Retired Active
Region: Northwest

Rev. Jeff Price {3}
Clergy Trinity Little Rock {3}
Region: South Central

Rev. Susan Gray {1}
Clergy Vaughn, Bentonville {1}
Region: Northwest

Ms. Lynn Condra, ACCE {2}
At-Large Representative
Elder Fort Smith, First {2}
Region: Western

Ms. Kathy White {2}
Elder Hot Springs, First {2}
Region: Western

Mr. David Clark {4}
Elder First, Heber Springs {4}
Region: North Central

Ms. Sarah Leer {1}
Elder First, Bentonville {1}
Region Northwest

Rev. J. Stewart Smith {3}
Staff Resource
Clergy General Presbyter
Presbytery of Arkansas
9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd.
[of] (501) 663-2424 101
[cell] (479) 466-0195
stewart@presbyteryofarkansas.org

Liaison assignments:

- Katherine Norwood – Susan Anderson, Lynn Condra, and Susan Gray
- Molly DeWitt – Susan Anderson, Susan Rose, and Kade Curry
- Krista Denne – Debbie Freeman and Susan Rose
- Brittany Fiscus Van Rossum – Kade Curry, and Debbie Freeman
- Stacey Hammons – Debbie Freeman, Kathy White, and Lynn Condra
- David Mills – David Clark, Debbie Freeman, and Jeff Price
- Jordan Akin – Sara Leer, Bill Henning, and Jeff Price
- Max Hill – Debbie Freeman, Sara Leer, and Susan Gray
- Stephen Moody - Kade Curry, Bill Henning, and David Clark
- Keith Dove - Jeff Price and David Clark
- LaWanda Harris - Susan Rose and Susan Gray

Approved to Seek a Call:

Brittany Fiscus Van Rossum
604 Kirk Road, Apt. 28, Decatur, GA 30030
501-240-6392
FiscusBrittanyL@mail.ctsnet.edu

Candidates:

Krista Denne
501 Fillmore St, Clarksville AR 72830
479-979-5216
Kdenne@dbq.edu

Katherine Norwood
1044 Alta Vista Rd, Louisville KY 40205
501-554-0095
Knorwood10@gmail.com

Stephen Moody
2542 Reservoir Rd
Little Rock AR 72227
573-717-5110; 870-932-4101
Damood1956@aol.com

Stacey Hammons
1401 Scott St. #210, Little Rock AR 72202
501-350-2404, 501-225-1615
Hammons.stacey@gmail.com
Staceyhammons@presbyvillage.com

Molly DeWitt
4251 Haughey Ave Apt A2 Indianapolis IN
46947
574-727-1724
Dewitt.molly@gmail.com

Inquirers:

David Mills

Jordan Akin
1044 Alta Vista Rd, Louisville, KY 40205
501-993-2018
jordankakin@gmail.com OR
Jordan.akin@my.lpts.edu

Max Hill
PO Box 5204, PTS SBN 146, Princeton, NJ
08543
501-940-3864
Max.hill@ptsem.edu

Keith Dove
92 Cagle Rock Rd.
Russellville AR 72802
479-264-9919; 479-967-5403
keithdove@gmail.com

LaWanda Harris
400 N University Apt 912
Little Rock AR 72205
870-390-8829
Lawandaharris518@yahoo.com

CRE Candidate:

David Clark {4}
2333 Elmwood Dr.
Heber Springs Ar 72543
David.clark@mac.com
Work 501-851-8990; Cell 870-277-8554

Applicants for CRE Status (Interviewed 7-15-17):

Mary Shaw
Rev. Ronnie Prevost - Passed Final Exam
Mary Jane Fischer

Interested Parties for Inquiry (Haven't Received Applications):

Justin Clark
Jill Acree
Jeanie Corbitt

Section E

Report of the Committee on Ministry

MWS Dari Rowen
First, Benton

For Information:

1. The COM approved Rev. Doug Miller, Disciples of Christ pastor and elder in the PC(USA), as Transitional Pastor for a period of six months at Holiday Island Presbyterian Church, and Moderator of First Presbyterian Church of Eureka Springs, to include duties of moderating the Session and officiating the Sacraments, with Rev. Georgia Senor as mentor, effective June 1, 2017.
2. The COM approved MWS Rita Wilson, HR, as Transitional Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith, with the following terms of call for $\frac{3}{4}$ time (Sunday-Wednesday), effective July 10, 2017:

Effective Salary

Salary	\$33,750
Housing	\$11,250
Total	\$45,000

Reimbursable Expenses

Mileage	\$.50/Mile with cap of \$2,400
Interim Training Paid by Church	
Vacation, Continuing Education, and Other Time Away	
Vacation	4 weeks per year
Continuing Ed.	2 weeks per year
Service to Church	Participation in Presbytery

3. The COM added the following to the Pulpit Supply List:

Jill Acree, seminary graduate and potential Inquirer under care, Conway
MWS Danny Daniel, HR, Fayetteville
MWS Joyce Daniel, HR, Fayetteville
MWS Robert Hadley, HR, Fairfield Bay

4. The COM approved the Ministerial Residence Program proposed by First Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith, with Candidate Krista Denne serving as the resident intern of First Presbyterian Church of Clarksville with permission to celebrate the sacraments

and moderate the session, effective September 1, 2017. The resident intern's salary is \$40,000 for this educational-work full-time position. See Section E – Exhibit 1.

5. The COM approved Rev. Mike Yarman, Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church pastor, to serve in a Temporary Pastoral Relationship at Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church, Fairfield Bay, effective September 1, 2017 for a period of four months, ending December 31, 2017, at 18 hours per week and the following terms of call to be revised to meet the Presbytery of Arkansas' minimum terms of call:

Monthly Compensation	\$3,000
Special Ministry Events	\$200 per event
Travel Reimbursements	\$.50 per mile
Vacation	1 week after each quarter

6. The COM approved MWS David King, HR, to be the part-time Transitional Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Searcy, effective October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017, with the following terms of call:

Salary	\$30,000.00
Transportation	6,000.00
Administration/Continuing Education	500.00
Service to larger Church an average of 1 day per month.	
Study leave of two weeks	
Vacation of four hours per pay period.	

For Action:

1. Motion to sustain the examination of Margaret (Maggie) Alsup. See Statement of Faith, Section E – Exhibit 2.
2. Motion to validate the ministry of Margaret (Maggie) Alsup as Chaplain of Lyon College.
3. Motion that Margaret (Maggie) Alsup be enrolled as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, and that the Presbytery approve the following for the Ordination Service:

October 22, 2017 at 2:00 pm, at First Presbyterian Church, Batesville, with the offering recipient to be the Presbytery of Arkansas Scholarship Fund at Lyon College, and the following to serve on the Administrative Commission:

MWS Leslie Roper, First Presbyterian Church, Batesville
MWS Stewart Smith, General Presbyter
MWS Jeremy Wilhelmi, University of the Ozarks, to charge the pastor

MWS Mike McCracken, Wynne Presbyterian Church, Wynne
RE Bruce Johnston, First Presbyterian Church, Batesville, to charge the
congregation
RE Ruth Hamilton, Kirk in the Pines Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs Village,
to Moderate
RE Hannah Hanson, Grace Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

And to sit with the Commission:

MWS Abbey Walker, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Oklahoma City,
Oklahoma, Indian Nations Presbytery, to preach
RE Nancy Matthew, First Presbyterian Church, Norman, Oklahoma, Indian
Nations Presbytery
RE Alex Davis, St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Greenville, South Carolina,
Foothills Presbytery
Blair Bolen, Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, Clemson, South Carolina, Foothills
Presbytery

Celebration of the Honorable Retirement of the Following:

MWS Robert Hadley, retiring as Pastor of Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church,
Fairfield Bay, effective

MWS Clare Kelley, retiring as Pastor of the Larger Parish of Holiday Island
Presbyterian Church, Holiday Island, and First Presbyterian Church, Eureka Springs,
effective

Celebration of Five-Year Anniversaries of Ordinations, Commissions, and Certifications

See Section E – Exhibit 3

Section E - Exhibit 1

Ministerial Residence Program

A Joint Mission of First Presbyterian Church Fort Smith and First Presbyterian Church Clarksville

We, the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith and the First Presbyterian Church of Clarksville, both located in the state and Presbytery of Arkansas, have created a position for a new seminary graduate on ordination track within the Presbyterian Church USA that would be a two year residency, allowing the resident to function as a pastor, while continuing to receive supervised experiences to enhance and broaden the training already received in seminary.

