

**MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHTH STATED MEETING  
OF THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS**

**JUNE 2, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER/OPENING PRAYER**

The 138<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was called to order with prayer in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, Conway, by Moderator Minister of the Word and Sacrament Leslie Bethell Roper at 9:32 a.m. on Saturday, June 2, 2018.

**REPORT OF ENROLLMENT/DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

Temporary Stated Clerk MWS Leslie Smith Belden declared a **quorum present** with 39 MWSs and 48 Ruling Elders, for a grand total of 87 voting commissioners (123 total signed in by gavel) representing 36 congregations present at the gavel. The quorum for stated meetings of the presbytery (2/10/18) is “20 REs and 20 MWSs, with at least 20 congregations represented overall.”

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT (who checked on sign-in sheets):** Karen Kokles Akin, “Maggie” Alsup, Leslie F. Belden, Valerie Hobby Bell, Blake Brinegar, Robert Brian Brock, Philip W. Butin, Carol Clark, Katie Cummings, Kade Curry, Fern M. Davis, Jen Evans, Ruskin Falls, Steve Frazier, Paul Fulks, Elizabeth Gabbard, Susan Gray, “Chip” Hatcher, Young Doo Kim, Courtney Bacon-Latina, Frank LeBlanc, Marie Mainard-O’Connell, Rebecca Purcell, Leslie Bethell Roper, Susan Rose; Dari Rowen, Anne Russ, Cindy Saul, David Schaller, Patricia Schaller, William Seitz, Lacy Sellars, Georgia Senor, J. Stewart Smith, Rebecca Spooner, Michael Ulasewich, Michael Vinson, Lindy Vogado, Marci Ward, Jeremy Wilhelmi.

**HONORABLY RETIRED ACTIVE MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT:** Catherine L. Allsbury, William W. Branch, Ira Brighton, David H. Dyer, Gordon F. Garlington III, Robert Hadley, Sally Johnson, Lance Jones, David S. King, John E. King, Richard H. Miller.

**RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS FROM CONGREGATIONS (who signed in):** Memorial, Atkins, Mark Murdoch; First, Batesville, Karen Lange; First, Beebe, Carolyn Bridges; Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, Ronnie Prevost and Darrell Maples; First, Benton, Heather Garret; First, Bentonville, Kelley Prebes; Cane Hill Presbyterian, David Ellis; Harmony, Clarksville, Cindy Lanphear; First, Conway, Matthew T. Maeteus; First, Dardanelle, Cathy Baker; Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay, Phyllis A. Young; First United, Fayetteville, Tom Verdery and Chris Bell; Graham Memorial, Forrest City, Libby Casber; Central, Fort Smith, Linda Riley; First, Fort Smith, Conley Hall; First, Heber Springs, Scott Rezabek; Holiday Island Presbyterian, Sharon Nance; Faith, Horseshoe Bend, Jackie Kizer; First, Hot Springs, Sally Pierce; Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village, Sally Fink; First, Jonesboro, Bob White; First, Lincoln, Michelle Hall; Allison, Little Rock, Wayne Mitchem; First, Little Rock, Libby Ingram; Pulaski Heights, Little Rock, Marian Dyer; Second, Little Rock, Leon Lants and Roger Elliot; Westover Hills, Little Rock, Mary Ellen Holder; First, Malvern, Roger Wyrick; First,

Mena, Mary Dixon; First, Newport, Susan Cooley; Barr Memorial, Norman, Noah Williamson; Park Hill, North Little Rock, Wendell Phillips; Mount Vernon, Pea Ridge, Ron David; First, Prairie Grove, Lynda Bottoms; First, Rogers, Pete Leez; Central, Russellville, Andy Brock and Sarah Dove; First, Searcy, Mike Szabo; First, Springdale, Vicky Rogerson; First, Yellville, Tommy Tyler.

**AT-LARGE COMMISSIONERS:** Ex-officio Members of Coordinating Team, Bob Boehmler, treasurer; Ruling Elder Members of Coordinating Team: Jan Enke, Peg Falls-Corbitt, Karene Jones, Patty Minga, Marty Shepherd; Ruling Elder Moderators of Presbytery Ministry Areas, Committees, Subcommittees: Ted Belden, Future of the Church Ministry Area; Ledridge Davis, Committee on Representation; Cyril Hollingsworth, Committee on Ministry. Ruling Elder Commissioner to General Assembly, 2016, Portland., Gail Murdoch; Moderator of Coordinating Team, Ruth Hamilton.

**COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS:** G. Hartley Jones, Barr Memorial, Norman; Rita Manske, Cane Hill Presbyterian; Chuck Olson, Memorial, Atkins; Kelly Pearson, First, Dardanelle.

**CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:** Kristi Button, FUPC, Fayetteville; Jeannie Ford, Second, Little Rock; NiAnn Thompson, Presbytery Staff.

**VISITORS TO THIS MEETING:** 31 people signed in.

**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:** RE Valerie Young, Grace Presbytery, Synod of the Sun; RE Bill McConnell, Mid-Kentucky Presbytery, Presbyterian Mission Agency; MWS Steven Kurtz, Presbytery of South Alabama; MWS David Reed, HR, John Calvin Presbytery; MWS Linda Whitworth-Reed, HR, John Calvin Presbytery.

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT ABSENT WITH EXCUSE:** DC Adams, Janet B. Butin, Joy Carrington, Lance Clemmons, Lewis R. Donelson IV, James J. Farley III, Debra Carl Freeman, Steve Hancock, Al Henager, Marion Humphrey, Jennifer Lord, Mike McCracken, Jeff Price, Dennis Ritchie, Shauna Silmon, Robert Williamson, Daniel Wooley, Harry Young. TEMPORARY MEMBER Michael Clark, ELCA.

