



138th Stated Meeting
of the Presbytery of Arkansas
Saturday, June 2, 2018
First Presbyterian Church
Conway, Arkansas

PACKET

First Presbyterian
Conway
June 2, 2018

Next Meetings

139th Stated Meeting
Ferncliff Camp and Conf. Ctr.
October 19-20, 2018

140th Stated Meeting
University of the Ozarks
Clarksville
March 1-2, 2019

138th Stated Meeting

Meeting Schedule

Saturday, Sanctuary

- 9:30 am Call to Order
- 10 am Morning Worship
- 10:45 am Recess to Move to Fellowship Hall

Saturday, Fellowship Hall

- 11 am The Presbytery Reconvenes
- 11:15am Order of the Day - Theological Discussion
*What Does God's Future Look Like for the
Presbytery of Arkansas?*
- 12:30pm Lunch
- 1:15 pm Resume Business
- 2:30pm Adjournment

Presbytery Leadership

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

Moderator of Administration

RE Jan Enke
Moderator of COM RE Cyril Hollingsworth
Moderator of CPM MWS Jeff Price
Moderator of Subcommittee on Disaster
Preparedness and Response
MWS Ike Brighton, HR

Moderator of Future of the Church

RE Ted Belden
Moderator of Subcommittee on Honduran
Ministry
Leah Woodruff

Moderator of Mission of the Church

RE Kelly Pearson
Moderator of Nominations
MWS Robert Hadley, HR
Co-Moderators of Presbyterian Women
REs Ila Wolfe & Cathy Rogers

Moderator of Representation

RE Ledridge Davis
Moderator of Youth, Young Adults, and
Campus Ministry
MWS Brian Brock

Docket

Saturday, June 2, 2018

We Gather in God's Name

- 9:30 am Call to Order in the Sanctuary
- Opening Prayer
 - Report of Enrollment and Declaration of Quorum
 - Adoption of the Docket
 - Seating of Corresponding Members and Granting of Privilege of the Floor
 - Appointment of Leaves of Absence Committee and Tellers
 - Welcome to First Time Commissioners
 - Introduction of Presbytery Staff
 - Welcome from Host
 - Adoption of the Consent Agenda – Section A
 - Minutes of Feb. 9-10, 2018
 - Approval of Compensation Report from COM – Section A, Exhibit I
 - Report of the Committee on Representation – Section A, Exhibit II
 - Report of the General Presbyter
 - Introduction of Synod of the Sun's Executive Director, Valerie Young
 - Introduction of Bill McConnell of the Presbyterian Mission Agency
 - Report of the Treasurer

We Encounter God's Word

- 10 am Morning Worship in the Sanctuary
- Commissioning of General Assembly Commissioners
 - Commissioning of Youth Going on Summer Trips
 - Offering for Travel Expenses for the Presbytery's Summer Youth Trips
- 10:45 am Recess to Move to the Fellowship Hall

We Respond to God's Call

- 11:00 am Reconvene in the Fellowship Hall
- Report of the Stated Clerk – Section B
 - Report of the AC to First, Ozark – Section B, Exhibit I
 - Report of the Coordinating Team – Section C
 - Report of the Committee on Nominations – Section D
- 11:15 Order of the Day – Theological Discussion
- What Does God's Future Look Like for the Presbytery of Arkansas?*
 - Report of the Task Force on Staff Structure – Section E
- 12:30 pm Lunch
- Minute Announcements near the end of Lunch
- 1:15 pm Presbytery Reconvenes in the Fellowship Hall
- Report of the Future of the Church Ministry Area – Section F
 - Update on the Status of the New Website
 - Report of the Ministries with Youth, YAs, and Campus Min. Area – Section G
 - Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry – Section H
 - Inquirer Max Hill Statement of Faith – Section H, Exhibit I
 - Inquirer Keith Dove Statement of Faith – Section H, Exhibit II
 - Report of the Committee on Ministry – Section I
 - Recognition of the Retirement of CRE Kelly Pearson
 - MWS David Reed, HR, Statement of Faith – Section I, Exhibit I
 - MWS Linda Whitworth-Reed, HR, Statement of Faith – Section I, Exhibit II
 - MWS Steve Kurtz Statement of Faith – Section I, Exhibit III
 - Report of the Administration Ministry Area – Section J
 - Recognition of the Retirement of RE NiAnn Thompson
 - Report of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area – Section K
 - Report of the Disaster Preparedness and Response Sub-Committee – Section K, Exhibit I
 - Report of the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Arkansas – Section K, Exhibit II

Report on the Synod of the Sun – Section L

New Business

Report of the Leaves of Absence Committee

We Are Sent in God's Service

Commitment to God's Call-Referrals

Closing Prayer

2:30 pm Adjournment

Presbyterian to English Cheat Sheet

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

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

Tips for Commissioners on Procedure and Parliamentary Practice

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section A

Consent Agenda

MWS Leslie Smith Belden
Temporary Stated Clerk

- 1. Motion to approve the minutes of the 137th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, February 9-10, 2018, held at Lyon College, Batesville, Arkansas. (distributed in a separate packet)**
- 2. The Committee on Ministry moves that the Presbytery of Arkansas approve the Compensation Report as compiled and included as Exhibit I.**
- 3. Motion to receive the minutes as the report of the Administrative Commission ordaining MWS Cameron Highsmith at First Presbyterian Church, Argenta (North Little Rock), and dismiss them with our thanks.**
- 4. Motion to receive the minutes as the report of the Administrative Commission ordaining MWS Krista Denne, Resident Intern at First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville and First Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith, and dismiss them with our thanks.**
- 5. Motion to receive the minutes as the report of the Administrative Commission installing MWS Marie Mainard O'Connell as Pastor of Park Hill Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock, and dismiss them with our thanks.**
- 6. Motion to receive the minutes as the report of the Administrative Commission installing MWS Jen Evans as Associate Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, and dismiss them with our thanks.**
- 7. Motion to receive the minutes as the report of the Administrative Commission installing MWS Val Bell as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Rogers, and dismiss them with our thanks.**
- 8. Motion to receive the report of the Committee on Representation, Exhibit II, with thanks and encourage the Committee on Nominations and other groups to follow their recommendations.**

9. Motion to dismiss the Polity Committee, made up of the 2016 General Assembly Commissioners, with thanks. The Polity Committee includes:

**Youth Advisory Delegate (YAD) Sam Anderson
MWS Elizabeth Gabbard
RE Gail Murdoch
RE Jesse Rancifer
MWS Leslie Roper**

Section A – Exhibit I Compensation Report

Clergy Compensation Worksheets Amounts for 2018												
Name	Location	Salary	Housing & Utilities	Deferred Comp (403-B)	Pension & MM	Auto Expense	Business/ Professional Expenses	SECA (Social Security) Supplement	Cont. Ed.	Benefits --Other	Other	Total
Adams	Harrison--First	42,000	15,800	-	22,302	2,000	-	4,788	2,000	-	-	88,890
Akin	Little Rock--Grace	29,154	18,000	-	18,360	1,200	1,000	-	3,500	-	-	71,214
Alisbury	Little Rock--Second											
Bacon-Latina	Malvern--First	37,552	15,600	-	19,400	3,780	-	4,093	1,500	-	-	81,925
Bailey	Hot Springs Village--Kirk	53,328	30,660	-	35,803	6,000	3,400	6,425	-	-	-	135,616
Beane	CRE--Norman, Barr Memorial (co-pastor)	3,900	1,300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,200
Belden	Presbytery Office	19,258	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,258
Bell	Rogers--First	23,000	24,000	-	17,860	2,000	1,000	-	2,000	-	-	69,860
Blackburn, P	Ft. Smith--First	34,170	24,500	-	22,934	1,000	2,000	3,315	2,000	-	500	90,419
Blackburn, T	Ft. Smith--First	34,170	24,500	-	22,934	1,000	2,000	3,315	2,000	-	500	90,419
Branch	Walnut Ridge--First (Pulpit Supply)											
Brinegar	Yellville--First											
Brock	Russellville--Central											
Butin, J	Fayetteville--First United	59,607	17,500	-	28,530	-	5,000	5,899	1,200	-	-	117,736
Butin, P	Fayetteville--First United	59,607	17,500	-	28,530	-	5,000	5,899	1,200	-	-	117,736
Chanithorn	CRE--Ft. Smith Laotian Ministry	15,234	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,234
Clark, Mike	Mountain Home (Transitional Pastor)											
Cummings	Bentonville--First	50,340	30,000	-	31,360	-	6,500	6,146	1,500	-	-	125,846
Curry	Springdale--First											
Davis	Holly Grove											
Dyer	LR--Westminster (Stated Supply)											
Evans	LR--Second	36,000	22,000	-	21,460	1,800	-	-	2,000	-	-	83,260
Falls	Little Rock--Pulaski Heights	32,020	20,000	-	19,249	2,000	-	3,980	2,000	-	1,166	80,415
Ford	Alma, First (Temporary Supply)											
Frazier	Morrilton--First	26,677	27,913	-	20,471	-	1,000	4,177	-	-	-	80,238
Freeman	Jacksonville (Transitional Pastor)											
Gabbard	Arkadelphia--First	36,210	15,000	-	19,135	-	4,000	3,918	1,000	-	-	79,263
Gray	Bentonville--Vaughn (Stated Supply)	6,000	12,000	-	-	-	4,500	-	-	-	-	22,500
Hancock	Little Rock--Second											
Hatcher	Hot Springs--Westminster	43,698	22,889	-	25,542	2,800	1,200	5,094	1,600	-	2,000	104,823
Humphrey	Little Rock--Allison Memorial	8,808	8,600	-	13,645	-	-	-	-	-	-	31,053
Jones	CRE--Norman, Barr Memorial (co-pastor)	3,900	1,300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,200
Kelley	Huntsville--First	10,000	10,000	-	-	4,800	-	-	800	-	2,400	28,000
Kim	At Large											
Kleinjan	Helena--Stated Supply (NonMember)											
Kwak	Pine Bluff--Central	15,868	12,000	-	14,268	1,200	-	-	1,200	-	2,316	46,852
Landis	Pine Bluff--First (Pulpit Supply)											
LeBlanc	Little Rock--Westover Hills	33,000	26,000	-	23,810	-	2,500	4,514	3,000	-	-	92,824
Mainard-O'Connell	North Little Rock--Park Hill	37,000	18,000	-	20,000	3,000	-	2,831	1,200	-	-	82,031
Manske	CRE--Cane Hill											
Montgomery	West Helena (Pulpit Supply)											
Olson	Atkins--Memorial (CRE)											
Parker	Mountainburg (Transitional Pastor)											

