

**Minutes of the One Hundred Forty-Third Stated Meeting of
The Presbytery of Arkansas**

March 6-7, 2020

Call to Order/Opening Prayer

The 143rd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was called to order with a call to worship, prayer, and the lighting of the Christ candle in Brown Chapel of Lyon College, Batesville, at 6:33 p.m. by outgoing Moderator Ruling Elder David Stricklin on Friday, March 6, 2020.

Worshipful Work

Report of Enrollment/Declaration of a Quorum

Stated Clerk MWS Leslie Smith Belden declared a **quorum present** with 33 Ministers of the Word and Sacrament (MWS), and 21 Ruling Elders (RE) from 21 churches, for a grand total of 54 voting commissioners at the gavel. The quorum for Stated Meetings of the Presbytery being “20 Ruling Elders and 20 Ministers of the Word and Sacrament with at least 20 congregations represented overall.” (Policy amended at the 2/10/18 Stated Meeting) The record of total attendance is included in the Appendix as Section A – Exhibit I.

Adoption of the Docket

Stated Clerk MWS Belden moved the adoption of the docket. The motion was seconded, and the **docket was approved as printed.**

Appointment of Tellers and Leaves of Absence Committee

Moderator RE Stricklin appointed the following tellers: RE Peg Falls-Corbitt, First, Conway; Mary Jane Fischer, First, Jacksonville; Tom Verdery, First United, Fayetteville; and MWS Leslie Bethell Roper. Appointed as members of the Leaves of Absence Committee were RE Julie Agee Gillaspay, First, Conway, and MWS Elizabeth Brinegar.

**Seating of Corresponding Members and
Granting Privilege of the Floor/Voice**

Seated as **corresponding members with privilege of the floor and voice** were MWS **Diane Moffett of Salem Presbytery; MWS Lemuel Garcia of Mission Presbytery; and MWS Kris Crawford of Grace Presbytery. Rev. Stan Larson of ELCA from Shreveport, LA also signed in.**

The Stated Clerk **moved that privilege of the floor and voice be granted to: Rev. John Landis, a member in good standing of the American Baptist denomination serving in a Temporary Pastoral Relationship at First, Pine Bluff; United Methodist minister Rev.**

David Hutchinson, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Lyon; Candidate Jocelyn Wildhack, under care of Middle Tennessee Presbytery; Rev. Elijah Walker, pastor of Solomon's Porch, Jonesboro (1001 New Worshiping Communities, apprentice); RE Joel Gill of First Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock/Argenta and Executive Director of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center; Presbytery Youth Advisory Delegates; Presbytery Staff Brianne Christiansen and Julie Price; Emma Gillaspay, Allison Lundy, Elizabeth Daniel, Geneva McCauley, all students at Lyon. Motion was seconded and approved.

Welcome to First-Time Commissioners

Moderator RE Stricklin asked first-time commissioners to stand and wave, and the body was pleased to welcome six first-time elder commissioners.

Introduction of Presbytery Staff and Officers

Moderator RE Stricklin announced this will be delayed until the report of the General Presbyter.

Welcome from the Host

United Methodist minister Rev. David Hutchinson, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Lyon, welcomed commissioners and guests to Lyon College, and cited their Presbyterian history and connections. Rev. Hutchinson told the body that Lyon President King would join the group later in the evening.

Report of the Staff Search Committee

Committee member MWS Georgia Senor reported on behalf of MWS Steve Hancock, Moderator. She listed members of the committee, which was tasked with filling five part-time positions, three of which were filled in 2019 by the election of Stated Clerk Leslie Belden, and employment of Presbytery Administrator Kim Palmer and Presbytery Developer of Ministries to, for, and with Young People Brianne Christiansen. The Search Committee filled the final two positions last month: Presbytery Builder MWS Carol Clark, HR and RE Julie Price Presbytery Connector. Both are Little Rock residents. Senor said that the Search Committee is excited to see the future, that they have enjoyed working together, and thanked the Presbytery for this assignment.

Senor moved that the Presbytery dismiss the Staff Search Committee with thanks. Motion was seconded and approved.

Consent Agenda

Stated Clerk MWS Belden drew the commissioners' attention to the consent agenda, which included the following motions:

- 1. Motion to approve the minutes of the 142nd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, October 4-5, 2019, held at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Ferndale, Arkansas. (distributed in a separate packet)**
- 2. Motion to receive the minutes as the report of the Administrative Commission to install MWS Emily Hook as Pastor of Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church in Forrest City on November 17, 2019 at 3:00 pm, and to dismiss them with thanks.**
- 3. Motion to receive the minutes as the report of the Administrative Commission to install MWS Susan Arnold as Pastor of Wynne Presbyterian Church in Wynne on November 3, 2019 at 3:00 pm, and to dismiss them with thanks.**

Stated Clerk MWS Belden **moved the adoption of the consent agenda. Motion was seconded and approved.**

Report of the General Presbyter

General Presbyter MWS Stewart Smith spoke on the work of several Administrative Commissions. At their requests, First, Stuttgart closed; First, Lonoke has scheduled their last service for March 15; AC for First, North Little Rock took original jurisdiction of the church and scheduled second Sunday afternoon services. He explained that the Presbytery has become a property manager. The Stuttgart and Lonoke properties will be placed on the market soon. Smith explained that the ACs went to the Future of the Church Ministry Area, since they might incur expenses, and asked for permission to borrow up to \$25,000 from Presbytery's money market funds for expenses of all three churches. All three churches have money in the bank, and assets will be put back into presbytery's account when property is sold.

Smith thanked churches for supporting the Presbytery budget and explained that the Presbytery will surely need that support with a full staff. He asked Sessions for continued support with this larger staff.

As Moderator Stricklin had announced, Smith introduced the following staff: Stated Clerk MWS Leslie Smith Belden; Presbytery Administrator Kim Palmer; newly employed Presbytery Connector RE Julie Price and Presbytery Builder MWS Carol Clark, HR; and Presbytery Developer of Ministries to, for, and with Young People Brianne Christiansen. Also introduced were volunteer officers: RE Bob Boehmler, Presbytery Treasurer; MWS Marion Humphrey, outgoing Vice Moderator/incoming Moderator of Presbytery; CCE NiAnn Thompson, Recording Clerk; RE David Stricklin, Moderator of CT/Presbytery; RE Julie Agee Gillaspay, incoming Vice Moderator. Photos were taken of volunteer and paid staff. Smith recalled his initial uneasiness about the staff design of five part-timers, but now with the quality of the incredible applicants he rejoiced at the outcome. He expressed thanks to the search committee. New Presbytery Connector Julie Price brought greetings, noted how the position "called to her" and her hopes to connect and support congregations. New Presbytery Builder Carol Clark spoke of her love of prayer, passion for church growth and vitality, excitement, and made an offer to preach around the Presbytery as needed, thanking Stewart, and shared that she is eager to get to know more leaders.

Report of the Stated Clerk

Stated Clerk MWS Belden drew the Presbytery's attention to her report in the packet, explaining that an additional request for permission to sell property had come across her desk since the posting of the docket, and made the following motions:

1. **Motion to grant permission for Wynne Presbyterian Church to sell their manse, a request which was approved at a duly constituted congregational meeting on January 26, 2020.** The property is located at 27 Shannon Drive, is on .999 acres, and the assessed value was \$200,000 on September 16, 2013. **Motion was seconded and approved.**
2. **Motion to grant permission for Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, to sell a house that was gifted to the church, located at 404 S Martin Street, Little Rock, AR 72205, the request for which was approved at a duly constituted congregational meeting on January 26, 2020.** The Session is in the process of having the property appraised. **Motion was seconded and approved.**
3. **Motion to grant permission for Spring River Presbyterian Church, Hardy to sell their manse, a request for which was approved at a duly constituted congregational meeting on March 1, 2020.** They stated that the members no longer have the physical or financial resources to maintain the manse, and the proceeds of the sale could help them in their ministry. **Motion was seconded and approved.**
4. **Motion to confirm the 2020 Ferncliff Board of Directors as listed in Section B – Addendum of the Additional Reports, Financials and Fliers packet. The motion was seconded and approved.** The Ferncliff Board of Directors is listed in the Appendix as Section B – Exhibit I.

Stated Clerk Belden told the Presbytery that the Committee on Nominations had asked her to present a nominee to fill an immediate vacancy. **Committee on Nominations moves that MWS Maggie Alsup, Lyon College, be elected to fill the vacancy of Synod commissioner in the Class of 2020, created by the resignation of MWS Elizabeth Brinegar.** Presbytery Moderator Stricklin asked if there were nominations from the floor. There being none, the **motion was approved.**

Stated Clerk Belden then reminded the Presbytery of the priorities of the Presbytery of Arkansas, which are:

1. Building strong congregations that faithfully and effectively share the gospel through mission and ministry

2. Connecting congregations, resources and expertise to support life giving practices in congregations and fellowships
3. Developing and supporting ministries with youth and young adults, including collegiate and campus ministry

Stated Clerk Belden thanked Clerks of Session for their commitment in filling out their statistical reports. She explained that Clerks may no longer enter their reports and that this coming Monday, March 9, 2020, will be the last day that Belden may enter or edit data. As of this meeting, 55 of the presbytery's 76 congregations had completed reports.

Stated Clerk Belden again referred to the information in the packet, noting that three congregations of the Presbytery of Arkansas were dissolved in 2019, reducing the number of congregations in the Presbytery from 79 to 76. Congregations dissolved included:

- Cleburne Avenue, West Helena, 6/6/19 (worship service yet to be scheduled)
- First Presbyterian Church, Stuttgart, 11/3/19 (worship service held on 1/12/20)
- First Presbyterian Church, Lonoke, 11/10/19 (worship service will be held on 3/15/20)

Belden asked that the Presbytery observe a moment of silent prayer in thanksgiving to God for the life and ministry of these three congregations and the saints who worshipped and served there.

