

## Cyril Hollingsworth

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**From:** Phil Butin <pbutin@fupcfay.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 13, 2018 4:52 PM  
**To:** stewart@presbyteryofarkansas.org; leslie@presbyteryofarkansas.org; Cyril Hollingsworth  
**Subject:** NWA Examinations Subcommittee Report

The Examinations Subcommittee of the Committee on Ministry met on Wednesday, December 12 at 1:15 to conduct the examinations of Rev. Moses Chan for membership in the Presbytery of Arkansas and Mary Shaw for commissioning to serve as commissioned ruling elder for the Elkins Community Church. Members present to conduct the examination were Rev. Philip Butin, Rev. Georgia Senor, elder Bill Wellner, and elder Ronnie Prevost. Both examinations were sustained. We recommend that Rev. Chan be received into presbytery membership at the March 2 meeting, and that Ms. Shaw be commissioned to serve the Elkins Community Church at the same meeting.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Springdale has voted to have Rev. Chan as an unpaid parish associate to continue and expand their outreach ministry to the Hispanic Community in the Springdale area. For 10+ years, La Comunidad Presbiteriana Hispana new church development (of the Presbytery) met in the First Presbyterian Church building. As grant funds were expended, Rev. Jessie Gonzales was reduced to part time. Eventually he accepted another call. The Session of FPC approved the ministry as an outreach of the congregation under the leadership of Daniel Villalobos for 2+ years. This ministry was discontinued in the summer of 2017 during the interim between Rev. Stewart Smith and Rev. Kade Curry. Now that Rev. Curry's leadership is established, the Session and congregation would like to re-establish a Hispanic outreach to the Springdale community. Rev. Chan is a native of Belize of Mayan ancestry and was ordained by the Caribe Presbytery of the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico in 1983, and after earning the M.Div. from Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson MS, was received as a member of the PCUSA in the Presbytery of Mississippi to serve Central Presbyterian Church in Jackson, MS in Hispanic Outreach. Subsequently he returned to Belize and served the Presbyterian Church of Belize with distinction, including as Stated Clerk of the denomination, Vice-President of the National Council of Churches, a seminary founder and principal, and senator to the Belize National Assembly for Church Relations, for 25 years. He moved to Little Rock, AR in 2008, and inquired about Hispanic outreach opportunities in the Presbytery of Arkansas, but no opportunities existed at that time. He transferred his ordination from the Presbyterian Church of Belize to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to serve an ARPC congregation in Havana, AR. In 2015 he moved to Northwest Arkansas to serve as a chaplain for Tyson Corporation. He met Rev. Kade Curry in the course of community Hispanic Outreach and has met several with the presbytery's Hispanic Ministry Commission for Northwest Arkansas, and with the outreach committee and Session of First Presbyterian Church. He has been worshipping at FUPC Springdale and assisting the Session and congregation with Hispanic outreach to the neighborhood for over a year. Membership in the Presbytery of Arkansas will allow him to be formally approved as a Parish Associate to FPC Springdale and will enrich the presbytery with a distinguished ecumenical leader who can help us all be more responsive to the Spirit's call to serve the Hispanic population of Arkansas.

Mary Shaw will serve the Elkins congregation for two Sunday a month. There is a Methodist minister assigned to lead worship once a month and on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays, and a Baptist minister who serves once a month also. Ms. Shaw's role would consist of preaching and leading worship, supporting the Presbyterian members of the ecumenical congregation, and coordinating the somewhat flexible decision-making process the 9 Presbyterian members of the congregation use to connect with Presbytery and organize their life and mission. The commission recommended would include celebrating the sacraments as needed, and what is loosely considered to be "moderating the Session," which in that context is helping the group of Presbyterians stay connected to the presbytery and helping them follow Presbyterian polity at relevant points. She was encouraged to seek the support of nearby pastors when there is a need for something she hasn't done before, including the Lord's Supper, funerals, or a baptism. We are seeking a formal pastoral mentor and will report that when an appropriate person is arranged.