Rationale:

Congregations and their pastors are under deep pressure to address a new era in Christian discipleship. Newly graduating pastors typically receive excellent theological training, but their training tends to not give adequate experience or exposure to develop pastoral skills important for equipping them to enter a sustained call to ministry. Increasing the new pastor's difficulty is the number of empty Presbyterian pulpits in nearby communities, lessening opportunities for local mentoring or support. In addition, the complex issues and the expectations often held by congregations in uncertain times can be overwhelming, particularly to new pastors, leading to burnout and leaving congregations without leadership. We believe that it is possible to create a positive, supportive environment for training newly minted ministers by giving them an opportunity to work with experienced pastors within a variety of settings, receiving training/supervision/feedback, while serving a congregation and living in their community. We believe that this residency experience, coming right out of seminary, would serve to extend the learning of the new minister, while allowing the minister to be gainfully employed, working as a respected pastor in the community. In addition to learning new skills in a variety of settings, the Ministerial Resident would have a built-in system for resource, supervision and guidance, and mentoring, allowing the Resident to gain the skill set necessary for a healthy, productive, and sustained ministerial career.

Partnership:

First Presbyterian Church Clarksville (FPC) and First Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith (FPFS) are entering this agreement together, following mutual discussion and collaboration to address shared needs, assets, dreams, and hopes.

First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville (FPC) has gone through a significant year of transition, with their congregation voting to begin worship June 4, 2017 on the campus of the University of the Ozarks (U of O), a Presbyterian affiliated private university with a very supportive Board of Trustees that has generously offered the use of Munger-Wilson Memorial Chapel for worship services and Sunday School. FPC and U of O have signed a covenant approved by FPC Session delineating areas of understanding and responsibility, affirming the separate entities and operations of the institutions, while underscoring areas of cooperation and potential missional opportunities. One aspect of the covenant is the understanding that FPC will develop and offer activities and services for U of O students, particularly Presbyterian students, in coordination with the University Chaplain. FPC is heartened and excited to move forward in this new direction and to see where God is leading.

Currently FPC is working with the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry and an Administrative Commission to discern the way forward with respect to ownership of the current building. As a matter of practicality, at this point FPC cannot afford a full time installed pastor and is interested in a collaborative arrangement. U of O President Dr. Rich Dunsworth has served as a liaison, hearing from FPFS some of their thoughts and dreams and realizing the potential for a mutual partnership between the two churches. Specific needs FPC has at this time include empowerment and training of the congregation for a new era in ministry and worship, in a church that owns no property.

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith (FPFS) has a longstanding history within the city of Fort Smith, Arkansas, as being a church interested in mission work. They also are interested in doing the sort of work that will make the most difference to the most people over the longest period of time. Individuals within the church have endowed the church with funds, some for general purpose, but others for specific church needs. Long-term member Minnie King created a trust, which designates funds for training of seminarians and church leaders, so the Minnie King Trust is seen by FPFS as a funding source for a specific, approved joint venture.

Pastors of FPFS are the Reverends Phil and Tasha Blackburn who have been in the FPFS pulpit for six years. They receive enthusiastic support from their congregants and the community at large. The Blackburns each are regarded as highly skilled in preaching, pastoral care, and community outreach, and they have many opportunities to utilize their broad range of skills within the church and their community. FPFS is thriving and healthy, having navigated some difficult patches. Phil and Tasha were residents at Second Presbyterian in Indianapolis, and because of that involvement know the strengths as well as potential pitfalls in pastoral residency programs. They have seen firsthand how much a residency can positively prepare a minister for future responsibilities and challenges. As an additional benefit for First Presbyterian Clarksville with their interest in developing programming for collegiates, Rev. Phil Blackburn currently is working with college students at the University of Arkansas Fort Smith. Both of the Blackburns enjoy supervisory work and would look forward to mentoring a ministerial resident.

Overview:

The program is deemed a two year Ministerial Residency, an ordained position, but not an installed position, that is a shared project of FPC and FPFS. The Ministerial Resident (hereafter called Resident) would be an employee of FPC and would live in the Clarksville community and serve the FPC congregation. The Resident would be expected to be the regular Sunday minister for FPC. Supply ministry for FPFS would NOT be part of the expectation. The Resident would spend one day a week in Fort Smith, designated day to vary depending upon the rotation of focused study. The expectation is that the training be considered academically rigorous and effective with a focus upon acquisition of specific skills and understanding. While in Fort Smith, the Resident would participate in rotations of areas of focused study which will include, but not be limited to, pastoral care, mission, Christian education, evangelism, and preaching, with specific areas of emphasis each quarter. Evangelism will include effective and appropriate utilization of social media and web content and presence. Christian education will focus upon empowering congregants to have positive impact in a setting of increased presence within their community and engagement with college students. FPFS will seek to facilitate conversations between the Resident and individual members of the Fort Smith congregation in order to broaden perspective, insights, and awareness of personal spiritual growth in members and the many ways churches and members interface and influence mutual growth, both positively and negatively.

Two Sundays a year, the Resident will preach at FPFS, with one of the Revs. Blackburn filling the FPC pulpit. The other Rev. Blackburn will remain to be present for the Resident's sermon, which will be recorded. The Resident will receive feedback from the pastor, as well as from FPFS congregants, which will help to benefit the Resident by increasing skills in effective sermon development and delivery. Additionally, tapes and/or manuscripts of sermons delivered at FPC can be submitted to the Revs. Blackburn for further supervision opportunity. The plan will give an opportunity for the Resident to get feedback from two pastors considered very skilled and effective in preaching. Optionally, the fall of the 2nd year of residency, there may be an opportunity to teach one (3) hour course on the campus of the University of the Ozarks, with local mentoring of the teaching by a U of O faculty member. The decision to proceed with the limited teaching experience will be made by summer after the first year, depending upon the demands upon and needs of the Resident, as assessed by the Resident and the Residency Support Committee, and in coordination with U of O.

In addition to worship leadership and involvement in mission and community activities alongside FPFS staff, training will include prescribed reading, discussions with the Blackburns, and other academic and practical work seen to benefit and broaden the Resident's experiences and understanding.