Belden shared that the minister members of the Presbytery grew in 2019 from 141 to 142. About half are Honorably Retired. She encouraged commissioners to review the nominations form of the Committee on Nominations and consider nominating themselves or others from their congregations to serve on the various groups of the Presbytery serving congregations. She called their attention to the form in the "Additional Reports, Financials, and Fliers" packet, which includes a short description of each work group of the Presbytery and which is included in the Appendix as Section B – Exhibit II.

She then encouraged members of the Presbytery to review the other information included in the packet under the Report of the Stated Clerk, which included the following:

Administrative Commissions

- First, Clarksville Administrative Commission charged with selling the property – RE Ted Belden and MWS Clare Kelley, HR, Co-Moderators
- First, Little Rock Administrative Commission – RE Cyril Hollingsworth, Moderator
- Northwest Arkansas Hispanic Ministry Administrative Commission – MWS Phil Butin, Moderator
- Pine Bluff Administrative Commission – RE Ruth Hamilton, Moderator
- Standing AC for the Dissolution of Churches – RE Leah Shell, Moderator
- Washington County Property Administrative Commission – RE Ted Belden, Moderator

- First, North Little Rock/Argenta – MWS Carol Clark, HR, Moderator

Congregational Reports and Reviews

Belden thanked the Clerks of Session who submitted Statistical Reports to the Office of the General Assembly on time, explaining that the Presbytery of Arkansas is dependent on this information so that the Committee on Nominations can attempt to align presbytery leadership with the membership of the Presbytery in terms of diversity: gender representation, racial/ethnic representation, age group representation, etc. She went on to say that membership numbers also need to be updated annually so that per-capita amount is only paid on true membership.

She also thanked Clerks of Sessions, Moderators, and Office Staff who sent in contact information changes to the Stated Clerk. She shared that the ability of the Presbytery and its congregations to communicate well is dependent on accurate contact information, so she asked congregations to communicate any changes in contact information to the Stated Clerk at lesliebeld@aol.com.

One final note was that records reviews will be conducted differently this year. Belden thanked Clerks and former Clerks of Session who have agreed to serve as “regional reviewers.” Clerks of Session should look forward to receiving information from the Stated Clerk about whom to get their records to this spring and summer so that they may be reviewed.

Stated Clerk Belden then requested of the Moderator that MWS Lemuel Garcia be granted time to speak so that Garcia could make presentations to congregations of the Presbytery of Arkansas who had given to all four special denominational offerings. Each offering is connected to a season and ways that congregations come together: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, Peacemaking and Global Witness, and the Christmas Joy Offering. Garcia read the certificate list of “Four for Four” congregations and recognized the following representatives: Holiday Island, Mountainburg, First of Malvern, First of Marianna, First of Bentonville, Little Rock churches First, Grace, Pulaski Heights and Second, First United of Fayetteville, Central of Fort Smith, First of Hot Springs, Westminster of Hot Springs, First of Dardanelle, First of Conway, First of Jacksonville and First of Jonesboro.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer RE Bob Boehmler addressed the Presbytery, drawing attention to his printed Treasurer’s Report that was a handout on the registration table. His remarks included noting a favorable variance last year while having several staff vacancies. He noted the continued consistent giving of congregations to Synod and General Assembly. He reported on Presbytery investments, including the recent volatility of the stock market and the Presbytery’s increased balance. He explained that about 25% of Presbytery’s expenses are covered by investment income. No questions were asked.

Moderator Stricklin then asked outgoing Vice Moderator MWS Marion Humphrey to assume the duties of the moderator so that Stricklin could give the report of the Coordinating Team as its new moderator.

Report of the Coordinating Team

Moderator RE Stricklin addressed the Presbytery and made the following motion:

Motion to concur with the Coordinating Team's election of the following to fill immediate vacancies:

Permanent Judicial Commission, Class of 2025: MWS Rita Wilson Perry, HR (region 2)

Alternate Young Adult Advisory Delegate to 2020 General Assembly, or Delegate for 2022: Mr. Connor Button, First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville (region 1)

Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Class of 2020: CRE Susie Wright of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Hot Springs

Humphrey asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none, **the motion was approved.**

Stricklin then **moved that the Presbytery concur with the Coordinating Team's election of the following to serve on the Committee on Nominations:**

Immediate vacancies in the Class of 2021:

MWS Krista Denne'; First, Clarksville (region 2)

RE Jeff Roper; First, Batesville (region 4)

Regular vacancies in the Class of 2022:

CRE Chuck Olson; Memorial, Atkins - 2nd term (region 2)

RE/CRE Mary Shaw; Elkins, Federated (regions 1 and 3)

At-large MWS Lindy Vogado; Second, Little Rock (region 3)

Moderator of Committee on Nominations, Class of 2020:

CRE Chuck Olson (region 2)

Presbytery Vice Moderator Humphrey asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none, **the motion was approved.**

Coordinating Team Moderator Stricklin moved to the next business before the Presbytery, which was to act on proposed amendments to the Presbytery of Arkansas' Ministry Manual. Stricklin explained that these amendments were included in a separate packet posted on the Presbytery's website, and that they must be voted on as individual parts as each section has a different requirement on what type of majority it takes to pass amendments. He also explained that the Coordinating Team has proposed each part as a whole and that the amendments are to be voted up or down without amendment. He drew the Presbytery's attention to the addendum to the Coordinating Team's report that can be found in the "Additional Reports, Financials, and Fliers" packet explaining the error in Part I: Organization and Structure. The total number of proposed members of the Coordinating

Team is twelve and not ten, so that there are six at-large members rather than what is listed as four.

Moderator Stricklin moved the approval of amendments to Part I: Organization and Structure. Moderator Stricklin advised the presbytery that the Organization and Structure section of the Presbytery's Ministry Manual requires a 3/5 majority (60%) to approve amendments. He then asked Stated Clerk Leslie Belden to speak to the motion. She explained amendments would simplify the document, changing five ministry areas to support the three priorities of the Presbytery and change group names to committees. There were no questions. **Motion was approved.**

Moderator Stricklin moved the approval of amendments to Part II: Ministry and Committee Duties. Moderator Stricklin advised the presbytery that the Ministry and Committee Duties section of the Presbytery's Ministry Manual requires a simple majority (51%) to approve amendments. He then asked Stated Clerk Leslie Belden to speak to the motion. She explained the amendments would reduce the number of people and duties on each committee. **Motion was approved.**

Moderator Stricklin moved the approval of amendments to Part III: Standing Rules. Moderator Stricklin advised the presbytery that the Standing Rules section of the Presbytery's Ministry Manual requires a 3/5 majority (60%) to approve amendments. **Motion was approved.** The amendments to the Presbytery of Arkansas' Ministry Manual are included in the Appendix as Section C – Exhibit I.

Moderator Stricklin then drew the presbytery's attention to the information in the packet under "For Information" in the Coordinating Team's report, which included the following:

1. The Coordinating Team will dedicate time at their next meeting to review how the priorities of the Presbytery of Arkansas are being addressed. Those priorities are:
 - 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; and
 - Developing and supporting ministries with youth and young adults, including collegiate and campus ministry.
2. The Coordinating Team elected an Administrative Commission to work with First Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock (Argenta), details of which are included in the Appendix as Section C – Exhibit II
3. RE Sarah Keith Bolden resigned her position on the Administrative Commission to serve as legal counsel and the Coordinating Team elected RE Joel Gill of First Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock (Argenta) to fill that position.

4. The Coordinating Team accepted the resignation of MWS Dari Rowen from the Administrative Commission working with congregations wishing to be dissolved and elected MWS Emmett Powers, HR, to fill the vacancy.
5. The Coordinating Team approved funding (transportation, registration fees, lodging, and meals not covered by registration) for eligible Commissioned Ruling Elders, or those in training to become a CRE (if eligible), to attend the Synod's training event for CREs.
6. The Coordinating Team approved allocating money market funds from the sale and closure of prior churches for no more than \$25,000, at this time, for the care of Argenta, North Little Rock for the use by decisions of the Administrative Commission.

Vice Moderator MWS Marion Humphrey recessed the Presbytery for worship at 7:30.

Worship Service with Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Worship began at 7:40 p.m. The worship bulletin can be found in the Appendix as the last document. Outgoing Presbytery Moderator Stricklin preached and MWS Maggie Alsup, Lyon students Allison Mundy, Emma Gillaspay, Payne Moser, and Sabrina Denmon led worship. General Presbyter Smith and MWS Dr. Diane Moffett celebrated the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper served by intinction. Dr. Russell Stinson was organist and James M. Bell directed the Pipe Band. MWS Marion Humphrey was installed as moderator of the presbytery for 2020 and RE Julie Agee Gillaspay, First, Conway, as vice moderator with CRE Claire Rhodes charging Humphrey and RE Cyril Hollingsworth charging the presbytery. Rev. David Hutchison made the call to offering.

Following the evening worship service those attending were invited to a reception hosted by Lyon College in Bevens Music Room where Lyon president Dr. Joseph King welcomed commissioners. Council recessed until Saturday morning at 9:00 am, when the worshipful work of the Presbytery would resume.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020 Call Back to Order and Worshipful Work

Newly installed Presbytery Moderator MWS Marion Humphrey called the meeting back to order, relighting the Christ candle in Edwards Commons at 9:02 a.m. on Saturday, March 7. The meeting began with worship led by Candidate for Ministry Jocelyn Wildhack as part of her examination for ordination, accompanied by guitar music.

Stated Clerk MWS Belden announced that the worship offering from Friday night totaled \$1,204 to benefit the Presbytery of Arkansas Scholarship at Lyon. She also informed commissioners that if they need any of the handouts they may pick them up from the corner table. Stated Clerk MWS Belden gave logistics for the space of meeting and announced that lunch tickets may still be purchased.

Report of the Committee on Ministry

RE Cyril Hollingsworth, Moderator of the Committee on Ministry, gave the report. He noted the report of the COM in both the main packet and in the handout that had been on the registration table. In answer to a question from the previous stated meeting, he said that the temporary presbytery membership time period corresponds to the length of service in temporary pastoral relationships.