**HONORABLY RETIRED ACTIVE MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT ABSENT WITH EXCUSE:** Ben Bateman, Danny Daniel, Joyce Daniel, David Gill, Howard "Flash" Gordon, Clare Martin Kelley, Rita Wilson-Perry, Richard Shinkle, Frederick A. Taylor, Darwin Wolfe.

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE:** Bill Bailey, Phillip Blackburn, Tasha Blackburn, Krista Denne', Clifton P. Ford, John Gibson, Cameron Highsmith, Jai Kwak, Libby Lizarraga, Jeff Parker, Timothy C. Reeves, Ward Rudolph, Terry Tallent.

**HONORABLY RETIRED ACTIVE MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE:** Donald K. Campbell III, Milton B. Davis, Orin M. Frank, William F. Henning, "Bo" Lewis, Terry McLellan, James B. Miller, Don Wardlaw.

**SESSIONS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE:** First, Arkadelphia; West End, Arkadelphia; First, Brinkley; Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals; First, Gurdon; Spring River, Hardy; First, Harrison; Holly Grove

Presbyterian; First, Huntsville; First, Jacksonville; Westminster, Little Rock; First, Marianna; First, Mountain Home; First, Paragould.

**SESSIONS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE:** First, Alma; Alpine, Amity; second elder from First, Bentonville; Vaughn, Bentonville; First, Clarksville; Elkins Presbyterian; First, Eureka Springs; Mount Comfort, Fayetteville; second elder from First, Fort Smith; Good Shepherd, Greenwood; First, Helena; second elder from First, Hot Springs; Westminster, Hot Springs; Grace, Little Rock; third and fourth elder from Second, Little Rock; Trinity, Little Rock; First, Lonoke; First, McGehee; First, Morrilton; Hopewell, Morrilton; Mountainburg Presbyterian; First, North Little Rock; First, Ozark; Central, Pine Bluff; Faith, Pine Bluff; First, Pine Bluff; second elder from First, Springdale; First, Stuttgart; First, Van Buren; First, Walnut Ridge; Cleburne Avenue, West Helena; Wynne Presbyterian.

**AT-LARGE MEMBERS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE:** Ex-officio Member of Coordinating Team, David Stricklin, Vice Moderator. General Assembly Commissioners, 2018, St. Louis, Kim Brooks and Ray Woodruff.

**AT-LARGE MEMBERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE:** Ruling Elder Members of Coordinating Team, Mary Shaw; Ruling Elder Commissioner to General Assembly, 2016, Portland, Jessie Rancifer; Co-Moderators, Presbyterian Women, Ila Blacketter-Wolfe and Cathy Rogers.

**COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE:** Carolyn Beane, Barr Memorial, Norman; Kenneth and Claire Rhodes, West End, Arkadelphia; Ed Wilkinson, Good Shepherd, Greenwood.

**COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE:** K. C. Chanthorn, Laotian-First, Fort Smith; Harlis Wright, Faith, Pine Bluff.

**CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE:** Lynn King, retired; Nancy Irving Smith, retired. **Certified Associate Christian Educators:** Lynn Condra, retired; Susie Wright, Westminster, Hot Springs.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET**

Temporary Stated Clerk Belden moved the adoption of the revised docket without changes.

**Motion was seconded, and the REVISED 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 Steven Kurtz, RE Bill McConnell, MWS David Reed HR, MWS Linda Whitworth-Reed HR, RE Valerie Young. Privilege of the floor and voice were requested for and granted to: Keith Dove, Max Hill, Emma Gillaspy, Blake Thompson, Hannah Lahodny and Rev. John Landis. **MOTION WAS APPROVED.**

#### **APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS AND LEAVES OF ABSENCE COMMITTEE**

The following tellers were appointed: MWSs Elizabeth Gabbard and Susan Rose, RE Karen Howard Lange, First, Batesville; RE Andy Brock, Central, Russellville.

Leaves of Absence members appointed were: MWSs Leslie Roper and “Maggie” Alsup.

### **WELCOME TO FIRST-TIME COMMISSIONERS**

Moderator Roper asked for the eight first-time commissioners to wave and welcomed them.

### **INTRODUCTION OF PRESBYTERY STAFF**

Moderator introduced the following: General Presbyter MWS Stewart Smith, Temporary Stated Clerk MWS Leslie Smith 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 Hannah Lahodny.

### **WELCOME FROM HOST**

MWS Michael Ulasewich, pastor of First, Conway, brought greetings from the Session and the congregation. He talked about refreshments, lunch service, restrooms, church volunteers wearing distinctive nametags who are willing to help. Moderator lit the Christ candle.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 1. Motion to approve the minutes of the 137<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, February 9-10, 2018, held at Lyon College, Batesville, Arkansas. (distributed in a separate packet)**
- 2. The Committee on Ministry moves that the Presbytery of Arkansas approve the Clergy Compensation Report for 2017 as compiled (APPENDIX).**
- 3. Motion to receive the minutes as the report of the Administrative Commission ordaining MWS Cameron Highsmith at First Presbyterian Church, Argenta (North Little Rock), and dismiss them with our thanks.**
- 4. Motion to receive the minutes as the report of the Administrative Commission ordaining MWS Krista Denne', Resident Intern at First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville and First Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith, and dismiss them with our thanks.**
- 5. Motion to receive the minutes as the report of the Administrative Commission installing MWS Marie Mainard O'Connell as Pastor of Park Hill Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock, and dismiss them with our thanks.**

6. **Motion to receive the minutes as the report of the Administrative Commission installing MWS Jen Evans as Associate Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, and dismiss them with our thanks.**
7. **Motion to receive the minutes as the report of the Administrative Commission installing MWS Val Bell as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Rogers, and dismiss them with our thanks.**
8. **Motion to receive the report of the Committee on Representation, which follows consent agenda, with thanks and encourage the Committee on Nominations and other groups to follow their recommendations. (report follows)**
9. **Motion to dismiss the Polity Committee, made up of the 2016 General Assembly Commissioners, with thanks. The Polity Committee includes: Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) Sam Anderson; MWS Elizabeth Gabbard; RE Gail Murdoch; RE Jesse Rancifer and MWS Leslie Roper.**

#### **Committee on Representation Report**

Moderator RE Ledridge Davis submitted the following written report.