Resident Qualification Requirements:

Selection for the position of Ministerial Resident will require the following:

- A. Successful completion of a bachelors degree from an accredited institution

- B. Successful completion of a M.Div. program from an accredited institution
- C. Fulfillment of requirements to be on track for ordination by the Presbyterian Church, USA and Arkansas Presbytery
- D. Three letters of recommendation, one from the seminary setting, and one from a work or internship setting, and one personal recommendation by a non-relative
- E. Completion of application form and supply of transcripts from college and seminary
- F. Completion of phone or Skype interview and/or personal interview for finalists
- G. Willingness to live in the Clarksville community
- H. Ability to work cooperatively with more than one institution or body, including, but not exclusive to, FPC, FPFS, U of O and the representatives of those institutions
- I. Exhibit a balance of respect for current structure versus a willingness and curiosity to work alongside FPC to build new programs and structures in their new situation
- J. Demonstrate appropriate and effective social skills and personal presentation in engaging and communicating with adults and collegiates, as well as youth
- K. Have demonstrated good working relationships that involve honesty, trust, and appropriate humility
- L. Exhibit capability in working independently
- M. Exhibit reliability in keeping appointments and in organizational skills

Job Description for Resident:

The Resident will be considered an ordained but uninstalled pastor and will be an employee of First Presbyterian Church who, while functioning as a pastor, is also considered to be in training for the duration of the residency.

Expectations of the Resident are as follows:

- A. Commit to a two-year Ministerial Residency Program
- B. Serve the congregation of FPC as a pastor, leading Sunday worship and Holy Day worship, performing the holy sacraments, and providing pastoral care for the congregation
- C. Be in the community, alongside FPC congregants, to further the mission in discerning the work and plan that God has for their church
- D. Maintain base of work at Resident's home
- E. Utilize the Residency resources, supervision, and support to develop creative, effective ways of being in the community and operating pastoral services without the benefit of a church building except for worship and Sunday School
- F. Assist the congregation in developing programs for U of O students, encouraging connection and spiritual growth
- G. Assist the congregation in developing the spiritual skills and knowledge necessary for effectively serving in the community without benefit of a building

- H. Moderate Session meetings, striving for effectiveness, efficiency, and cooperative spirit; Attend some FPFS Session meetings to observe the Blackburns moderating; Agree for Blackburns to attend some FPC Session meetings to observe Ministerial Resident moderating, for feedback and support
- I. Work with Session to support and assure that committees of the Session, utilizing congregants, are appropriately identified and functional
- J. Assist in facilitating communication among Session members, congregants, and the community using all appropriate methods, including social media, internet, electronic, and in person
- K. Maintain good communication and working relationship with the Clerk of the Session, Treasurer, and Administrative Assistant, and Presbytery to assure the proper running of the business of the church
- L. Engage with other ministers and religious leaders in the community to build good will, communication, and cooperation
- M. Embrace the training and supervisory opportunities vital to this Residency, adjusting schedule to attend planned training experiences in Fort Smith, expecting to engage in reading and other academic and practical work
- N. Be willing and able to travel to Fort Smith, Arkansas for on-site training and supervisory opportunities one day a week
- O. Plan and lead Bible study or a Sunday School class, as determined by the residency rotation and needs
- P. Work with congregants to plan Christian Education and choose or develop materials
- Q. Avail self to the committees established for oversight, feedback, and input for the purposes of Resident oversight and for training
- R. Work effectively and collegially with the University Chaplain as FPC shares the U of O space and plans activities for U of O students, faculty, and staff
- S. Be respectful and mindful of the Covenant between FPC and U of O and the Communication Committee designed to maintain and develop a positive, working relationship between the two institutions
- T. Stay true to the Resident Qualification Requirements described above
- U. Respect the lines demarking the responsibilities of FPC and FPFS, resolving any conflicts in accordance with the Agreement of Authority and working to support a continued and growing, positive relationship between the two congregations and their Sessions.
- V. Be willing to work creatively with Residency Support Committee to address potential changing needs of congregation

Agreement of Authority:

- A. As the Employer, FPC will oversee the Resident, pay benefits, and utilize a Personnel Committee for employee reviews and oversight.
- B. Bearing the bulk of the training responsibility, FPFS will have occasion to spend time and work with, plan, and implement opportunities without the direct involvement of FPC.
- C. If the Resident has a worry, concern, or conflict with either setting, the Resident is encouraged to deal directly with that setting to address the concern. Neither FPC nor FPFS will become involved in the other institution's operations or Sessions to intervene in a Resident issue. It is the Resident's responsibility to work out conflicts.
- D. The Residency Support Committee (see section below), with representatives from FPC and FPFS, is designed to assist in communication between the two institutions and to evaluate and plan for the Resident's training, so is available also for discussion of Resident's desires, needs, and concerns with respect to training.
- E. It is the heartfelt desire and expectation of FPC and FPFS for the Resident to be successful in completing the program. We wholly believe that working together with the Resident, success can be maximized. Yet, if the Resident fails to honor the spirit of this agreement, engages in unlawful or unethical behavior, or is found to be unable or unwilling to complete the terms of the position as described in the Resident Qualification Requirements, Job Description, and this Agreement of Authority, the contract with the Resident will cease, with the recommendation of the Resident Support Committee and the vote of FPC and FPFS Sessions. It is understood by FPC that involvement in the residency portion of the program is an essential requirement of continuing with FPC employment.

Residency Support Committee:

- A. Membership
 - a. Composition is to be three members from FPC and two from FPFS.
 - b. Members are to be selected by the Sessions of the respective churches. One of the FPC members should also be a member of the FPC Personnel Committee, which serves as employee oversight for the church.
 - c. Revs. Tasha and Phil Blackburn are not to be considered members of the Committee, although they may certainly be requested or may request to meet with the committee from time to time.
- B. Purpose and Scope
 - a. The Residency Support Committee will discuss the Resident's training experiences, make plans for further experiences, and discuss progress. The Resident will be present for all meetings. The committee is to

provide support, listening, encouragement, and feedback to the Ministerial Resident regarding current training rotations and the Resident's experiences in the program. Discussions are a way to provide input and training from both churches' laity, and for discussion regarding the Resident's discerning the selection of emphasis areas in upcoming rotations.

- b. The committee is tasked with obtaining feedback from the Resident regarding the program, its effectiveness, and ways to make the training most beneficial.
 - c. The committee provides a method of communication between the two churches for discussion of common concerns and solutions within the communities, locally and globally
- C. Frequency of Meetings and Adjustment
- a. The Residency Support Committee is to meet bimonthly.
 - b. Membership of the committee can be adjusted as deemed necessary by the committee with approval of the two Sessions.

Expectations of First Presbyterian Clarksville Congregants:

- A. Relationship
- a. The Resident is regarded as respected clergy. Yet, the congregation is to continue an active role in fulfilling responsibilities of Session, committee work, pastoral care of each other and the Resident, and missional work within the community. While welcoming the encouragement, leadership, and pastoral care of the Resident, FPC likewise will encourage and engage alongside a Residency Support Committee to provide appropriate feedback, direction, and opportunities in order to further the training and development of the Resident.
 - b. The congregation will continue to discern the will of God for FPC in the community, being open to the leadership of the Resident and the opportunities that come with new leadership and creative discernment.
 - c. The congregation will remain mindful that this is a *TEACHING* ministry, which puts a responsibility on the congregation that the placement is not permanent, expectations are to be measured, and the congregation is to be encouraging and appropriately constructive as needed.
- B. Financial
- a. FPC will serve as employer of the Resident.
 - b. FPC will provide salary and benefits above the \$10,000 gift from FPFS, considered to be $\frac{3}{4}$ generally of the total package, providing a compensation package in a range approved by the Arkansas Presbytery.
 - c. FPC will provide needed access to computer and internet network in order to enable the Resident to use home as a base for operation.