Motion to enroll MWS Kris Crawford as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and request her dismissal from Grace Presbytery. Moderator Hollingsworth pointed the Presbytery to Kris Crawford's Statement of Faith, which is included in the Appendix as Section D – Exhibit I. He noted that she was approved by the Committee on Ministry to serve as the Transitional Pastor of Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock and that she is a former member of this presbytery. Youth Advisory Delegates were asked to advise commissioners on this motion. Their vote was unanimous. Commissioners then voted. **Motion was approved.** Crawford stood and was welcomed.

Moderator Hollingsworth **moved to proceed with the examination of Candidate Jocelyn Wildhack for ordination as chaplain at Ferncliff and Pastor of Ferncliff's Forest Church, a 1001 Worshipping Community.** Hollingsworth pointed the Presbytery to Wildhack's Statement of Faith, which is included in the packet as Section D – Exhibit II, and explained that she is under care of Middle Tennessee Presbytery. Youth advisory delegates voted to proceed unanimously. **Motion was approved.** RE Hollingsworth asked her to come forward and speak of her Christian faith, her spiritual journey and the role of doubt. **Motion to sustain the faith and commitment portion of the exam.** MWS Brad Rito asked a question on her faith statement on the role of the Holy Spirit in joy and hope. She answered that she explained it to a child as an imaginary friend always present in play and when life is going well. RE Peg Falls Corbitt asked a question on her faith statement, specifically on where God's presence is in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. She answered that we sometimes forget those who are unseen such as the host and originator of the meal. **Motion was seconded.** Youth Advisory Delegates advised commissioners with unanimous affirmative vote. Commissioners then voted. **Motion was approved.**

Hollingsworth made a **motion to sustain the sermon portion of Candidate Wildhack's exam, preached earlier. Motion was seconded.** There was no discussion. Youth Advisory Delegates were asked to advise commissioners on this motion. Their vote was unanimous. Commissioners then voted. **Motion was approved.**

Hollingsworth made a **motion to sustain the printed portion of the faith statement. Motion was seconded.** There was no discussion. Youth approved unanimously. Commissioners then voted. **Motion was approved.**

Hollingsworth called on COM member MWS Susan Arnold who asked the exam question in the area of Bible, for the candidate to explain how she engages with scripture in teaching and preaching from apocalyptic texts (Daniel, Ezekiel, Revelation) to demystify those images.

Wildhack answered that the texts invite wondering what the life of the authors looked like and the witness of magical encounters of God with the world in the past and in the future. She invites the expansion of one's mind, such as a visual depiction with middle schoolers as a novel way to wonder at this God breaking into the world. From the floor MWS Brad Rito asked, in regard to violent scripture such as the Sodom story, how to reconcile one with the other. She answered with an unresolved theodicy question and stated that she believes in a God that she does not understand. **Motion to sustain the Bible portion of the exam. Motion was seconded.** Youth Advisory Delegates were asked to advise commissioners on this motion. Their vote was unanimous. Commissioners then voted. **Motion was approved.**

MWS Leslie Roper asked the question in the area of Reformed Theology about the candidate's theology of church and how that will impact her ministry at Ferncliff. She answered by explaining that in a game she designed attendees played with "churchy words" that are not seen at Forest Church, such as pews, an organ, and stained-glass windows, followed by a discussion about what makes a church a church. This new venture prompts her to recall God as God of welcome and what a barrierless church would look like as a group of people worshipping together, disciple-making and as "family." MWS Phil Butin asked Wildhack how she approaches the issue of death and life after death. She answered that the eternal God promises eternal time with God, and of her memories of celebrations of life at memorial services her parents preached. She hopes in the resurrection and finds her comfort with that. **Motion to sustain the Reformed Theology portion of the exam. Motion was seconded.** Youth Advisory Delegates were asked to advise commissioners on this motion. Their vote was unanimous. Commissioners then voted. **Motion was approved.**

MWS DC Adams asked a question in the area of Worship and Sacraments: given the individualism of American society, what is the importance of the corporate prayer of confession? Candidate Wildhack answered that a follower of Christ needs to admit when he is wrong and has done wrong and there is always a place to invite a follower to admit she is not God, saying one is sorry and to hear God's answer of forgiveness as part of disciple-learning. Adams further asked how Wildhack will encourage the group to pray corporately. She said that the group develops its own norms and practices to face God and interact with God, including conversations at a new church about the world's happenings. **Motion to sustain the Worship and Sacraments portion of the exam. Motion was seconded.** Youth Advisory Delegates were asked to advise commissioners on this motion. Their vote was unanimous. Commissioners then voted. **Motion was approved.**

Hollingsworth asked the question in the area of polity. If the Candidate were asked to serve as moderator of another congregation's Session, how would she do that? Wildhack replied she loves the corporate decision-making in the PC(USA), and the Session moderator provides space for the Holy Spirit to move among the Session. Hollingsworth asked how Presbyterian polity will inform her in her Ferncliff position. She said that polity is in her blood and would help her manage the flow of worship. **Motion to sustain polity portion of the exam. Motion was seconded.** Youth Advisory Delegates were asked to advise commissioners on this motion. Their vote was unanimous. Commissioners then voted. **Motion was approved.**

The Committee on Ministry report was suspended to allow for the Order of the Day.

Order of the Day at 10:05

Order of the Day: Theological Discussion - Introduction to the Matthew 25 Vision

RE Diane Moffett, Executive Director & President of the Presbyterian Mission Agency
Discussion of two questions at tables concluded the Order of the Day.

Committee on Ministry (resumed)

The Committee on Ministry report resumed at 11:13 a.m. with Committee Moderator Hollingsworth. **Motion to sustain the exam of Candidate Jocelyn Wildhack to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament as a whole. Motion was seconded.** Youth Advisory Delegates were asked to advise commissioners on this motion. Their vote was unanimous. Commissioners then voted. **Motion was approved.**

Candidate Wildhack was escorted from the room. **Motion to approve Candidate Jocelyn Wildhack for ordination to the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament. Motion was seconded.** There was no discussion. Youth Advisory Delegates were asked to advise commissioners on this motion. Their vote was unanimous. Commissioners then voted. **Motion was approved.** Candidate Wildhack returned to applause. **Motion to enroll her as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas. Motion was seconded.** Youth Advisory Delegates were asked to advise commissioners on this motion. Their vote was unanimous. Commissioners then voted. **Motion was approved.**

Hollingsworth then made the following motion on behalf of the Committee: **Motion to approve the following to serve on the Administrative Commission to ordain Candidate Jocelyn Wildhack to the validated ministry of Chaplain of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center and Pastor of Ferncliff Forest Church, a 1001 Worshipping Community, on April 19, 2020 at 2:30 pm, with the offering designated to the Ferncliff Forest Church:**

- **MWS Marion Humphrey, Allison Memorial Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, to Moderate and Propound the Constitutional Questions;**
- **RE Joel Gill, First Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock/Argenta;**
- **MWS David Gill, HR, Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock to Charge the Congregation;**
- **RE Peg Falls-Corbitt, First Presbyterian Church of Conway;**
- **MWS Jen Evans, Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock to Charge the Pastor;**
- **MWS Stewart Smith, Presbytery of Arkansas;**
- **RE Katie Kasten, Trinity Presbyterian Church of Little Rock;**

and Rev. Claudia Aguilar Rubalcava, First Mennonite Church of Denver, Colorado, to sit with the commission and preach.

Youth Advisory Delegates were asked to advise commissioners on this motion. Their vote was unanimous. Commissioners then voted. **Motion was approved.** Ferncliff Director RE

Joel Gill, Friends of Ferncliff, and Jocelyn's family were recognized. Presbytery Staff member Brianne Christiansen prayed for her.

Hollingsworth **moved that the Presbytery accept the examination for ordination of Candidate Jordan Akin by Middle Kentucky Presbytery, on February 14, 2020, and conduct the ordination service on their behalf on March 29, 2020 at Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock.** Akin has been called as Associate Pastor for Youth at Second Presbyterian Church, Louisville, KY.

Moderator Hollingsworth explained that Jordan Akin is a candidate for ministry under care of the Presbytery of Arkansas, that she has already passed the examination for ordination by Middle Kentucky Presbytery, and that Middle Kentucky has asked the Presbytery of Arkansas to ordain her on their behalf. Youth Advisory Delegates were asked to advise commissioners on this motion. Their vote was unanimous. There were no questions. Commissioners then voted. **Motion was approved.**

Hollingsworth then made the following motion:

Motion to approve the following to serve on the Administrative Commission to ordain Candidate Jordan Akin, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Arkansas, to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on behalf of Middle Kentucky Presbytery, on March 29, 2020 at 3:00 pm at Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, with the offering designated to Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center:

- **MWS Marion Humphrey, Allison Memorial Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, to Moderate and Propound the Constitutional Questions;**
- **MWS Leslie Bethell Roper, First Presbyterian Church of Batesville to Charge the Pastor;**
- **RE Kim Brooks, First Presbyterian Church of Harrison;**
- **RE Ann Burnside, Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock;**
- **RE Donna Ellison, Allison Memorial Presbyterian Church of Little Rock;**
- **MWS Steve Hancock, Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock;**
- **MWS Becky Purcell, First Presbyterian Church of Prairie Grove;**
- **MWS Lindy Vogado, Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock;**

and Candidate Katherine Norwood Kubar, under care of the Presbytery of Arkansas, of Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, to sit with the commission and preach. There was no discussion. Youth Advisory Delegates were asked to advise commissioners on this motion. Their vote was unanimous. Commissioners then voted. **Motion was approved.**

Moderator Hollingsworth asked for a moment of silence to commemorate the life and resurrection of MWS Eugene Edwards, HR, whose necrology is included in the Appendix as Section D – Exhibit III.

Hollingsworth called on CCE NiAnn Thompson, HR to speak on the retirement of CCE Theresa Spragins on January 31. Thompson traced Spragins' 21 years of service and her legacy of

providing nurture to young adults past high school. Spragins spoke a word of gratitude for her parents raising her in the church, thanked her husband Jim, her family for their love, and support of friends through the years, especially from other Christian Educators. She shared that she looks forward to being retired.