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

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

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

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

Active members in 2017 reported by those churches which actually reported to G.A. by early 2018 deadline (or their 2016 number brought forward if the church did not report)

totaled 10,996, a net loss of 1,142 members. The grand total of 12,832 adherents, which number includes baptized (not confirmed) and other participants for the presbytery report, was encouraging.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Note: Of the presbytery's churches that reported to General Assembly earlier this year about their 2017 statistics, racial ethnic breakdown included: Asian, Middle Eastern, Native American, White, Black/African American, African, Hispanic)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA WAS APPROVED.**

### **REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER**

General Presbyter MWS Stewart Smith made the report, welcoming Synod of the Sun Executive Director RE Valerie Young. She brought greetings from the Synod, thanked presbytery for financial support and people support, is excited about new way of resourcing presbyteries' communication, conversations about per capita with PCUSA Stated Clerk next week at Mission Agency in Irving, November symposium and Synod Sunday on August 26. Also introduced was RE Bill McConnell, Presbyterian Mission Agency engagement advisor for the south region. He also thanked the presbytery for financial support and its work, connecting individuals with the larger denomination, and invited all to his display table to learn about local church ministry.

### **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Presbytery treasurer Bob Boehmler reported on the financial reports in the late packet: balance sheet, Texas Presbyterian Foundation assets, volatility of the stock market, balance fund doing well, operating income statement. He thanked commissioners for the financial support from the congregations, spoke of interest income, expenses statement, unfavorable balance is seasonal. He pointed out the accountants' review for 2015 and 2016 that affirmed that presbytery finances are being run in an appropriate manner. Staff is starting on the 2017 review and hope for timely report this year, as opposed to the late reports from the new auditors. Full financial review report is with Boehmler, and he offered to go over report with any commissioner. One question asked was when he expects the 2017 financial review to be available. By the end of the year was his reply. (Financials and Reviews in Appendix.)

### **MORNING WORSHIP at 10 a.m.**

Inquirer in Ministry Max Hill, a student at Princeton Seminary, brought the message and Presbyterian student Emma Gillaspay, Lyon College, and Blake Thompson, Campus Ministry intern at First, Conway, were liturgists. Highlights included commissioning the elders and ministers from this presbytery attending General Assembly on June 16-23 in St. Louis and some of the youth and adults from across the presbytery who are going on three presbytery-sponsored trips this

summer. A quintet sang a beautiful arrangement of "They'll know We Are Christians by Our Love." The worship offering benefitted travel expenses for these trips.

#### RECESS

Commissioners moved from the sanctuary to Fellowship Hall for the rest of the meeting. Worship offering total was \$1,497.25.

#### REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY STATED CLERK

Temporary Stated Clerk Belden gave the report as follows:

##### Report of Pastoral Status Changes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MWS Howard "Flash" Gordon, HR  
MWS Robert Hadley, HR  
MWS Bill Henning, HR  
MWS Sally Johnson, HR  
MWS Lance Jones, HR  
MWS Clare Kelley, HR  
MWS David King, HR  
MWS John King, HR  
MWS Elton "Bo" Lewis, HR

MWS Terry McLellan, HR  
MWS Jim Miller, HR  
MWS Richard Miller, HR  
MWS Dick Shinkle, HR  
MWS Fred Taylor, HR  
MWS Don Wardlaw, HR  
MWS Rita Wilson-Perry, HR  
MWS Darwin Wolfe, HR

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

### **Report on Administrative Commissions**

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

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

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

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

**First Presbyterian Church, Ozark** – MWS Brian Brock, Moderator, gave the report.

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

A search of Johnson County records revealed four properties associated with the First Presbyterian Church of Ozark: the church building, a manse, a storefront in downtown Ozark, and

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

While the AC and session were beginning the process of selling the ten-acre parcel, interest in seeking dismissal to another Reformed denomination was rekindled. The session began contacting other Presbyterian denominations. The sale of the ten-acre property was executed to accommodate emergency repairs to the church building's roof. Proceeds of the sale were divided according to the negotiated 80/20 split with the presbytery receiving \$5,200. The session received an invitation to join the Covenant Presbyterian Church, a small offshoot of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, headquartered in Texas. After consultation with denominational leadership in Louisville, it was determined that the Covenant Presbyterian Church did not meet the requirements for dismissal. The AC, which had been empowered to dissolve or dismiss on behalf of the presbytery, and the session decided to proceed with dissolution and sale of the remaining property to a newly constituted organization for the negotiated price of \$1.

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

The Administrative Commission respectfully requests to be dismissed at the 138<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas. **MOTION TO DISMISS THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION WAS APPROVED.** MWS Brock read the prayer from the May 20<sup>th</sup> service.

