

**MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVENTH STATED MEETING
OF THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS
FEBRUARY 9-10, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING PRAYER

The 137th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was called to order in Brown Chapel of Lyon College, Batesville, AR by moderator Ruling Elder Ruth Hamilton at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, February 9, 2018, with prayer.

REPORT OF ENROLLMENT/DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Temporary Stated Clerk Minister of the Word and Sacrament Leslie Smith Belden declared a **quorum present, 35 MWSs and 36 REs, grand total of 71 voting commissioners present at the gavel.** The quorum for stated meetings of the Presbytery of Arkansas (2/20/15) is 20 REs and 20 MWSs, from at least 20 congregations.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT (who checked on sign-in sheets): DC Adams, Karen Kokles Akin, “Maggie” Alsup, Bill Bailey, Leslie F. Belden, Tasha Blackburn, Blake Brinegar, Janet B. Butin, Philip W. Butin, Carol Clark, Kade Curry, Ruskin Falls, Steven Frazier, Elizabeth Gabbard, Susan Gray, Steve Hancock, “Chip” Hatcher, Marion A. Humphrey, Young Doo Kim, Jai Kwak, Courtney Bacon-Latina, Frank LeBlanc, Marie Mainard-O’Connell, Jeff Price, Rebecca Purcell, Dennis Ritchie, Leslie Bethell Roper, Susan Rose, Dari Rowen, Anne Russ, Cindy Saul, David Schaller, Patricia Schaller, Lacy Sellars, J. Stewart Smith, Rebecca Spooner, Michael Ulasewich, Michael Vinson, Lindy Vogado, Jeremy Wilhelmi, Robert Williamson.

HONORABLY RETIRED ACTIVE MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT: Ben H. Bateman, William W. Branch, David H. Dyer, Gordon F. Garlington III, David E. Gill, Robert Hadley, David S. King, Richard H. Miller. **Honorably Retired Non-Active Ministers:** Walter Swetnam.

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS FROM CONGREGATIONS (who signed in): First, Arkadelphia, Chris Mortenson; First, Batesville, Karen Lange; Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, Darrell Maples; First, Benton, Sandra Main; First, Clarksville, John Rommel; First, Conway, Torri Edsall; First, Dardanelle, Marty Shepherd; Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay, Douglas Forsman; First United, Fayetteville, Chris Boushelle and Jessie Koeppel; Central, Fort Smith, Linda Riley; Spring River, Hardy, Sylvan English; First, Harrison, Susan Timbrooke; Faith, Horseshoe Bend, Jackie Kizer; First, Hot Springs, Frances Bateman; Westminster, Hot Springs, Terry Young; Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village, Sharon Gardner; First, Jonesboro, Joe Pease; Allison, Little Rock, Wynona Bryant-Williams; First, Little Rock, Libby Ingram; Grace, Little Rock, Linda Hanson; Pulaski Heights, Little Rock, LaWanda Harris; Second, Little Rock, Cliff Clifton, Jon Davies, Sam Highsmith; Westover Hills, Little Rock, Cheryl Deanine Rogers; Hopewell, Morrilton, Susan Morris; First, Newport, Marvin Hare; Barr Memorial, Norman, Noah Williamson; First, North Little Rock, Joseph Yancey; Park Hill, North Little Rock, Hannah McCray, Central, Pine Bluff, Zac Cosner; First, Prairie Grove,

Pat Lyle; First, Rogers, Andrew Miller; Central, Russellville, Cheryl Massengale; First, Searcy, Mike Szabo; First, Springdale, Judy Leyba; First, Walnut Ridge, Vicky Davis; Wynne Presbyterian, Charlie L. Brown; First, Yellville, Felice Dennis.

AT-LARGE COMMISSIONERS: Ex-Officio Members of Coordinating Team, Bob Boehmler, treasurer and David Stricklin, Presbytery vice moderator; Ruling Elder Members of Coordinating Team, Justin Clark, Jan Enke, Peg Falls-Corbitt, Karene Jones, Patty Minga, Mary Shaw; Ruling Elder Commissioner to General Assembly 222 (2016 Portland) Gail Murdoch; Moderators of Presbytery Ministry Areas, Committees, Subcommittees, Ted Belden, Future of the Church; Cyril Hollingsworth, Committee on Ministry; Moderator of Presbytery, Ruth Hamilton.

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS: Chuck Olson, Memorial, Atkins; Ed Wilkinson, Good Shepherd, Greenwood.

CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS: NiAnn Thompson, Presbytery Staff.

VISITORS TO THIS MEETING: 36 signed in.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS: MWSs Valerie Hobby Bell, Peace River Presbytery, and Jen Evans, Charlotte Presbytery.

YOUNG ADULT DELEGATE ADVISORS: 10 signed in

YOUTH ADVISORY DELEGATES: 8 signed in.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES: Nancy Benson-Nicol, Phil Blackburn, Bryan Bond, Robert Brian Brock, Joy Carrington, Lance Clemmons, Kris Crawford, Katie Cummings, Fern Davis, Lewis R. Donelson IV, Debra Carl Freeman, Paul Fulks, Al Henager, Jennifer Lord, "Mike" McCracken, William Seitz, Georgia Senor, Shauna Silmon, Marci Ward, Dan Wooley, Harry Young.

HONORABLY RETIRED ACTIVE MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES: Donald K. Campbell II, Howard H. Gordon, William F. Henning, Sally Johnson, Lance Jones, Clare Martin Kelley, Rita Wilson Perry, Richard Shinkle, Frederick A. Taylor, Darwin Wolfe.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: Mark Clark, James J. Farley III, Clifton P. Ford, John Gibson, Libby Lizarraga, Jeff Parker, Timothy C. Reeves, Ward Rudolph, Terry Tallent. **Temporary Member:** Michael Clark, ELCA.

HONORABLY RETIRED ACTIVE RETIRED MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: Catherine L. Allsbury, Ira Brighton, Danny Daniel, Joyce Daniel, Milton B. Davis, Orin M. Frank, Richard Frothingham, John E. King, Mark Lenneville, "Bo" Lewis, Terry McLellan, James B. Miller, Don Wardlaw.

SESSIONS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES: West End, Arkadelphia; Vaughn, Bentonville; First, Dardanelle; Mount Comfort, Fayetteville; Good Shepherd, Greenwood; First, Gurdon; Holiday Island Presbyterian; Holly Grove; First, Jacksonville; First, Lincoln, Westminster, Little Rock.

SESSIONS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: First, Alma; Alpine, Amity; Memorial, Atkins; First, Beebe; second commissioner, Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista; First, Brinkley; Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals; Cane Hill; Harmony, Clarksville; Elkins; First, Eureka Springs; Graham Memorial, Forrest City; First, Fort Smith; One-O-One, Gamaliel; First, Heber Springs; First, Helena; Woodlands, Hot Springs Village; fourth commissioner, Second, Little Rock; Trinity, Little Rock; First, Lonoke; First, Malvern; First, McGehee; First, Mena; First, Morrilton; First, Mountain Home; Mountainburg; First, Ozark; First, Paragould; Mount Vernon, Pea Ridge; Faith, Pine Bluff; First, Pine Bluff; second commissioner, First, Springdale; First, Stuttgart; First, Van Buren; Cleburne Avenue, West Helena.

AT-LARGE MEMBERS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE: Moderators of Ministry Areas, Committees, Subcommittees: RE Ledridge Davis, Committee on Representation. Co-Moderator, Presbyterian Women, Ila Blacketter-Wolfe.

AT-LARGE MEMBERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: Moderators of Ministry Areas, Committees, Subcommittees: RE Leigh Woodruff-Harvey, Honduran Ministry. Ruler Elder Commissioners to General Assembly 222 (2016 Portland), RE Jessie Rancier. Co-Moderator, Presbyterian Women, Cathy Rogers.

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE: Carolyn Beane, G. Hartley Jones, Kelly Pearson, Claire Rhodes, Kenneth Rhodes.

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: K. C. Chanthorne, Laotian, First, Fort Smith; Rita Manske, Cane Hill Presbyterian; Harlis Wright, Faith, Pine Bluff.

CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE: Kristi Button; Jeannie Ford; Lynn King, retired; Nancy Irving Smith, retired. **Certified Associate Christian Educators:** Lynn Condra, retired; Susie Wright.

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

Temporary Stated Clerk moved the adoption of the docket without changes. **Motion was seconded, and the DOCKET WAS ADOPTED as printed.**

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS AND GRANTING OF PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/VOICE

Seated as corresponding members with privilege of the floor and voice were: MWS Valerie Bell, Peace River Presbytery, and MWS Jen Evans, Charlotte Presbytery.