Hollingsworth then drew the Presbytery’s attention to other information included in the report of the Committee on Ministry, which included the following:

1. The Committee on Ministry approved the Transitional Pastor covenant between Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock and MWS Kris Crawford, effective October 15, 2019, with the following terms of call:

Effective Salary		
Cash Salary	\$35,000	
Housing	\$24,000	
		\$59,000
Reimbursable Expenses		
Professional Expenses (cell phone)		
Automobile (IRS rate/mile) and		
Continuing Education	\$6,000	
SECA Supplement	\$4,514	
		\$10,514
Board of Pensions Allowance		
Medical/Pension	\$23,500	
TOTAL		\$93,014

2. The Committee on Ministry approved the Transitional Pastor covenant between First Presbyterian Church of Benton and MWS Emmett Powers, HR, effective November 3, 2019, with the following terms of call:

Salary	\$35,000 annually
Housing	N/A
Pension and Medical Benefits	N/A
Reimbursement of Ministry Expenses including:	
Reimbursable mileage	up to \$400 per month

3. The Committee on Ministry approved the covenant between CRE Rita Manske and Cane Hill Presbyterian Church for her to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder for three years effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022, for a position not to exceed 20 hours per week with the terms of call of \$600 per month, and two weeks off per year.

4. The Committee on Ministry approved the covenant between CRE Harlis Wright and Faith Presbyterian Church, Pine Bluff, for him to serve as their Commissioned Ruling

Elder for three years effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022, for a position of 24 hours per week with the terms of call of \$37,000 per year, with four weeks off per year and \$.50 per mile for mileage.

5. The Committee on Ministry dismissed MWS Susan Rose to the Presbytery of St. Augustine, effective October 15, 2019. She is serving as the Parish Associate at St. Augustine Presbyterian Church and was enrolled in their Presbytery as of October 15, 2019.
6. The Committee on Ministry dismissed MWS Max Hill to Giddings Lovejoy Presbytery, effective October 1, 2019. He has been installed and was enrolled into membership into Giddings Lovejoy Presbytery where he is serving a UKirk in St. Louis, MO.
7. The Committee on Ministry approved an ordainable position of Chaplain as a validated ministry at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center.
8. The Committee on Ministry approved renewing the Covenant between RE Stephen Moody and First Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, effective October 21, 2019, with the following terms of call:
 - Salary \$40,000
 - Housing \$20,000
 - Vacation of one week per quarter
9. The Committee on Ministry dissolved the relationship between First Presbyterian Church of Stuttgart and MWS Tim Reeves due to the dissolution of the church, effective November 3, 2019.
10. The Committee on Ministry approved renewing the covenant between MWS Dan Wooley and First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville, to serve as Stated Supply, effective January 31, 2020 through January 31, 2021, with the following terms of call for a part-time 20hrs/week call:

Salary	\$1.00
Housing	\$19,999
Professional Expenses, including continuing education	\$2,792
Supplemental Life Insurance	\$2,808
Medical Insurance (25% of \$44,000)	\$11,000
Pension/death/disability (12% of salary/housing)	\$2,400
Total	\$39,000

Paid vacation	4 Sundays annually
Paid continuing education	2 weeks annually

Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Moderator MWS Susan Gray was absent, having this past week welcomed a grandchild, and MWS Jeff Price, former moderator and continuing member, referenced the report and explained Gray's absence. Committee on Preparation for Ministry information in the packet included the following:

For Information:

Candidate under care Jordan Akin has accepted a call to Second Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY. She was examined by Mid Kentucky Presbytery on Feb. 15. and details will be worked out with Mid Kentucky for Jordan to be ordained at Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock.

Candidate Molly Dewitt was ordained in the fall of 2019 by the Presbytery of Ohio Valley in southern Indiana.

Candidate Katherine (Norwood) Kupar has filed with the COM of the Presbytery of Florida for ordination to a validated ministry. Pending CPM's affirmation that Katherine has been certified ready for a call, their COM will examine her on March 10, followed by examination and preaching on the floor of their presbytery on May 19. Jeff Price will affirm her readiness for a call with the Presbytery of Florida.

Interviews:

Michelle Hall, an elder from the First Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, was interviewed and after she left the interview, the committee approved her as an applicant for the Commissioned Ruling Elder program. She is already studying at Austin Seminary, and feels called to serve a small church such as the Lincoln church.

Carla Taylor, an elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville, had her annual consultation with the committee. She is also studying the CRE curriculum at Austin Seminary. She is excited and open to God's call, and hoping to receive instruction on the Sacraments from the Presbytery. She is taking Old Testament, and her next class will be Worship and Preaching.

Requests for Financial Assistance:

Mary Jane Fischer, applicant for CRE, requested funding to attend the CRE conference in Richardson, TX on May 13-16. The committee approved up to \$300 to be reimbursed from CRE funds from the sale of the Walnut Grove Church.

Michelle Hall, applicant for CRE, requested \$380 for tuition at Austin Seminary during fall, 2019. The committee approved payment of \$380 to Michelle.

Candidate for MWS Julianna Whitson requested a partial scholarship for Clinical Pastoral Education this summer. This committee does not normally give seminary scholarship, is not sure what other financial obligations they will have in 2020, and

regretfully declined the request. Julianna is encouraged to find scholarships through the Synod of the Sun, her seminary, and other avenues.

Inquirers, Candidates and Applicants with Liaisons:

Inquirers

Brianne Christiansen	Liaison, Susan Anderson
David Mills	Liaison, Jeff Price
Jeannie Shear	Liaison, Matt Bussell

Candidates for MWS

Jill Acree	Liaison, NiAnn Thompson
LaWanda Harris	Liaison, Susan Gray
Stephen Moody	Liaison, Matt Bussell
Julianna Whitson	Liaison, Kim Danehower

Applicants for CRE Program

Margaret (Peg) Falls-Corbitt	Liaison, Susie Wright
Mary Jane Fischer	Liaison, Katie Cummings
Michelle Hall	Liaison, Katie Cummings
Allan Huddleston	Liaison, Susan Anderson
Ellen McEwen	Liaison, NiAnn Thompson
Carla Taylor	Liaison, Susan Anderson
Ministers from other Denominations	Liaison, Jeff Price

Hearing from the Youth and Young Adults in Attendance

Dalton Price, youth co-moderator of Presbytery's Youth Advisory Team, from First Presbyterian Church, Jonesboro, gave the report, introduced by Brianne Christiansen. He explained that at their two meetings a year Youth Advisory Team plans five Presbytery-sponsored events for the year. In late August they planned Junior High YouthQuake to be held in September with two major changes being to give more free time to junior highers to do Ferncliff activities and to adopt their year-long theme of A Community of Peace. They realize there is an absence of this in individual lives and in the world. "Pieces of Peace" is the theme for Senior High YouthQuake on April 17-19, 2020 for youth in grades 9-12. Summer trips are planned to Junior High Jubilee at Mo-Ranch, TX and Youth Conference at Montreat, NC as well as this fall's Junior High YouthQuake at Ferncliff. For those in congregations without youth, YAT solicits financial help through the sale of YAT T-shirts and socks which are on their display table, and asked for commissioners' advice and ideas, and to be listened to. He spoke of the youths' fight for peace, their concern for climate change, and asked again to be heard.

MWS Brian Brock prayed the blessing of the meal at 11:45 a.m.

Afternoon Business

Moderator Humphrey called the meeting to order again at 12:45 p.m. and asked for minute announcements.

Minute Announcements

MWS Phil Butin informed commissioners of the restoration that Cane Hill Presbyterian Church has gone through and invited them to celebrate at an event to be held on March 21, 2020. He also announced that a delegation from Presbytery will be going to Honduras on March 21-28, 2020 to visit with the Presbyterian Church of Honduras and asked for prayer. MWS Marie Mainard-O'Connell announced that First Presbyterian Church of Lonoke will have their final worship service on March 15, 2020 at 10:30 am and asked for prayers for the remaining four members. Elijah Walker, Solomon's Porch 1001 Worshipping Communities apprentice, has been invited to continue within the program for a second year. Their ministry is in Jonesboro with the LGBTQ community, where they have baptized 10 persons and expect 12 more baptisms. He asked for connections with individuals and congregations, financial support, and prayer for their fragile beginnings with persons dealing with poverty and disabilities. MWS Bill Seitz spoke of the Presbyterian Pilgrimage weekend on April 23-26, 2020 at Ferncliff. MWS Stewart Smith explained the hosting responsibilities of Lyon College, including the movement of the students' lunch so that commissioners can meet around the tables, and he thanked Lyon's Cindy Qualls with a gift. CCE Kristi Button spoke of Carol Essen's interim ministry at the United Campus Ministry at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and thanked/recognized board members and supporters/friends of UCM. RE Liz Branch made three announcements: that Ferncliff's Joel Gill had offered to take disaster buckets and hygiene kits to Ferncliff; that she needs congregational disaster contact information; and that Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock's Bridge Builders reading group invites all in Central Arkansas to discuss serious topics. Presbytery Builder MWS Carol Clark announced MWS Jen Evans' five-minute podcasts on parenting. Presbytery staff member Brianne Christiansen announced the need for chaperones for each of the Presbytery-sponsored youth summer trips. Moderator Humphrey invited all to attend the March 30-April 1, 2020 annual spring revival at Allison Memorial Presbyterian Church, Little Rock at 7:00 pm.

Report of the Future of the Church Ministry Area

Moderator RE Ted Belden gave a PowerPoint presentation and called the Presbytery's attention to the report of the Future of the Church Ministry Area in the packet, which included the following:

The Future of the Church Ministry Area and the Mission of the Church Ministry Area completed a survey to help identify best practices of the congregations of the Presbytery. We will both use this information to share ideas with you. We thank the following churches for completing and returning the surveys. If your church is not on the list, we would still appreciate you completing the survey which can be found on the Presbytery's website at www.presbyark.org, and is included in the Appendix as Section F – Exhibit I.