Clergy Compensation Worksheets												
Amounts for 2018												
Name	Location	Salary	Housing & Utilities	Deferred Comp (403-B)	Pension & MM	Auto Expense	Business/ Professional Expenses	SECA (Social Security) Supplement	Cont. Ed.	Benefits -Other	Other	Total
Pearson	CRE--Dardanelle	22,202	14,000	-	4,420	2,500	-	3,000	250	630	250	47,252
Price	Little Rock--Trinity	10,000	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	900	-	-	30,900
Purcell	Prairie Grove--First											
Qualls	Forrest City--Graham Memorial (Pulpit Supply)											
Reeves	Stuttgart--First											
Rhodes, C & K	CREs, Arkadelphia--West End	16,000	-	-	-	-	12,000	-	-	-	-	28,000
Ritchie	Bella Vista	41,401	21,000	15,000	29,304	3,500	2,000	5,921	4,500	-	-	122,626
Roper	Batesville, First	8,000	-	24,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,000
Rose	Fayetteville--United Campus Min.	37,616	13,560	1,200	20,734	3,000	-	-	1,200	-	-	77,310
Rowen	Benton	13,000	27,000	-	15,500	-	-	3,500	2,200	-	3,200	64,400
Russ	NLR--First (Stated Supply)											
Saul	At Large											
Schaller	Horseshoe Bend--Faith	13,200	17,000	-	15,358	3,000	-	5,700	1,575	-	3,313	59,146
Seltz	Mena--First (Transitional Pastor)	34,000	10,200	-	16,354	-	-	-	1,200	-	-	61,754
Sellers	First--Hot Springs	41,845	40,170	-	30,366	3,000	1,500	6,275	2,000	-	-	125,156
Senor	Bentonville--First	39,569	20,000	-	22,299	-	3,000	4,557	3,000	-	-	92,425
Smith	Presbytery Office	40,800	38,700	5,000	-	-	15,000	6,196	1,500	866	-	108,062
Strong	Marianna--First (NonMember)	12,000	-	-	-	4,195	-	-	200	-	-	16,395
Tallent	McGehee (Stated Supply)											
Taylor	Bull Shoals (Stated Supply)	-	24,000	-	-	3,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	28,000
Ulasewich	Conway--First	36,813	30,108	-	24,761	-	7,998	5,119	-	-	-	104,799
Vinson	At Large/Presbytery Staff											
Vogado	Little Rock--Second	29,670	26,000	-	20,598	1,800	-	-	1,500	-	-	79,568
Ward	Clarksville--Harmony	23,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	485	-	-	23,885
Wilkinson	CRE--Good Shepherd	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Woolley	Fayetteville--Mt. Comfort & Lincoln--First (Stated Supply)	14,500	26,640	-	15,860	-	5,000	-	-	-	-	62,000
Wright	CRE, Pine Bluff--Faith											
Total ministers												70

Section A – Exhibit II

Report of the Committee on Representation

RE Ledridge Davis
Moderator

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

This year 64 of the 83 congregations in the presbytery (77%) submitted statistical reports to General Assembly for 2017 by the February 2018 deadline (a great improvement when compared to only 35 reporting last year). Therefore, comparison of ages, genders, races, and disabilities “in the pews” to those elected to serve can be more accurately done than in recent years. COR is extremely grateful for this excellent response. (Note: if a church does not submit statistical reports, General Assembly “brings forward” that church’s membership number from the last year a local church report was submitted. For most churches, this failure to report inflates their membership and Presbytery is charged a “per capita” fee for a larger membership than is realistic.)

The Presbytery's Committee on Representation met by conference call on April 16, with 6 of 8 voting members present to examine the following statistics:

1) Number of positions filled by people serving Presbytery as of March 1, 2018: 214 (26 more, compared to 188 last year).

Active members in 2017 reported by those churches which actually reported to G.A. by early 2018 deadline (or their 2016 number brought forward if the church did not report) totaled 10,996, a net loss of 1,142 members. The grand total of 12,832 adherents, which number includes baptized (not confirmed) and other participants for the presbytery report, was encouraging.

Persons counted as elected in this report have either been nominated by the Committee on Nominations and approved by Presbytery or nominated to Administrative Commissions by ministry areas or committees. They serve as officers, members of committees, ministry areas or commissions of the Presbytery, or to fulfill specific tasks of the Presbytery. (Not included are Ferncliff Board members and the Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team, which are both self-perpetuating groups; Youth Advisory Team, filled by application process; and all subcommittees which are populated by invitation or volunteers.)

Nine (9) Administrative Commissions are in place this year as compared to eight (8)

Administrative Commissions this time last year.

This number (214) includes **forty-two (42) persons who serve in more than one position (and some in several positions)**. They are counted multiple times – once for each chair each fills. (This number of people serving in multiple positions (42) is seven more than last year's 35 persons in dual or more roles. **There are 158 different people participating**, 21 more than the 137 last year.) It should be noted here that restructuring requires 10 people elected to ministry areas or committees to serve also on the Coordinating Team as representatives of those groups, so by definition those 10 must serve in two positions simultaneously.

The 42 persons counted above filling more than one position include twenty-one (21) active Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and twenty-one (21) Ruling Elders.

2) Number of different churches represented by persons elected: 58 of 83 churches

(This is eight more churches than participated last year. However, one church was dissolved in early 2018 (First, Gravette). Eight of the 9 administrative commissions are also working with 9 churches, usually at their request, and some of these are struggling churches, of which some may be dissolved or dismissed in the future. One church is in a lawsuit with the Presbytery.)

70% of churches within the presbytery bounds are participating in the work of the Presbytery. This is 9% more than the percentage which participated last year.

25 churches that do not have any staff or members serving (five fewer than last year) are as follows, accompanied by region numbers and AC (Administrative Commission, if they are assigned):

- | | |
|---|--|
| a) Amity, Alpine (Region 2) | m) Helena, First (4) |
| b) Arkadelphia, West End (2) | n) Holiday Island (1) |
| c) Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista (1) | o) Hot Springs Village, Woodlands (2) -- Lawsuit |
| d) Brinkley, First (4) | p) Little Rock, First (3) – AC |
| e) Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals (1) | q) Marianna, First (4) |
| f) Cane Hill (1) – AC | r) McGehee, First (3) |
| g) Clarksville, First (2) -- AC | s) Mountain Home, First (1) |
| h) Eureka Springs, First (1) | t) Mountainburg Presbyterian (2) |
| i) Fayetteville, Mount Comfort (1) | u) Ozark, First (2) -- AC |
| j) Gamaliel, 101 (4) – AC and being dissolved | v) Paragould, First (4) |
| k) Gurdon, First (2) | w) Pine Bluff, First (3) – AC |
| l) Hardy, Spring River (4) | x) Stuttgart, First (4) |
| | y) West Helena, Cleburne Avenue (4) |

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

- 3) **Age Groups:** There was a slight change in the 25 and under age group, in the 26-35 age group and in the 36-55 age group from previous year--**65% of the elected persons, 1% more than last year, are age 56 or older.**

(Observation: The Youth Advisory Team, a 35-member subcommittee of presbytery's on Ministries with Youth, Campus and Young Adults Area comprised predominately of young adults and youth, is not in this count since members of all but one subcommittee are appointed, not elected. YAT is, however, invited to submit names to Committee on Nominations.)

<u>Age Group</u>	<u># Elected</u>	<u>% of Total Elected</u>	<u>Comp. to Report from Churches</u>
25 & Under	5	3%	12%
26 - 35	8	5%	14%
36 - 55	42	27%	11%
56 - 64	48	30%	16%
65 and Up	55	35%	47%

(While divided differently, those elected from under 25 through age 55 total 35% and those in these ranges reported in the churches total 37%. Again divided differently, those elected age 56 and up total 65% and those reported in the churches, 63%. This is a variance of 2% fewer elected in the younger group and 2% more elected in the older group.)