- d. FPC will provide initial salary plus benefits as \$40,000 (including the \$10,000 from FPFS) annually, including four weeks vacation and two weeks continuing education. The Ministerial Resident is expected to keep a Sabbath day. Compensation package may be increased per review after the first year.
- C. Review Process
 - a. The Resident will be reviewed biannually by the Personnel Committee of FPC, which will include the Treasurer, and two other Session members or congregants. One member of the Personnel Committee will be designated as Chairman, and one member will serve on the Residency Support Committee. As a part of the review process, the Personnel Committee will obtain input from Revs. Phil and Tasha Blackburn regarding their observations of the Resident's involvement and progress in the Ministerial Residence Program.
 - b. FPC will provide two members, one of whom is a member and/or the Chairman of the Personnel Committee, who will be the FPC members of the Residency Support Committee, described separately.

Expectations of First Presbyterian Fort Smith:

- A. FPFS will provide an annual gift of \$10,000 to be considered generally $\frac{1}{4}$ the compensation package for the Resident.
- B. FPFS Books, materials required for training will be provided by FPFS.
- C. FPFS will support Pastoral Supervision and consultation of the Resident on site in Fort Smith for direct experiences, but also, as needed by Resident in Clarksville.
- D. FPFS congregation and staff will provide opportunities for the Resident to preach to the Fort Smith congregation two times per year, with appropriate constructive and instructive feedback. The Resident can expect 1-3 hours per week of direct contact and consultation with either Pastor Tasha and/or Pastor Phil Blackburn. Other contact may be ancillary or parallel in carrying out activities of the prescribed rotations.
- E. Congregants, though likely to only have limited contact with the Resident, will eagerly and willingly provide encouragement, insights, and perspective as one aspect of the plan for Resident training and development.
- F. FPFS will provide members to the Residency Support Committee, as described in the Residency Support Committee description.

Terms for Termination of Agreement:

This covenant will be reviewed for renewal no later than January prior to the anticipated May cessation of the Ministerial Residence Program term, in order to give both parties an opportunity to adjust to any changes and to maintain continuity of the program.

FPC

If, after the first two-year commitment, FPC is unable to financially continue support and training of another resident, the covenant as it stands will need to terminate. It is hoped that FPC can continue the Ministerial Residence Program as another mission of this congregation, the training of newly graduated seminarians. FPC still is discerning its place and mission in the world.

If the needs of FPC change, and they decide they need their own full-time, installed pastor, FPC would notify FPFS no later than the January prior to the anticipated May cessation of the Resident's term. In addition, FPC would begin a search for an installed pastor that would go through normal channels and the search and hiring procedures of the Arkansas Presbytery.

If FPC pulls out of the agreement, FPFS will cease to fund the partnership.

FPFS

If FPC is continuing the covenant as agreed, but for unforeseen circumstances FPFS has to cease their funding of the project, FPFS will notify FPC at least one year before the termination of the funding of a resident in order to give FPC and the resident an opportunity to make other arrangements.

Section E - Exhibit 2

Statement of Faith

Candidate Margaret Alsup

I believe in the Triune God traditionally acknowledged as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In God's eternal being and activity, God is always and at the same time Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Through God's Word and the Spirit, God created. God cares for creation and calls it good. God made humans in God's image. We're created to live in community with God and one another. Generations of humans have rejected God and continue to do so. God remains faithful to us, even when we are not.

God remained faithful to us by sending Jesus Christ, God's own Word made flesh. Jesus was born of a woman, as is every child, but was born of God's power, as was no other child. He was like us in every way. He felt joy, friendship, prayed, knew anger, and was subjected to death. He was not like us in that he knew no sin. He demonstrated how to live, setting an example of the communion we can have with God and neighbor. The ministry he held cost him his life. In death on the cross, God achieved the forgiveness of our sins. God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life. His resurrection is victory over powers that destroy human life.

The Spirit is the Lord and Giver of life. By the Spirit, God raised up prophets. By the Spirit, Jesus was conceived, baptized, and empowered to do God's work. By the Spirit, we're called to do God's work in the world. The Spirit works within us to move us to unity, not to end diversity, but to overcome divisiveness and bitterness.

By the Spirit, people of the early church and Israel preserved stories of what God said and did in their midst. These stories were written down as the literature of the people of God. The Old and New Testaments are witnesses to Jesus Christ, the living Word. We rely on the Holy Spirit to interpret the Scriptures responsibly.

Through the ministry of Jesus, we received Baptism and the Lord's Supper as special signs of God's grace. In Baptism the Spirit confirms God's promise to include us in God's covenant, cleansing us of our sins, giving us new life. It joins us to all believers. In celebration of the Lord's Supper, we're renewed by the memory of the life and death of Christ. We celebrate Christ's victory over death and anticipate the joyous feast in the coming kingdom. United together, we receive strength and courage to continue our journey with God in the world.

Jesus reshaped the definition of neighbor and taught us to go beyond legal requirements in helping neighbors. We're sent to correct disparity between social classes, races, and nations. We're called to speak the truth in love, listen with patience, be open to the Spirit, and love our enemies. We know our efforts can't bring about God's kingdom. But we are called to accept the pain and loss that can come when we embody the greatest commandment of loving God and neighbor. We do so because hope forces us to take up the struggle for victory over the evils of this world. Hope gives us the courage and energy necessary to contend with the opposition.

Section E - Exhibit 3

Celebration and Recognition of Anniversaries

Continuing a practice begun in 2004, the Committee on Ministry recognizes all Ministers of the Word and Sacrament members of the presbytery, currently serving Commissioned Ruling Elders, and active or retired Certified Christian Educators and Certified Associate Christian Educators who this year celebrate anniversaries in five-year increments.

The Following are Receiving Engraved Key-rings as First-Time Honorees:

Minister of Word and Sacrament 5 Years Minister of Word and Sacrament 10 Years

Rev. DC Adams

Rev. Jeremy Wilhelmi

Rev. Marie Mainard-O'Connell

Minister of Word and Sacrament 20 Years

Rev. Steven Frazier

Rev. Bryan Bond

Church Professionals who were Previously Honored Are Celebrated:

10 Years

Rev. Leslie Roper

45 Years

Rev. Gordon Garlington, HR

Rev. Richard Miller, HR

15 Years

Rev. Brian Brock

55 Years

Rev. Walter Swetnam, HR

20 Years

Rev. Tim Reeves

Rev. Shauna Silmon

60 Years

Rev. Ben Bateman, HR

Rev. Jerry Rice, HR

Rev. Don Wardlaw, HR

Rev. Bob Hyatt, HR

25 Years

Rev. Lance Jones, HR

Rev. Rita Wilson, HR

30 Years

Rev. Jan Butin

Rev. Phil Butin

65 Years

Rev. John Foss, HR

35 Years

Rev. Jim Chaffin, HR

Rev. Ed Holt, HR

Commissioned Ruling Elder

K. C. Chanthorn, 20 years

All Church Professionals being honored are asked to gather during the break following the COM report to have a photo taken.