Privilege of the floor and voice were requested for: Joel Gill, interim director of Ferncliff; Hannah Lahodny, Temporary Staff Resource for Youth and Young Adults; Young Adult Advisory Delegates;

Youth Advisory Delegates; Cameron Highsmith; Krista Denne'; Jordan Akin; Julianna Whitson; Bax Yarbrough; Allison Mundy; and RE Elizabeth Branch. **MOTION WAS APPROVED.**

APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS AND LEAVES OF ABSENCE COMMITTEE

The following tellers were appointed: MWS Elizabeth Gabbard and REs Karene Jones, Park Hill, North Little Rock; Karen Howard Lange, First, Batesville; and Patty Minga, First, Jonesboro. Leaves of Absence members appointed were: MWSs Clare Kelley, HR and Blake Brinegar.

WELCOME TO FIRST-TIME COMMISSIONERS

Moderator asked for first-time elders to stand and introduce themselves plus infant Anna Kate Vogado Williamson. All 11 were welcomed.

INTRODUCTION OF PRESBYTERY STAFF

Moderator introduced the following: General Presbyter MWS Stewart Smith, Temporary Stated Clerk MWS Leslie Belden, Resourcing Director/Recording Clerk RE NiAnn Thompson, Director of Mission Support RE Kenneth Rich, Staff for Congregational Discernment MWS Michael Vinson, and Temporary staff for youth and young adults Hannah Lahodny. Elected leaders introduced were incoming moderator MWS Leslie Bethell Roper, treasurer Bob Boehmler and incoming vice moderator David Stricklin.

WELCOME FROM HOST

MWS "Maggie" Alsop brought greetings on behalf of Lyon president Dr. W. Joseph King who will be present as host of reception following worship. She talked about hearing devices available in the chapel, new president Dr. King and the new Lyon family members, tomorrow's opening of Scots Shop, and campus religious groups and their cooperative efforts. She rejoiced in the return of Presbyterian Student Association and cooperation with First, Batesville. She welcomed and thanked all who had prepared for the meeting, including particularly Cindy Qualls.

CONSENT AGENDA

Temporary Stated Clerk Belden **moved adoption** of the Consent Agenda as printed:

- 1. Motion to approve the minutes of the 136th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, October 6-7, 2017, held at Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church, Forrest City, Arkansas.**
- 2. Motion that Presbytery grant permission for the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Malvern to sell the houses behind the church when an offer is made. (The Coordinating Team gave First Presbyterian, Malvern permission to list the property at their January 6, 2018 meeting, but did not give them permission to sell the houses should they receive an offer.)**

3. **Motion to receive the minutes of the Administrative Commission ordaining MWS “Maggie” Alsup, Chaplain at Lyon College, Batesville, and dismiss them with thanks. Motion was seconded, and CONSENT AGENDA WAS APPROVED.**

TREASURER’S REPORT

RE Bob Boehmler, treasurer, reported. He said that 2017 ended well, and he was appreciative of staff support from Stewart and Kenneth Rich. Detailed financial reports were in the late packet. Total budget income was \$5,600 below anticipated, but no movement from investments was made, and in 2018 no movement is predicted. 4% spend rate is in place. Mission acceptance from congregations was fulfilled. 75% of Presbytery’s revenue comes from churches. Interest income exceeded predictions on investments. Expenses of \$737,100 showed a favorable variance. Several groups spent less than was budgeted, and that was appreciated. Update on investment fund at Texas Presbyterian Foundation was favorable. He remarked on market volatility which may continue into 2018 for correction. This investment is over 5-6 years and anticipates good return. He invited questions. Moderator lit the Christ candle here.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY AREA

RE Jan Enke, moderator, gave the report, written version of which follows.

During 2017 Administration Ministry oversaw the reviews of the Presbytery staff including the exit review of Britton Varn. Britton was presented an appreciation check of \$200 for her 5 years of part-time service at the end of her review.

Hannah Lahodny has replaced Britton as Temporary Staff Resource for Youth and Young Adults. Hannah also serves on the staff of Ferncliff. Administration is currently reviewing the insurance of the presbytery.

In the planning of the 2019 Budget of the Presbytery of Arkansas, Administration will be holding a budget request meeting where the moderators are to come with their Dream Plans of their missions for 2019 and the budget required for their plans. This will be held in September with more information to be given on the exact date and place. This is to get the budget into a realistic figure. Administration also encourage committees to dream in the areas of the future and high energy of the church as a whole in their planning for 2019. GP Smith left the room before vote on his terms.

Motion to approve the terms of call for General Presbyter MWS Stewart Smith for 2018:

Salary:	\$40,800.00
Housing:	\$38,700.00
403(b):	\$5,000.00
Spousal Insurance Offset:	\$865.80

Full Medical, pension, death & disability coverage through the Board of Pensions (“Member + Children” medical coverage).

SSI Reimbursement: \$6,196.00
Professional Expenses: \$15,000.00
Continuing Education: \$1,500.00
Paid Vacation Leave: 4 weeks
Paid Continuing Education Leave: 2 weeks

Three month sabbatical after seventh year of work. **MOTION WAS APPROVED.**

Motion to approve the 2018 Budget for the Presbytery of Arkansas totaling \$781,529, a decrease of \$23,801 from the 2017 Budget. (See appendix for detailed budget.) **MOTION WAS APPROVED.** She invited all congregations to notify the presbytery staff of their pledge for 2018.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER: STATE OF THE PRESBYTERY

MWS Stewart Smith, General Presbyter, reported.

He thanked the Presbytery for his call. He recalled a meeting of GPs and his need to share the realities of PC(USA) and Presbytery of Arkansas. He misses Britton Varn who left in January. He introduced Hannah Lahodny, temporary staff for youth and young adults, and gave her background, availability after hours by cell phone (4-8 on Tuesdays) or email hlahodny@gmail.com without availability in June and July. He updated commissioners on lawsuit by Woodlands, HSV, a New Church Development financed by multiple parties.

Challenges as a presbytery include: over ½ of our congregations are of a size not able to call fulltime pastors, congregational membership decline results in financial decline, perhaps a big donor dies, and now there is the problem of finding part-time PC(USA) ministers. Declining resources of finances, active ministers, elders from some certain corners numerically declining, people doubling up by serving on both committees and ACs are more challenges. These prompt the question of how do we allocate limited resources: to those that are declining or those who are able to survive applies to congregations as well. Presbytery allocations have remained stable, and money hasn’t really been changed to deal with 2016 restructuring. Compared to other presbyteries, we are in better financial shape. Question is who makes decisions on moving funds and hiring or reducing staff. Do we need to change the way we have always done it?

There are success stories: United Campus Ministry boasts 4 YAVs, 6 to seminaries, but their budget has not been increased in years. YAVs at Ferncliff are not supported by budget. Do you reallocate budget for places with energy? We need to think about all of this. Administration wants realistic plans for 2019 for budget. They want to remove transfer from investments. Those are the challenges. Now that he has the bigger picture than he had in a solo pastorate, how do we reach out? Christianity can be ridiculous: have we hidden our lamp under a bushel? As pastor, balance welcoming and inclusivity is an opportunity. We can’t expect our members to repopulate

the church. We have to reach out to those beyond the Presbyterian fold. People will embrace our message.

REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY STATED CLERK

MWS Leslie Belden announced highlights from her brief report.

For Information:

Report of Pastoral Status:

- MWS Liz Wagner was dismissed by the Presbytery of Arkansas effective November 14, 2017, and received by the Presbytery of Scioto Valley.
- MWS Henrich Eiler, HR, was dismissed by the Presbytery of Arkansas on November 14, 2017 pending his receipt by the Presbytery of Northern Waters.
- MWS Jen Evans was dismissed by Charlotte Presbytery effective October 24, 2017, and her enrollment as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas will be voted on at this meeting.

The following eight Administrative Commissions continue to work:

Cane Hill and Walnut Grove Presbyterian Churches – MWS Phil Butin, Moderator

The AC is working with Historic Cane Hill on an agreement on the building.

First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville – RE Ted Belden and MWS Clare Kelley, HR, Co-Moderators

The AC is moving forward in their attempt to sell the church building.

Gamaliel 101 Presbyterian Church – MWS Blake Brinegar, Moderator

The AC will report at this meeting, and request to be dismissed with thanks.

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

The Coordinating Team approved the name change from La Comunidad Hispana at their January 6, 2018 meeting.

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

The Office of the General Assembly determined that First, Ozark cannot be dismissed to the Covenant Presbyterian Church denomination, as that denomination is not recognized as a Reformed Church. The AC will work with the congregation toward dissolution.

Pine Bluff (Central, Faith, and First Presbyterian Churches) –MWS Jeff Price, Moderator

The AC has visited Pine Bluff and visited with the pastors of the three congregations.

Washington County Property – RE Ted Belden, Moderator

The AC has renewed the listing of the 5.75 acre tract on Crossover Road in Fayetteville with Colliers International for \$688,795.00.