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

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

**Report of the Administrative Commission for Walnut Grove and Cane Hill Presbyterian Churches** MWS Phil Butin, Moderator, gave the report and recognized members and the CRE of the Cane Hill Church. Written report follows:

In September of 2015, the Presbytery of Arkansas' Administrative Commission charged with working with the Walnut Grove congregation at Farmington and the Cane Hill congregation

began to work with the Committee on Ministry to provide a smooth transition of pastoral leadership for the Cane Hill Presbyterian Church from CRE Bruce Schlegel to CRE Rita Manske, both ruling elders from First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville. The commission consists of MWS Phil Butin (Moderator and Committee on Ministry member), MWS John King, HR, MWS Marie Mainard O'Connell (Future of the Church Ministry Area member), RE Charles Cook (also a member of COM), and RE Ted Belden (Future of the Church Ministry Area Moderator).

In the course of these conversations, the session of Cane Hill Presbyterian Church initiated a request to relinquish the ownership of its building and land to Historic Cane Hill, an organization with significant Presbyterian roots dedicated to the historic preservation and restoration of the small community of Cane Hill, some 20 miles southwest of Fayetteville. Historic Cane Hill has legally committed to a complete restoration of the church building, which is urgently in need of a variety of repairs and renovations totaling between \$200,000 and \$300,000. However, the transfer of ownership of the property to Historic Cane Hill (a non-profit organization) is required for these improvements to be made. A legal agreement has been completed by presbytery's legal counsel and approved by both the session of Cane Hill Presbyterian Church and the presbytery's Cane Hill Administrative Commission, which allows the church to continue to worship in the building and use it at other times for ministry events as long as the congregation exists. The agreement also includes the commitment that during renovation, the congregation will be given access to other restored Historic Cane Hill meeting spaces as needed to sustain its ministry. Presbytery approval will allow use of the limited funds of the congregation to fund ministry to its members and the community, rather than being expended on the property.

The Cane Hill community was the cradle of Cumberland Presbyterian Christian ministry in Northwest Arkansas beginning in the late 1820's, including the establishment of the Cane Hill Presbyterian Church as well as the Cane Hill Academy and College, which educated young men and women and prepared Cumberland Presbyterian pastors until it was closed in order to move to Clarksville for reorganization as the College/University of the Ozarks. First United Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville and First Presbyterian Church in Bentonville are among the congregations planted by the Cane Hill Presbyterians. The historic preservation of this important community, including the church building and the main college building, serves a variety of public purposes and provides an excellent witness to the importance of Presbyterianism in the history of the state of Arkansas. Between 8 and 12 currently worship there.

**For Action:**

**The Cane Hill Administrative Commission, with the concurrence of the session of the Cane Hill Presbyterian Church, moves that the Presbytery of Arkansas approve the transfer of ownership of the real property and the church building of Cane Hill Presbyterian Church to the Historic Cane Hill preservation organization, on the condition that the congregation have priority use of the building for regular Sunday worship and other church events (session meetings, fellowship gatherings, funerals, weddings, etc.) as long as the congregation exists, according to the legal agreement approved by the Cane Hill Administrative Commission and the session of Cane Hill Presbyterian Church, and negotiated by the presbytery's legal counsel. Subject to the**

**approval of the above motion, the Cane Hill Administrative Commission of the Presbytery of Arkansas moves that it be dismissed with thanks. MOTION WAS APPROVED.**

### **Reports/Records/Policy Compliance**

Sexual Misconduct Policy/Background Checks--Forms were completed by all but the following: Clare Kelley (Honorably Retired); Lori Kleinjan (member of Mid-South Presbytery)

Statistical Reports of Congregations--Statistical Reports to General Assembly for 2017 were completed by all congregations in the presbytery but the following:

Alma, First	Morrilton, Hopewell
Alpine, Alpine	Mountainburg, Mountainburg
Beebe, First	Newport, First
Bentonville, Vaughn	Ozark, First*
Gamaliel, One-O-One*	Pine Bluff, Central
Helena, First	Pine Bluff, Faith
Hot Springs Village, Woodlands*	Pine Bluff, First
Little Rock, Allison Memorial	Stuttgart, First
Little Rock, First	West Helena, Cleburne Avenue
Lonoke, First	

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

### **Reviewing Records of Sessions/Congregations**

The Temporary Stated Clerk has received reports that the following congregations' records have been reviewed for 2017 and/or past years:

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

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

- (1) Clerks of Sessions trading records and reviewing each other's minutes and registers;
- (2) Regional Session Records Reviews in the Spring;
- (3) Having regional volunteers follow-up with those whose records were not reviewed in this manner (June – September); and

- (4) Having volunteers available in a specified place at the October presbytery meeting to review records while commissioners attend the meeting.

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

**Report of the Investigating Committee announced at the October 6-7, 2017 meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas.** Belden explained the purpose of Presbyterian discipline.

### **Pronouncement of Censure and Prayer**

*Book of Order, D-12.0104*

“Whereas, Richard Jeffrey Parker, has been found guilty of the offenses of committing adultery, violating his marriage and ordination vows, violating professional boundaries, and concealing relevant information from the Presbytery of Arkansas, and by such offenses has acted contrary to the teaching of Scripture; now, therefore, the Presbytery of Arkansas, in the name and by the authority of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), does now declare Jeffrey Parker temporarily excluded from the exercise of ordered ministry for a period of three years, during which time he must undergo counseling as outlined in the Alternative Form of Resolution agreed upon by him, and approved by the Presbytery’s Permanent Judicial Commission on February 27, 2018.

At the conclusion of three years from the date of the Presbytery of Arkansas’ Permanent Judicial Commission’s ruling, Richard Jeffrey Parker may apply to the Presbytery of Arkansas or its successor council for restoration according to the provisions of D-12.0104h of the *Book of Order*.”

Belden offered prayer for Parker, his family, the Mountainburg congregation which he recently served, and all those affected.