Arkadelphia, First
Arkadelphia, West End
Batesville, First

Bella Vista, Presbyterian
Benton, First
Bentonville, First

Bentonville, Vaughn
Conway, First
Elkins, Community
Fairfield Bay, Kirk of the Hills
Fayetteville, First United
Fayetteville, Mount Comfort
Harrison, First
Holiday Island, Holiday Island
Horseshoe Bend, Faith
Hot Springs, First
Jacksonville, First
Lincoln, First

Little Rock, Allison Memorial
Little Rock, Grace
Little Rock, Pulaski Heights
Malvern, First
Norman, Barr Memorial
Pine Bluff, First
Prairie Grove, First
Searcy, First
Springdale, First
Van Buren, First
Wynne, Wynne
Yellville, First

By report time 31 surveys had been turned in.

Grant Applications - The Future of the Church Ministry Area is now accepting grant applications. Over the last two years we have awarded over \$50,000 in grants to 16 churches. Grant information can be found under resources, presbytery documents, on the Presbytery's website at www.presbyark.org

Zoom Rooms – The Ministry Area has completed a host covenant agreement to provide funds for the installation cost of equipment for churches to host a zoom room. These systems will allow the churches of the presbytery to connect to one another in new ways. It is hoped that churches will be thinking outside the box and use the technology. One possibility would be to do elder training in a new way. Maybe churches could meet via a zoom room for elder training? Future of the Church has heard from the following churches who expressed an interest in being a host site: Springdale, Central-Fort Smith, Russellville, Conway, and Jonesboro. The Ministry Area will be in contact with these churches to find out what equipment they currently have and discuss entering into an agreement with the Presbytery to host a zoom room.

Beyond his written report, he recounted a recent podcast, and specifically 10 predictions about the Future Church. Accented were potential for gain, mission, gathered church, selfless discipleship, Sundays for giving, engagement that drives attendance, ministry that complements lifestyles, online church to supplement journey, online church as a front door, and gathering smaller and larger simultaneously. He added his own #11: Matthew 25 will help the PC(USA) grow.

Report of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area

MWS Jan Butin, a member of the ministry area, gave the report of the Mission of the Church, highlighting “Presbyterian Days of Caring, Connecting, and Celebrating” which will be held Sunday, September 27 through World Communion Sunday, October 4, 2020. She explained that Moderator MWS Gordon Garlington, HR is at MD Anderson Hospital for a follow-up after surgery and is grateful for prayers extended. Butin told a story from her 2017 trip to Honduras where they celebrated Presbyterian Days and the progress made in mutual

ministry. Mission Ministry Area aims for 100% participation among Presbytery churches in an idea of ministry/mission worthy of celebration, particularly building on existing programs or linking with another congregation or participating in another's event. It also builds on the Matthew 25 emphases. Congregations are encouraged to choose one event on one day during the time period to link Presbyterians and report back to Presbytery how the congregation has "cared with." She suggested that each congregation let their community lead them to what is needed: prayerful, purposeful, and involved. MWS Kade Curry added that Ministry member CRE Mary Shaw gave a list in a brochure that is part of a packet handed out to all congregations of 75 possible things to do, and that Springdale plans a Facebook page that will list others' ideas. It was shared that this may be another idea that spreads through the denomination, like the Souper Bowl of Caring did. Presbyterian Days team member RE Mary Beth Lysobey celebrated that all will be on the same page on the same day, and suggested teaming up congregations, and offered speakers from the committee on Matthew 25. Mission coordinators are needed in the regions. RE Emily Laurel pointed out the simplicity of this project, which is in the PC(USA) denominational genes. Butin closed with a quote from the Calvin Symposium and prayer.

Butin called the Presbytery's attention to the information found in the printed report, which included:

The members of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area for 2020 are: the Rev. Jan Butin (First United, Fayetteville), Mrs. Kristi Button (First United, Fayetteville), the Rev. Dr. Paul Fulks (First, Van Buren), the Rev. Dr. Gordon Garlington (H.R., home church Westover Hills, Little Rock), the Rev. Ainsley Herrick (First, Morrilton), Dr. Bruce Johnston (First, Batesville), Mrs. Emily Laurel (First, Benton), Dr. Sally Roden (First, Conway), and Ms. Vicky Rogerson (First, Springdale).

Our Mission of the Church Ministry Area met by Zoom on January 10, 2020. Among our actions at that meeting were:

- 1) Approval of grants to First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville for their hunger ministry, and to Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, helping with their costs providing housing to an out-of-state Presbyterian family receiving critical medical care at UAMS requiring them to stay no more than an hour from UAMS;
- 2) Discussion of plans for P.L.A.C.E. event(s) in 2020. First Presbyterian Church of Springdale had expressed a willingness to house such an event this year.
- 3) Hearing an update on the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) event held in Little Rock on January 29 - February 1, 2020, encouraging attendance at the event and commending those who worked so hard to plan, organize and carry out this national meeting of Christian educators.
- 4) Reviewing the congregational surveys currently being circulated and requested jointly by our Mission of the Church Ministry Area and Future of the Church Ministry

Area. Some 30-odd completed surveys had been received. Congregations that have not completed and returned the survey are encouraged to do so. If your congregation needs another copy of the survey, please contact our Moderator, Gordon Garlington (ggarlington3@hotmail.com; 501-940-8008) or Ted Belden, Moderator of Future of the Church (tedbelden@aol.com; 501-580-3762). Plans are being to share results of the survey in ways that highlight the various ministries of our churches and encourage collaborative mission efforts wherever possible.

- 5) Commending the Rev. Carol Clark, HR and her Resource Center Board for the great work they are doing through their work with the Resource Center and its Facebook page, "Resource ARK."
- 6) Scheduled a next meeting for April 24, 2020, by Zoom.

The primary focus of our meeting was work currently underway to encourage all of the congregations of the Presbytery of Arkansas to participate between September 27 – October 4, 2020, in the PRESBYTERIAN DAYS OF CARING, CONNECTING, AND CELEBRATING. The hope is for each of our churches to actively demonstrate our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ by sharing concretely Christ's love with our neighbors, especially "the least of these" (Matthew 25). Congregations will be able to choose to be involved in either a new or continuing ministry in our local communities during the week of September 27 through October 4, and will celebrate that calling and those ministries in worship on either Sunday, September 27, or on World Communion Sunday, October 4, 2020. Our thanks to the task force at work on these plans: Jan Butin and Mary Shaw, co-moderators, Emily Laurel, Renee Nestor and Mary Beth Lysobey.

MWS Carol Clark, HR spoke on behalf of new Presbytery Connector Julie Price, of the two Connection events in Wynne and Greenwood, reported that Facebook ResourceARK has 141 members and welcomes more, and invites commissioners to help staff figure out new ways to resource them.

The report of the Honduran Ministry Subcommittee was included in the "Additional Reports, Financials, and Fliers" packet and included the following information:

Those interested in becoming more involved in the Presbytery's ministry with the Presbyterian Church of Honduras are encouraged to consider going on one of the following mission trips:

Solar Under the Sun Trips

Arkansas Presbytery will have representatives on two trips to Honduras sponsored by Solar Under the Sun, one March 14-20 and the other April 28-May 4, 2020. These ecumenical trips are open to all Solar School graduates. The goal of these two trips is to complete our 76 home covenant with the 3 remote mountain villages of El Horno, El Sute and Agua Sarca to install solar powered lighting in homes. We will install systems in the final 25 homes (12 in March and 13 in April). Secondary goals are (1) along with the installations we will conduct site surveys to evaluate potential projects for next year, and

(2) visit with a Women's Weaving Cooperative in El Cacao to look at it as a potential Arkansas Presbytery - Honduran Ministry project. Training at Solar School is April 23-26 at Ferncliff for those interested.

Church Solidarity Building Trip

March 21-29, 2020—Ten people are scheduled for this trip. The group will be visiting churches of the Presbytery of Honduras to increase understanding of the work of God the Spirit among Honduran Presbyterian Christians, doing work projects to help maintain and improve the Honduran presbytery's conference center (Villa Gracia), and learning about Honduran culture, needs, worship, and church life. Volunteers from Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, the Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, and First Presbyterian Church of Morrilton will comprise our presbytery delegation.

The following serve on the Subcommittee:

Class of 2020

MWS Phil Butin, Co-Moderator, First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville

MWS David Gill, HR

RE Duke Monroe, Treasurer, First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville

MWS Ainsley Herrick, First Presbyterian Church, Morrilton

Class of 2021

MWS Bill Branch, HR

RE Megan Rubio, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

RE Ann Applegate, First Presbyterian Church, Springdale

RE Tracy Sykes, Clerk, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

Class of 2022

RE Eileen Ellis, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

MWS Lindy Vogado, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

RE Leigh Woodruff, Co-Moderator, First United Presbyterian, Fayetteville

RE Roy Horan, First Presbyterian Church, Bentonville

Report of the Administration Ministry Area

Moderator RE Tom Verdery gave the report of the Administration Ministry Area. He drew the Presbytery's attention to the report included in the "Late Reports, Financials and Fliers" packet and the accompanying financial documents. He rejoiced that 2019 was a wonderful financial year, as has been previously reported, due to three sources: the Presbytery being understaffed, benevolences of churches including 20 that gave more in 2019 than in 2018, and the positive interest income). Staff, however, had a challenging year especially for GP Stewart Smith with staff shortage and his covering extra areas. Verdery reported that the Administration Ministry Area gave him \$5,000 to be put in his retirement fund in gratitude. Verdery explained that he wanted to share this information for transparency purposes. He forecast that 2020 will be a challenging year financially with a full, new staff and a volatile marketplace. Verdery then made the following motions:

Motion to approve the Proposed Balanced Budget for the year 2020. (This proposal is included in the Appendix as Section H – Exhibit I and reflects no significant total change in asking/spending versus 2019.) There was no discussion. The total of the budget is \$799,660.00. **Motion was approved.**

Smith left the room, and Verdery said Smith had again declined any salary increase. **Motion to approve General Presbyter Stewart Smith’s Proposed Terms of Call for the year 2020.** (The breakout of the General Presbyter’s total compensation package is listed below and reflects no change versus 2019).