It is “Statistics Season,” and Moderators and Clerks of Session were sent a letter from the Temporary Stated Clerk asking them to:

- a. Send in their pledge to Presbytery if they haven’t already done so;
- b. Fill out their Statistical Report on the OGA website before February 1, 2018;
- c. Update their Church Contact Information before February 1, 2018;
- d. Turn in the 2018 Clergy Compensation Report prior to February 1, 2018; and
- e. Gear up for the Annual Records Review, which will take place through the following three ways:
 - (1) Regional Session Records Reviews in the Spring (February – May);
 - (2) Having regional volunteers follow-up with those whose records were not reviewed in this manner (June – September); and
 - (3) Having volunteers available in a specified place at the October presbytery meeting to review records while commissioners attend the meeting.

If your church needs assistance with any of the above tasks please contact MWS Leslie Belden, Temporary Stated Clerk, at 479.466.1061 or lesliebeld@aol.com. She will give the link and pin number for each congregation. She noted that Presbytery pays per capita on reported membership numbers.

Necrology

Rev. W. Guy Delaney, 86, of Perryville died in Little Rock on November 17, 2017. He was an honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Guy was born in Houston, TX; graduated from Texas A&M University, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary with a M.Div. and Union Theological Seminary in Virginia with a D.Min. Ordained by Brazos Presbytery, he served churches in Texas and Virginia, was Director of Continuing Education at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA, and for eight years was president of Mo-Ranch Presbyterian Assembly, Hunt, TX.

In the Presbytery of Arkansas, Guy served as associate pastor at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock and as pastor at Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village before retiring in 1999. Returning to Arkansas, he served as interim pastor at First, Jonesboro; First, Little Rock; and First, Morrilton. His ministry to the Presbytery included terms on Committees on Ministry, Christian Education and Administration and as chairman of the board of trustees of Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services.

Guy was preceded in death by his wife, Charlotte, his daughter, Rebecca, and his sister Billie. Guy is survived by his daughters, Amy Young, Annette Delaney, and Elaine Delaney; his sons-in-law, Harvey L. Young, Jr, and Wally Bruce; his sister and brother-in-law, Ginger and Carroll Johnson; and his grandchildren, Adam and Andrew Bruce, Delaney and William Dunlap, and Nathan, Joshua, and Nicole Young. A memorial service was held Saturday, January 20, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church in Morrilton.

As required by Presbytery’s covenant with Ferncliff, motion to approve new members already elected to Ferncliff Board (2 in Class of 2018 and all of Class of 2020)

Class of 2018: Mac Balkman, Westover Hills, Little Rock; Rachel Sievers, Our Lady of Holy Souls Catholic Church, Little Rock.

Class of 2020: Ted Belden, First United, Fayetteville; Kate Franks, Second, Little Rock; Rob Griffin, Trinity, Little Rock; Jennifer McCracken, Wynne Presbyterian; Lynn Monroe, First, Bentonville; Mary Ann Robinson, Trinity, Little Rock. Seconded. NOMINEES WERE ELECTED.

Report of the Administrative Commission on 101 Presbyterian, Gamaliel

Moderator of the AC MWS Blake Brinegar reported that many former executive presbyters have tried to involve the church members but not met with success and that the congregation did not always understand or follow Presbyterian ways. (See appendix for full report.)

The Administrative Commission moves that the Presbytery of Arkansas approve the following:

- 1. The corpus of the Weaver Trust, \$52,353.21 to go to Presbyterian Church (USA), per the guidelines of the Trust. These monies will be due by December 31, 2021, and are to be sent to the Presbytery of Arkansas to be passed on to the national church, with an explanation of the intent of the monies.**
- 2. That One-O-One Presbyterian Church pay \$6,918 to the Presbytery of Arkansas.**
- 3. That One-O-One Presbyterian Church, Gamaliel, be dissolved effective upon approval of Presbytery at the February Stated Meeting.**
- 4. That One-O-One Presbyterian Church, Gamaliel, be granted the building and possessions inside, with the cost of the transfer of the property to the new church paid by the congregation.**
- 5. That the original Minutes of the Church, along with the original Church Register be turned over to the Presbytery of Arkansas, as they are official records of the PC(USA).**
- 6. That the Administrative Commission be dissolved with thanks.**

The Administrative Commission for One-O-One Presbyterian Church, Gamaliel:

MWS Blake Brinegar, Moderator
MWS Elizabeth Gabbard
MWS Dick Shinkle, HR
RE Don Crapnell
RE Evelyn Mills

MOTIONS WERE APPROVED.

REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY'S TASK FORCE ON STAFF DESIGN

Members of the Task Force, moderated by Presbytery Vice Moderator MWS Leslie Bethell Roper, reported. History of TF: Feb., 2017 motion was approved to look at staffing needs, does staffing meet our needs, and what the needs and authority were. They appreciate Administration's work in personnel. TF's job was not to look at what was or was not happening now but what would be

needed in five years. They took individuals and personalities out of their deliberation. They looked at other presbyteries' staffing and what we could incorporate. They did historical research on how current staff came to be. Britton Varn's departure offered another conversation, and TF spoke individually with all staff. Roper introduced another member of the TF, MWS David Dyer, and two who were absent, REs Kelly Pearson and Julie Adkisson, and invited questions and comments. Tellers distributed a single page on current staff structure and three proposed alternatives and asked for input by May 1 so they can bring recommendations by June presbytery meeting. She invited questions. (Options are in appendix)

REPORT OF THE COORDINATING TEAM

Vice Moderator MWS Leslie Roper moderated this portion of the meeting. RE Ruth Hamilton, 2018 moderator of the CT, gave the report.

Action Items:

The Coordinating Team moves that the Presbytery approve ratifying the action of the CT in filling the following immediate vacancies at their January 6, 2018 meeting with those listed below:

Administration Ministry Area

RE Carolyn Willis, First, Springdale, Class of 2020

Mission of the Church Ministry Area

RE Vicky Rogerson, First, Springdale, Class of 2020

Committee on Leadership Development

RE Scott Rezebak, First, Heber Springs, Class of 2019

MWS Susan Rose, United Campus Ministry, Class of 2020

Committee on Ministry

RE Jane Webb, First, Rogers, Class of 2019

RE Ed Wilkinson, Good Shepherd, Greenwood, Class of 2020

MWS Katie Cummings, First, Bentonville, Class of 2018

RE Bill Walmsley, First, Batesville, Class of 2019

RE Sandy Puryear, First, Jonesboro, Class of 2020

Ministries with Youth, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry Area

MWS Margaret "Maggie" Alsup, Lyon College, Class of 2019

MWS Anne Russ, First, North Little Rock, Class of 2019

MWS Brian Brock, Central, Russellville, Class of 2020 to Moderate

Nominations were invited from the floor. **NOMINEES WERE ELECTED.**

For Information:

According to the Presbytery of Arkansas' Ministry Manual:

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

The Coordinating Team met on November 11, 2017 and January 6, 2018, and took the following actions on behalf of the Presbytery of Arkansas:

--Approved the 2018 Wellspring Renewal Center covenant (See appendix).

--Approved the request of the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Malvern, for “the Presbytery’s permission to list for sale the houses behind the church (this recommendation included revised property lines of the houses and an intent to pursue commercial sale before residential).”

--Approved granting up to \$100 per meeting per Ruling Elder for expenses associated with Presbytery meetings for Ruling Elders actively serving on the Coordinating Team to attend Presbytery meetings.

--Approved changing the name of “La Comunidad Hispanic Administrative Commission” to the “Northwest Arkansas Hispanic Ministry Administrative Commission.”

--Approved adding the United Campus Ministry at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville to the list of offering recipients approved for worship services for ordination and installation, so that the list of approved offering recipients now includes:

Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Vera Lloyd Home, Presbytery of Arkansas Scholarship at the University of the Ozarks, Presbytery of Arkansas Scholarship at Lyon College, Committee on Preparation for Ministry Emergency Fund for Candidates, Mosley Tabernacle at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Presbytery of Arkansas Sub-Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response, Endowment Fund of the Presbytery, Theological Education Fund of the PC(USA), Youth Advisory Team Scholarship Fund for summer trips, United Campus Ministry at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

Roper explained where commissioners will meet tomorrow for the two worship services.

BREAK

WORSHIP INCLUDING CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER AND INSTALLATION OF NEW MODERATOR

Moderator Hamilton gave the sermon, GP Smith and Lyon Chaplain “Maggie” Alsup officiated at the Sacrament of Communion served by intinction, and Lyon students who are from churches in the presbytery were liturgists. Music was provided by organist Russell Stinson and the Lyon College Concert Chorale and Pipe Band. MWS Leslie Bethell Roper, pastor of First, Batesville, was installed as moderator of presbytery for 2018 with MWS Susan Rose and MWS Walter Swetnam,

HR delivering the charges. Worship offering benefitting the Presbytery of Arkansas Scholarship at Lyon totaled \$1,523. (See appendix for bulletin.)

RECESS UNTIL SATURDAY MORNING

Reception closed the evening in Bevens Music Room where Lyon president Dr. King hosted.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2018

MORNING WORSHIP

At 8:30 a.m. two candidates for ordination, Krista Denne' and Cameron Highsmith, preached separately and simultaneously as part of their examinations, Denne' in Patterson Dining Hall and Highsmith in Maxfield Room. (See bulletins in appendix.)

CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Roper called the council back to order at 9:05 a.m. in Patterson Dining Hall with lighting the Christ candle. RE David Stricklin was installed as presbytery's vice moderator. His pastor, MWS Frank LeBlanc, prayed. Flowers were acknowledged as sent to Roper by her home church Central, Fort Smith in honor of her installation. Housekeeping details were announced. Error in a motion of CT was to "ratify following vacancies" but intent was to "fill the vacancies," and correction is in earlier section of minutes.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Committee moderator RE Cyril Hollingsworth gave the report.

Action Items:

- 1. The Committee on Ministry moves that the Presbytery of Arkansas examine Candidate Krista Denne' for ordination.** MWS Phil Butin invited Krista forward. She gave personal faith and commitment to the ministry statement. **MOTION TO SUSTAIN HER FAITH AND COMMITMENT ORAL STATEMENT. MOTION WAS SUSTAINED. MOTION TO SUSTAIN SERMON PORTION.** YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATES CAST POSITIVE ADVISORY VOTE. **MOTION WAS SUSTAINED. MOTION TO SUSTAIN PRINTED FAITH STATEMENT.** (See appendix.) YAADs CAST POSITIVE ADVISORY VOTE. **MOTION WAS SUSTAINED.** Question was asked by Butin in area of Bible: explain why seminarians study Hebrew and Greek. No other questions. **MOTION TO SUSTAIN BIBLE PORTION.** YAADs CAST POSITIVE ADVISORY VOTE. **MOTION WAS SUSTAINED.** Question was asked by Butin in area of Reformed Theology on covenant. MWS Gabbard further requested that she answer the part of the question on covenant in the Reformation. **MOTION TO SUSTAIN THEOLOGY PORTION.** YAADs CAST POSITIVE ADVISORY VOTE. **MOTION WAS SUSTAINED.** Purcell asked question in the area of worship and sacraments on how you would teach what happens when we receive communion. No other questions. **MOTION TO SUSTAIN WORSHIP PORTION.** YAADs CAST POSITIVE ADVISORY VOTE. **MOTION WAS SUSTAINED.** RE Ed Wilkinson asked question in the area of polity about potential conflict between Session and UofO: to whom is your

accountability in your process? Butin further asked how you would honor the accountability. Question from MWS DC Adams was asked to inform youth and YA further on process for ordination. **MOTION TO SUSTAIN POLITY PORTION.** YAADs CAST POSITIVE ADVISORY VOTE. **MOTION WAS SUSTAINED.** MWS Gordon Garlington, HR complimented her sermon. **MOTION THAT EXAM AS A WHOLE BE SUSTAINED.** YAADs CAST POSITIVE ADVISORY VOTE. **MOTION WAS SUSTAINED.** She was escorted from the room.

MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINATION OF KRISTA DENNE'. Question from RE Ted Belden was asked on whether she passed alternative exam in Bible that Presbytery had approved at the last meeting. MWS Kade Curry, moderator of Committee on Leadership Development, reported she had passed. Curry, as moderator, explained he separated his committee from her alternative process, set up according to previous policy approved by the Presbytery; changed and approved; three Bible passages were given to her, she had two weeks to do draft of questions which were taken from 2005 national exams, committee member MWS Jeff Price was draft reviewer, used Presbytery-elected readers of theological exams (MWSs Steve Hancock and Katie Cummings) as graders, she defended exam orally, they passed her unanimously. Purcell was on the group who examined Denne' for fit and met with First, Clarksville as part of that process. Curry spoke in favor of motion to ordain. YAADs CAST POSITIVE ADVISORY VOTE. **MOTION WAS APPROVED.** Denne' returned to standing ovation.

2. MOTION TO ENROLL KRISTA DENNE' AS A MEMBER OF THE PRESBYTERY.

Krista is serving as the Resident Intern of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith, and First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville, a ministry validated by the COM at the July 11, 2017 meeting.

with the Service of Ordination to be on March 18, 2018 at 4:00 pm at First Presbyterian, Clarksville, the offering recipient to be the Presbytery of Arkansas Scholarship at University of the Ozarks and the United Campus Ministry at University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (the latter was approved as a new offering recipient at the January 6, 2018 Coordinating Team meeting), and the following to serve on the Administrative Commission to ordain:

MWS Debra Freeman to Moderate and Propound the Constitutional Questions (*Debra is a former Moderator of Presbytery*)

MWS Rebecca Spooner to Preach

MWS Kade Curry to Charge the Pastor

RE Stephen Moody, First, Little Rock to Charge the Congregation

MWS Susan Rose

RE Chris Lanphear, Harmony Presbyterian Church, Clarksville

MWS Tasha Blackburn

RE John Rommel, First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville

and MWS Roger Au of the Presbytery of Scioto to sit with the Commission.

(Statement of Faith is in appendix) **MOTION WAS APPROVED.** MWS Susan Rose prayed. Denne's family and Clarksville and First, Fort Smith members stood.

3.The Committee on Ministry moves that the Presbytery of Arkansas examine Candidate Cameron Highsmith for ordination.

Cameron was introduced and gave his background, Peace Corps, youth director at Grace, San Francisco Seminary, and enthusiasm for future in his faith and commitment statement. **MOTION TO APPROVE FAITH AND COMMITMENT ORAL STATEMENT.** YADs CAST POSITIVE ADVISORY VOTE. **MOTION WAS SUSTAINED. MOTION TO APPROVE SERMON PORTION.** YADs CAST POSITIVE ADVISORY VOTE. **MOTION WAS SUSTAINED. MOTION TO SUSTAIN PRINTED FAITH STATEMENT.** Question from MWS Patty Schaller because she did not notice in printed statement proclaiming sacraments. YADs CAST POSITIVE ADVISORY VOTE. **MOTION WAS SUSTAINED.** MWS Lacy Sellars asked question in area of Bible on inconsistency of gospel accounts. MWS Becky Purcell asked further about the role of Holy Spirit: how we discern HS for ourselves and where we see HS working in community. **MOTION TO SUSTAIN BIBLE PORTION OF EXAM.** YADs CAST POSITIVE ADVISORY VOTE. **MOTION WAS SUSTAINED.** MWS Frank LeBlanc asked question in area of Reformed Theology, on use of Belhar Confession in class setting. Question by MWS Steve Frazier on worship and sacraments will wait until that section is covered. MWS DC Adams asked further question about reconciliation in hospital setting. **MOTION TO SUSTAIN THEOLOGY PORTION OF EXAM.** YADs CAST POSITIVE ADVISORY VOTE. **MOTION WAS SUSTAINED.** MWS Dari Rowen asked question in area of worship and sacraments: at Montreat non-member youth seeks baptism. MWS Frazier asked further question on Christ's presence in Lord's Supper and how it affects conflict resolution. MWS Jeff Price asked further how Christ is present in Lord's Supper. MWS Patty Schaller asked further about grace in the sacraments and the host in the Lord's Supper. **MOTION TO SUSTAIN WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS PORTION.** YADs CAST POSITIVE ADVISORY VOTE. **MOTION WAS SUSTAINED.** RE Hollingsworth asked question in the area of polity: in role of moderating the Session, why it matters for MWS to moderate, and does role vary if moderating a church you do not pastor. MWS Kade Curry asked further if in the role of moderator, will you do things Presbyterian? **MOTION TO SUSTAIN POLITY PORTION OF EXAM.** YADs CAST POSITIVE ADVISORY VOTE. **MOTION WAS SUSTAINED. MOTION TO SUSTAIN EXAM AS A WHOLE.** YADs CAST POSITIVE ADVISORY VOTE. **MOTION WAS SUSTAINED.** Highsmith and family were escorted out. **MOTION TO APPROVE CAMERON HIGHSMITH FOR ORDINATION TO OFFICE OF MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT.** There were no questions or discussion. YADs CAST POSITIVE ADVISORY VOTE. **MOTION WAS APPROVED.** Highsmith returned to standing ovation. (See Faith Statement in appendix.)

3. MOTION TO ENROLL CAMERON HIGHSMITH AS A MEMBER OF THE PRESBYTERY.

Cameron is serving as a Chaplain at UAMS, a ministry validated by the COM at the November 14, 2017 meeting, and as the Parish Associate of First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock (Argenta), approved at the January 9, 2018 meeting.

with the Service of Ordination to be on March 11, 2018 at 3:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock, the offering recipient to be the Committee on Preparation for

Ministry Emergency Fund for Candidates and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the following to serve on the Administrative Commission to ordain.

MWS Leslie Roper to Moderate and Propound the Constitutional Questions

MWS Anne Russ to Charge the Pastor

MWS Steve Hancock to Charge the Congregation

RE Samuel Highsmith, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

RE Sandra Main, First Presbyterian Church, Benton

RE Karen Howard Lange, First Presbyterian Church, Batesville

RE Sarah Leer, First Presbyterian Church, Bentonville

MWS Stewart Smith

and MWS Robert Lowry of Mississippi Presbytery to sit with the Commission and to Preach.