### **ORDER OF THE DAY: THEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION**

At 11:20 a.m. commissioners were led in a discussion of the core values and priorities adopted by the presbytery in 2014, then part of that restructuring process. General Presbyter and Temporary Stated Clerk led the discussion with commissioners around 23 tables participating, then every table’s scribe reported their ideas on the current list--what they would add, delete or change. This information will be given to Coordinating Team.

### **LUNCH BREAK**

Commissioners paused for lunch at 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

### **MINUTE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Minute announcements started at 1:10 p.m. and included: MWS Georgia Senor seeking information on how congregations are responding to concealed carry gun law, MWS Phil Butin inviting people on the Honduras mission trip, MWS Frank LeBlanc on Cotham Lectures, GP

Stewart Smith on continuing education opportunity on family systems with Doug Hester, RE Patty Minga inviting women to Cluster IV PW fall gathering at First, Jonesboro, MWS Jeremy Wilhelm on pastoral study leave at UofO and Montreat Collegiate Conference trip, MWS Lindy Vogado on community safety program “Be smart for kids,” MWS Becky Purcell on serving as a chaplain at Ferncliff, MWS Bill Branch HR to the Poor People’s Campaign across the country on AR capitol steps on Mondays at 2 p.m., and RE Ron David on Presbyterian Pilgrimage in October.

**BUSINESS RESUMED at 1:20 p.m.**

**COORDINATING TEAM**

Coordinating Team Moderator Ruth Hamilton gave the report.

**For Action:**

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

**Alternate Commissioner to General Assembly, RE Ron David, Mount Vernon Presbyterian, Pea Ridge, Class of 2018.** Nominations were called from the floor, and there was none. **ELECTION WAS APPROVED.**

**Future of the Church Ministry Area, MWS Valerie Bell, First, Rogers, Class of 2020**

Nominations were requested from the floor; there were none. **MOTION TO RATIFY AND ELECT WAS APPROVED.** Hamilton referred the body to the written report of CT actions as follows:

**For Information:**

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

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

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

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



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

The Coordinating Team approved the request of the Administrative Commission working with First Presbyterian Church, Ozark, to approve the execution of quit claim deeds on three parcels of property (the building of the First Presbyterian Church of Ozark, the manse, and a downtown storefront), held in trust for the PC(USA), for the sum of \$1.00. Due to various structural issues all three properties associated with First Presbyterian Church of Ozark represented net liabilities to the Presbytery rather than assets.

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

### **COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS**

Moderator MWS Robert Hadley, HR gave the report.

#### **For Action:**

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

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

Nominations were requested from the floor; there were none. **NOMINEES WERE ELECTED.**

**For Information:** The form to nominate someone in your congregation or volunteer yourself for service was also in the presbytery meeting packet.

### **REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON STAFF STRUCTURE**

Presbytery Moderator asked former moderator RE Ruth Hamilton to moderate this section of the meeting in the absence of vice moderator RE David Stricklin. MWS Roper, TF moderator, gave the report. Goal of the time today was to answer questions about their progress report. The TF felt they had only vague instructions when they were formed in Feb., 2017. They do not have a

staff plan ready because they wanted input from today's Theological Discussion and questions generated by their report today. Written report follows:

**We have looked:**

- At our own staffing structure, particularly noting the history of how we arrived at the staffing structure we currently use, and
- At other Presbyteries' staffing structures, looking for comparisons in terms of size and location.

**We have listened:**

- To previous staff, seeking insight gained from moving on to other positions and presbyteries;
- To current staff, listening to where they find holes that need to be filled;
- To pertinent ministry partners within the Presbytery, looking for strengths and weaknesses in our current structure; and
- To you, in particular the 16 of you who offered feedback after the last meeting.

**We have learned:**

- A full time General Presbyter is a must. There was clear consensus that combining the General (or Executive) Presbyter position with another position was not in the best interest of the Presbytery.
- Currently, our General Presbyter has work expectations that exceed what is reasonable to expect one person to accomplish. In particular, there is a need to find appropriate staff time to support the Committee on Ministry.
- Communication and Technology are areas that need more time and attention than they are getting right now. There is some interest in the Presbytery helping congregations use technology well to communicate, but our focus came back to the importance of the Presbytery itself modeling good use of technology.
- Youth Ministry must at least maintain current levels of staffing. There is energy around increasing the staff time allotted to Youth Ministry to allow for some staffing of Young Adult ministries (including ministries to college-aged young people) as well.
- There is a need for administrative help, both for the staff and for those contacting the office. One model we found was having a "Hospitality Team" of volunteers who could answer the door and phones at the office on a rotating basis and direct people who contacted the office to answers or to someone who could answer their questions.
- Our staffed resource center has been a blessing to us for so long, but with dwindling budgets, it does not seem realistic to expect a dedicated staff position to be devoted to it. Can this be handled by volunteers, even by a hospitality team? Can office staff help those who come by to check in/out existing resources?
- While availability of financial resources has not been the driving force of our work, it cannot be ignored. We have not been tasked to shrink the staff (or the budget for staff salaries), but we feel strongly called to be good stewards of the Presbytery's financial resources. This is not the time to drastically increase the size or the financial implications of the Presbytery staff.

- Julie Adkisson • David Dyer • Kelly Pearson • Leslie Roper

Discussion followed. MWS Gabbard asked if presbytery will have to wait for more visioning. Roper shared the frustration and invited a motion. CCE Jeannie Ford, longtime member of the Resource Center Advisory Board, raised concern about the future of the presbytery's Resource Center without any paid staff as unable to survive, said all should be concerned and should reflect further. Roper said they have looked at other presbyteries, might in the future look to volunteers or other staff to run the Resource Center, and TF needs more input. MWS Mainard O'Connell spoke in support of staffing the Resource Center. MWS Dari Rowen pointed out that two months have passed since input was requested. Gabbard made **MOTION THAT TF PREPARE A STAFFING STRUCTURE TO BE PRESENTED TO THE PRESBYTERY NO FEWER THAN 14 DAYS PRIOR TO THE OCTOBER 2018 MEETING OF THE BODY.** Motion was seconded.

