



131st Stated Meeting  
of the Presbytery of Arkansas  
Friday and Saturday, February 12-13, 2016  
Lyon College  
Batesville, AR

**PRELIMINARY INFORMATION**

# **PRE-PRESBYTERY WORKSHOPS FOR YOUR EDUCATION AND ENJOYMENT**

**(Choose one please, as all are scheduled from  
4:00 to 5:30 p.m. on Friday, February 12 at Lyon College, Batesville. The  
gavel beginning the meeting is set for 6:30 p.m.)**

## **Clerk of Session Training**

Whether you are a novice, first-year Clerk of Session or a seasoned, experienced veteran, this workshop will help you better prepare for Session meetings, take appropriate minutes, and keep the church's records current as you assist the Session moderator. Please bring your Book of Order.

**Sponsored by Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education**

Leader: Stated Clerk Teaching Elder Robert Lowry, transitional pastor at First Presbyterian and Harmony Presbyterian, Clarksville

## **Solar Under the Sun**

Workshop is designed to introduce you (or update you) to the ecumenical ministry of the Synod of the Sun whose mission statement reads: "Believing that Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the mission of SUTS is to illumine our fellow human beings with hope and life through solar energy. To do this, Solar Under the Sun trains volunteers to design and install solar power systems with communities that lack reliable electrical power." Mission training (Solar School) is done at Ferncliff Camp.

**Sponsored by Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education**

Leader: Emily Fausett, development director of Solar Under the Sun

**Watch for announcements and details in the Addendum Packet  
on two more possible workshops!**

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**NEWS FOR THE 131<sup>st</sup> STATED MEETING  
OF THE  
PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS**

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*"The vision of the Presbytery of Arkansas is to make visible the body of Christ.*

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

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**If this is the first Presbytery meeting you will attend as a voting ruling elder from your congregation, you are a "first-time commissioner," and you can expect a special, warm greeting, a gift, and a surprise or two. WELCOME! At registration, all will have an opportunity to note on a board any celebrations or concerns that will be lifted up in prayer during the meeting. Please know that one celebration is your presence at this meeting.**

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**The offering at worship on Friday evening is designated by General Committee for the Presbyterian Scholarship Fund of Lyon College.**

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## **A Perky Paper Promoting Properly Prepared Presbytery Participation**

If that is a little light-hearted, so be it. We want you to enjoy your days as a commissioner to the Stated Meetings of the Presbytery of Arkansas. It may be confusing at times – even for those who have been coming to the presbytery meetings for years! But there is good news to share, success to celebrate, helpful resources to pass along, challenging decisions to be made, dreams to be dared, and good fellowship to be discovered. In order for you to be right in the thick of it, keep reading!

**For starters, what's a presbytery?** It is the representative council of all the Presbyterian churches in the northern 2/3s of the state of Arkansas – 87 churches and 2 fellowships (Hispanic and Laotian) – about 14,000 members. Voting members of presbytery include Teaching Elders, Ruling Elder commissioners, Ruling Elders serving as presbytery officers, Commissioned Ruling Elders, Certified Christian Educators who are ruling elders, Ruling elders from the Committee on Clusters and General Committee, General Assembly commissioners, presbytery committee moderators who are reporting at the meeting, and Honorably Retired Teaching Elders. We are the Presbytery!

**What's the point of a presbytery?** Presbytery is the second council in the Presbyterian Church (USA) – the Session of a particular church is the first council. Presbytery does the work that can more effectively be done by churches working together. We combine resources to help churches do the work of Christian education, new church development, church redevelopment and mission and provide services to the churches that they could not provide separately. We ordain and install Teaching Elders, oversee the work of the congregations, train Commissioned Ruling Elders, judge disputes, consider changes in our constitution and provide staff services for congregations and committees.

**How often do we meet?** At the present time we meet three times a year for Stated Meetings: two two-day meetings and one one-day meeting. On occasion we meet for special Called Meetings to deal with situations that may arise from time to time between stated meetings.