YADs CAST POSITIVE ADVISORY VOTE. MOTION WAS APPROVED. Family and church members stood. MWE Anne Russ prayed. (Statement of Faith in appendix)

- 3. The Committee on Ministry MOVES that the Presbytery of Arkansas approve MWS Jen Evans as Associate Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, effective October 27, 2017, and enroll her as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, requesting that she be dismissed from Charlotte Presbytery, (*approval of her terms of call will be in a separate motion later in the report*), and the Service of Installation to be on March 25, 2018 at 5:00 pm at Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, the offering recipient to be the Youth Advisory Team Scholarship Fund for Summer Trips, and the following to serve on the Administrative Commission to ordain:**

MWS Leslie Roper to Moderate and Propound the Constitutional Questions

MWS Anne Russ to Preach

MWS Don Campbell, HR, to Charge the Pastor

RE Ben Barham, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, to Charge the Congregation

MWS Steve Hancock

RE Stephen Moody, First Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

RE Karen Herbert, Grace Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

MWS Karen Akin

RE H.K. Stewart, Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

and RE Dylan Fike, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, to sit with the Commission.

(Statement of Faith in appendix). There was no discussion. **MOTION WAS APPROVED.**

- 4. The Committee on Ministry moves that the Presbytery of Arkansas approve MWS Marie Mainard-O'Connell as Pastor of Park Hill Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock, effective February 1, 2018, with the following terms of call:**

Effective Salary

Cash Salary \$37,000

Housing Allowance \$18,000

Reimbursable Expenses (by voucher)

Automobile Expense (\$.56/mile) \$3,000

SECA Supplement (up to 50%)	\$2,831
Continuing Education	\$1,200
Total	\$82,031

Full medical (includes family) pension, disability, and death benefit coverage under the Board of Pensions

Paid Vacation	4 weeks (Sundays)
Paid Continuing Ed./Service to Presbytery	2 weeks (Sundays)
Paid Parental Leave	6 weeks (Sundays)

In the seventh year of service, the congregation will provide for a three-month Clergy Renewal Leave, continuing the salary and benefits for that period, and providing for pulpit supply in the pastor’s absence.

Reimbursable automobile expenses will remain at \$3,000 until such time as MWS Mainard-O’Connell elects to move closer to the church. After moving it will decrease to \$2,000.

Any unused continuing education allocation may be carried over and accumulated for up to three (3) years.

A one-time moving stipend of \$2,500 is available if MWS Mainard-O’Connell elects to move closer to the church. This option may be exercised any time within three (3) years of installation.

A one-time transaction benefit of \$2,500 will be provided upon installation.

and the Service of Installation to be on March 25, 2018 at 3:00 pm at Park Hill Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock, the offering recipient to be Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, and the following to serve on the Administrative Commission to ordain:

- MWS Leslie Roper to Moderate and Propound the Constitutional Questions
- MWS Dr. Robert Williamson to Preach
- MWS Anne Russ to Charge the Pastor
- MWS Frank LeBlanc to Charge the Congregation
- RE Dr. Wynona Bryant-Williams, Allison Memorial Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
- RE David Murray, First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock
- RE Liz Branch, Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
- RE Matt Lewis, Park Hill Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock

MOTION WAS APPROVED. MWS Marie Mainard-O’Connell was absent.

Report was arrested here to prepare for 10:30 Order of the Day.

REPORT OF YOUTH ADVISORY DELEGATES

Claire Gillaspy, Conway, Youth Advisory Team co-moderator, talked about the summer trips sponsored by the YAT, and the Presbyterian socks they were selling as a fund-raiser for YAT. They were thanked for being present and attentive.

ORDER OF THE DAY: THEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION

At 10:30 RE Peg Falls-Corbitt, member of Coordinating Team and First, Conway, led the Theological Discussion on “The Church in Civil Discourse” which offered a time around tables in groups of 8 to examine and discuss with Biblical reflection “sample polarities,” which are values

that seem contradictory or at least in tension and yet in reality form complementary commitments.

MINUTE ANNOUNCEMENTS

All speakers were MWSs. Rebecca Spooner announced services by Wellspring Renewal Center available to church professionals under the covenant with the presbytery; Jeremy Wilhelmi announced Wendell Griffen's speech on Feb. 20 and David LaMotte's appearance March 13-14 at UofO; Jan Butin spoke on the two PLACE educational events on April 7 and August 4; Tasha Blackburn announced Diana Butler Bass's appearance Sunday at First, Fort Smith; Susan Rose of UCM spoke to thank the Presbytery for support of her son and their family after his injuries last winter. Jordan Akin asked God's blessings on lunch at 12:10.

BREAK FOR LUNCH

Meeting resumed at 12:45. Gifts were given to Cindy Qualls from Lyon for her help in organizing the meeting. Moderator Roper requested evaluations be turned in.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (Continued)

COM Moderator Hollingsworth continued his report.

Action Items:

5. **The Committee on Ministry MOVES that the Presbytery of Arkansas approve the following terms of call for MWS Jen Evans, called as the Associate Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock (see Action Item #3):**

Salary	\$36,000
Housing	\$22,000
Medical	\$14,210
Pension	\$6,380
Death & Disability	\$580
Continuing Education	\$2,000 and up to two weeks of time
Vacation	4 weeks per year
Car Allowance	\$1,800 per year
Short-term Disability	Up to 90 days of full salary
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 COM, continuing the salary and benefits for that period, and providing for pulpit supply if needed.

She was introduced and brought greetings. **MOTION WAS APPROVED.**

6. **The Committee on Ministry moves that the Presbytery of Arkansas approve MWS Val Bell as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Rogers, effective February 19, 2018, and enroll her**

- The COM approved the covenant between MWS Cinthia Saul and First Presbyterian Church, Newport, for Cindy to serve as Temporary Supply, effective October 1, 2017 and in effect for six (6) months, with the following terms of covenant:

\$200 per worship service plus mileage to and from Mountain Home at the federally stated mileage rate *(If church is cancelled MWS Saul will be paid \$200 without mileage.)*

\$200 per wedding or funeral, plus mileage as with worship services

One paid Sunday of vacation after every four months of service, cumulative to 4 Sundays per year.

Compensation for Presbytery meeting expenses up to \$600 per year

- The COM approved changes to the Pastoral Call ([Exhibit IV](#)) and Administrative Commission ([Exhibit V](#)) forms. (See appendix for forms.)
- The COM approved closing the Associate Pastor position of the Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista and asked the Stated Clerk to request that the Board of Pensions waive the vacancy dues. She has done this, and waiver was approved.
- Responding to the Presbytery’s referral back to the COM, the COM approved inserting the words, “when ordained as a minister of the Word and Sacrament,” concerning the Resident Intern’s responsibility to celebrate the Sacraments and Moderate the Session, to the Resident Intern job description of the Resident Intern position of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith and First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville.
- MWS DC Adams was appointed as the COM representative to Coordinating Team for 2018.

7.The Committee on Ministry approved renewing RE (Rev. Dr.) Doug Miller’s covenant with Holiday Island Presbyterian Church, effective December 1, 2017, to be reviewed on or before June 1, 2018, to serve part-time in a temporary pastoral relationship with the following terms of call:

Yearly total of Salary and Benefits	\$29,400
Continuing Education	\$1,200 and 2 weeks per year
Vacation	4 weeks per year
Reserved for Future Pastoral Expenses	\$23,800

8.The Committee on Ministry approved RE (Candidate for Ministry) Stephen Moody’s covenant with First Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, effective October 22, 2017 through October 21, 2018, to serve part-time in a temporary pastoral relationship with the following terms of call:

Salary	\$40,000
Housing	\$20,000
Vacation	1 week per quarter

9.The COM approved Rev. Randy Hyde’s covenant with Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, effective February 12, 2018 for a six month period, to serve in a temporary pastoral relationship as the Transitional Associate Pastor for Congregational Nurture with the following terms of call:

Salary	\$38,950
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Housing	\$35,000
Medical Benefits	\$9,350
Annuity Benefits	\$3,228
Continuing Education	\$2,000, and up to two weeks of time
Vacation	4 weeks per year
Car Allowance	\$3,000
Cell Phone Allowance	\$900
Community Involvement Allowance	\$1,900

10. The Committee on Ministry will have training for Ruling Elders whose Sessions wish to request permission from the Committee on Ministry for them to celebrate the Lord's Supper in the absence of a minister of the Word and Sacrament (ordinarily permission is only given to congregations who celebrate the Lord's Supper every Sunday, but could be in order in other situations). This training will be available through Zoom Room video conferencing for those unable to attend in person. Contact MWS D.C. Adams at 870.741.2464 (church) 678.590.6799 (cell), or dc@fpcharrison.org if interested.

COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Committee moderator MWS Kade Curry gave the report. He invited many involved in the report to come forward. He pointed out the list of those under the committee's care (below) and asked congregations to pray for those listed. He called on RE David Clark, under care preparing as Commissioned Ruling Elder, and Inquirer Jill Acree, both absent. Carla Taylor from Huntsville, candidate for CRE, was noted, and it was shared that RE Mary Shaw has finished her preparation and moved to COM's list as ready to serve as CRE. Julianna Whitson has met with her Session and CLD, and was introduced. She explained her standing as a senior at UofA, who attended Ferncliff with a friend at age 8, that though not Presbyterian she had been led to UCM, and Prairie Grove Church. Recently she was accepted for graduate work at Columbia Seminary and learned her adopted family included Presbyterian pastors in every generation. Curry praised the list of students. **MOTION TO ENROLL JULIANNA WHITSON UNDER CARE AS INQUIRER. MOTION WAS APPROVED.** Purcell and Rose prayed for her. (Statement of faith in appendix.) Thanks to those who include Emergency Fund for Candidate Care in their giving. Inquirer Jordan Akin has been in that status for 16 months and introduced herself. She gave her background, growing up at Second, LR, now is at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and she thanked the CLD. Curry invited questions on Akin's printed faith statement, and there was none. **MOTION TO MOVE JORDAN AKIN FROM INQUIRER TO CANDIDATE.** (Statement of faith in appendix.) **MOTION WAS APPROVED.** Litany for candidate was read by Moderator Roper who asked the constitutional questions, which Akin answered in the affirmative. MWS Steve Hancock prayed for Akin.

Those Under Care for Preparation in the Presbytery of Arkansas

Approved to Seek Ordained Call

- Krista Denne'

- Brittany Fiscus Van Rossum
- Cameron Highsmith

Candidates

- Katherine Norwood
- Molly DeWitt
- Stacey Hammons
- Stephen Moody

Candidate for Candidacy:

- Jordan Akin

Inquirers

- David Mills
- Max Hill
- Keith Dove
- LaWanda Harris
- Jill Acree

Candidate for Inquiry

- Julianna Whitson

CRE Candidates

- David Clark
- Allan Huddleston
- Mary Jane Fisher
- Carla Taylor

Approved for CRE Status:

- Mary Shaw

Update Interviews of:

Carla Taylor to come under care of Covenant Agreement to become CRE.

Report to Presbytery of Alternative Means was explained during Candidate's exam:

3 Optional Exam Texts Offered (2 New Testament, 1 Old Testament)

Committee Reviewer for Written Draft

Exam Readers Chosen from the Approved Presbytery Readers List

Written Exam Final Draft Due

Oral Defense Offered

Final Grade Pass/Fail

On a point of personal privilege, Curry thanked Presbytery for opportunity to serve as he concludes service as committee moderator. MWS Jeff Price is nominated for immediate service as moderator.

REPORT OF FUTURE OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY AREA

Ministry Area moderator RE Ted Belden gave the report, quoting three points from Julius "Dr. J" Erving related to our work: our best days are ahead, we only fail if we quit, God is in control. Belden gave details of grants available from their ministry area as follows:

Included in the packet are grant forms and guidelines that the Future of the Church Ministry Area worked on last year that will be used in 2018 to receive and help process grant requests. If your church wants to start a new program and needs financial support to make it happen, then please fill out the form and ask for some money. The Future of the Church (FOTC) Ministry Area is accepting one-year proposals for the development of a program, opportunity, institutional structure or possibly facility improvement(s) that revitalize or extend your ministry to new populations or communities and/or grow existing congregational vitality and mission. Grants will generally be in the \$2,000-\$5,000 range with the opportunity to renew up to 3 years. The committee has allocated \$25,000 for grants this year. Application guidelines and forms will be sent to your session moderator and clerk and available until April 15. If you have any questions, please contact Ted Belden, moderator of FOTC, at TedBelden@aol.com. (See appendix for grant application.)

He introduced MWS Jeremy Wilhelmi and two of 29 college students who attended Montreat College Conference in January, Allison Mundy and Bax Yarbrough, all of whom thanked FotC for funding help for their group transportation.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Committee moderator MWS Robert Hadley, HR gave the report.

1. The Committee on Nominations moves the following be elected to fill immediate vacancies: MWS Marci Ward, Harmony, Clarksville, Class of 2019, region 2 representative, Future of the Church Ministry Area.

MWS Jeff Price, Trinity, Little Rock, Class of 2018, moderator of Committee on Leadership Development

Nominations were asked from floor. There were none. **NOMINEES WERE ELECTED.**

2. Committee on Nominations will meet on March 15 to begin considering nominations for service beginning in 2019 and invite those interested to contact Moderator Hadley (rwhadley@artelco.com) or staff NiAnn Thompson (niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org) by March 8.

REPORT FROM POLITY COMMITTEE ON THE OVERTURE

Vice Moderator Stricklin moderated this part of the meeting. Polity Committee member MWS Elizabeth Gabbard gave the background on the proposed Overture to General Assembly from Barr Memorial, Norman; referral voted by presbytery in October that resulted in polity committee's conversation with Session with Barr Memorial, Norman; and the background of Johnson Amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH THE FOLLOWIING OVERTURE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA PRESBYTERY: The Presbytery of Western North Carolina overtures the 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to amend G-3.0104 of the Book of Order to include the following statement: “No congregation, session, presbytery, synod, or national office of the PC(USA), nor any individual acting on behalf of or in an official capacity for the above institutions, shall publicly endorse or oppose or otherwise encourage or discourage others to vote for or against an individual running for public office” was made by Commissioner Noah Williamson, and was seconded.

MWS Phil Butin spoke against motion, RE Mary Beth Lysobey spoke for the motion, MWS Dari Rowen **moved to call the question. Motion on calling the question failed.** MWS Wilhelmi spoke against the motion (Johnson not yet revoked, “official capacity” and “otherwise discourage and courage” language is unclear), MWS Garlington, HR said he is of mixed mind and hopes that Presbytery would make a statement of believing in separation of church and state. RE Joseph Yancey, First, NLR, pointed out that if this were added to Book of Order, commissioners would have been out of order during the Theological Discussion this morning, MWS Purcell spoke in favor of motion (polity allows disagreement and does not constrict as presented). Temporary Stated Clerk Belden said she had just learned another presbytery has concurred with this overture, making the motion for Arkansas’ concurrence not as pressing. MWS Hadley said that in a small town, ministers are seen usually as speaking for their church. MWS Ruskin Falls spoke against concurrence, fearing the church is moving away from worship focus and recalled the Theological Declaration of Barmen. RE Williamson spoke again in support of his motion. **MOTION TO CONCUR WITH OVERTURE FROM WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA PRESBYTERY FAILED.**

REPORT FROM FERNCLIFF CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Moderator Roper resumed duties. Order of the Day began at 1:45 pm. Joel Gill, interim director of Ferncliff, thanked the presbytery for their donations and sending campers. Founded in 1937, Ferncliff camp recalls a history with other milestones, as shown on his video graph of budget over the years, parable of the talents (Ferncliff like the first two workers). Gill shared news about summer camp (their primary purpose), applauded summer camp video, first winter camp of 34 youth in December, spring break day camp coming up, and encouraged commissioners to take home brochures. He spotlighted two camps, Interfaith Ecology Camp and PB&J (Peace-Building and Justice) for high school students touring civil rights sites, Family Fun Day on March 31, inflatable evangelism (financed by First, Shreveport) available for delivery to churches, Camp 2U traveling summer camp, thanked chaplains and congregations who allowed ministers to serve as chaplains, and the need for summer staff. Two of the Young Adult Volunteers were welcomed (5 live onsite), they can become involved in local churches, including pulpit supply, were featured in “Presbyterian Outlook” and “Mission Crossroads.” Joel showed a video on Disaster Assistance Center and mentioned Nature Preschool. Retired director MWS David Gill, HR received a grant for working in Disaster Center. Joel told story of Sharing the Goods purchase of pillows, that

Ferncliff is the only AR distributor for non-profits, serving 42, and acknowledged the Over the Hills Gang that builds projects. 86,000 pounds of kits were donated in 2017, a record year. Ferncliff video of "Take Me Away" encouraged Ferncliff's offer of relief in stressful lives of church professionals. Ferncliff continually hosts groups and congregations, Youth Quakes, Pilgrimages, service groups and committees (meeting free) and will be hosting October presbytery meeting, PW, EPs meeting, 2020 APCE, R&R weekends. They have a pay what you can policy for congregations.

REPORT OF THE YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATES

Blake Thompson, junior at Hendrix and intern at UKirk, Conway, brought greetings from four different campus ministries. UCM, Conway UKirk, Lyon, and UofO students talked together and want to strengthen community at home, asked churches to make opportunities available for traditional college ages to stay connected to home churches, and strengthen UKirk of Arkansas. They hope to get the four groups together later this year. He praised college event at Montreat. "It's neat to be here on Saturday" and asked for love and support.