Section F

Report of the Committee on Nominations

MWS Elizabeth Gabbard
First, Arkadelphia

For Action:

- 1. The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following person to fill immediately an unexpired term:**

Ruling Elder April Counts, Reader of Theological Exams, Class of 2019

- 2. The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following persons for one-year terms in Class of 2018:**

- a. Moderators:

- RE Ruth Hamilton, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village, Coordinating Team
- Minister of the Word and Sacrament Leslie Bethell Roper, First, Batesville, Moderator of Presbytery
- RE Cyril Hollingsworth, Second, Little Rock, Committee on Ministry
- MWS Kade Curry, First, Springdale, Committee on Leadership Development
- RE Ted Belden, First United, Fayetteville, Future of the Church Ministry Area
- Commissioned Ruling Elder Kelly Pearson, First, Dardanelle, Mission of the Church Ministry Area
- RE Jan Enke, First, Van Buren, Administration Ministry Area
- MWS Ike Brighton, HR, at-large, Disaster Preparedness Subcommittee
- RE Ledridge Davis, First, Malvern, Committee on Representation

RE David Stricklin, Westover Hills, Little Rock, Vice Moderator of Presbytery

- b. General Assembly Commissioners:

- RE Kim Brooks, First, Harrison
- RE Ken Coker, Central, Russellville
- MWS Michael Vinson, First, Conway and Presbytery staff
- MWS Dari Rowen, First, Benton

- c. Alternates to General Assembly Commissioners:

- RE Ruth Hamilton, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village
- RE Ray Woodruff, Wynne Presbyterian
- MWS Ruskin Falls, Pulaski Heights, Little Rock

- MWS Marie Mainard-O'Connell, Second, Little Rock
 - RE Hartley Allen, First, Springdale, Alternate Young Adult Advisory Delegate
 - d. Future of the Church Ministry Area member:
 - MWS Blake Brinegar, First, Yellville
 - e. Disaster Preparedness Subcommittee member:
 - MWS Courtney Bacon-Latina, First, Malvern
- 3. The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following persons for two-year terms in Class of 2019:**
- a. Coordinating Team (at-large members):
 - MWS Elizabeth Gabbard, First, Arkadelphia
 - RE Karene Jones, Park Hill, North Little Rock
 - MWS Georgia Senor, First, Bentonville
 - b. Commissioner to Synod of the Sun: RE Emily Laurel, First, Benton
 - c. Treasurer of Presbytery: RE Bob Boehmler, First, Bentonville
 - d. Committee on Representation members:
 - RE Nancy Bateman, Pulaski Heights, Little Rock
 - MWS Clif Ford, First, Alma
 - Mr. Obed Gonzalez, First, Springdale, attending UofO, Clarksville
 - RE Susan Morris, Hopewell, Morrilton
- 4. The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following persons to three year terms in the Class of 2020:**
- a. Committee on Leadership Development members:
 - RE Susan Anderson, First, Springdale
 - MWS Bill Henning, HR, at-large
 - MWS Jeff Price, Trinity, Little Rock
 - b. Commissioner to Synod of the Sun:
 - MWS Elizabeth Gabbard, First, Arkadelphia
 - c. Future of the Church Ministry Area members:
 - MWS Ted Belden, First United, Fayetteville
 - RE Peg Falls-Corbitt, First, Conway
 - RE Ty Hendricks, First, Searcy
 - MWS Anne Russ, First, North Little Rock
 - Certified Christian Educator Theresa Spragins, serving at First, Conway
 - d. Committee on Ministry members:
 - MWS Bill Bailey, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village
 - MWS DC Adams, First, Harrison
 - MWS "Chip" Hatcher, Westminster, Hot Springs
 - RE Cyril Hollingsworth, Second, Little Rock
 - RE Barb Verdery, First United, Fayetteville
 - e. Administration Ministry Area members:
 - RE Tom Verdery, First United, Fayetteville

- f. Disaster Preparedness Subcommittee members:
 - MWS John Gibson, at-large
 - RE Gail Murdoch, Memorial, Atkins
 - RE Curtis Wright, Westminster, Hot Springs
- g. Mission of the Church Ministry Area members:
 - CCE Kristi Button, First United and UCM, Fayetteville
 - MWS Gordon Garlington HR, at-large
 - RE Sally Roden, First, Conway
- h. Ministries with Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry members:
 - RE Donna Ellison, Allison Memorial, Little Rock
 - RE Mary Shaw, First, Springdale
 - MWS Jeremy Wilhelmi, UofO, Clarksville
- i. Counselor at law:
 - RE Richard Bright, First, Arkadelphia

5. Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following persons to six-year terms in the Class of 2023:

- a. Permanent Judicial Commission members:
 - MWS David Dyer, HR, Westminster, Little Rock
 - RE Donn Mixon, First, Jonesboro
 - RE Wendell Phillips, Park Hill, North Little Rock
 - MWS Ward Rudolph, at-large

If you are interested in serving in one of the following positions which are now vacant, please contact incoming Nominations moderator MWS Bob Hadley, HR at email:

rwhadley@artelco.com and niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org

- a. Immediate vacancy, Moderator of the Ministry with Youth, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry Area, Class of 2018 (ideally someone currently serving on that ministry area)
- b. Immediate vacancy, at-large member, Administration Ministry Area, Class of 2017 and to serve in Class of 2020
- c. Regular vacancy, at-large member, Mission of the Church Ministry Area, Class of 2020 (ideally from eastern part of region 4)

INFORMATION FOR NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

2017

PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS

Each year the Presbytery Committee on Nominations invites you, the pastors and current members of all committees and Sessions, to provide names of qualified persons who will feel it is a privilege and joyous responsibility to serve on a presbytery committee. Thank you for your willingness to suggest these leaders to serve in 2018 through 2020 or fill vacancies as they arise.

Your Church and City/Town: _____

OFFICES, MINISTRY AREAS, AND COMMITTEES OF PRESBYTERY

Administration Ministry Area

Committee on Leadership Development (CLD) (Teaching and Ruling Elders Only)

Committee on the Church's Ministries (CCM) (Teaching and Ruling Elders Only)

Mission of the Church Area

Sub-Committee of Disaster Preparedness

Ministries with Youth, Campus, and Young Adults

Future of the Church Ministry Area

Committee on Representation (Teaching and Ruling Elders Only)

Permanent Judicial Commission (Teaching and Ruling Elders Only)

Nominating Committee (Teaching and Ruling Elders Only)

Please return to:

Presbytery of Arkansas

9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd.

Little Rock, AR 72227

Attention: Nominating Committee

Or email: niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org

INDIVIDUALS RECOMMENDED

FOR PRESBYTERY MINISTRIES

Name: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home or Cell Phone: _____

Ruling Elder: (Yes)(No): _____ Gender: _____ E-mail address: _____

Committees for Consideration:

Comments:

Name: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home or Cell Phone: _____

Ruling Elder: (Yes)(No): _____ Gender: _____ E-mail address: _____

Committees for Consideration:

Comments:

Section G

Report of the Future of the Church Ministry Area

RE Leah Lasley Shell
Second, Little Rock

AUGUST 22ND - meeting details

- 1) MOTIONS INCLUDING: THE MEETING AGENDA, FINANCIALS MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING WERE APPROVED . A quorum was established.
- 2) Attendees of the meeting included those in person and one member who remotely dialed into the meeting.
- 3) Dr. Peg Falls-Corbitt prepared a report from the Coordinating Team which was reviewed by the committee.
- 4) Ted Belden will be assuming the duties of Moderator of FOTC in 2018 and a replacement on the Coordinating team is needed for 2017. None of the committee members volunteered to take his place. He will be in touch personally with the committee to find a replacement.
- 5) Leah Shell provided the organization/structure documents for the workgroups to review. It was suggested that we remove task #8 and rewrite #11. The language to include Forward to the Presbytery Coordinating Team any request for encumbrance or sale of real property held in trust by congregations that comes to FOTC in its work helping churches vision and re-envision their ministries.
- 6) Tactical workgroup motion: TO PAY FOR AN APPRAISAL OF THE CLARKSVILLE CHURCH PROPERTY UP TO \$4,000 FROM NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT, 7500-51-1-000, WITH THE RECOMMENDATION THAT IF THEY MAKE A SUCCESSFUL SALE, THESE MONIES WOULD RETURN TO THE FOTC BUDGET. – Approved by larger committee
- 7) Tactical workgroup motion: PRESUMING THAT PRESBYTERY APPROVES THE USE OF THE PROCEEDS FROM WALNUT GROVE/CANE HILL OF CRE TRAINING, FOTC WILL TURN OVER TO CLD THE TASK OF DISTRIBUTING FUNDS FOR CRE TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS. – Approved by larger committee