Salary	46,783.00
Housing	35,700.00
FICA	6,320.00
Pension/Medical	18,303.00
Continuing Education (Reimbursable up to)	1,500.00
Professional Expenses (Reimbursable up to)	15,000.00
	=====
	\$123,606.00

Continuing Education 2 weeks
 Vacation 4 weeks
 Sabbatical Leave and Paternity leave per presbytery policy.

There was no discussion. **Motion was approved.** Stewart returned to applause. Moderator Humphrey thanked him for his service and his love for this Presbytery.

Moderator Verdery called the Presbytery’s attention to the other information included in the written report in the “Additional Reports, Financials, and Fliers” packet which included the following:

1. 2019 was a good year financially for our Presbytery, as our income was better than anticipated due to a strong performance in our balanced funds at Texas Presbyterian Foundation (+20.5%) and total expenses down versus budget, mainly due to open employee positions during some of 2019. Other noteworthy developments in our budget in 2019 included: Mission Acceptance (Church Benevolence) to our Presbytery was higher than 2018, as many churches increased their giving in 2019; Investment spend rate increased to \$18,791 due to the financial performance of our investment funds.
2. While it was a good year financially for our Presbytery, it was a challenging year for our staff as there have been openings for staff for several months, that required our General Presbyter to fill the positions of supporting youth and financial administrator until those positions were filled. We are hopeful that the last two open staff positions will be filled in the coming weeks. In December the Administration Ministry Area voted to give General Presbyter Stewart Smith a \$5,000.00 compensation distribution, that he accepted to be placed into his retirement 403B account for his

additional duties in 2019 and the fact that he has not received an increase in his compensation for several years. This token of our appreciation to Stewart does not impact his Terms of Call and was funded through our significant reserves in 2019.

3. With all our staff transitions in 2019 the Administration Ministry Area agreed to have a full financial review of all our financial books and records made during 2019 by a public accountant. Our 2018 normal review was just completed in February 2020 and our Treasurer Bob Boehmler is currently working on starting the 2019 full review process by accepting bids from various public accounting groups.
4. 2020 is expected to be a more challenging financial year for our Presbytery, as we move in the coming weeks to a full staff. It is for this reason that we have requested a fundamentally flat budget versus 2019 and no change in compensation for all our current staff, including our General Presbyter. There are two important financial comments related to our 2020 Proposed Budget for The Presbytery of Arkansas. They are: 1. We are proposing a balanced budget in 2020, with fundamentally the same budget by committees/ministry areas and 2. We have not used our significant net income reserves from 2019 into funding the 2020 budget (previous year income).
5. Lastly, our key focus areas in 2020 will be on supporting our current and future staff with transition support and training and development opportunities, along with a renewed focus of thanking our churches for their Benevolence giving to our Presbytery and denomination, both in the past and in the future.

Verdery also pointed to the Operating Income Statement for the time period ending December 31, 2019, included in the Appendix as Section H – Exhibit II, and the Benevolence Statement for the time period ending December 31, 2019, included in the Appendix as Section H -Exhibit III.

Report of Young Adults attending Synod Event at Border

MWS Maggie Alsup, Lyon College chaplain, reported with students from Lyon College, all of whom had attended the Synod of the Sun's conference on the border with Mexico in late October-early November. They addressed the Presbytery utilizing a PowerPoint presentation. Micah 6:6-8, Lyon's scripture, was also the theme of the border conference. Junior Allison Lundy invited commissioners to ask questions after the presentation, especially "What can we do to help?" Brownsville, TX was the location of a homeless shelter, the free store, dormitories with bunk beds, family dormitories, school room and counselor, warehouse for education, and technical training. Lundy explained that from last February through June 2019 9,000 people came through the facility which was built for 200, and the nearby communities were inundated. The next speaker was Geneva McCauley who spoke on the plight of children there. Elizabeth Daniel explained that after visiting the refugee center students went to local church for a tamale lunch, and heard from an asylum seeker, through an indigenous language speaker, and learned of the five minute window that a refugee has to plead one's case. She said that volunteers helped by explaining their situation, and distributed bags of food through the "House of Protecting Liberty" program. In 2018 the

program helped 35 people who have domestic abuse problems, and the Catholic Church helped them get driver's licenses. "It's not an immigration crisis, it's a humanitarian crisis," explained Emma Gillaspay who recalled poor sanitation at the river. As the Lyon College group was leaving the conference, at the checkpoint outside of Brownsville, students were questioned about the legality of their passengers and she realized how her appearance spared her trouble. She announced that she will serve as a Young Adult Volunteer of the denomination in Tucson next year. She also explained that the only male participant from Lyon College on the trip, Jose, went back to south Texas during the Christmas break and is going back during spring break. Alsop asked that commissioners please invite these young people to speak in congregations.

Request to Approve an Overture to the General Assembly

Moderator Humphrey called on Stated Clerk Belden to provide information on the process of sending overtures to the General Assembly. Belden did so, referring to information in the "Additional Reports, Financials, and Fliers" packet titled "Background Information on the Proposed Overture," which is included in the Appendix as Section I – Exhibit I. Moderator Humphrey invited MWS Ainsley Herrick to the podium to make the following motion and speak to it:

Motion to approve submitting the Overture included in the packet as Section I – Exhibit II for consideration by the 224th General Assembly (2020). The Overture is included in the Appendix as Section I – Exhibit II.

The following printed information from MWS Herrick was included in the information for the meeting:

"In the 1950s, Presbyterians first identified companies that we would not invest in. The so-called "sin stocks" included tobacco, alcohol, and gambling. Although the church recognized that some members of our denomination work in these industries, and many others drink, smoke, and maybe even gamble, it was decided that these are industries that we should not be profiting from as a church. In the 1980s, military related investments were added to this list.

At other times the GA has added individual companies to the divestment list. We did so during Apartheid and more recently with Caterpillar, HP, and Motorola. However, those instances were different. We did not divest from those companies because we believe there is something unethical about computers or bulldozers. We divested because we believed specific business practices were unethical.

This is where the debate about fossil fuels comes in. Mission Responsibility Through Engagement (MRTI) is charged with doing shareholder engagement with the companies in which we invest. When companies are engaged in unethical business practices, MRTI goes in to ask them to change their practices. If they are unsuccessful, the final step is to recommend divestment. These efforts have proved successful in the past and this is how

MRTI is currently engaging fossil fuel companies. They believe that they can convince the companies to change enough that we can prevent a climate crisis.

However, I and many others in our denomination disagree with this approach for one major reason: the problem is not with how the companies make or sell their products, the problem is with the product itself. Presbyterians did not try to engage with alcohol companies to try to convince them to make soft drinks instead. Ultimately what MRTI has to ask of these companies, if we continue to engage them, is to completely give up producing fossil fuels, the very thing that their profits depend upon. In the end, that is simply too big of an ask, especially considering the urgency of climate change. We can't wait decades while they phase out fossil fuels; we need to end our reliance on them now.

As a member of Fossil Free PC(USA), I believe that fossil fuels are not an industry we should be profiting from. Yes, many of our members rely on the industry for jobs. That does not mean we condemn them anymore than Presbyterians in the 50s condemned those who work in the alcohol industry or Presbyterians in the 80s condemned those who join the military. In fact, we are concerned for what will happen to them when fossil fuels inevitably become obsolete (as they will whether or not we vote to divest) and their jobs are lost as society transitions to renewable energy. But we are also concerned for those who are already suffering the effects of climate change. Although we may not see the effects as much where we live, rising temperatures and more frequent natural disasters are already killing people around the globe.

Each week members of my church make an offering to support the mission of the church. A portion of that money is paid to the Board of Pensions (BOP) for my insurance and pension plan. They support me so that I may be free to do the ministry to which the congregation called me. Knowing that money is being invested in an industry that is harmful to God's creation and quickly driving us towards a climate crisis, I wonder how I, in good conscience, can continue to ask my church to give. God made us stewards over creation. We are charged with caring for the earth. How can I expect my congregation to care for creation, when I myself profit from its destruction? No, divestment will not magically fix the problem of climate change, but I believe it is one necessary step (out of many) to saving God's creation."

Before opening discussion, Herrick answered the two questions most frequently asked of her: why are you asking G.A. to skip over the longer process before recommending divestment and what got her into this discussion to the point that in her view divestment is an ethical statement. She asked how investing in fossil fuels is responsible. In response to why this overture, two major differences exist between it and other overtures: pastoral care of people impacted by any outcome of the overture's passage and recognition that because fossil fuels are becoming obsolete, fossil fuel jobs will disappear and create the need to support people who lose jobs. She commented on changes caused by global climate change. Another unique part of the overture is that it instructs the Board of Pensions to add particular companies to divestment list. She addressed other questions of hypocrisy, acknowledged that divestment will not fix climate change, U.S. has no good alternatives to fossil fuels, and ministers' question of whether divestment will put their pensions at risk.

Motion was seconded.