In discussion of the motion, MWS Anne Russ asked what would be included in the structure. MWS Gabbard suggested job descriptions, a plan and to pass financials through several channels. MWS Ruskin Falls spoke of the Coordinating Team's TF on finances beyond the budget and the properties presbytery owns, suggesting we should be more self-critical and that he is leery of a small group making decision without review. MWS Brock pointed out that he himself had made the motion to form this TF which was to have reported in October, 2017, some eight months ago. MWS Michael Vinson believes that staffing and money conversations point to question on why we are here, the need to be clear on purpose, that leads to leadership clarity, and gathering community. Today's conversation captured enthusiasm, he said, and the last part of model is on management; he encouraged bigger conversations. MWS Kade Curry spoke on needing guidance for staff, was in favor of motion, and that we would not be waiting so long in the local church. RE Cyril Hollingsworth, moderator of COM, spoke against the motion, since there is a lot more going on through the COM in the background, and we need to take a realistic look. MWS Blake Brinegar had a question: who is responsible for carrying out the priorities listed today? Temporary Stated Clerk said they will go to the CT for "next steps," especially related to the theological discussion for the October meeting. RE Mike Szabo, a member of the original restructuring TF, who went through the process back then of development of the three core priorities, pointed out that we have not lived into these yet, and spoke in favor of the motion. GP Stewart Smith spoke in defense of the TF's work, shared that the synod communications contract will improve those needs, cautioned about making decisions just to suit a deadline and the need to give ourselves permission to operate differently than we have in the past. MWS Purcell spoke in favor of the motion, asked the names of TF members, assumed they will report back and that their report will be voted on in October. Rev. John Landis spoke about the "ready, aim, aim, aim" syndrome, saying you can always adjust to your decision later. MWS Steve Frazier spoke against the motion, citing the "ready, fire, aim" syndrome. RE Julie Adkisson, a member of the former restructuring TF and the current Staff TF, spoke in favor of the motion, saying the latter was close to identifying staff members and hopes to present list of staff positions in October. CT moderator Ruth Hamilton said she had recruited the TF members, promising them only seven months of work.

MWS Mainard O'Connell moved to call the question, which motion was seconded. MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION WAS APPROVED. Original motion was re-read, and voice vote was inconclusive. Tellers were asked to count the show of hands, and count was 64 in favor and 15 against. **MOTION WAS APPROVED.**

### **FUTURE OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY AREA**

Moderator RE Ted Belden gave the report, including updating the presbytery on the status of the upcoming new presbytery website which was displayed to the body (thanks to Anne Russ for encouraging its development), grants to churches to be evaluated (received 10 applications, totaling more than was budgeted for grants), the Gil Rendle book the FotC area members are reading, CREs and other elders willing to lead congregations, and invitation to attend The PLACE on August 4 at Second, Little Rock. Ted Belden told of a variety of social media that was displayed to publicize the presbytery and encouraged use of Zoom room video conferencing for meetings.

### **MINISTRIES WITH YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS AND CAMPUS MINISTRY AREA**

Moderator Brian Brock reported on their meeting on March 1 via Zoom video conferencing where they discussed raising the visibility of the youth and campus ministries. Three themes emerged from that meeting: Young Adult ministry is missional, Young Adult ministry frequently occurs outside the church walls, and the church must go to Young Adults. Ministry Area is asking for ideas from local congregations on what works and what does not work with Young Adults and plans to interview YAs on what they need and desire. They will also look at a dream budget to begin or expand existing ministries. The ministry area listed the presbytery-sponsored trips for youth and campus ministries this summer. Meeting by Zoom allowed that ministry area to meet in evening with no travel expense, ministry area looked at the future, and they will try to report at each presbytery meeting. What we do with youth, we do well. He asked to hear from those with ideas for young adults. Budget restraints are a hinderance, with the majority of their budget going to United Campus Ministry pastor. The trip in January to the Montreat Collegiate Conference is unfunded except for a travel grant from FotC.

### **COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

Former moderator and current member MWS Kade Curry gave the report in the absence of Moderator Jeff Price who is on sabbatical. He rejoiced that so many are preparing for ministry and asked congregations to pray for and communicate with them. Peg Falls-Corbitt from First, Conway was recognized as starting under care for CRE.

**For Action:**



Max Hill, Second, Little Rock

Keith Dove, Central, Russellville

Candidates – Second Phase of the Preparation for Ministry Process

Katherine Norwood, Second, LR

Stephen Moody, First, Little Rock

Molly DeWitt, Second, Little Rock

Jordan Akin, Second, Little Rock

Stacey Hammons; Second, Little Rock

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

David Clark, First, Heber Springs

Mary Jane Fisher, First, Jacksonville

Peg Falls-Corbitt, First, Conway

Carla Taylor, First, Huntsville

Allan Huddleston, First, Springdale

Approved to take the Written Final for CRE Status: David Clark, First Presbyterian, Heber Springs

Updated Interviews With:

Peg Falls-Corbitt, First, Conway; Keith Dove, Central, Russellville; Max Hill; Second, Little Rock

Recently Ordained: MWS Krista Denne’, MWS Cameron Highsmith, MWS Brittany Fiscus Van Rossum.

### COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Moderator RE Cyril Hollingsworth gave the report.

#### For Action:

1. **The Committee on Ministry moves that the Presbytery of Arkansas grant the Honorable Retirement of MWS Carol Clark effective December 31, 2017. MOTION WAS APPROVED.**
2. **The Committee on Ministry moves that the Presbytery of Arkansas recognize the Honorable Retirement of CRE Kelly Pearson as Commissioned Ruling Elder of First Presbyterian Church, Dardanelle, effective September 30, 2018.** Resourcing Director/Recording Clerk NiAnn Thompson spoke of Kelly’s ministry, then Pearson thanked the presbytery. **MOTION WAS APPROVED.**
3. **The Committee on Ministry moves that the Presbytery enroll MWSs David Reed, HR, and Linda Whitworth-Reed, HR, as members of the Presbytery of Arkansas and request that the Presbytery of John Calvin dismiss them.** (Statements of Faith in APPENDIX.) They were introduced, welcomed back, and spoke briefly. **MOTION TO ENROLL WAS APPROVED.**
4. **The Committee on Ministry moves that the Presbytery of Arkansas approve the call of MWS Steve Frazier as the Pastor of Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church of Fairfield Bay, effective April 15, 2018, with the following terms of call:**

EFFECTIVE SALARY		
Cash Salary	\$30,000.00	
Housing Allowance	9,000.00	
Utility Allowance	3,000.00	
Automobile Allowance	3,600.00	
Cell Phone Allowance	900.00	

	Health Club Allowance	660.00	
<b>TOTAL EFFECTIVE SALARY (Monthly = \$3,930)</b>			<b>\$47,160.00</b>
<b>ANNUAL ADDITIONAL BENEFITS:</b>			
	Pension Contribution (11%)	\$5,187.60	
	Medical Insurance (24.5%)	11,790.00	
	Death & Disability (1%)	471.60	
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL BENEFITS (Monthly=\$1454.10)</b>			<b>\$17,449.20</b>
<b>TOTAL FIXED COST (Monthly = \$5,384.10)</b>			<b>\$64,609.20</b>
<b>REQUIRED ANNUAL REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES:</b>			
	Continuing Education	\$1,200.00	
	Reimbursable Expenses – Misc.	1,200.00	
	Travel	3,600.00	
<b>ONE TIME EXPENSES</b>			
	Customary Moving Expenses	\$5,000.00	

**OTHER BENEFITS:**

Paid Vacation 4 Weeks, Paid Continuing Ed 2 weeks, Paid Sick or Parental Leave 6 weeks

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

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

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

<b>EFFECTIVE SALARY</b>		
	Cash Salary	\$55,000
	Board of Pensions (37%)	20,350
	Housing Allowance	\$12,000

<b>TOTAL EFFECTIVE SALARY</b>			<b>\$87,350</b>
<b>REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES</b>			
	Auto @ 53.5/mile	\$1,000	
	Business/professional expenses	\$1,904	
	Continuing Education	\$1,500	
	SECA Supplement (up to 50%)	\$3,596	
			<b>\$8,000</b>

**OTHER BENEFITS:**

Paid Vacation, 4 Weeks; Paid Continuing Education, 2 weeks; Paid Parental Leave, 6 weeks

In the 7<sup>th</sup> year of service, the congregation shall provide for a three-month Sabbatical Leave, reviewed and approved by the Committee on Ministry, continuing the salary and benefits for that period, and providing for pulpit supply. **MOTION WAS APPROVED.** Kurtz was introduced and welcomed, gave greetings. People from Central church stood.

**Necrology:**

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

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Jim Fleming.

**For Information:**

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

<b>Ministers 15 Years</b>	<b>Ministers 30 Years</b>
MWS Philip Blackburn	MWS Robert "Chip" Hatcher
MWS Tasha Blackburn	
MWS Blake Brinegar	<b>Ministers 35 Years</b>
	MWS Paul Fulks

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

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

**For Action:**

6. Motion to approve the following to serve on the Administrative Commission to install MWS Steve Frazier as the Pastor of Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church in Fairfield Bay, Arkansas, on Sunday, July 8, 2018 at 3:00 pm, and the offering recipient to be the Vera Lloyd Home:

**MWS Carol Clark, HR, to Charge the Pastor  
RE Peg Falls-Corbitt of First Presbyterian Church, Conway  
MWS Robert Hadley, HR, to Charge the Congregation  
RE Vernie Holdman of Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church, Fairfield Bay  
RE Wendell Phillips of Park Hill Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock  
RE Scott Rezabek of First Presbyterian Church, Heber Springs  
MWS Stewart Smith to Moderate, Preach, and Propound the Constitutional Questions. MOTION WAS APPROVED.**

7. Motion to approve the following to serve on the Administrative Commission to install MWS Steven Kurtz as the Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas, on Sunday, June 24, 2018 at 4:00 pm, and the offering recipient to be United Campus Ministry at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville:

**MWS Young Doo Kim, at-large  
MWS Rita Wilson Perry, HR  
MWS Leslie Roper to Moderate, Preach, and Propound the Constitutional Questions  
RE Ann Smith of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith  
MWS Stewart Smith to Charge the Pastor  
RE Margaret Sparkman of Central Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith**

**CRE Ed Wilkinson of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Greenwood  
MOTION WAS APPROVED.**

**For Information:**

1. The effective date for MWS Cindy Saul as Stated Supply at the Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals is July 1, 2018. (See item #1 in "For Information.")

**ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY AREA**

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

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

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

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

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

Administration is holding budget hearings for 2019 on Thursday, August 23, 2018. An email was sent to all moderators asking each ministry to think about the Core Priorities, and the meeting will probably be via video and/or telephone conference. Administration is consistently reviewing the financial report of the presbytery's income and expenses for 2018.