- 4) **Genders** of persons and percentage of elected group (There is miniscule change from last three years' percentages of 49% male and 51% female)

<u>Gender</u>	<u># Elected</u>	<u>% of Total Elected</u>	<u>Comp. to Report from Churches</u>
Male	78	49.4% of those elected	43% of members
Female	80	50.6% of those elected	57% of members

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

<u>Ethnicity</u>	<u># Persons Elected</u>	<u>% of Elected Group</u>	<u>% of Members</u>
African American/Black	6	4% (1/2% less than last year)	3%
Caucasian/White	149	94% (same as last year)	95%
Hispanic	3	2% (1/2% more than last year)	2% - all other
Asian, Native American, Middle Eastern, African	0		

(Note: Of the presbytery's churches that reported to General Assembly earlier this year about their 2017 statistics, racial ethnic breakdown included: Asian, Middle

Eastern, Native American, White, Black/African American, African, Hispanic)

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

<u>Ordination</u>	<u># of Persons</u>	<u>% of Total Elected Group</u>
Minister of Word and Sacrament	66	42% (6% more than last year)
Ruling Elder	83	52% (same as last year)
Non ruling elders (deacons or members)	9	6 % (6% less than last year)

(This is a change from last year's 50 MWSs, 71 REs and 16 deacons or members. It appears that more MWSs were nominated and elected as COR suggested to seek to achieve balance.)

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

This category is defined as hearing, sight, and mobility disabled, mirroring the categories given on the statistical report questions to congregations.

Twenty (20) persons elected to serve have a disability: 8 related to hearing, 10 to mobility, and 2 to sight. This is 13% of the people elected, 5% more than last year.

Comparison to disabilities reported by local churches: 1,298, which is 17% of total membership, reported disabilities. (COR believes that this determination is made by those preparing the report rather than by the members themselves. It is also unclear whether churches are reporting those with "managed" disabilities.)

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

- 1) General comment: concern for small churches who are not growing, running out of money, and need help and information on how to handle circumstances as they pray for rebirth and fear dissolution.
- 2) Committee on Representation thanks Temporary Stated Clerk Leslie Belden and General Presbyter Stewart Smith who have challenged and helped more churches to submit statistical reports for last year.
- 3) To get more and better demographic information, it was suggested to publish a list of tech savvy volunteers or groups, involving a member of COR and members of the Youth Advisory Team. Another advantage would be to unite the generations over this project aimed at getting a clearer picture of our congregations.

RECOMMENDATIONS from the Committee on Representation to the Committee on Nominations and other committees and groups for their work in 2018 through mid-2019:

- 1) In general, Representation is pleased with Nominations' diligent work in involving many and diverse people in the work and decision-making of the Presbytery.
- 2) In response to the statistical comparison, more females and more ministers of the Word and Sacrament could be nominated and elected for service. Persons with disabilities should always be included as well, and provisions made for their valuable service.
- 3) As many ministry areas and committees are doing, scheduling of meeting at times when working members and younger members could participate is advised and applauded, as is using video and phone conferencing to eliminate travel time and expense.

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

Moderator Davis expresses his thanks to Staff Resource NiAnn Thompson for her help in researching the statistics and preparing this annual report.

Section B

Report of the Temporary Stated Clerk

MWS Leslie Smith Belden
Temporary Stated Clerk

Report of Pastoral Status Changes

MWS Kris Crawford was dismissed by the Presbytery of Arkansas effective March 6, 2018, and was received by Grace Presbytery.

MWS Bryan Bond was dismissed by the Presbytery of Arkansas effective March 6, 2018, and was received by Chicago Presbytery.

MWS Nancy Benson-Nicol was dismissed by the Presbytery of Arkansas retroactively, effective November 16, 2016, and received by New Covenant Presbytery.

The following have been moved from the Active Honorably Retired Roll to the Non-Active Honorably Retired Roll for 2018, by action of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, due either to living out-of-state or ill health preventing them from making the request on their own:

MWS Jerry Bedford, HR
MWS William D. Carr, HR
MWS Thomas S. Carter, HR
MWS Harold Duerksen, HR
MWS Heinrich Eiler, HR
MWS Alan Ford, HR
MWS Ed Holt, HR
MWS Richard Knott, HR

MWS Mark Lenneville, HR
MWS Jerry Rice, HR
MWS Michael D. Seitz, HR
MWS W. Kennedy Upham, HR
MWS Charles T. White, HR
MWS Ann Williamson, HR
MWS Frank M. Young, HR

Other Honorably Retired pastors who previously requested to be moved to the Non-Active Honorably Retired Roll are not listed here.

Honorably Retired pastors who are on the Active Honorably Retired Roll include:

MWS Catherine Allsbury, HR
MWS Ben Bateman, HR
MWS Bill Branch, HR
MWS Ira "Ike" Brighton, HR
MWS Don Campbell, HR
MWS Carol Clark, HR
MWS Danny Daniel, HR

MWS Joyce Daniel, HR
MWS Milton Davis, HR
MWS David Dyer, HR
MWS Orin Frank, HR
MWS Dick Frothingham, HR
MWS Gordon Garlington, HR
MWS David Gill, HR

MWS Howard "Flash" Gordon, HR	MWS Elton "Bo" Lewis, HR
MWS Robert Hadley, HR	MWS Terry McLellan, HR
MWS Bill Henning, HR	MWS Jim Miller, HR
MWS Sally Johnson, HR	MWS Richard Miller, HR
MWS Lance Jones, HR	MWS Dick Shinkle, HR
MWS Clare Kelley, HR	MWS Fred Taylor, HR
MWS David King, HR	MWS Don Wardlaw, HR
MWS John King, HR	MWS Rita Wilson-Perry, HR
	MWS Darwin Wolfe, HR

Honorably Retired pastors who believe that they listed on the wrong roll, or who wish to be moved from one to the other list, are asked to contact the Temporary Stated Clerk, MWS Leslie Belden, at lesliebeld@aol.com or 479.466.1061.

Report on Administrative Commissions

Cane Hill and Walnut Grove Presbyterian Churches – MWS Phil Butin, Moderator
The AC is working with Historic Cane Hill on an agreement concerning renovating the building.

First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville – RE Ted Belden and MWS Clare Kelley, Co-Moderators
The AC continues in their attempt to sell the church building.

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

First Presbyterian Church, Little Rock – RE Cyril Hollingsworth, Moderator
The AC continues to work with the session.

First Presbyterian Church, Ozark – MWS Brian Brock, Moderator
Will report at this meeting. See Exhibit I.

Pine Bluff (Central, Faith, and First Presbyterian Churches) –MWS Frank LeBlanc, M.
New member elected and a new moderator and clerk appointed by the Coordinating Team.

Washington County Property – RE Ted Belden, Moderator
A low offer was made on the property and not accepted.

Reports/Records/Policy Compliance

Sexual Misconduct Policy/Background Checks
Forms were completed by all but the following:

Clare Kelley (Honorably Retired)	Libby Lizarraga
Lori Kleinjan (Mid-South Presbytery)	Charles Olson (CRE)

Statistical Reports of Congregations
Statistical Reports were completed by all but the following:

Alma, First	Bentonville, Vaughn
Alpine, Alpine	Gamaliel, One-O-One*
Beebe, First	Helena, First

Hot Springs Village, Woodlands*	Newport, First Ozark, First*
Little Rock, Allison Memorial	Pine Bluff, Central
Little Rock, First	Pine Bluff, Faith
Lonoke, First	Pine Bluff, First
Morrilton, Hopewell	Stuttgart, First
Mountainburg, Mountainburg	West Helena, Cleburne Avenue.

* Either recently dissolved, in the process of dissolution, or seeking dismissal.

Reviewing Records of Sessions/Congregations

The Temporary Stated Clerk has received reports that the following congregations' records have been reviewed:

Conway, First	Holiday Island, Holiday Island
Fairfield Bay, Kirk of the Hills	Hot Springs, Westminster
Fort Smith, First	Huntsville, First
Harrison, First	Mountain Home, First
Heber Springs, First	Pea Ridge, Mount Vernon
	Prairie Grove, First

The Annual Records Review may be completed by any of the following four ways:

- (1) Clerks of Sessions trading records and reviewing each others;
- (2) Regional Session Records Reviews in the Spring;
- (3) Having regional volunteers follow-up with those whose records were not reviewed in this manner (June – September); and
- (4) Having volunteers available in a specified place at the October presbytery meeting to review records while commissioners attend the meeting.

If your records have been reviewed and your church is not listed above please send a copy of that review to the Temporary Stated Clerk. And if your church needs assistance please contact Rev. Leslie Belden, Temporary Stated Clerk, at 479.466.1061 or lesliebeld@aol.com.

Report on the Investigating Committee announced at the October 6-7, 2017 meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas

Pronouncement of Censure and Prayer

Section B – Exhibit I

Report of the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Ozark

MWS Brian Brock
Moderator

The Administrative Commission consisting of MWS Anne Russ, Ruling Elder Leah Shell, Ruling Elder Cindy Lanphear, and MWS Brian Brock held an initial meeting with the session of the First Presbyterian Church of Ozark, Arkansas, on June 4, 2015. Rev. Brock made a presentation about the polity implications of dissolution or dismissal. It was explained to the session that rulings by the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission would not allow them to pursue direct transfer to independent status. The two options available to the congregation were either dissolution of the congregation and sale of existing property to a newly constituted congregation with a charter from the state of Arkansas or dismissal to another validated Reformed body. The Ozark PC had pursued transfer to other Presbyterian denominations with little interest exhibited by potential receiving bodies. The decision was made to dissolve Ozark PC and negotiate the sale of property to a new independent nondenominational congregation.

A search of Franklin County records revealed four properties associated with the First Presbyterian Church of Ozark: the church building, a manse, a storefront in downtown Ozark, and a ten acre parcel of commercial property. After an analysis of assets and liabilities related to the real estate it was determined that the ten-acre parcel represented the only potentially liquid asset. The church building, the manse, and the storefront are in need of significant repairs including the possible need for asbestos abatement. After negotiations the session and the AC agreed to a sale of the ten-acre parcel with proceeds to be divided 80% to the congregation and 20% to the Presbytery of Arkansas. The remaining property would be sold to the new congregational entity for \$1. The Presbytery does not want to assume the liability of maintaining the remaining property.