Lengthy discussion ensued. MWS John Arnold spoke of his concerns on the overture and had a question on whether and how divestment actually reduces the usage of fossil fuels. Arnold also pointed out that voices are missing at the table: those without accessibility to fuel and no structure to move toward anything else, who feel and say that the U.S. would be trading who to worry about. He suggested giving an alternative form of energy before divestment since he believes that the overture puts the cart ahead of the horse. He stated that he will endorse an overture only if accessibility is addressed first and urged taking the Matthew 25 concern first. MWS Blake Brinegar asked if Arnold had a question that needed an answer from Herrick. Stated Clerk Belden clarified that the question was a rhetorical question and that Arnold clearly spoke against the motion. CRE David Clark, First, Heber Springs spoke in favor of the motion, saying that, while he shares Arnold's concerns for the poor he supports this "first step." MWS Brinegar spoke against the motion because pastoral concern has not worked with other companies whom the denomination has divested in. He said that employees take it personally, and he clarified that the reason that the PC(USA) got out of coal was the fiduciary responsibility, which the Board of Pensions now believes prompts continued investment in fossil fuel. MWS Matt Bussell spoke in favor of the overture, saying that he also shares the concerns of Arnold but believes that proposing alternative energy sources to fill a void should fossil fuels not be relied on should be covered in a separate overture, and he said that the overture before the Presbytery is an important first step. RE H K Stewart, Westover Hills, Little Rock, spoke in favor of the overture, noting the low oil barrel price, and the reduction of energy performance, which points to fossil fuel no longer being a long-term good investment. MWS Brad Rito spoke in favor of the motion, saying that he does not think the overture will "burn our ships" leaving no fuel alternative going forward. He also suggested carpooling to presbytery meetings as a first step of many. Youth Advisory Delegate Dalton Price, First, Jonesboro spoke in favor of the motion, reminding commissioners of the youth advisory vote, and the reality that youth will be living on the planet for the next 80 years, and saying that waiting is the worst thing to do and that he supports next steps. MWS Maggie Alsup spoke against the motion as a member of generations of Oklahoma oil field families operating from a sound environmental standpoint. Alsup noted that the PC(USA) only has 2% of their assets invested in fossil fuel, and if we divest, we lose our voice at the table. MWS O'Connell spoke in favor of the motion as she believes that the overture speaks to hope and that issues matter. RE Curt Patton, Graham Memorial, Forrest City spoke against the overture, questioning what this will do to church unity as a divisive issue, and stating that he wants to hear from someone personally affected. RE Russ Mathis **called for the question**, a non-debatable motion. **Motion to call the question was seconded. Motion was approved. Motion to vote using written ballots. Motion was seconded. Motion was declined.** MWS Alsup asked about vocal votes vs. show of hands vote, wondering if volume had affected vote outcome.

Youth Advisory delegates were asked to give their advice on this motion. Their vote was unanimous. Commissioners were then asked to vote. Stated Clerk announced the votes would be by show of hands with tellers counting and Moderator requested no response to vote outcome. **Main Motion to approve submitting the Overture was approved by a vote of 41 yes, 17 no.** Moderator Humphrey prayed for the church's unity.

Report from Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center

RE Joel Gill, Director of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, presented a PowerPoint presentation updating commissioners on the Presbytery's camp and conference center. He brought greetings, and pointed out boxed brochures being distributed to commissioners. In his presentation a building powered by solar power was shown and congregations were invited to sponsor a solar panel. Since Dwight Mission in Oklahoma has suspended summer operation, Ferncliff is working to bring those campers to Ferncliff for two weeks this summer. He shared that a Ferncliff Forest Church video can be seen online at Ferncliff's website and that group is worshipping on the last Sunday of the month. Gill thanked Presbytery for support, and explained the anatomy of the distributed brochure cookie box and "The Ferncliff Five" perks and discounts.

Time to Fill Out and Turn in Evaluation Forms

Stated Clerk Belden asked the tellers to please distribute the evaluation forms and requested a few moments for commissioners to fill them out, explaining that they may put completed evaluations in the box at the doorway.

New Business

Moderator Humphrey asked Stated Clerk Belden if there was any new business, and there was none.

Report of the Leaves of Absence Committee

Moderator Humphrey asked Stated Clerk Belden to give the report of the Leaves of Absence Committee. Belden reported on their behalf that the following signed in: 46 MWSs, 40 REs from churches, and 19 other ruling elders for a total of 105 voting commissioners. Other non-voting people totaled 39, for a grand total of persons who signed in of 144.

Commitment to God's Call – Referrals

Moderator Humphrey asked Stated Clerk Belden to remind the Presbytery of any referrals that had occurred within the meeting. There were none.

Adjournment/Benediction

Moderator Humphrey asked MWS Carol Clark, HR, newly employed as the Presbytery Builder, to close the meeting with prayer and give the benediction. Clark promised to General Presbyter Smith that the Presbytery will be family and congregation to Stewart and Laura in Laura's health challenge, and prayed the concerns of the Presbytery. Following the benediction, Humphrey adjourned the meeting and extinguished the Christ candle at 3:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leslie Belden". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

RE NiAnn Thompson
Recording Clerk

MWS Leslie Belden
Stated Clerk

Approved June 6, 2020

Index of Appendix

Section A – Exhibit I: Roster of Attendance/Enrollment	31
Section B – Exhibit I: Ferncliff Board of Directors	36
Section B – Exhibit II: Nominations Form and Information	39
Section C – Exhibit II: First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock, AC	42
Section D – Exhibit I: MWS Kris Crawford Statement of Faith	43
Section D – Exhibit II: Candidate Jocelyn Wildhack Statement of Faith	44
Section D – Exhibit III: Necrology of Rev. Eugene Edwards	46
Section F – Exhibit I: Survey of Mission of the Church and Future of the Church	47
Section H – Exhibit I: Proposed Budget (Summary) for the Year 2020	51
Section H – Exhibit II: Operating Income Statement as of December 31, 2019	52
Section H – Exhibit III: Benevolence as of December 31, 2019	56
Section H – Exhibit IV: Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2019	58
Section I – Exhibit I: Background Information on Proposed Overture	59
Section I – Exhibit II: Overture	60
Bulletin for Friday Evening’s Worship Service, March 6, 2020	63

Section A – Exhibit I

Roster of Attendance/Enrollment

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament

In Attendance (39)

DC Adams

Maggie Alsup

John Arnold

Susan Arnold

Leslie F. Belden

Valerie Hobby Bell

Blake Brinegar

Elizabeth Brinegar

Robert Brian Brock

Matthew Bussell

Janet B. Butin

Philip W. Butin

Katie Cummings

Kade Curry

Jen Evans

Ruskin Falls

Steven Frazier

Paul Fulks

Chip Hatcher

Ainsley Herrick

Cameron Highsmith

Emily Hook

Marion A. Humphrey

Young Doo Kim

Steven Kurtz

Courtney Bacon-Latina

Marie Mainard O’Connell

Jeff Price

Dennis Ritchie

Bradley Rito

Leslie Bethell Roper

Ward Rudolph

Cindy Saul

William Seitz

Georgia Senor

J. Stewart Smith

Rebecca Spooner

Michael Vinson

Marci Ward

Excused from Attending (out of the region)

Joy Carrington

Lance Clemmons

James J. Farley III

Jennifer Lord

Anne Russ

Shauna Silmon

Harry Young

Excused from Attending (in region)

Phillip Blackburn

Tasha Blackburn

Moises Chan

Mark Clark

Fern M. Davis

Krista Denne’

Stacey Hammons

Steve Hancock

Rebecca Purcell

Timothy Reeves

Alisa Secrest

Lacy Sellars

Terry Tallent

Mike Ulasewich

Lindy Vogado

Jeremy Wilhelmi

Robert Williamson

Daniel Wooley

Absent without Excused Absence

Bill Bailey
Clifton P. Ford
John Gibson
Susan Gray
Jeff Parker
David Schaller
Patricia Schaller

Honorably Retired Active Ministers of the Word and Sacrament

In Attendance (7)

Catherine Allsbury, HR
William W. Branch, HR
Carol Clark, HR
Robert Hadley, HR

William F. Henning, HR
Sally Stockley Johnson, HR
John E. King, HR

Excused from Attending (out of region)

Lewis R. Donelson IV, HR
Al Henager, HR

Excused from Attending (in the region)

Karen Kokles Akin, HR
Ira "Ike" Brighton, HR
"Danny" Daniel, HR
Joyce Daniel, HR
David H. Dyer

Gordon F. Garlington III, HR
Clare Martin Kelley, HR
David S. King, HR
Emmett Powers, HR
David Reed, HR
Linda Whitworth-Reed, HR

Active and Absent without Excuse

Donald K. Campbell III, HR
Milton B. Davis, HR
Orin M. Frank, HR
David E. Gill, HR
Howard H. Gordon, HR
Richard Shinkle, HR
Frederick A. Taylor, HR

Lance Jones, HR
Elton "Bo" Lewis, HR
Terry McLellan, HR
Richard M. Miller, HR
Rita Wilson Perry, HR
Don Wardlaw, HR
Darwin Wolfe, HR

Temporary Members Excused from Attending:

Michael Clark, ELCA, serving at First, Mountain Home
Jim Ratliff, Cumberland Presbyterian, serving at Spring River, Hardy

Absent without excuse:

Brian Timmons, United Methodist, serving at Mount Vernon, Pea Ridge

Ruling Elder Commissioners from Congregations/Sessions

In Attendance (40)

Arkadelphia, First: Ed McCorkle
Arkadelphia, West End: Pat Wright
Batesville, First: Laura Geary
Bella Vista: Jean Nichols and Darcy Humphries
Benton First: Heather Garrett
Bentonville, First: Janice Zoller and Michael Zoller
Clarksville, First: Linda Castleman
Conway, First: Julie Gillaspay
Fayetteville, First United: Mary Mann and Bo Morton
Forrest City, Graham Memorial: Curt Patton
Fort Smith, Central: Charles Cook
Hardy, Spring River: Barbara Mohr
Harrison, First: Susan Timbrook
Heber Springs, First: SarahAnn Gates
Holiday Island: Ron Huibregtse
Hot Springs, Westminster: Jay Olson
Jacksonville, First: Mary Jane Fischer
Jonesboro, First: Bob White
Little Rock, Allison: Wayne Mitchem
Little Rock, First: Bob Blair
Little Rock, Grace: Hannah Hanson
Little Rock, Pulaski Heights: Charles Gray
Little Rock, Second: Leah Shell, Sam Highsmith, Beth Highsmith
Little Rock, Westover Hills: H.K. Stewart
Malvern, First: Kathy Walters
Norman, Barr Memorial: Mary Beth Lysobey
North Little Rock, First: Joel Gill
North Little Rock, Park Hill: Russell Mathis
Paragould, First: Lee Bennett
Pine Bluff, Central: Zac Cosner
Pine Bluff, First: Don Harris Jr.
Rogers, First: Barbara R. Allen
Searcy, First: Mike Szabo
Springdale, First: Debbie Byrd and Loretta Mansell
Wynne: Josie Westmoreland
Yellville, First: Jim Yount