**What happens when we meet?** A thoughtful pastor offered this excellent answer. At our Presbytery meetings, he noted, we usually deal with five different “agenda,” each one calling for a different approach;

1. Debate and action (sometimes by consent)
2. Education
3. Information
4. Celebration of our community
5. Presbyterian procedures

We'll next look at each of these agenda. Hopefully we'll come out with a better sense of what's going on, and what we hope to accomplish by coming together.

1. **Debate and action** – We'll be making a few decisions that we may have to talk about before we vote – to clarify, to share different views and to understand alternatives. Adopting Presbytery budgets, approving major expenditures, examining

persons moving to become Candidates for Teaching Elders – all these and more might happen. The persons presenting the reports will try to make it clear where each item is located in your packet or in the addendum packet that you receive prior to the meeting. Your role is to listen, to share in discussion as you are led, and to vote your conscience. Other recommendations from committees of presbytery will require discussion and debate and vote. General Committee, a committee or a task force will have carefully reviewed each recommendation. If at any time you wish to enter the debate, please go to a microphone to address your remarks to the Moderator, state your name and the church you represent and your comment or question. Your role is to be a patient and thoughtful participant in this necessary and sometimes unexciting routine. If you are not sure what's going on, let the Moderator know about your difficulty! If you have questions you can bet that others are confused as well. The Moderator and the Stated Clerk of Presbytery when asked to do so will take the time to clear things up.

2. **Education** – Being here is an opportunity to learn about our Presbyterian Church (USA). You might hear from Christians from other parts of the world, reports from representatives of Presbyterian schools or agencies, Synods or General Assembly. News of presbytery training and educational events, church renewal or evangelism programs, updates on social concerns of our presbytery are all examples. Your role is to listen and to share what you are learning with appropriate groups in your congregation.
3. **Information** – You will receive a lot of information, both written and spoken, to share with your session and church members. Occasionally, you may be asked to share information about your own church for directories, reports and planning. You will hear about programs in other congregations that might benefit your church. Again, your role is to be the communicator – to pass along the good news to your session and local leaders. You will find a summary of the Presbytery meeting to use with your session in “The Banner,” the monthly newsletter that comes out on Tuesday after the meeting. You can go to the Presbytery website at [www.presbyteryofarkansas.com](http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.com) to obtain the Banner.
4. **Celebration of our community** – We will worship and sing, pray for each other and our world, sometimes share the Lord's Supper, enjoy mealtime fellowship, give thanks for special accomplishments and enjoy each other's company! Your role is simple. Join the party! Being with other Christians can be fun. Watch for a gift for first-time elders. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, “Rejoice!”
5. **Presbyterian procedures** – As with any organization, part of our work is routine – such as adoption of the docket, approval of minutes and perhaps action on small, unbudgeted expenditures. We work on our partnership role with churches approving property transfers and major expenditures, reviewing session records, and naming moderators for churches without pastors. We welcome and release clergy members,

or form special committees and task forces. You will receive the Presbytery Packet over the internet several weeks before the meeting or if necessary, it may be mailed to you. Some of this material is handled with little or no discussion and could be considered “housekeeping details” of the partners doing things “decently and in order.” Sometimes they are included in a consent agenda, a procedure for the adoption of non-controversial items that require no discussion or debate.

**Welcome to this ministry! Remember our aim is always to build up Christ’s Church!**

*(Adapted from Cluster V’s New Elder Commissioner Training – Original document by Reverend David Kingsley, former Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs)*

\*\*The brochure entitled “Parliamentary Procedures in the Presbyterian Church (USA)” by Marianne L. Wolfe may be downloaded at the PCUSA.org website. [www.PCUSA.org](http://www.PCUSA.org)

**MOTION BASICS**

**Steps of the Motion**

1. *Commissioner* rises and addresses the moderator.
2. *Moderator* recognizes the commissioner and grants the floor
3. *Commissioner* makes motion. (Commissioner may not debate before the motion is seconded.)
4. *Another commissioner* seconds the motion without recognition from the moderator.
5. *Moderator* states the motion.
6. *Moderator* calls for debate (Maker of the motion has the privilege of first debate.) All speakers must address the moderator and be recognized by the moderator prior to speaking.
7. *Moderator* takes the vote, announces the vote and the results of the vote.
8. *Moderator* states the next order of business.