General Presbyter Stewart Smith and CCE Jeannie Ford offered a poem in praise as the retirement of RE NiAnn Thompson from the presbytery staff approaches on October 1. Thompson replied with gratitude and parting words. GP Smith asked that the following resolution be read into the presbytery minutes:

**A Resolution offered to the Presbytery of Arkansas on the impending retirement of NiAnn Thompson After Twenty Years of Faithful Service to The Presbytery of Arkansas**

*Whereas NiAnn Thompson has served faithfully for the past twenty years in the Presbytery of Arkansas; and*

*Whereas her work as Director of the Resource Center has assisted numerous pastors, educators, teachers, youth leaders, and congregations; and*

*Whereas her work as Assistant Stated Clerk and Recording Clerk has provided accurate recordings of meetings and efficient management of presbytery information; and*

*Whereas her editing and proofreading skills have helped numerous committee moderators and provided well written monthly communication to the Presbytery through The Banner; and*

*Whereas she has assisted many Christian Educators through the certification process and has been a leader and mentor to the Christian Educators of the Presbytery; and*

*Whereas she has faithfully resourced several committees of the presbytery providing wisdom, counsel and encouragement; and*

*Whereas she has patiently answered countless inquiries and given guidance and encouraged many church members and leaders; and*

*Whereas she has been a valuable colleague to members of the presbytery and presbytery staff; and*

*Whereas she has fulfilled her duties and willingly taken on additional duties with grace, humor, patience and compassion; and*

*Whereas NiAnn has willingly and cheerfully given us a model of Christ-like servanthood and a love for Jesus Christ and the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Presbytery of Arkansas;*

*Be it resolved that the Presbytery of Arkansas, this day, June 2, 2018, gives thanks to Almighty God for the gifts given to NiAnn Thompson for mutual ministry, and gives thanks to her for all she has done for the Staff, Committees, Congregations, Pastors, Elders, Educators, Youth and all associated with the Presbytery of Arkansas, and wishes her continued blessings and health and vigor, laughter and peace, in her labor and in her leisure, and many great times with her family and grandchildren and great grandchildren, as she continues in service to her Lord and with her church family and colleagues.*

**MISSION OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY AREA**

Moderator CRE Kelly Pearson gave the report, the written portion of which follows.

The Mission of the Church Ministry Area, which encompasses Christian Education along with “mission,” is pleased to have sponsored “The P.L.A.C.E. NW” (Presbytery Leadership Academy for Congregational Enrichment) on April 7, 2018, held at First United Presbyterian Church of

Fayetteville, the venue attracted primarily individuals from the Northwest Arkansas congregations. The evaluations completed by participants largely held praise. A few suggestions were submitted, as: 'an earlier beginning time would afford having more time allotted to the workshops.'

Following the example of The P.L.A.C.E. NW, The P.L.A.C.E. Central will be on Saturday, August 4, 2018, at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock. This will be the third time for Second to host this event. We know their hospitality to be equal to that of FUPC, Fayetteville. Especially appreciated is Jeannie Ford's coordination as a Christian Educator, and on staff at Second. The difference this year is there are no meal reservations or meals to coordinate. Dismissal will be at 1:00 p. m., so persons may plan on a late lunch of their choosing. Packets are being made available at the registration table for every congregation.

This second event will provide some, not all, of the same workshop options, though there may be different presenters. However, since there were/are more options than the three choices one chooses, if having attended the first one, attending again in August should pose no difficulty in hearing new information. Some of the workshops are: "Growing Young: Best Practices for Helping Young People Find a Home in Your Congregation"; the "Purple Church"; "Church Giving in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"; "Transformative Conversations"; "Great Ends of the Church"; "Board of Pensions' News," to list some.

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

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

Continue to pray for the ministries of our congregations. And never hesitate to contact me to see if a Session-approved ministry may be able to receive financial assistance from the presbytery. Contact can be made to [ktpearson@suddenlink.net](mailto:ktpearson@suddenlink.net). No oral reports from Disaster or Presbyterian Women, but written reports were pointed out.

#### **SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

The written report of this Sub-Committee of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area follows:  
**For Information:**

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, an emergency meeting of the DPRS was held, via conference call, to report upon and discuss action for the EF-1 tornado that struck Mountainburg, AR, on Friday night, April 13<sup>th</sup>. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to send \$1,000 to Mountainburg Presbyterian Church in Mountainburg to assist people in the community that were affected.

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

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

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

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

#### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

The written report of Presbyterian Women is in the APPENDIX.

#### **SYNOD OF THE SUN**

Commissioner to Presbytery RE Emily Laurel reported (written report is in the APPENDIX). She highlighted technology and communications work of the synod to give grants to the presbyteries and mentioned that synod gives scholarships to attend events and to those training for ministry. Events coming up are in Norman, OK where Arkansas' own commissioner to synod MWS Elizabeth Gabbard will be installed as synod moderator and the "Imagine" event in November.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was none. Evaluations of the presbytery meeting were solicited.

#### **REPORT OF THE LEAVES OF ABSENCE COMMITTEE**

Temporary Stated Clerk Belden reported for the Leaves of Absence Committee on attendance: 51 MWS; 43 REs from congregations, 11 REs at large, 8 other church professionals, 31 visitors, 5 corresponding members for a grand total of 149 people who signed in.

**COMMITMENT TO GOD’S CALL: REFERRALS**

There were none.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

MWS Rebecca Spooner gave the closing prayer, holding up the joys and concerns of the presbytery.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment came at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

NiAnn Thompson

Recording Clerk

Leslie Belden

Temporary Stated Clerk

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