REPORT ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS MINISTRY MANUAL

Coordinating Team moderator RE Ruth Hamilton gave the report.

The Presbytery of Arkansas' Ministry Manual is divided into five parts: "Part I: Organization and Structure" explains the structure of our Presbytery; "Part II: Ministry and Committees Duties" outlines the duties of the various ministry areas, committees, and sub-committees making up that structure; "Part III: Standing Rules" is the compilation of the various standing rules that the Presbytery has approved through the years; the Presbytery's documents necessary for how we do our work are in "Part IV: Policies and Procedures;" and in "Part V: Covenants and Partnerships" one can find the covenants we have with our partner organizations.

The Coordinating Team receives requests for amendments to the Ministry Manual from Ministry Areas, Committees, and Sub-Committees, and also has reviewed existing policies and edited them for inclusion, as well as complimentary policies. (ALL OF THE NEW POLICIES ARE IN THE APPENDIX.) The following motions come from the Coordinating Team, and thus do not need a second. It is suggested that vote be to approve, decline approval, or refer for edits.

Proposed Amendments to Part I: Organization and Structure

From "8) Amendment" of the Ministry Manual Part I: Organization and Structure: "The Organization and Structure section may be amended by 3/5 vote of the Presbytery present and voting if the proposed amendment is distributed to all members and member congregations no less than 30 days prior to the meeting during which the vote is to take place. This rule may be waived by a 2/3 vote of the Presbytery present and voting."

1. Part I: Organization and Structure; 3) Meetings and Membership of the Presbytery

Motion to insert Quorum as a new “D. Quorum” between existing “C. Special Meetings” and “D. Membership,” renumbering Membership as “E” and the categories thereafter. Wording to be: “A quorum for stated meetings of the Presbytery of Arkansas shall be twenty (20) Ruling Elders, and twenty (20) Ministers of the Word and Sacrament, with at least twenty (20) congregations represented overall.

A quorum for Called or Adjourned meetings of the Presbytery of Arkansas shall be ten (10) Ruling Elders, and ten (10) Ministers of the Word and Sacrament with at least ten (10) congregations represented overall. Only those ministers and elder commissioners within a 75-mile radius of the place of meeting shall be expected to attend.” There was no discussion. **MOTION WAS APPROVED.**

2. Part I: Organization and Structure; 5) Ministry Areas and Standing Committees; C. The Church and Its Ministries; 1. Permanent Committees; a) Committee on Leadership Development

Motion to change the name of the Committee on Leadership Development to the “Committee on Preparation for Ministry.” MOTION WAS APPROVED.

3. Part I: Organization and Structure; D. The Mission of the Church; 2. Sub-committees and Task Forces

Motion to delete the sentence, “In no case shall a sub-committee or task force be established for longer than 12 months without the approval of the Presbytery unless provided for by rule.” *Youth Advisory Delegates cast positive advisory vote.* MOTION WAS APPROVED.

4. Part I: Organization and Structure; D. The Mission of the Church; 3. Permanent Sub-Committees

Motion to insert “and Response” in the name of the Sub-Committee so that it reads “Disaster Preparedness and Response Sub-Committee,” rather than, “Disaster Preparedness Sub-Committee.” MOTION WAS APPROVED.

5. Part I: Organization and Structure; 8. Amendment; A. Amendments

Motion to insert a new #4. Policies and Procedures, renumbering the current #4 as #5, to read: “Policies and Procedures – A policy or procedure may be added, amended, or deleted by majority vote of the Presbytery.” MOTION WAS APPROVED.

Proposed Amendments to Part II: Ministry and Committee Duties

From “8) Amendment” of the Ministry Manual Part I: Organization and Structure: “The Ministry Duties and Presbytery Policies sections may be amended by majority vote of the Presbytery.”

6. Part II: Ministry and Committee Duties; The Mission of the Church Ministry Area

Motion to include the “Honduras Ministry Subcommittee” in a similar manner to the “Sub-Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response” and the “Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Arkansas.” MOTION WAS APPROVED.

7. Part II: Ministry and Committee Duties; The Mission of the Church Ministry Area

Motion to include In #9 of the Duties, in addition to receiving reports from and encouraging the ministry of the following entities, should be inserted the words, “review the covenants with,” so that #9 reads: “Receive reports from, review the covenants with, and encourage the ministry of the following entities:” MOTION WAS APPROVED.

8. Part II: Ministry and Committee Duties; The Church and Its Ministries Ministry Area

Motion to delete, “The Church and Its Ministries Ministry Area committees shall meet jointly no less than once per year,” and add, “The Moderators of the Church and Its Ministries Ministry Area committees shall communicate regularly to coordinate the work of the Ministry Area.” MOTION WAS APPROVED.

9. Part II: Ministry and Committee Duties; The Church and Its Ministries Ministry Area; The Leadership Development Committee

On Pages 9-10 (and elsewhere) Motion to change the name of the “The Leadership Development Committee” to “The Committee on Preparation for Ministry.” MOTION WAS APPROVED.

10. Part II: Ministry and Committee Duties; The Church and Its Ministries Ministry Area; The Committee on Ministry

Motion to add to the Duties: “18. Annually review, and make recommendations to the Presbytery, regarding the contract with the Wellspring Renewal Center.” MOTION WAS APPROVED.

Proposed Amendments to Part III: Standing Rules

From “8) Amendment” of the Ministry Manual Part I: Organization and Structure: “A Standing Rule may be adopted by a 3/5 vote of the Presbytery present and voting.”

11. Part III: Standing Rules

Motion to add #6. “Quorum” as referred to in, and assumed by, the *Book of Order* (G-3.0304) “A presbytery may set its own quorum...” MOTION WAS APPROVED.

12. Part III: Standing Rules

Motion to add #7. “Appointment of an Investigating Committee” as recommended by the *Book of Order* (D-10.0201b) “A presbytery may provide by rule for appointment of an investigating committee.” MOTION WAS APPROVED.

13. Part III: Standing Rules

Motion to add #8. “Commissions of Installations and Ordinations” which was approved by the Presbytery of Arkansas at the October 2002 meeting, and edited to include the word “ordinarily” in two places. MOTION WAS APPROVED.

Proposed Amendments to Part IV: Policies and Procedures

There is currently no guidance or constrictions on amending Part IV: Policies and Procedures in “8) Amendment” of the Ministry Manual Part I: Organization and Structure.

14. Part IV: Policies and Procedures

Motion to approve edits to the “Electronic Meeting Policy,” and include the policy in the Ministry Manual Part IV: Policies and Procedures. MOTION WAS APPROVED.

15. Part IV: Policies and Procedures

Motion to approve edits to the “Policy for Schismatic Churches,” and include the policy in Part IV: Policies and Procedures. MOTION WAS APPROVED.

16. Part IV: Policies and Procedures

Motion to approve edits to the “Sabbatical Leave Policy of the Presbytery of Arkansas,” and include the policy in Part IV: Policies and Procedures. *Young Adult Advisory Delegates cast a positive advisory vote.* MWS Ruskin Falls asked if this was already approved in 2014 for new full-time calls. Answer: yes. MOTION WAS APPROVED.

17. Part IV: Policies and Procedures

Motion to approve edits to the “Parental Leave Policy,” and include the policy in Part IV: Policies and Procedures.

Temporary Stated Clerk explained that policy was referenced in the 2014 minimum terms of call and now updated to be in conformity. This is for new full time calls to MWSs only. *Youth Advisory Delegates cast a positive advisory vote.* **MOTION WAS APPROVED.**

Stated Clerk and Hamilton explained that the next five policies, covered in motions 18-22, had already been approved by Presbytery and now will be stored in policies section of the Ministry Manual. **MOTIONS #18 through #22 WERE APPROVED AS ONE UNIT.**

18. Part IV: Policies and Procedures

Motion to approve edits to the “Active Honorably Retired Minister of the Word and Sacrament Policy,” which was previously included in the Manual of Operations as the “Active Honorably Retired Pastor Definition” (approved February 2003), and include the policy in the Ministry Manual Part IV Policies and Procedures.

19. Part IV: Policies and Procedures

Motion to include the “Background Check Policy” in the Ministry Manual Part IV: Policies and Procedures.

20. Part IV: Policies and Procedures

Motion to include the “Disclosure Authorization and Release Form” in the “Ministry Manual Part IV: Policies and Procedures,” to accompany the “Background Check Policy.”

21. Part IV: Policies and Procedures

Motion to include the “Sexual Misconduct Policy” in the “Ministry Manual Part IV: Policies and Procedures.”

22. Part IV: Policies and Procedures

Motion to include the “Presbytery of Arkansas Child and Youth Protection Policy” in the “Ministry Manual Part IV: Policies and Procedures.”

Hamilton resumed making individual motions for the following new policies:

23. Part IV: Policies and Procedures

Motion to approve the new policy titled “Investigating Committee Procedures for a Disciplinary Case,” and include it in the “Ministry Manual in Part IV: Policies and Procedures.” MOTION WAS APPROVED.