**EIGHT USEFUL MOTIONS**

1. *Amend*. There are only three forms of simple amendment
  - a. to delete or strike out
  - b. to add or insert
  - c. to strike out and insert

The words proposed for deletion or additions *must* be *consecutive* words. When the amendment does not involve consecutive words or is longer than a paragraph, the motions “to substitute” (a form of amendment) is used. This is a difficult motion and should *not* be used when the simple form of amendment can be used.

2. *Commit or Refer*. To commit or refer back to committee for further study and amendment allows the consultative process to be used in greater depth. When this motion is made, it

needs to state clearly which committee; appointment of the committee, if necessary; the task of the committee; and report times.

3. ***Postpone to a Particular Time.*** This motion takes precedence over the preceding two and has the power to grant additional time to a particular member or committee for further study or consultation. It should always be used in preference to “table” because it permits debate on the propriety of postponement.
4. ***Limits on Debate.*** The assembly always has the power, and the moderator the right of suggestion, to limit debate to a particular hour, or extend or shorten speeches according to the necessity of the moment. Limits on the length of speeches are advisable in instances where the issue before the assembly is highly divisive and many members wish to speak.
5. ***Previous Question.*** The maker of the motion “to move the previous question” (close debate and immediately take the vote) must be recognized by the moderator and the motion must receive a second. It is never in order when called from the floor. This motion is not debatable and should never be used to prevent legitimate debate.
6. ***Lay on the Table.*** This motion is seldom necessary. The motion “to postpone” is always preferable because of its lower rank and its debate ability. Misuse of this subsidiary motion can be a strategy that seriously abridges the rights of the assembly because of its high rank and its adoption by a majority vote without debate. The moderator is obliged to explain carefully to the assembly the implications of this motion should it be made.
7. ***Consideration by Paragraph or Seriatim.*** Consideration by paragraph or seriatim is an incidental motion that may be suggested by the moderator or any two members of the assembly, allowing an orderly consideration of a complex proposal with several different parts, clarifying for the assembly the controversial aspects of the proposal. Each paragraph of the proposal can be amended without finally adopting the new wording until the final action on the main motion is amended.