While the AC and session were beginning the process of selling the ten-acre parcel, interest in seeking dismissal to another Reformed denomination was rekindled. The session began contacting other Presbyterian denominations. The sale of the ten-acre property was executed to accommodate emergency repairs to the church building's roof. Proceeds of the sale were divided according to the negotiated 80/20 split with the presbytery receiving approximately \$5000. The session received an invitation to join the Covenant Presbyterian Church, a small offshoot of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, headquartered in Texas. After consultation with denominational leadership in Louisville, it was determined that the Covenant Presbyterian Church did not meet the requirements for dismissal. The AC and the

session decided to proceed with dissolution and sale of the remaining property to a newly constituted organization for the negotiated price of \$1.

In April of 2018 it was suggested that the Presbytery execute quit-claim deeds on the remaining property to expedite the dissolution of First Presbyterian Church, Ozark. After receiving concurrence from the Coordinating Team the agent who handled the sale of the acreage was instructed to execute the quit-claim deeds. A congregational meeting was held on May 17, 2018 with the congregation voting to dissolve the First Presbyterian Church of Ozark. A worship service recognizing the life and ministry of First Presbyterian Church, Ozark was held at 5:00 pm on Sunday, May 20, 2018.

The Administrative commission respectfully requests to be dismissed at the 138th meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Section C

Report of the Coordinating Team

RE Ruth Hamilton
Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village

For Action:

Motion to ratify the action of the Coordinating Team, and elect the following for the positions listed:

Alternate Commissioner to General Assembly, RE Ron David, Mount Vernon Presbyterian, Pea Ridge, Class of 2018
Future of the Church Ministry Area, MWS Valerie Bell, First, Rogers, Class of 2020

For Information:

The Coordinating Team approved appealing the summary judgment of the Judge in the lawsuit of the Woodlands Presbyterian Church of Hot Springs Village, which had to be filed before May 24, 2018.

The Coordinating Team approved designating the June Presbytery Meeting offering for the Youth Advisory Team to assist with the 2018 presbytery sponsored summer trips for youth.

The Coordinating Team approved the request by the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Newport, for permission to sell the manse at 611 Lakeside. The congregation was notified of the request on Sunday, March 25, 2018. There are no encumbrances on the property. According to G-4.0206a:

“A congregation shall not sell, mortgage, or otherwise encumber any of its real property and it shall not acquire real property subject to an encumbrance or condition without the written permission of the presbytery transmitted through the session of the congregation.”

The Coordinating Team approved the request by the University of the Ozarks to re-schedule the February Presbytery Meeting to March 1-2, 2019. There was a consensus to have Bruce Reyes-Chow lead the theological discussion.

The Coordinating Team approved the request of the Administrative Commission working with First Presbyterian Church, Ozark, to approve the execution of quit claim deeds on

three parcels of property (the building of the First Presbyterian Church of Ozark, the manse, and a downtown storefront), held in trust for the PC(USA), for the sum of \$1.00. Due to various structural issues all three properties associated with First Presbyterian Church of Ozark represented net liabilities to the Presbytery rather than assets.

The Coordinating Team elected MWS Cameron Highsmith to the Administrative Commission working with the PC(USA) congregations in Pine Buff, filling the position vacated by MWS Jeff Price's resignation, and approved MWS Frank LeBlanc as Moderator and RE Ruth Hamilton as Clerk.

Section D

Report of the Committee on Nominations

MWS Robert Hadley, HR
Moderator

For Action:

The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following persons to fill immediately unexpired terms:

- Certified Christian Educator/Ruling Elder Jeannie Ford, Second, Little Rock, Coordinating Team, Class of 2018 (at-large representative)
- Ruling Elder Sid McCollum, Westover Hills, Little Rock, Committee on Ministry, Class of 2018 (at-large representative)
- Minister of the Word and Sacrament Bobby Williamson, Hendrix College, Conway, Ministries with Youth, Young Adults and Campus Ministry Area, Class of 2019 (region 4 representative)

For Information:

The form to nominate someone in your congregation or volunteer yourself for service is also in the presbytery meeting packet as Section D - Exhibit I.

Section D – Exhibit I

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS' COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS 2018

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 or to volunteer yourself and will feel it is a privilege and joyous responsibility to serve on a presbytery committee, subcommittee or ministry area. Thank you for your willingness to suggest these leaders to serve, beginning in 2019 or fill vacancies as they arise.

Your Church and City/Town: _____

MINISTRY AREAS AND COMMITTEES OF PRESBYTERY

Administration Ministry Area
Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) (Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elders Only)
Committee on Ministry (COM) (Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elders Only)
Mission of the Church Ministry Area
Sub-Committee of Disaster Preparedness
Ministries with Youth, Young Adults and Campus Ministry Area
Youth Ministry Team Sub-Committee or Campus Ministry Sub-Committee
Future of the Church Ministry Area

Committee on Representation (MWSs and Ruling Elders Only)
Permanent Judicial Commission (MWSs and Ruling Elders Only)
Nominating Committee (MWSs and Ruling Elders Only)

INDIVIDUALS TO BE RECOMMENDED

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:

COMMISSIONER TO SYNOD in 2020 OR GENERAL ASSEMBLY in 2022

(alternate in 2020; Either Commissioner must be MWS or Ruling Elder)

Name: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home or Cell Phone: _____

Gender: _____ E-mail address: _____

Comments:

YOUTH ADVISORY DELEGATE TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Age of YAD?

DOB?

What is last year your church had a Y A D (if known)? _____

Name: _____

Home or Cell Phone. _____ Gender _____ E-mail Address: _____

Comments:

Please return to:

Presbytery of Arkansas

9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd.

Little Rock, AR 72227

Attention: NiAnn

Or Email: niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org

Due Date July 1, 2018.

Section E

Report of the Task Force on Staff Structure

MWS Leslie Roper
Moderator

Will be provided at a later date.

Section F

Report of the Future of the Church Ministry Area

RE Ted Belden
Moderator

At the February 2018 Presbytery meeting the Future of the Church Ministry Area circulated grant applications to the churches, and afterward mailed applications to those who did not pick them up. On April 15th we were pleased to receive 10 grant requests that will be evaluated!

The Ministry Area members all enjoyed reading a book by Gil Rendle – *Doing the Math of Mission*. We feel it is important that we spend time discerning what God would have us to do and how we can be most helpful to our churches. This book has good information about how to ask the right questions and to track the progress of what you want to achieve. This resource is available in the Presbytery office.

We think one of the areas in which the Future of the Church can help the Presbytery is to work to make sure we have competent, affordable leadership in our churches. This may mean doing things a little bit differently than how it has always been done. Having more Commissioned Ruling Elders (CRE) is one solution. Using elders that want to preach and connecting them with other pastors as mentors is another idea being used. We will want to work with, and connect with, other ministries to achieve this goal.

We are seeing change all around us. The Presbytery is in the midst of discerning a new staffing design, and also has task forces working on the finances of the Presbytery and the CRE program. On the national level, the General Assembly will meet in June in St. Louis. Three reports will be presented at the Assembly that will have an impact on the future of the church. One item is the potential restructuring of the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The other two are reports from the Way Forward Commission and the 2020 Vision Team. The key ingredient of all of these groups is to look forward, act quickly, and create a vision for a changing church.

The Presbytery is working on a new web site. The framework for the site is complete and the staff will be working with volunteers and consultants to get it updated and implemented. One of the areas of the new web site will be a blogging section. If you would have an interest in posting on our web site and helping in this area please let us know.

I want to encourage your church to attend The PLACE event that will take place on August the 4th at Second Presbyterian Church. The Mission of the Church Ministry Area is putting on this event, and a flier with the topics covered is included in the information for this Presbytery meeting. Contact information - TedBelden@aol.com.

Section G

Report of the Ministries with Youth, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry Area

MWS Brian Brock
Moderator

To help foster participation by working adults and parents with children, the Ministry Area met from our homes via Zoom video conferencing on the evening of March 1, 2018. Much of this meeting time was devoted to familiarizing Ministry Area members with current Ministry Area structure, processes, and events so that we may consider new ideas and possibilities for future meetings.

A significant portion of time was spent in discussion about defining the mission and ministries of the Ministry Area. There was a sense that much of the work of the Ministry Area is unknown to the Presbytery. The Ministry Area would like to raise the visibility of youth and campus ministries at presbytery meetings. It was suggested that we use our reporting time at each meeting to highlight the work of a subcommittee. Another suggestion was to request that the “theological discussion” time be used to regularly present ideas about emerging youth, campus, and young adult ministries. Ministries to our youngest members are vital to the health and continuity of the church, and unfortunately we as a presbytery have not always made them a priority. Our youth ministries while extraordinary in execution are stagnant. With the exception of adding a summer youth mission trip the programming has not changed in quite some time. Our campus ministers toil in relative obscurity with few resources and the growing challenge of engaging young people with plenty of alternatives. Young adult ministries are basically nonexistent within the presbytery in any official capacity. Part of the problem is a lack of ideas, so the Ministry Area spent time discussing what young adult ministries look like.

Three themes emerged from the discussion:

1. Young adult ministry is at its core, missional.
2. Young adult ministry frequently occurs outside the church walls rather than in the church building.
3. The church leadership needs to rid itself of the mindset that young adults will come to us. We have to realize that we absolutely must go to them.

With those three ideas in mind the Ministry Area realized that the challenges to starting new ministries will require an expansion of its knowledge base. The Ministry Area is asking for ideas from the local congregations about what works in their contexts, and what does not. The Ministry Area would like to start compiling a list of resources for starting or

strengthening young adult ministries. The Ministry Area also plans on interviewing young adults to find out what their needs and desires are.