24. Part IV: Policies and Procedures

Motion to approve the new policy titled “Policy for Temporary Members,” and include it in the “Ministry Manual in Part IV: Policies and Procedures.” In the discussion, MWS Carol Clark, a member of COM, spoke against policy, saying that there is a loss of connection when temporary member is appointed Session moderator and asked Presbytery to investigate other avenues to fill moderator roles. **MOTION WAS APPROVED** (not unanimous).

25. Part IV: Policies and Procedures

Motion to approve revisions to the “Policy for Ministers from other Denominations Seeking to Serve PC(USA) Congregations in a Pastoral Role.” MOTION WAS APPROVED.

REPORT OF THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY AREA

MWS Jan Butin, member of the ministry area, gave the report in absence of Moderator Pearson. She noted from written report: Grant to Lyon College’s Brown Chapel renovation, delay of mission trip to Houston, congregational grants available to most vulnerable, The PLACE on “Changing Face of the Church” April 7 in Fayetteville and August 4 at Second, LR. The April 7 workshops at The PLACE include: active shooter, special needs children, social media, growing young, college students at UCM, Hispanic culture, Canopy over world, memorable worship points and presenting the word plus Clerk Training.

For Information following written report was presented in packet:

The Mission of the Church Ministry-Area is happy to report that 2017 was a very active and fruitful year. Many grants, some smaller than others, were made to various ministries within the bounds of the presbytery and a few beyond. The ministry-area is blessed with committed individuals who accept their responsibilities with enthusiasm and a clear sense of purpose. This service to Christ through the ‘larger church’ has resulted in a number of individuals being helped to attend last year’s NEXT Church and Big Tent, both within driving distance. Also several evangelism grants were authorized to assist congregations

with remodeling of their websites and signage.

Meanwhile, support to Lyon College, the University of the Ozarks, Vera Lloyd, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Arkansas Interfaith, Presbyterian Village, Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage and Solar Under the Sun was maintained. And we continue to hold these ministries, not only in our financial giving, but in our hearts and prayers. While the dollar amounts may appear rather insignificant in some instances, we have wanted to keep a Presbytery of Arkansas connection.

At the end of 2017, the Ministry Area was able to grant \$5,000 to a request of Lyon College to assist in the remodeling of Brown Chapel. While the specific purpose of the grant has not been finalized, we desired to show Lyon College the Presbytery's appreciation for the college's commitment to higher education and its spiritual influence on the minds and hearts of young women and men.

The Mission of the Church met on January 11th to begin its responsibilities for 2018. Indicative of the ministry-area's commitment level, attendance was 100% for this meeting.

Clarity has been given by the Temporary Stated Clerk, MWS Leslie Belden, on the Honduras Ministry Subcommittee as a "permanent" subcommittee, and the Ministry Area's relationship. The need for a covenant, alluded to at the October Presbytery Meeting, has been determined unnecessary. Meanwhile, the Ministry Area, along with the Presbytery at-large welcomes the reporting of the Presbyterian missional-endeavors in that Central American country (a report is included in this packet).

We continue to be apprised and pleased with the work Christ is doing through the Presbyterian Women of Arkansas. The Cents-Ability Offering of 2018 will be divided three ways as follows: Local--the Arkansas Community Soup Kitchen in St. Francis County--led by Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church, Forrest City; National--Southeast Texas Food Bank--to assist with feeding individuals and families which sprang as a need by Hurricane Harvey; International--A Miracle Porridge--to assist with a feeding program in the Congo of many malnourished children, that also teaches mothers of these children how to make the porridge.

This year the Mission of the Church Ministry Area has set aside a line item of \$5,000 as a block of funds to assist Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center on missional enterprises when requested. This allows the Ministry Area and Ferncliff to know what amount remains available for present or future grant requests. This sum is in addition to the Summer Program Support (Mission of the Church Ministry Area) and the General Site Support (Administration Ministry Area).

What may be the most exciting thing(s) for the presbytery in 2018 is having "two" of The P.L.A.C.E., that is, there will be a NWA event on Saturday, April 7th, at First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, from 9:00 to 1:00. Then with some overlap of presenters and topics, though not completely, The P.L.A.C.E. CNTRL, will be held on Saturday, August 4th, at Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, 9:00 to 1:00. This year's events will be without meals, though fellowship at restaurants is being advocated for follow-up discussions. This new double-approach offers individuals of our churches, leaders and non-leaders, to participate not only in one such event, but two, if so desired. STAY TUNED.

A Mission Trip to the Houston Area is being considered, similar in fashion to our past assistance to hurricane-struck areas where Presbyterians, from Arkansas and other states, have ministered by making home-repairs up to two or three years afterward. STAY TUNED. The ministry-area will begin utilizing ZOOM (video conferencing) for some of its future meetings.

Congregations are encouraged to submit grant requests for this last year of three of the Unified Mission Emphasis: helping the *“most vulnerable of the very young and old.”* If you have some project to launch or one to keep afloat, consider applying for a grant of up to \$500 with Mission of the Church. This may be done by emailing: ktpearson@suddenlink.net. Include in the request: the purpose of the program/project, proof of Session approval, the overall cost of the ministry, the amount desired for the grant, and how the grant money, if received, would be utilized, as specifically as possible.

The Mission of the Church Ministry Area will recommend to the Coordinating Team that they designate the offering recipient at the June 2, 2018 Presbytery meeting as the Presbytery’s Youth Advisory Team to assist with presbytery-sponsored summer trips for our youth. Continue please to hold the work of these ministries in prayers.

REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

MWS Ike Brighton, HR, moderator of the subcommittee, was absent, so Subcommittee member RE Liz Branch spoke. She thanked the presbytery, announced individual subcommittee members were contact for each region, disaster contact is needed in every church, members will call every church for information, money from OGHS supports Disaster response, they appreciate budget support for the subcommittee. Subcommittee contributed in Pocahontas after flooding, rely on national organization for PDA team to come visit after flooding, retreat for pastors and caregivers to avoid burnout, and her report on registration table (song on “Be Prepared”).

For Information Brighton submitted written report as follows:

The DPRS recently bought and designed a portable display board to work with our 'booths' at Presbytery meetings or any presentations by members of the sub-committee. It is also available for other Presbytery committees for their use. Contact Ray Stephens if you would like to use the board.

Arkansas Voluntary Organization Active in Disasters (ARVOAD) are putting together a bid for a grant for the state that will fund support for children's needs after disasters. They asked the DPRS to write a letter of support for their grant. We approached General Presbyter Stewart Smith to sign a letter of support for ARVOAD.

The DPRS staffed a booth during the Forrest City Presbytery meeting and were able to distribute approximately 100 emergency cleaning buckets to many of the churches attending. We want to thank everyone for their support in this effort for those involved with the spring and fall flooding.

It was reported to the committee that Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) approved a request by DPRS for \$7500. After receiving the check, DPRS forwarded the money to the Randolph County Recovery Committee to assist in home repairs and replacement from the spring floods. Reports were received on the flooding in McGehee and Lake Village floods from 2016. Both towns were completing their home repair and replacements.

It was decided that the DPRS would participate in the PLACE next April in NW Arkansas and August in Little Rock and present a workshop on "Single Active Shooter."

REPORT OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

A written report was submitted by Co-Moderators Ila Blacketter Wolfe and Cathy Rogers with the following dates as the PWPCT continually thanks the Presbytery for support which allows them to do the mission of the Presbyterian Women: PW Spring Gathering, Saturday April 21, 2018, FPC, Ft. Smith, Ar.; Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering, August 2-5, 2018, Louisville, Kentucky, (Co-Moderators Cathy Rogers and Ila Blacketter-Wolfe will serve as voting representatives to the Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering Business Meeting, August 1-2, 2018.) REGISTRATION FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CHURCHWIDE GATHERING IS NOW OPEN; Go to the website for online registration: www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering. PW Synod of the Sun Gathering July 25-27, 2019, FPC, Tulsa, Oklahoma: Keynote speaker: Rev. Katie Cummings, head of staff of FPC, Bentonville, AR

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **MWS Frank LeBlanc moved: “That 137th Stated Meeting of PoA endorse and state its support for the Arkansas Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival would align the presbytery with the stated values of the General Assembly, and unite the Presbytery of Arkansas in solidarity with our poor and disenfranchised neighbors.”** It was seconded, and **MOTION WAS APPROVED.**

REPORT OF THE LEAVES AND ABSENCES COMMITTEE

Temporary Stated Clerk Belden gave the report on behalf of the committee: 50 MWSs, 56 Ruling Elders, 36 visitors, 18 youth and young adults, 2 corresponding members for a total signed in of 162, of whom 106 were voting commissioners.

CLOSING PRAYER

MWS Gabbard gave the closing prayer, remembering the passing of MWS Guy Delaney, HR and thanking God for the meeting and wishing the commissioners safe travels.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment came at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Temporary Stated Clerk Leslie Belden

Recording Clerk NiAnn Thompson