- 8) BUDGET REQUEST FOR 2018 WAS DISCUSSED. NEW FUNDING REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR A TECHNOLOGY CONTRACT POSITION TO HANDLE NEEDS BY THE PRESBYTERY. FUNDING FOR PRE-PRESBTERY RETREATS AND WORKSHOPS WAS REQUESTED. THIS FUNDING INCLUDES MONIES FOR MEALS AND SNACKS. CRE TASK FORCE MONEY WILL BE TURNED OVER TO CLD- THERFORE MONEY IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE ALLOCATED IN THE 2018 FOTC BUDGET. – Approved by the larger committee.

Section H

Report of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area

CRE Kelly Pearson
First, Dardanelle

Since the June Presbytery Meeting the Mission of the Church Ministry Area has met once on July 13 and will have met in a planned special meeting on September 7th (not before this report date) regarding the 2018 budget-line items, of an anticipated \$70,000 expense budget, the same as 2017. However, adjustments will be made according to directives of the Administration Ministry Area and the presbytery.

The response to this Ministry Area's publicizing of grants for \$50 to assist with expenses in attending NEXT Church or the Big Tent events was wonderful. Seven of eight available grants for one or the other of the two events were authorized. As it may be recalled, these grants along with the Ministry Area's endorsement of FPC-Ft. Smith's "Capstone Lecture Series," and the Ministry Area's planning for the theological discussion/lectures at the October presbytery meeting, were in lieu of The P.L.A.C.E. for 2017.

Several requests for grants have been requested for ministries within the bounds of our presbytery. Those approved since May to August 31st are:

- A \$2000 grant for van fuel expenses of Family Promise of Pulaski County, that works with displaced families and their myriad of concerns
- Presbyterian Women (PW) of Westover Hills PC, Little Rock, a grant of \$2000 to assist with prison/jail literacy classes, including men, and also PW's work through the ministries of "Hope Rises"
- Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, a grant for \$3000 for "Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now)," \$1000 above the previously approved budget line-item
- Susie Wright of Westminster PC, Hot Springs, a grant of \$3000 to purchase building materials to be used by volunteers on an upcoming annual Presbyterian-wide mission trip to Lake Village, Arkansas, to help repair homes damaged by the floods of 2016
- First Presbyterian Church of Prairie Grove, a one-time grant of \$500 to fill a financial shortage for July-August of "Life Ministries" of NW Washington County's food program

There are two pending requests for a total of \$2,500, and a couple of others in the works with amounts unknown.

Additionally, we have asked that the portion of the October “Peace & Global Witness Offering,” at the discretion of the presbytery, go to the “Canopy Northwest Arkansas” ministry that is assisting Tanzanian and other refugee families from Africa with housing and other needs, who fled prior to U.S. immigration restrictions.

God is doing marvelous things and we offer our praise! May we continue to give with joyful hearts as thankful partners with God to share the *good news* in deeds and words.

Section H – Exhibit 1

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Arkansas Report

Co-Moderators RE s Ila Blackketter-Wolfe and Cathy Rogers

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

The PWPCT met Thursday afternoon, August 10, 2017 at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center in Little Rock. Our meeting began with Melissa Jenkins of Presbyterian Village thanking the Presbyterian Women for the \$50,000 grant received from PW Thank Offering. Another recipient of the PW Thank Offering was the University of Ozarks in the amount of \$7,000.

Reports were given from the Treasurer, Historian, Mission/Peace/Justice, Cluster Leaders and the Synod of the Sun. The members of PWPCT also reviewed the revised PW Policies and Responsibilities. We are still considering the recipients for the 2018 Cents-Ability offering. A gift was donated to the Interfaith Center of Little Rock in appreciation for the speakers for the PW Interfaith Retreat, August 11 and 12, 2017, with 60 in attendance. Cathy Rogers and Ila Blackketter-Wolfe will be attending all five Fall Cluster Gatherings:

Thursday, August 17th: **Cluster 3** - Barr Memorial Presbyterian Church, Norman
Contact: Mary Beth Lysobey 870-223-2724 lysobeym@windstream.net

Friday, August 18th: **Cluster 1** – First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville
Contact: Katie Jackson 479-879-1749 wwscribner@yahoo.com

Saturday, September 9th: **Cluster 5** - 2nd Presbyterian Church Little Rock
Contact: Emily Hall 501-228-2023

Saturday, September 16th: **Cluster 2** - First Presbyterian Church, Morrilton
Contact: Judy Calhoun 501-354-4735

Saturday, October 14th: **Cluster 4** - Faith Presbyterian Church, Horseshoe Bend
Contact: Patty Minga 870-530-4576 22003parrot@gmail.com

The next scheduled meeting will be Friday, April 20, 2018 in Ft. Smith prior to the 2018 PW Spring Gathering. Save the Dates:

PW Spring Gathering, Saturday April 21, 2018, FPC, Ft. Smith, Ar.

PW Churchwide Gathering, August 2-5, 2018, Louisville, Kentucky

PW Synod of the Sun Gathering July 25-27, 2019, FPC, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Keynote speaker: Rev. Katie Cummings, Sr. Pastor of FPC, Bentonville, AR

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery Interfaith Retreat

August 11 and 12, 2017
Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center

Past Moderator, Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery Coordinating Team RE Jeanne Lloyd

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Arkansas Coordinating Team (PWPCT) are very appreciative of funding received from the Presbytery each year. Part of this funding enables the PWPCT to provide events and programs that enrich, educate, enlighten and strengthen its members and guests in their respective beliefs.

This year, the PWPCT implemented a very successful two-day, one-night retreat at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, with assistance from The Interfaith Center, a part of the Institute for Theological Studies at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Arkansas. The theme of this retreat, *Bringing Diverse Faith Traditions Together*, centered on the Christian, Jewish, and Islamic faiths, known as the three Abrahamic faiths.

Ila Blackketter-Wolfe and Cathy Rogers, Co-Moderators of the PWPCT welcomed and introduced the attendees on Friday morning. Friday's program was limited to Presbyterian women and their guests. Our first speaker, Rev. Lindy Vogado, Assoc. Pastor, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, gave a presentation on "*What Presbyterians Believe About Predestination*." Our second speaker, Ellyn Polsky, who retired last year as Director of Lifelong Learning at Congregation B'nai Israel, spoke on the Jewish faith's journey from Ultra Orthodoxy to the more liberal form of worship practiced in many parts of the world today. Sophia Said, Program Director of the Interfaith Center, spoke on bringing people of different faiths together toward a better understanding of each other. Rev. Becky Purcell, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Prairie Grove, was the retreat's worship leader. Hymns were *Morning Has Broken* and *O for a World*.