During the many discussions it became obvious that budget constraints are a severe hindrance to beginning new ministries or expanding existing ones. The Ministry Area's budget of \$43,730 did not change from the year 2017 to 2018. Included in the budget is \$28,280 which is earmarked for campus ministry salaries. That leaves the committee approximately \$5,000 per ministry area for programming. A dream budget is being created to give Administration a better sense of the resourcing necessary to address one of the presbytery's identified priorities.

Please be in prayer for these upcoming Youth and Campus ministry events:

- General Assembly Mission Trip: June 15-21, grades 10-young adult.
- Junior High Jubilee (Mo-Ranch): June 30-July 5.
- Montreat Youth Conference: July 21-28.
- Junior High YouthQuake: Sept. 28-30, grades 6-9.

Section H

Report of the Preparation for Ministry Committee

MWS Kade Curry
Former Moderator

For Action:

1. **Motion to examine for Candidacy, and approve Inquirer Max Hill of Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, as a Candidate.** (See Exhibit I)
2. **Motion to examine for Candidacy, and approve Inquirer Keith Dove of Central Presbyterian Church, Russellville, as a Candidate.** (See Exhibit II)

For Information:

Those Under Care of the Preparation for Ministry Committee in the Presbytery of Arkansas:

Inquirers – First Phase of: the Preparation for Ministry Process

David Mills; Second, Little Rock

Jill Acree; First, Conway

LaWanda Harris; Pulaski Heights

Julianna Whitson; First, Prairie Grove

Inquirers who are Candidates for Candidacy at this Meeting

Max Hill; Second, Little Rock

Keith Dove; Central, Russellville

Candidates – Second Phase of the Preparation for Ministry Process

Katherine Norwood; Second, LR

Stephen Moody; First, Little Rock

Molly DeWitt; Second, Little Rock

Jordan Akin; Second, Little Rock

Stacey Hammons; Second, LR

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

David Clark; First, Heber Springs

Peg Falls-Corbitt; First, Conway

Mary Jane Fisher; First, Jacksonville

Allan Huddleston; First, Springdale

Carla Taylor; First, Huntsville

Approved to take the Written Final for CRE Status:

David Clark; First Presbyterian Church of Heber Springs

Updated Interviews With:

Peg Falls-Corbitt; First Conway

Max Hill; Second, Little Rock

Keith Dove; Central, Russellville

Recently Ordained:

MWS Krista Denne', MWS Cameron Highsmith, MWS Brittany Fiscus Van Rossum.

Section H – Exhibit I

Inquirer Max Hill Statement of Faith

I believe in God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit as the Triune God.

I believe that God created the world and became incarnate in Jesus Christ, who was both human and divine in order to save humanity from our sin. Jesus endured and conquered injustice and evil, even to the extent of state brutality and execution. Jesus conquered even this through resurrection. This act shows us that nothing can overcome or overpower God's desire to continue to make us all a new creation.

I believe that the Holy Spirit acts as our guide as we continue to navigate the injustice of this world. By living Christ's example, being guided by the Holy Spirit, and loved by God divine, we are able to teach, advocate, and love the world. We do this knowing that we are all intimately connected as God's creation.

This is why I connect with the idea of God as lover very strongly. By thinking of God as a lover, I am able to understand that no matter whether or not I overwhelmingly feel God's love, if I doubt it, or if I find myself angry when God does not act in the way I wish that God would – I can still find grounding in knowing that God will accept me exactly as I was created. God's love was so abundant that it created everything we know. God's love was so abundant that when God's image became humanity, God wanted so intimately to share life with us and save us from ourselves that God became Jesus Christ.

I believe that the church is called to continue the work of Jesus in the world in every age. Jesus' work was that of healing the sick, caring for the poor, the widow, and the orphan. Throughout Jesus ministry, we see Jesus doing this healing work by showing the identity and worth that the rest of the world did not grant to the marginalized. Jesus showed us how we can learn from those that society declares insignificant, silent, unloved, and unworthy. Jesus called the least by name, laid hands on the outcast, and rebuked the power of oppressors.

We proclaim this grace, love, and shared creation in our sacraments.

In baptism, we show the invitation of one another into the community of God. We proclaim that we will walk with one another in faith, sharing the liberating love that Jesus showed us.

At the table, we commune with one another in the meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. In this example, Jesus showed us that it is imperative to share our most intimate moments with our friends and our betrayers.

God's invitation and grace is to be shared by all.

Section H – Exhibit II

Inquirer Keith Dove Statement of Faith

I believe in the one Triune God, who is made up of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and who is Mother of all. Through the mystery of the Trinity, God works in all aspects of creation toward its redemption and the eventual union of heaven and earth. There are no gods other than the one Triune God, who alone is worthy of worship, adoration, and praise.

I believe that God, the Parent and first person of the Trinity, is the creator of heaven and earth, all that is, was, and will be. God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-loving. God's existence is infinite and unfathomable, which makes all human descriptions of God limiting and insufficient. God seeks to be in relationship with God's creation. Because of this, God chose to become incarnate and live among humanity as a human.

I believe that Jesus Christ is the incarnate God and Lord of all creation. Jesus is the only begotten Son of God and the second person of the Trinity. Christ is God incarnate, fully human and fully divine, of the same substance as God the Parent, living as a human in a particular time and place in history, but existing in perfect union with God before and after all things. Jesus is the fullest revelation of the Word of God. Through Christ, all things on heaven and earth, seen and unseen, were created and continue to be held together. Jesus's life on earth began with his conception by the Holy Spirit within the flesh of his mother, Mary. Through his life, Jesus showed us how to love God and each other by preaching, teaching, healing, feeding, and welcoming. He offered peace and forgiveness in all aspects of life. Because of his radical witness to the love of God, the institutional powers that Jesus lived under crucified him. Jesus died a real human death, and in his death God experienced the fullness of humanity's separation from God. Jesus resurrected to life, as the firstborn among the dead. He then ascended to heaven to sit at the right hand of God the Parent, where he reigns for eternity. Through his life, death, and resurrection, Christ initiated the reconciliation of God and God's creation. Christ's resurrection is the basis for our own hope in the resurrection of the body, the ultimate redemption of all creation, and the life everlasting.

I believe that the Holy Spirit exists in perfect union with God the Parent and God the Son as the third person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is the same Spirit that moved upon the waters at the dawn of creation. It has worked through the people of God in all of history, and it will continue to do so for eternity. The Holy Spirit guides us, sways us, and influences us so that we can show God's love to others and act according to God's will. The Holy Spirit is our advocate and helper in our daily lives, actively working to strengthen the relationship between God and humanity.

I believe that humanity was created in the image of God, and in that creation God declared humans good. However, humans turned their back on God through their free will by worshipping themselves rather than God. Humanity now lives in sin. Sin is the condition in which humanity exists, and it separates humans from being in relationship with God. Humans are utterly incapable of choosing to love God on our own, and we can only love

God because God chose to love us first. At the same time, there is nothing in life or in death that is able to separate us from the love of God, and the chief end of humanity is to glorify and enjoy God forever in response to that love.

I believe that salvation for humanity was accomplished once and for all in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Out of infinite love, God continually chooses to reestablish a relationship with humanity. God became human in order to restore humanity and all creation, taking on our flesh and our sin. Through the incarnate Word of God who is Jesus Christ, humans are once again able to be in relationship with God. The reconciliation of God and God's creation is eternal, giving sure and certain hope for the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

I believe that the Church is the one universal Body of Christ, encompassing all who claim that Jesus is Lord throughout all times and places. Jesus Christ alone is head of the Church, and the Church entrusts itself to God alone. The purpose of the Church is to work toward God's mission, which is the redemption of all creation and the proclamation of the good news of God's love for all. The Body of Christ has many parts, but it is united and sustained in God's mission through Christ by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Church can surely be found wherever the Word of God is truly proclaimed and heard, the Sacraments are rightly administered, and a covenant community of Christ's disciples is nurtured.

I believe that the Word of God is Jesus Christ. I believe that the Bible is the Word of God only because it reveals the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Bible is a vibrant collection of many types of writings describing God's interactions with humans in particular times and places. All Scripture is divinely inspired and a true witness to Jesus Christ and the good news of God's love.

I believe that the two Sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper are the Word of God enacted and sealed in the life of the Church. The Sacraments are physical and spiritual proclamations of God's infinite love. In baptism, incorporation into the Body of Christ is enacted and sealed, proclaiming that God offers grace and forgiveness to all people. The Lord's supper is the sign and seal of our communion with Jesus Christ and the sustaining power of God's grace for all people. In the Lord's Supper, we are brought into communion with God through our participation in the Body of Christ. The table of the Lord's Supper belongs to Christ alone, and Christ invites all to feast with him.

I believe that I am called to ordered ministry within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) as a minister of the Word and Sacrament. I feel that I am called to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ and care for God's children. I feel especially led toward serving Christ in two areas. The first is imaginative teaching and scholarship within and on behalf of Christ's Church. The second is true care and presence as a representative of God's love for all of God's children, especially in times of crisis. I believe that the first part of my call is only beneficial or worthwhile if it is fundamentally linked to the second part. Without true concern for real people who need to be shown the love of God, I find scholarship meaningless. While this is the direction that I currently feel led in response to a call from God, I recognize that my call may change over time. My life belongs to God alone, and my first and truest call is always to serve God in absolute love and gratitude however God wills.