*From Parliamentary Procedures in the PC(USA) by Marianne L. Wolfe, P.R.P.*

## Prayer List for Congregations, Presbytery of Arkansas – 2016

|       |    |  |                                       |
|-------|----|--|---------------------------------------|
| Jan.  | 3  | First, Clarksville                     | Park Hill, North Little Rock          |
| Jan.  | 10 | Mt. Vernon, Pea Ridge                  | First, Huntsville                     |
| Jan.  | 17 | First, Benton                          | Active Ruling Elders                  |
| Jan.  | 24 | University of the Ozarks, Clarksville  | Faith, Horseshoe Bend                 |
| Jan.  | 31 | First, McGehee                         | Inquirers and Candidates for Ministry |
| Feb.  | 7  | First, Lincoln                         | First, Heber Springs                  |
| Feb.  | 14 | Synod of the Sun                       | Church Musicians                      |
| Feb.  | 21 | First, Jacksonville                    | Presbyterian Disaster Assistance      |
| Feb.  | 28 | Woodlands, Hot Springs Village         | Holiday Island Church                 |
| Mar.  | 6  | Second, Little Rock                    | First, Yellville                      |
| Mar.  | 13 | Youth and Children's Program Directors | First, Mena                           |
| Mar.  | 20 | First United, Fayetteville             | Lyon College, Batesville              |
| Mar.  | 27 | First, Harrison                        | First, North Little Rock              |
| Apr.  | 3  | Mt. Comfort, Fayetteville              | First, Dardanelle                     |
| Apr.  | 10 | Good Shepherd, Greenwood               | Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista    |
| Apr.  | 17 | Central, Fort Smith                    | Active Deacons                        |
| Apr.  | 24 | Alpine Church, Amity                   | Cleburne Avenue, West Helena          |
| May   | 1  | First, Lonoke                          | Vaughn, Bentonville                   |
| May   | 8  | First, Hot Springs                     | Ministries to Hispanic Persons        |
| May   | 15 | Westover Hills, Little Rock            | Allison Memorial, Little Rock         |
| May   | 22 | Holly Grove Church, Holly Grove        | First, Alma                           |
| May   | 29 | Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village | First, Searcy                         |
| June  | 5  | Mission Trip Participants              | First, Fort Smith                     |
| June  | 12 | Pulaski Heights, Little Rock           | Harmony Church, Clarksville           |
| June  | 19 | New Worshiping Communities             | First, Pine Bluff                     |
| June  | 26 | Graham Memorial, Forrest City          | Elkins Church, Elkins                 |
| July  | 3  | Grace, Little Rock                     | First, Malvern                        |
| July  | 10 | Barr Memorial, Norman                  | Hopewell Church, Morrilton            |
| July  | 17 | First, Mountain Home                   | First, Newport                        |
| July  | 24 | First, Little Rock                     | Presbytery Staff                      |
| July  | 31 | Trinity, Little Rock                   | Spring River, Hardy                   |
| Aug.  | 7  | First, Bentonville                     | Westminster, Little Rock              |
| Aug.  | 14 | First, Conway                          | First, Prairie Grove                  |
| Aug.  | 21 | First, Morrilton                       | First, Springdale                     |
| Aug.  | 28 | Wynne Church, Wynne                    | Commissioned Ruling Elders            |
| Sept. | 4  | Faith, Pine Bluff                      | First, Beebe                          |
| Sept. | 11 | Central, Pine Bluff                    | Church Camp Ministries                |
| Sept. | 18 | First, Brinkley                        | First, Jonesboro                      |
| Sept. | 25 | First, Gurdon                          | Churches in Presbyteries in Mexico    |
| Oct.  | 2  | Retired Teaching Elders                | Active Christian Educators            |
| Oct.  | 9  | First, Van Buren                       | First, Batesville                     |
| Oct.  | 16 | First, Eureka Springs                  | Central, Russellville                 |
| Oct.  | 23 | First, Helena                          | West End, Arkadelphia                 |
| Oct.  | 30 | Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals     | First, Arkadelphia                    |
| Nov.  | 6  | Campus Ministries                      | Hospital Chaplains & Counselors       |
| Nov.  | 13 | First, Siloam Springs                  | First, Rogers                         |
| Nov.  | 20 | First, Marianna                        | Westminster, Hot Springs              |
| Nov.  | 27 | First, Paragould                       | Church Custodians                     |
| Dec.  | 4  | Mountainburg Church, Mountainburg      | Retired Christian Educators           |
| Dec.  | 11 | Laotian Ministry, Fort Smith           | First, Stuttgart                      |
| Dec.  | 18 | Memorial Church, Atkins                | First, Walnut Ridge                   |
| Dec.  | 25 | Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay       | One-O-One Church, Gamaliel            |



# Youth at Presbytery 2016

February 12-13 — Lyon College, Batesville

**FOR-WARD**

**ON-WARD**

**UP-WARD**

**GOD'S WORD**

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." — *Matthew 28: 18-20*

**10th -12th graders welcome!**

**Cost: \$25**

**Registration deadline: Friday, Feb. 5!**

**Learn about our Presbyterian church. Make your voice heard within the Presbytery. Get to know other youth. Cast Advisory Votes about issues impacting our larger church. Play games. Share faith. Have fun!**

**EVENT DIRECTOR: Krista Denne, 479-979-5216**

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Rachel Cowan, 479-462-6902**

## Youth at Presbytery FAQs

**What is Youth at Presbytery?** Youth at Presbytery is a chance for young leaders in your congregation to learn about and participate in our connectional church by attending parts of the Presbytery of Arkansas winter meeting and having the chance to cast Advisory Votes. Interspersed with all that, there will be lots of time for hanging out with other youth, playing games, sharing faith, and having fun!