On Saturday, Jeanne Lloyd, past Moderator of the PWPCT, welcomed attendees of all three faiths and introduced speakers and participants from The Interfaith Center who would be leading the program. Sophia Said and Rev. Susan Sims Smith, Executive Director of the Interfaith Center and Episcopal Priest at St. Margaret's in Little Rock, spoke on "*Differences and Oneness – Building Interfaith Harmony in a New America* " and led a dialogue activity emphasizing the importance of harmony between all faiths. Ellyn Polsky and the Multi-faith Youth Group from the Interfaith Center led a workshop on Interfaith Skills. Video of last year's Friendship Camp, a one week camp for 3rd through 5th graders, sponsored by the Interfaith Center, was shown and reviewed, and three college and high school youths shared how this youth group had helped them deal with problems encountered by being in a minority faith in Arkansas, and very truthful, but respectful, observations of Christians. The hymns, *Let There Be Peace on Earth* and *Go Now in Peace*, opened and closed the program.

As in all Presbyterian Women retreats, relaxation, mission, spiritual, and fellowship activities were also included in the program. Many new friends were made, and all in

attendance were introduced to some of the skills and information necessary to help promote peace and harmony in this ailing world for all God's children.

Participating members of the PWPCT not already mentioned, who helped make this a very successful event, were Karene Jones, treasurer/registrar; Vicki Erickson, program/flyers; Maryann Sweeney, mission/fellowship; Kathy White, fellowship; and also Liz Branch, pianist; Marcey Berry, song leader; and Joel Gill and the Ferncliff staff who conducted tours of the Ferncliff campus for our guests and helped in every way possible to make this retreat special for all involved.

This PWPCT Daughters of Abraham Interfaith Retreat was a first for the Presbytery of Arkansas. Let it not be our last!

Section H – Exhibit 2

Report of the Presbytery of Arkansas Honduras Sub-Committee

Leigh Woodruff Harvey, Moderator

The Presbytery of Arkansas, with other presbyteries and congregations of the Presbyterian Church (USA), has committed to an ongoing ministry of mission with our Honduran brothers and sisters in Christ.

In January 2017, a Solar Under the Sun installation team went to the El Horno and El Sute area to install 15 private home solar systems. This was to follow up on the work in 2015, when a SUTS and Living Waters for the World team installed panels and a water filtration system for the church. This was the first clean water and electricity for these remote villages.



Rev. Phil Butin, of First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, used his 3-month summer sabbatical to further our relationship with our Honduran ministry partners, pastors, and congregations. Rev. Butin traveled to 25 of the 26 Presbyterian churches of the Presbytery of Honduras and preached many sermons. He slept in people's homes, ate from their dinner tables, and brought hope and mentorship to several church leaders. The connections Rev. Butin built will have a long-lasting positive impact on our ministry.



In July 2017, Leigh Harvey led a community development team, including two UCM students, along with another team from South Carolina. The combined team worked on 4 homes in San Juan Planes de Copán. The team was in Trinidad de Copán to enjoy "Presbyterian Day" and a new ambulance dedication, which was donated by Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian of South Carolina. Then the team moved to the Copán Ruins area to tour the ancient Mayan city before continuing to help work on 4 additional homes.

The Presbytery and church communities of Honduras are growing. We in the PC(USA) could learn much about evangelism from our brothers and sisters in Honduras, where there is the possibility of three new church congregations. A new Mission Co-worker, Rev. Dori Hjalmarson, will move to Honduras in January of 2018 to start her work as a support to the Honduran pastors, and providing continuing theological training for church leaders.

In August 2017, a Solar Under The Sun team returned to the villages of El Horno and El Sute to install more solar panels for 12 more individual homes. And in September 2017, Duke Monroe of First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville returned to Los Mercedes to repair a solar system in the medical clinic.



If you're interested in going on a trip to Honduras, all are invited to apply. No matter your age or ability, whether or not you speak Spanish, if you can lift heavy loads or not... all are invited to apply. Look to *The Banner* and your church announcements for upcoming trips. And if you are interested in helping but don't want to travel to Honduras, there are many ways to donate funds for construction materials, solar systems, and any other church needs. Look online at the Solar Under the Sun website, or the Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center website, for the Solar School class schedule and sign up to get trained at Ferncliff, right outside of Little Rock.

Subcommittee Members

Class of 2018: Ann Applegate, First Presbyterian Church, Springdale; MWS Bill Branch, HR, First Presbyterian Church, Walnut Ridge; Jim Pedersen, Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, Pea Ridge

Class of 2019: Leigh Woodruff Harvey, Moderator, First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville; Chris McRae, Central Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith; MWS Lindy Vogado, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

Class of 2020: MWS David Gill, HR, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock/Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center; MWS Phil Butin, First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville; Duke Monroe, Treasurer, First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville

Section I

Report of the Polity Committee

MWS Leslie Bethell Roper
First, Batesville

With prayer and gratitude, the Polity Committee received the referral from the Presbytery of Arkansas of the proposed *Book of Order* amendment coming from the session of Barr Memorial Presbyterian Church, Norman. Taking very seriously the concerns about the *shalom*, the wholeness, of our body in Christ, the Polity Committee of the Presbytery of Arkansas answers that motion with the following:

The Polity Committee of the Presbytery of Arkansas moves that the Presbytery of Arkansas:

1. Request that the Coordinating Team, with an eye towards how discussions of politics affect all parts of the life of our congregations, focus the 137th meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas (taking place on February 9-10 at Lyon College in Batesville) on conflict resolution and how we have difficult conversations as people of faith. Theological discussions should deal with both the theological concepts behind these conversations and specifics on dealing with politics, not just from the pulpit, but throughout the community of faith.
2. Request that the Temporary Stated Clerk write a letter to the Office of Public Witness of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), often referred to as "The Washington Office," informing that office of our perceived value of the Johnson Amendment and encouraging them to advocate for its continued existence or, in the event of its removal, to be a public voice to the responsibility of churches to be a welcoming community for all political groups and ideologies.

Rationale:

The primary concern of the Polity Committee was the spirit of the request it received from the session of Barr Memorial. We understood that, upon receiving this referral, we were called to respond to both the letter and the spirit of the request in a way that took seriously the concerns that were raised and dealt with those concerns in the most appropriate, and most effective, manner.

Our first recommendation deals with the spirit of the request from Barr Memorial. There is a need, we all agree, to be able to have healthy conversations in our churches, even when we disagree, and to be able to model those conversations to the larger world. Therefore, we believe that focusing an entire Presbytery Meeting on fostering healthy conversations even in times of conflict will be of great use to all of our congregations. We also felt strongly that these conversations not simply deal with the theoretical issues of open and

honest conversations, but tackle, head-on, the specific issues surrounding conversations that are political.

Our second recommendation deals with the specific request to propose new language for the *Book of Order*, making the provisions included in the Johnson Amendment prohibitions in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Our recommendation, respectfully, does not include a proposed amendment to the Book of Order for two primary reasons:

1. Issues of Constitutionality

There were two citations in particular that we could not reconcile with this request, and as such, believed that such a proposal would not be ruled in order at the General Assembly level.

- a. *F-3.0101 God Is Lord of the Conscience*

a. That "God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men¹ which are in anything contrary to his Word, or beside it, in matters of faith or worship."

b. Therefore we consider the rights of private judgment, in all matters that respect religion, as universal and unalienable: We do not even wish to see any religious constitution aided by the civil power, further than may be necessary for protection and security, and at the same time, be equal and common to all others.

Restricting the speech of anyone within the church, while intended for the health and well-being of the church itself, seemed to run diametrically opposed to this historic principle of our denomination.