Section I

Report of the Committee on Ministry

RE Cyril Hollingsworth
Moderator

For Action:

1. The Committee on Ministry moves that the Presbytery of Arkansas grant the Honorable Retirement of MWS Carol Clark effective December 31, 2017.

2. The Committee on Ministry moves that the Presbytery of Arkansas recognize the Honorable Retirement of CRE Kelly Pearson as Commissioned Ruling Elder of First Presbyterian Church, Dardanelle, effective September 30, 2018.

3. The Committee on Ministry moves that the Presbytery enroll MWSs David Reed, HR, and Linda Whitworth-Reed, HR, as members of the Presbytery of Arkansas and request that the Presbytery of Kansas dismiss them. (Their Statements of Faith are included as Exhibits I and II.)

4. The Committee on Ministry moves that the Presbytery of Arkansas approve the call of MWS Steve Frazier as the Pastor of Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church of Fairfield Bay, effective April 15, 2018, with the following terms of call:

EFFECTIVE SALARY			
	Cash Salary	\$30,000.00	
	Housing Allowance	9,000.00	
	Utility Allowance	3,000.00	
	Automobile Allowance	3,600.00	
	Cell Phone Allowance	900.00	
	Health Club Allowance	660.00	
TOTAL EFFECTIVE SALARY (Monthly = \$3,930)			\$47,160.00
ANNUAL ADDITIONAL BENEFITS:			
	Pension Contribution (11%)	\$5,187.60	
	Medical Insurance (24.5%)	11,790.00	
	Death & Disability (1%)	471.60	
TOTAL ADDITIONAL BENEFITS (Monthly=\$1454.10)			\$17,449.20

TOTAL FIXED COST (Monthly = \$5,384.10)		\$64,609.20
REQUIRED ANNUAL REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES:		
Continuing Education	\$1,200.00	
Reimbursable Expenses – Misc.	1,200.00	
Travel	3,600.00	
ONE TIME EXPENSES		
Customary Moving Expenses	\$5,000.00	

OTHER BENEFITS:

Paid Vacation4 Weeks
 Paid Continuing Ed.....2 weeks
 Paid Sick or Parental Leave6 weeks

In the 7th year of service, the congregation shall provide for a three-month Sabbatical Leave, reviewed and approved by the Committee on Ministry, continuing the salary and benefits for that period, and providing for pulpit supply.

HOURS AND CONDITIONS OF WORK:

The hours of work are expected to be 40 hours per week or more including the required hours to plan, conduct and participate in Worship, Christian Education and Mission work. This position is a salaried position and is not considered hourly. As is the case with all salaried positions, it will be necessary to invest the appropriate hours to effectively accomplish the tasks required. Although there are no other full-time staff members, the Pastor position supervises the part-time and contract staff with policy guidance and assistance as required from the Session. The Pastor is subject to call for Pastoral Care situations when available in the community.

5. The Committee on Ministry moves that the Presbytery of Arkansas approve the call of MWS Steven Kurtz as Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church of Ft. Smith, effective March 4, 2018, and enroll him as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, after being dismissed by South Alabama Presbytery, with the following terms of call: (Steven’s Statement of Faith is included as Exhibit III.)

EFFECTIVE SALARY		
Cash Salary	\$55,000	
Board of Pensions (37%)	20,350	
Housing Allowance	\$12,000	
TOTAL EFFECTIVE SALARY		\$87,350
REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES		

	Auto @ 53.5/mile	\$1,000	
	Business/professional expenses	\$1,904	
	Continuing Education	\$1,500	
	SECA Supplement (up to 50%)	\$3,596	
			\$8,000

OTHER BENEFITS:

Paid Vacation4 Weeks
 Paid Continuing Ed.....2 weeks
 Paid Parental Leave.....6 weeks

In the 7th year of service, the congregation shall provide for a three-month Sabbatical Leave, reviewed and approved by the Committee on Ministry, continuing the salary and benefits for that period, and providing for pulpit supply.

Necrology:

Rev. James Patterson Fleming, 84, died on March 6, 2018 in Hollywood, FL. He was an honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of Arkansas. A native of Baltimore, MD, Jim graduated from Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC; Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA; and Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond, VA. With wife Libby and three adopted children, he ministered in churches in Georgia, Maryland and Florida before arriving in Arkansas in 1986 for his last pastorate at First, Clarksville. In this presbytery Jim committed to Committee on Ministry, Committee on Education, Committee on Nominations, General Council and as a board member of the Ozarks Area Mission and a cluster representative. After retiring and Libby’s death, he married Jeanne Haney and served as stated supply at First, Huntsville. In recent years they returned to the Homestead, FL area where he enjoyed his children and grandchildren. He was interred at Blowing Rock, NC.

For Information:

1. The Committee on Ministry approved MWS Cindy Saul as Stated Supply at the Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals pending her successful examination by the Examinations Subcommittee with the following covenant, with an amended effective date to be determined at a later date:

Effective Salary:	
Salary	\$0.00
Housing/Utilities	24,000
Professional Expenses:	

Travel @ \$.57 a mile and other reimbursables	3,000
Continuing Education	1,000
Medical Flex	3,000
Total	\$31,000
Benefits:	
Paid Vacation/Time off: 30 Days +/-annually	
Sick Leave (negotiated with session)	
Personal Leave (optional)	

2. The Covenant of Stated Supply MWS Clare Kelley, HR, and First Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, was renewed, effective January 1, 2018, with the following terms of call:

Salary	\$10,000
Housing	10,000
Full medical, pension, disability, and death coverage under the Board of Pensions (required 12%)	2,400
Paid continuing education leave of 2 weeks annually	
Continuing education reimbursement allowance	800
Church travel expense	4,800
TOTAL	\$28,000

3. Continuing a practice begun in 2004, the Committee on Ministry will recognize at the 139th Stated Meeting on October 19-20, 2018 all Ministers of Word and Sacrament members of the presbytery who this year celebrate anniversaries in five-year increments. The Presbytery will also recognize currently serving Commissioned Ruling Elders and active and retired Certified Christian Educators and Certified Associate Christian Educators celebrating anniversaries in five-year increments. The list below is based on information compiled in the presbytery office. Please check to make sure the information is correct and notify the Presbytery of any changes (501.663.2424 or niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org).

**The following Church Professionals are
Receiving Engraved Key-Rings as First-time Honorees:**

Ministers 15 Yers	Ministers 30 Years
MWS Philip Blackburn	MWS Robert "Chip" Hatcher
MWS Tasha Blackburn	
MWS Blake Brinegar	Ministers 35 Years
	MWS Paul Fulks

**Church Professionals who were earlier honored in 2013
in the ninth year of the celebration of five-year increments
will this year receive a salute in the COM report:**

10 Years	40 Years	Certified Christian Educator - 60 years
MWS Elizabeth Gabbard	MWS Alan Ford, HR	Nancy Irving Smith
15 Years	45 Years	
MWS Anne Russ	MWS Tom Carter, HR	
MWS Patty Schaller	MWS Darwin Wolfe, HR	
20 Years	55 Years	
MWS Ruskin Falls	MWS Joseph Boatwright, HR	
MWS Dennis Ritchie	MWS William Branch, HR	
MWS Michael Vinson	MWS Joseph Tropansky, HR	
30 Years	60 Years	
MWS Catherine Allsbury, HR	MWS David Lavery, HR	
MWS Debra Carl Freeman		
	65 Years	
	MWS Don Campbell, HR	

Section I – Exhibit I

MWS David Reed, HR, Statement of Faith

God is one triune God forever and ever: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three distinct persons, united and inseparable, immanent and transcendent. God is never confined to this world, nor can human language ever completely express God's greatness. God has always been there in history and God has a covenantal relationship with us even today. God does not need us, yet, God loves us unconditionally for we are the children of God.

Even though we separate ourselves from God, God never forsakes us. By God's grace we are continually called to repentance, forgiveness, trust, and obedience. God loves us long before we are ever able to love God or others.

God is revealed to us in Jesus of Nazareth. By looking at this historical person – his birth, life, death and resurrection – we come to know God more fully. Jesus Christ is the living God who died, suffering all the pain of human existence, giving himself for the sins of the whole world.

His resurrection from the dead is the Easter message for all of creation. Christ is risen! Hallelujah! He will come again in triumph. Through the atoning work of the risen Lord, all who turn and follow him are saved by grace through faith.

The most intimate way God relates with us is as God the Spirit. The Spirit is that person of God who gives us discernment and faith in God's promises. The Spirit works in us to convict us of sin and helps us to understand who God is and who we are as God's children. The Spirit enables us to participate in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection so that we may be brought into a more perfect relationship with God. Just as God's coming among us as Jesus Christ was necessary for the atonement and redemption of the world, so too, God, the Holy Spirit's work is necessary for God's redeeming grace to become salvation in us. The work of the Spirit – conviction of sin, knowledge of God's forgiveness, the many spiritual gifts, including the gift of belief, new life in Christ, and transformation – all are a part of what we call "salvation."

The sacraments are signs of Christ's power and presence with us and represent God's "being in act" in our midst. They were instituted by God, ordained by Christ Jesus. Baptism accepts us and claims us as the children of God. In Baptism we also participate in Jesus' death and resurrection. Dying to all that separates us from God, we are raised to new life in Christ. And, Baptism marks us as God's own, making us members of the Body of Christ, partakers in God's covenant of grace. The Lord's Supper continues the work begun in Baptism. The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of our communion with our crucified and risen Lord. It is the joyful feast of the people of God, calling us to be ever grateful to God the

Father, remember the salvific acts of God the Son, and to be continually renewed and empowered by God the Spirit.