**When does the event start and end?** Youth at Presbytery registration will be Friday evening from 5.00-6.30 pm. The event ends when the Presbytery meeting ends on Saturday. Depending on the amount of business brought to the meeting, it may end before lunch, or it may end early- to mid-afternoon.

**Who sponsors this event?** This event is sponsored by the Presbytery of Arkansas Youth Advisory Team (YAT), a sub-committee of the Presbytery that includes 10th-12th grade youth, college students, and adults from churches all across the Presbytery who care about young people and Youth Ministry. The YAT plans events and trips, which are open to all youth in the Presbytery. If you are interested in serving on the YAT or if you have questions, please contact the 2015-2016 YAT Co-Moderator, Kim Brooks, at [ladbrooks@cox.net](mailto:ladbrooks@cox.net) or 870-577-0922.

**How do I register?** Please fill out the attached Registration Form and mail it, with the \$25 fee (checks made out to Presbytery of Arkansas), to the Presbytery Office. Registrations must be postmarked by February 5. The address is on the Registration Form.

**What happens after I register?** Prior to the event, you will receive an email with more detailed information, a packing list, a schedule, and a Medical Form and that you will be required to return.

**Do we need to send adults with the youth from our church?** No. The Youth Advisory Team will provide adults who will lead and chaperone the youth in attendance. These adults are active in youth ministry in the Presbytery and serve on the Youth Advisory Team. If you would like to send an/some adult(s) to attend the event with your youth, we would love to have them! Adults should send in the Registration Form and fee. They will house at the church with the youth. All adults participating in the event will need to complete a background check (contact [britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org](mailto:britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org)).

**Where do the youth sleep?** This year, youth will be sleeping at First Presbyterian Church in Batesville. It is a short distance from the campus. Shuttles will be provided to bus the group between the campus and the church.

**What does the \$25 fee cover?** The fee covers a heavy snack on Friday night, breakfast on Saturday, an event memento, and all other materials for the weekend. Participants should eat dinner before arrival on Friday. If the meeting goes past lunch on Saturday, lunch will be provided in the cafeteria (we suspect the meeting will adjourn before lunch).

**How many youth can I send from my church?** The event is targeted for leaders in your youth group or church. Most churches send two to five youth.

**How do we get to Youth at Presbytery?** Participants are responsible for providing their own transportation to Youth at Presbytery. We highly encourage youth to carpool with the adults coming to the meeting from their church.

**Are there scholarships available?** The Presbytery has limited scholarship money available for those with financial need. For information about receiving a partial scholarship for this event, please contact Britton Varn at [britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org](mailto:britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org).

**Who can I contact to ask questions?** Please contact Britton Varn, Youth Coordinator for the Presbytery of Arkansas, at 501-663-2424 or [britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org](mailto:britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org), or Krista Denne, Event Director, at 479-979-5216.

**How do I find out more about Presbytery of Arkansas Youth Ministry Offerings?**

"Like" our Facebook Page! <https://www.facebook.com/PresbyteryOfArkansasYouthMinistry>

Or check out our website. <http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmYouthCouncil.aspx>

You'll find information there to keep you updated about these trips and other offerings by the Presbytery!

# Youth at Presbytery 2016

Send to: Presbytery of Arkansas YaP Registration

9221 N. Rodney Parham Road

Little Rock, AR 72227

With \$25 fee by February 5, 2016

## Registration and Personal Information Form

Church: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: M F Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian info:

A: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ B: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Questions for the participant.

Are you an Elder or Deacon at your home church?  yes  no

Will you be serving as an Elder Commissioner for your home church for this meeting?  yes  no

To be signed by a Pastor, Youth Director, or Clerk of Session from your church:

Yes, we are excited to send this young person to Youth at Presbytery! We will support him/ her in thought and prayer before and during the weekend.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date