- b. *W-2.0304*

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament (also called teaching elders) are called to proclaim the Word, preside at the Sacraments, and equip the people for ministry in Jesus' name. Specifically, ministers of the Word and Sacrament are responsible for: the selection of Scriptures to be read, the preparation of the sermon, the prayers to be offered, the selection of music to be sung, printed worship aids or media presentations for a given service, and the use of drama, dance, and other art forms in a particular service of worship.

Much of the responsibility of worship lies in the hands of the session. The writing and/or preaching of the sermon is one of the responsibilities specifically given to the Minister of the Word and

¹ Statements from the Foundational Statements of the PC(U.S.A.) Book of Order are included as they were originally written and, as such, do not meet our current linguistic standards.

Sacrament. Restricting “political speech”, even if specifically named as endorsements, runs contrary to this provision.

While the language of the Johnson Amendment sets up consequences to such speech that is often read as a prohibition, it is prohibited *so long as you wish to keep your tax-exempt status*. Even with the Johnson Amendment in effect, pastors are free to weigh the consequences of speaking their conscience with the reality of losing their IRS status. To explicitly prohibit speech from the pulpit runs contrary to the provisions of the *Book of Order*.

2. Issues of Expediency

The process of amending the *Book of Order* is a long one. An amendment would have to be approved by this body before February of this year in order to make it into those considered by the next General Assembly in 2018. Assuming it is approved by that General Assembly, it would then have a full year to be approved by a majority of the Presbyteries in order to change the *Book of Order*. All told, it would be nearly two years before any change was approved.

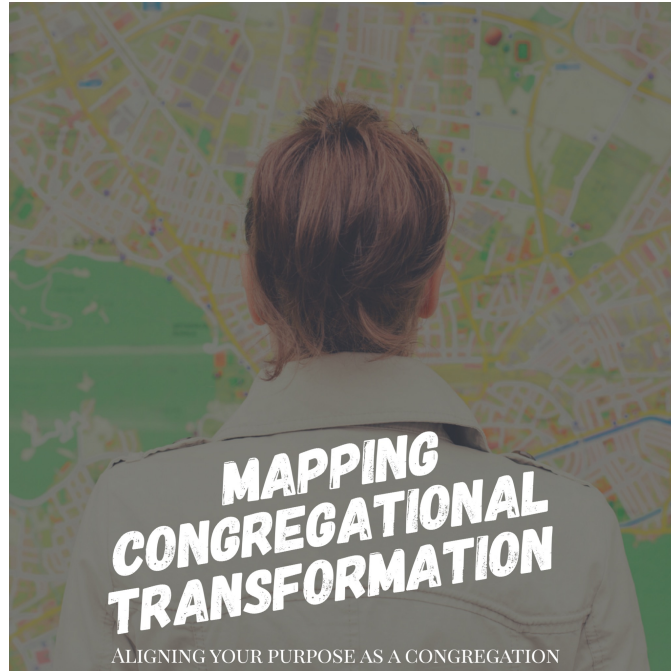
The legislative and executive processes in the United States government move much more quickly. There is a good chance that the legal status of the Johnson Amendment could be drastically different when such an amendment reaches the floor of General Assembly, or back on the floors of presbyteries for final approval. For that reason, we felt that a direct call to the body within our denomination that has the ear of our governmental officials would be a more prudent way of handling the concern about the status of the Johnson Amendment.

It is our intention with our actions to address the business referred to us in a manner that is both faithful and responsible. It is our prayer that we might all heed Paul’s words to the church in Ephesus to “speak the truth in love”.

Respectfully submitted by
MWS Elizabeth Gabbard
First, Arkadelphia

RE Gail Murdoch
Memorial, Atkins

MWS Leslie Bethell Roper
First, Batesville



Pre-Presbytery Workshop
Friday, October 6 from 1 - 5 p.m.
(dinner provided)
Woodruff Electric Community Room
3201 Highway 1 North, Forrest City, AR

- Do you want to help your church thrive in change?
- Are you concerned that enthusiasm is going down?
- Have you noticed negativity or lack of interest?
- Are you seeking more willingness by members of your congregation?
- Are you looking for ways to get “unstuck” and move forward in ministry?
- Are you ready to get resolution on recurring issues?
- Are you concerned about loss of membership and finances?

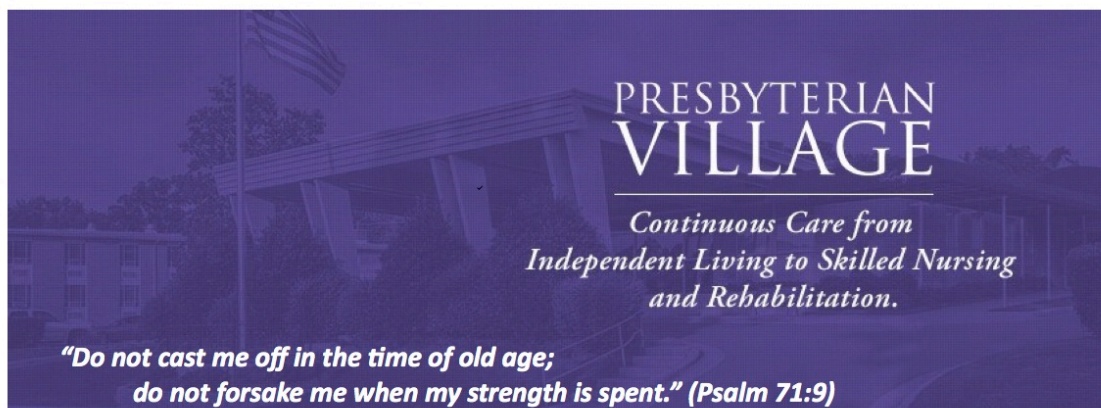
If you answered yes to one or more of these questions, you do not want to miss this FREE workshop.

After a hugely successful workshop at our last Presbytery meeting, Rev. Michael Vinson, who brings his skills in leadership and organizational development along with the perspective of being a long-standing member of our Presbytery, has agreed to return to lead a second workshop. You need not have attended the previous workshop to benefit from this one.

The tools and processes you will learn in this 4-hour workshop are simple, easy to understand, and easy to use. You will leave with real tools that you can use in your own congregation.

Register at the link below today.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mapping-congregational-transformation-tickets-37806007787>



On behalf of the residents and staff of Presbyterian Village, we thank you for the opportunity to be the recipients of the Presbytery worship offering Friday, October 6.

Presbyterian Village was established by 9 central Arkansas Presbyterian congregations in 1965 as a response to the lack of care for the elderly in our state. Throughout our history, we are proud to have offered our residents not only excellent, quality living facilities and services, but also a distinctive sense of family and community in a faith-based environment.

How will your offering assist our mission? Your October 6 offering will be designated to critical campus renovations. In addition, it will help us to complete a challenge grant of \$400,000 from the Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The Mabee grant represents the largest philanthropic gift in our history, and it will help us to accomplish the following:

- Improve campus accessibility for our residents, furthering their independence
- Expand services to better serve those with dementia and those seeking rehabilitation-therapy services
- Enhance and modernize our 52-year-old campus.

Thank you for your support of Presbyterian Village this day and every day!
 For more information about our programs, services, or the Mabee Challenge opportunity, please visit us at our Presbytery information booth or online at www.presbyvillage.org.



"During our mother's 17 years at Presbyterian Village, she experienced the love, help and guidance of all of the staff. For this, we are grateful. More importantly, she came to see the 'Village' as her home and the residents and staff as her friends." —family of Mrs. Gerry Leslie

510 N. Brookside Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205 • 501-225-1615 • www.presbyvillage.org