The church is the Body of Christ in Holy Communion with God. The work of the Holy Spirit brings us into that communion. The church is the sign of the reign of God in the world today and proclaims God's promise for the future. Into this holy and universal church, God calls us to be in community and to minister with each other as we worship the one triune God. The church is called to bear witness to and proclaim the good news of God's reconciling love in the world through Jesus Christ; to show compassion as Jesus did for everyone we meet; to commit ourselves to work for justice and peace for all; to be good stewards of God's good creation; to trust God completely; and to be sustained continually by the power of God's presence in the world.

Section I – Exhibit II

MWS Linda Whitworth-Reed, HR, Statement of Faith

John Calvin defines faith as “a firm and certain knowledge of God’s benevolence toward us, founded upon the truth of the freely given promise in Christ, both revealed to our minds and sealed upon our hearts through the Holy Spirit.” (*Institutes*, III, ii, 7)

Credo! I give my heart, trust, loyalty, and vision to God.

I believe that God is one, revealed to us as Creator (Father), Redeemer (Jesus the Christ), and Sustainer (Holy Spirit).

I believe that God is the Loving Creator of Light and all things, seen and unseen, in the cosmos and beyond.

I believe that all of creation is within God’s concern and control, that God is in constant interaction with all and longs for communion/relationship with humankind.

I believe that each person is uniquely created in the image of God.

I believe that Jesus the Christ is the Son of God, and I recognize him as my Lord and Savior. Jesus is Divine and Human. We know God’s love and grace through the life of Jesus. And we know life in God’s grace through Christ’s life, death, and resurrection. Anyone who believes in the Christ can call God “Abba” (Daddy).

I believe that we know God’s constant presence through Holy Spirit, as Comforter, Encourager, Counselor and Sustainer.

I believe that God, through Christ and the presence of Holy Spirit, gives us the strength to endure all things.

I believe that, as God’s people, we are called to action: to love God, to love ourselves and to love each other. By acting in love, we are, therefore called to be loving and resourceful stewards of God’s people and of God’s gift of the creation.

I believe that God is revealed to us through the power of the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal and in the created world. Faithful people in each generation seek to understand God in the context of their corporate and personal histories (faith seeking understanding).

I believe that the sacraments are means of grace. Baptism is a sign of what God has already done for each of us, claiming us as God's own children. Through communion Christ's redemption is present with us as we share the feast of bread and wine with all believers at the Lord's Table.

Whether we live or die, we belong to God.

Belief is transforming... and transformed lives transform lives.

Section I – Exhibit III

MWS Steve Kurtz Statement of Faith

I am a Christian. I am a follower/disciple of Jesus. It is through Jesus that I come to know God. Jesus helps me know God as my Heavenly “Abba”. God is One. God is good. God is the Creator, the ultimate source of everything, and everything will ultimately be gathered back into God, reconciled, and at peace.

Being human, I have a propensity to mess things up; to be self-seeking, covetous, unforgiving, and other things like this, which causes harm, to me, to others, even to our planet. I find myself alienated from God and from other people, even, strangely, from the “self” I was meant to be. I am also living in, and sometimes benefitting from harmful conditions and systems I neither made nor chose but which contribute to the suffering of other conscious creatures. All of which is to say, I’m lost. But through Jesus I know that God seeks, finds, forgives and restores (saves) lost ones like me. Through Jesus I know that what God wants from me is to love God in every way I can, and to love other people as much as I love myself. Through Jesus I learn the life of complete trust in God’s goodness, love, mercy and care, and God’s special concern for those who are vulnerable and suffering. Jesus’ entire life was lived in loving trust of his Father; his life in fact was a living offering of honor and thanksgiving, all the way to the point of death by crucifixion. God vindicated Jesus by raising him from the dead. Jesus is now present by his Spirit.

Jesus gathered disciples and told them they were to gather others into his new community. This new community he formed was to be international, multi-ethnic, and world-wide. Entrance into this family, Jesus taught, was to be through baptism, as it both accomplishes and visualizes a cleansing and in fact a death and rebirth into God’s family of forgiven foundlings, the recipients of God’s freely given grace. The family is to bear witness to the continuing presence of the risen Jesus among them and be strengthened by sharing bread and wine at table together, set apart by prayer and thanksgiving as signs of Christ’s body and blood, so that we both experience his presence and are made confident about the call of his words on us.

God’s restored family is guided and encouraged by its attention to the scriptures as they are regularly read, studied and proclaimed. Through the Spirit, we hear that God is still speaking, teaching, correcting and calling us to love and serve God in our contexts. Through the scripture, by the Spirit, we learn of Jesus, and come to understand the way Jesus taught us to know God, and to know that God’s kingdom is present in healing and redemptive, transformative ways. We are called to live into the future reality of a world reconciled and restored even now, as we work for God’s shalom of justice, compassion, and restoration.

Section J

Report of the Administration Ministry Area

RE Jan Enke
Moderator

The Administration Ministry Area has had the insurance review performed in 2018, which raised a number of questions about possible mismatches between insured value and actual (book) value of property. Also, the question was raised about which properties are still owned by the Presbytery, as the list has not been updated in recent years. Administration Ministry and the Presbytery Staff are studying and addressing these questions to bring to the October Presbytery meeting.

When the new Presbytery Structure was presented for adoption in October 2014, three Core Priorities were identified by the Presbytery Listening/Restructure Team:

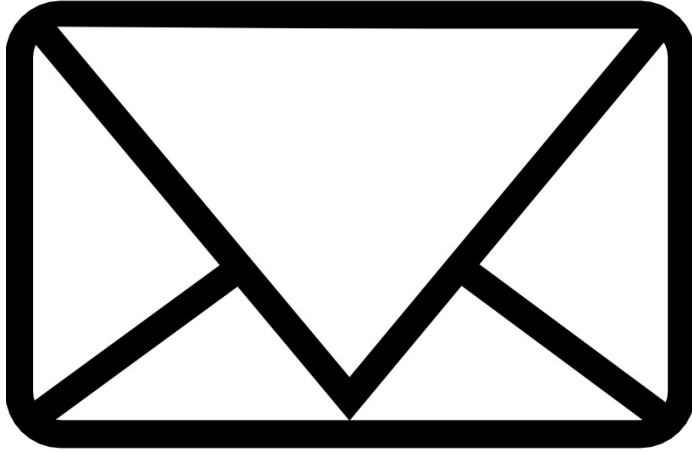
- Building strong congregations that faithfully and effectively share the gospel through mission and ministry;
- Connecting congregations, resources and expertise to support life giving practices in congregations and fellowships;
- Developing and supporting ministries with youth and young adults including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

These three items reflected the top three concerns of local churches, as expressed to the Presbytery Listening/Restructure Team. With the budget process for 2019 we are encouraging the ministry areas (and sub-groups) to identify their key priorities for 2019, possibly with these three items bulleted above in mind.

Budget is the enactment of the mission of the Presbytery. The budget shows the commitment we have in doing the work of God within the presbytery. The mission of the budget is what entices people and churches to buy in with their giving and support.

We are holding budget hearings for 2019 on Thursday, August 23, 2018. An email was sent to all moderators asking each ministry to think about the Core Priorities, and the meeting will probably be via video and/or telephone conference.

We are consistently reviewing the financial report of the presbytery's income and expenses for 2018.



RETIREMENT APPROACHING

At the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas on Saturday, June 2, 2018 at First Presbyterian, Conway

the retirement on October 1, 2018 of Ruling Elder NiAnn Thompson from the Presbytery staff will be recognized during the Administration Ministry Area report.

During over 19 years on staff, NiAnn has been presbytery's part-time Resourcing Director, staff resource to several committees, the Assistant Stated Clerk and now Recording Clerk and carried out "other duties as required." A Certified Christian Educator in the PC(USA), she has served four different congregations in the presbytery during her 30 years in church work.

If you would like to bring a card, letter or note to the presbytery meeting for NiAnn, a basket at registration will be available. These wishes will be welcomed and gathered into a scrapbook of memories. Or you may mail or email between now and October to:

Presbytery of Arkansas
9221 North Rodney Parham Road
Little Rock, AR. 72227
niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org

Section K

Report of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area

RE Kelly Pearson
Moderator

The Mission of the Church Ministry Area, which encompasses Christian Education along with “mission,” is pleased to have sponsored “The P.L.A.C.E. NW” (Presbytery Leadership Academy for Congregational Enrichment) on April 7, 2018, held at First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, the venue attracted primarily individuals from the Northwest Arkansas congregations. The evaluations completed by participants largely held praise. A few suggestions were submitted, as: 'an earlier beginning time would afford having more time allotted to the workshops.'

Following the example of The P.L.A.C.E. NW, The P.L.A.C.E. Central will be on August 4, 2018, at Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock. This will be the third time for Second to host this event. We know their hospitality to be equal to that of FUPC, Fayetteville. Especially appreciated is Jeannie Ford's coordination as a Christian Educator, and on staff at Second.

The difference this year is there are no meal reservations or meals to coordinate. Dismissal will be at 1:00 p. m., so persons may plan on a late lunch of their choosing. Packets are being made available at the June Presbytery Meeting for every congregation.

This second event will provide some, not all, of the same workshop options, though there may be different presenters. However, since there were/are more options than the three choices one chooses, if having attended the first one, attending again in August should pose no difficulty in hearing new information. Some of the workshops are: “Growing Young: Best Practices for Helping Young People Find a Home in Your Congregation”; the “Purple Church”; “Church Giving in the 21st Century”; “Transformative Conversations”; “Great Ends of the Church”; “Board of Pensions' Rep,” to list some. You are encouraged to follow-up to discover what these are about, along with other ones.

Meanwhile, Mission of the Church continues to assist in the spread of the good news by considering and approving several grant requests. There are also many regular recipients of budgeted amounts. Some of the grants so far this year have included: \$300 to help a congregation with its community garden; United Campus Ministry at the University of Arkansas, \$500 for its food-ministry to students impacted by a growing need for sufficient meals; a \$1000 grant for a congregation's involvement with a food and personal-item distribution ministry; assistance to an individual for travel to donate her nursing skills in the Dominican Republic.

From the annual budget financial assistance goes to: Ferncliff Summer Camp Support; Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage; Solar Under the Sun; Vera Lloyd; the Resource Center; Presbyterian Village; Lyon College; and the University of the Ozarks, to name most. Some of these are rather small gifts but have been given that these entities and institutions will know they are appreciated by the Presbytery of Arkansas and to remain connected by more than only moral support.

Continue to pray for the ministries of our congregations. And never hesitate to contact me to see if a Session approved ministry may be able to receive financial assistance from the presbytery. Contact can be made to ktpearson@suddenlink.net.

Section K – Exhibit I

Report of the Disaster Preparedness and Response Sub-Committee

MWS Ike Brighton, HR
Moderator

For Action:

Nothing at this time.

For Information:

On April 19th, an emergency meeting of the DPRS was held, via conference call, to report upon and discuss action for the EF-1 tornado that struck Mountainburg, AR, on Friday night, April 23rd. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to send \$1,000 to Mountainburg Presbyterian Church in Mountainburg to assist people in the community that were affected.

In the ARVOAD report, the DPRS was given an update on the grant from the Save the Children Assoc. that was given to Arkansas to assist in protecting and caring for children after a disaster. The grant will be overseen by ARVOAD during the next few years.

Sharon Boer, YAV intern at Ferncliff, reported on the Good 360 program housed at Ferncliff which services supplies used by non-profit organizations in their activities. An example would be Church World Services who provide 'flood buckets' after disasters. Additionally, it was reported that Ferncliff has already received 21,000 lbs. in donations for the upcoming summer. Twelve mission teams will come to inspect hygiene kits and the donations received will go toward purchasing items for assembling 5,000 hygiene kits and 200 flood buckets.

Further planning was done for the "P.L.A.C.E." workshop on August 4th at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. Discussions centered on encouraging the speaker for the "Active Shooter" program to adjust the presentation for churches. The DPRS also decided to set up a display booth at the P.L.A.C.E. during the date.

DPRS decided to offer spiritual care to the community of Mountainburg and Liz Branch, Ike Brighton, and Bill Branch offered to contact the Presbyterian Church there about dates to travel there, as needed.

Section K – Exhibit II

Report of the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Arkansas

REs Ila Blackketter-Wolfe and Cathy Rogers
Co-Moderators

The Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery Coordinating Team met at First Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith, AR on Friday, April 20th.

On Saturday, April 21, 2018 we had a wonderful Spring Gathering hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith. Special thanks goes to Burva Ann Nugent as the coordinator and her planning team and MWS Tasha Blackburn as the worship leader.

Our keynote speaker was Janet Theus who reported on her 2016 PW USA Mission Experience to San Francisco as an Ambassador. She spoke on her experiences and what she learned about sex trafficking, human slavery and immigration. Jenny Sorey of Hub of Hope also spoke on this subject.

Mission speakers were: David Gill who spoke about a PW grant that was received by a retreat center in Honduras which will be run by Presbyterian Women in their Presbytery and Dawn Dvoracek who spoke on a PW Thank offering Grant which helped to purchase a polytunnel for the Food for Thought Garden at the University of the Ozarks, which helps with growing year round.

A revision of bylaws was voted on and passed. Also, an election of and installation of a PWPCT was held.

Special thanks go to out going members: Katie Jackson, leader of Cluster I; Carol Sue Williams, leader of Cluster 3 and Betty Glenn, co-leader of Cluster 5.

We also recognized Karene Jones for her many years of faithful service as she rotated off the team as treasurer and is now serving as member at large. Karene also gave a talk on the 30th Anniversary of Presbyterian Women. This is the Anniversary which came shortly after the Northern branch of the Presbyterian Church and the Southern branch of the Presbyterian Church merged in the 1983.

Installed members of the 2018-2019 PWPCT are:

Co-Moderators – Cathy Rogers and Ila Blackketter-Wolfe
Co-Vice Moderators – Maryann Sweeney and Vicki Erickson
Secretary/Historian – Kathy White
Treasurer – Gail Phillips
Mission/Peace/Justice – Renee Nestor
Leader, Cluster 1 – Carolyn Willis
Leader, Cluster 2 – Vacant

Leader, Cluster 3 – Sally Pierce
Leader, Cluster 4 – Patty Minga
Leader, Cluster 5 – Jeanne Lloyd

We are looking forward to these upcoming events:

Fall Cluster Gatherings-

Cluster 1 – First Presbyterian Church, Springdale, Friday, August 24
Cluster 2 – TBA
Cluster 3 – TBA
Cluster 4 – First Presbyterian Church, Walnut Ridge, Saturday, September 15
Cluster 5 – Park Hill Presbyterian, Saturday, August 25

2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women: Thursday, August 2 – Sunday, August 5, 2018, in Louisville, KY. Register at www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering

PW Presbytery Spring Gathering: April 6, 2019 at First Presbyterian Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas

PW Synod of the Sun Gathering: July 25–27, 2019 at First Presbyterian Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Section L

Report on the Synod of the Sun

RE Emily Laurel
Commissioner

Your last report from the Synod of the Sun brought highlights from the Synod's activities for the year 2017, including synod-related activities of your commissioners as well as the work of the Synod Grants and Scholarships Commission that affected the Presbytery of Arkansas.

In addition, we introduced Arkansas' newest commissioner to Synod, MWS Elizabeth Gabbard, a co-opted member of the Synod Coordinating Committee and Vice-Moderator of the Synod of the Sun, who also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Synod of the Sun. RE Emily Laurel serves on the Stewardship Committee, chairs the Synod Communications Team, and moderates the Synod of the Sun Grants and Scholarships Commission. She also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Foundation.

Focus on 2018 Opportunities

In the upcoming months Arkansas Presbyterians and friends will have several important opportunities to participate in unique, life-changing, and inspirational events created for your education and enjoyment. Please take the time to check out each of these opportunities now and mark your calendars so you don't miss out on these offerings developed for you.



SOSPF Scholarship Program - Deadline approaching

Do you know a Candidate or an Inquirer attending a PC(USA) seminary in need of financial assistance? Ask this person if they are aware of the Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Foundation Scholarship Program.

The primary purpose of the Foundation's scholarship program is to encourage a strong and continuing dedication toward theological study. Scholarships are awarded annually to cover one scholastic year, and an applicant may apply for scholarship aid for up to three years of scholastic study.

1. You must be a member of a Presbyterian Church (USA) within the four state region of the Synod of the Sun (Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas).
2. You must be an Inquirer or Candidate under the care of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (COPM) in your presbytery.

3. You should be planning to serve within the Presbyterian Church (USA) following graduation.
4. You must be a full-time student in the Master of Divinity (MDiv) program at a Presbyterian or Presbyterian related (by covenant) theological school.

The deadline for application is June 15, 2018. For more information, go to the Synod website at: <http://www.synodsun.org/scholarship-application>

SYNOD SUNDAY 2018

The Stewardship Committee of the Synod of the Sun is providing many resources for Presbyterian leaders to share Synod Sunday 2018 with the members of their congregations on **Sunday, August 26, 2018.**

The Synod Communications Team has put together even more new and exciting materials for our congregations this year, including everything from a beautiful worship litany and other readings to coloring opportunities for kids. These can be found on the Synod's website, synodsun.org on the Synod Sunday 2018 page.



Synod Sundays, offered annually on the fourth Sunday of August each year, are intended to provide the presbyteries served by the Synod of the Sun a special opportunity to bring to their congregations educational opportunities meant to better acquaint the people of the Synod with the benefits and offerings provided by our Synod. Since our Synod is mission-oriented, we have provided mission-related information from across the Synod for all to learn from and appreciate.



IMAGINE - A gathering around common mission of all kinds to share, connect with and learn from one another

IMAGINE is a special mission-related conference presented by the Synod of the Sun annually.

**Friday, November 2 at 5 pm – Saturday,
November 3, 2018 at 2:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church, 555 S. University,
Norman, OK**

Discover mission that is happening in our congregations and presbyteries; share visions of congregation and presbytery mission; generate excitement for mission and enthusiasm for mission connections; experience the breadth of mission within the synod.

Synod of the Sun Grants and Scholarships Commission Report

The Synod's Grants and Scholarships Commission has funded scholarships and grants for many purposes since its inception in 2012. This report highlights needs fulfilled through the funding of mission grant requests from the Presbytery of Arkansas so far in 2018 and provides a statistical report of mission grant funding since the commission's inception in 2012. Scholarship and grant requests for the upcoming quarter must be submitted by June 30, 2018. Details may be found at synodsun.org.

Presbytery of Arkansas Mission Grant Funding from Synod, 2012-2017: **\$67,000**

January, 2018 - April, 2018

Youth and Children Ministry Summer Internship for University of Arkansas and First Presbyterian Church, Bentonville, AR, Presbytery of Arkansas **\$2,000**

Dominican Republic/Foundation for Peace mission trip to Dominican Republic, Presbytery of Arkansas **\$3,600**

2018 Mission Grants for Presbytery of Arkansas \$5,600

Total Synod Grant Funding 2012-2018 \$72,600