Congregations with Excused Absence

Atkins, Memorial	Hot Springs, First
Bull Shoals, Presbyterian Church	Huntsville, First
Cane Hill Presbyterian	Little Rock, Westminster
Dardanelle, First	Pea Ridge, Mount Vernon
Gurdon, First	Prairie Grove, First

Congregations not Represented and without an Excuse

Alma, First
Amity, Alpine
Beebe, First
Bentonville, Vaughn
Brinkley, First
Clarksville, Harmony
Elkins Federated
Eureka Springs, First
Fairfield Bay, Kirk of the Hills
Fayetteville, Mt. Comfort
Fort Smith, First (2 commissioners)
Greenwood, Good Shepherd
Helena, First
Holly Grove
Horseshoe Bend, Faith

Hot Springs Village, Kirk in the Pines
(2 commissioners)
Lincoln, First
Little Rock, Second (4th commissioner)
Little Rock, Trinity (2 commissioners)
Marianna, First
McGehee, First
Mena, First
Morrilton, First
Morrilton, Hopewell
Mountain Home, First
Mountainburg
Newport, First
Pine Bluff, Faith
Russellville, Central (2 commissioners)
Van Buren, First
Walnut Ridge, First

At-Large Commissioners (Ruling Elders who attend and vote due to their positions)

In Attendance (10)
Bob Boehmler, Treasurer
(Julie Gillaspay, Vice Moderator/Conway commissioner)
Tom Verdery, Administration Moderator
Ted Belden, Future of the Church, Moderator
Cyril Hollingsworth, COM Moderator
Peg Falls-Corbitt, Coordinating Team
Emily Laurel, Coordinating Team
David Stricklin, Coordinating Team Moderator
Vickie Erickson and Maryann Sweeney, Co-Moderators of Presbyterian Women
Carolyn Willis, Coordinating Team

Commissioned Ruling Elders

In Attendance (6)
David Clark: Heber Springs, First
Chuck Olson: Atkins, Memorial
Kenneth Rhodes: Arkadelphia,
West End
Shaw, Mary: Elkins Federated

Kelly Pearson: Lincoln, First
Claire Rhodes: Arkadelphia, West
End

Excused from Attending
G. Hartley Jones: Norman, Barr Memorial
Ed Wilkinson: Greenwood, Good Shepherd
Susie Wright: Hot Springs, Westminster

Absent without Excuse

Carolyn Beane: Norman, Barr Memorial
K C. Chanthorn: Laotian, Fort Smith, First
Rita Manske: Cane Hill Presbyterian
Harlis Wright: Pine Bluff, Faith

Certified Christian Educators

In Attendance (4, 2 of whom were voting)
Kristi Button: Fayetteville, First
United

Jeannie Ford: Little Rock, Second
NiAnn Thompson: Retired

Certified Associate Christian Educators
In Attendance
Theresa Spragins: Retired

Christian Educators in Attendance
Julie Price, Trinity, Little Rock

Corresponding Members in Attendance

MWS Kris Crawford, Grace Presbytery
MWS Lemuel Garcia, Mission Presbytery
Rev. Stanley Larson, Ntnl Synod, ELCA (Holy Trinity, Shreveport, LA)
MWS Diane Moffett, Salem Presbytery

Visitors to the Meeting: 22
Youth Advisory Delegates and Chaperone: 10

Grand Total: 144, of whom 105 could vote

Section B – Exhibit I

CLASS OF 2020

Ted Belden (2nd Term, Asset Chair)
504 E. Lafayette St.
Fayetteville, AR 72701

W Ph
H Ph
Cell (501)580-3762
Email: tedbelden@aol.com

Tammy Felder (2nd Term, Program) *
19 Calais Court
Little Rock, AR 72223
First United Methodist, LR

W Ph
H Ph
Cell (713)299-7230
Email: tammyjohnsonfelder@gmail.com

Kate Franks (1st Term, Finance)
42 Durance Dr.
Little Rock, AR 72223
Second Presbyterian, LR

W Ph (501)686-6455
H Ph
Cell (501)680-9383
Email: k8franks@yahoo.com

Rob Griffin (2nd Term, Development)
10 Clancy Court
Little Rock, AR 72223
Trinity Presbyterian, LR

W Ph (501)526-7873
H Ph
Cell (501)658-4516
Email: argriffin5@att.net

Lynn Monroe (1st Term, Assets)
7 Largley Ln.
Bella Vista, AR 72714
First Presbyterian, Bentonville

W Ph
H Ph
Cell (479)466-4975
Email: monroelm@cox.net

Mary Ann Robinson (2nd Term, Assets)
1511 Pickering Drive
Little Rock, AR 72211
Trinity Presbyterian, LR

W Ph
H Ph
Cell (501)680-4967
Email: marobinson59@sbcglobal.net

CLASS OF 2021

Mac Balkman (2nd Term, Assets)
11127 Cocono Valley Dr.
Little Rock, AR 72212
Westover Hills Presbyterian, LR

W Ph
H Ph
Cell (501)517-1877
Email: mac.balkman@icloud.com

Debbie Byrd (1st Term, Development) *
8101 Santa Clara Ave.
Springdale, AR 72752
First Pres., Springdale

W Ph
H Ph
Cell (501)4252894
Email: mamabyrd26@gmail.com

Ainsley Herrick (1st Term, Program)
400 E. Center St.
Morrilton, AR 72110
First Pres., Morrilton

W Ph
H Ph
Cell (501)289-8082
Email: pastorainsley@gmail.com

Martin Kasten (2nd Term, Finance)

W Ph (501)370-1456

6 Sonata Trail
Little Rock, AR 72205
Trinity Presbyterian, LR

H Ph (501)954-9724
Cell
Email: mkasten@fridayfirm.com

Amy Parker (1st Term, Program)
1704 Arthur Dr.
Colleyville, TX 76034
First Pres., Ft. Worth, TX

W Ph (817)335-1231
H Ph
Cell (214)534-2658
Email: aparker@fpcf.org

Beth Sigler (1st Term, Finance Chair) *
5908 South Country Club
Little Rock, AR 72207
Second Presbyterian, LR

W Ph
H Ph
Cell
Email: bsig001@sbcglobal.net

CLASS OF 2022

Dave Hamilton
4 Jardin Trace
Hot Springs Village, AR 71910
Kirk in the Pines, HSV

W Ph
H Ph (501)915-9015
Cell
Email: davehamil@suddenlink.net

Becky Purcell (2nd Term, Program) *
2369 Yorkwood Dr.
Fayetteville, AR 72703
First Presbyterian, Prairie Grove

W Ph (479)846-2696
H Ph (479)582-2025
Cell (479)957-5567
Email: purcellbeck@gmail.com

Mike Terrell (2nd Term, Board Chair)
1818 North Taylor St., Suite B195
Little Rock, AR 72207
Formerly First Pres, Crossett, now Christ the King,
LR

W Ph
H Ph
Cell (501)944-8704
Email: mikedterrell@gmail.com

Stephanie Currie (1st Term)

Shreveport, LA 71106
First Presbyterian, , Shreveport

W Ph (318)813-4200
H Ph (318)469-7000
Cell
Email: scurr4@lsuhsc.edu

Mary Ellen Holder (1st Term)
1304 Hunters Cove Dr.
Little Rock, AR 72211
Westover Hills Presbyterian, LR

W Ph
H Ph
Cell (501)680-0663
Email: mehholder10@gmail.com

EX-OFFICIO

Rev. Stewart Smith (Ex-officio/General Presbyter)
9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd.
Little Rock, AR 72227

W Ph (501)663-2424
H Ph
Cell (479)466-0195
Email: stewart@presbyteryofarkansas.org

Joel Gill (Ex-officio/Exec. Director)
1720 Ferncliff Road
Little Rock, AR 72223

W Ph (501)821-3063
H Ph
Cell (501)772-9707

Ferncliff Forest Church

Email: jgill@ferncliff.org

Tony Booth (Ex-officio)
119B Cortez Rd.
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909
Kirk in the Pines, HSV

W Ph
H Ph (501)922-6475
Cell (501)984-1550
Email: tb4booth@sbcglobal.net

Mary Haley (Ex-officio)
500 Ridgeway Drive
Little Rock, AR 72205

W Ph
H Ph
Cell (501)804-2225
Email: mary_haley@hotmail.com

Amara Yancey (Ex-officio)
215 N. Cedar St.
Little Rock, AR 72205

W Ph
H Ph
Cell (501)444-1670
Email: amarayancey@gmail.com

Section B - Exhibit II

Presbytery of Arkansas

Nominations Form for Service Beginning in 2021

We are the Presbytery of Arkansas – our congregations, various ministries, and Ministers of the Word and Sacrament. So that we may more faithfully live into our call to “participate in God’s mission for the transformation of creation and humanity,” (*Book of Order*, F-1.01) we commit ourselves to work together, offering our gifts collectively to live into that calling.

The Presbytery of Arkansas encourages diversity in its leadership, and as such encourages men and women, from large and small congregations, from all regions of the Presbytery, of all ages, the able-bodied and those with challenges, and people of all color and ethnicities so that we may more closely reflect God’s kingdom.

Terms of service on most ministry areas and committees are for three years, eligible to serve two consecutive terms. A person elected to fill an unexpired term completes that term of service and will be eligible to be elected to serve an additional three-year term. Please read the attached for a brief description of ministry areas and committees for which someone may be nominated.

Please consider nominating yourself, someone, or multiple people whose service could benefit the ministry of the Presbytery of Arkansas!!! And please fill out one form per nominee. All nominations are seriously considered, although election to chosen area isn’t guaranteed.

Name of Nominee _____

Name of Church _____ Town _____

Circle One: Ruling Elder Member (not a RE) Minister of Word and Sacrament

Gender: _____ Age (range): _____ Race/Ethnicity: _____

Any Disability? (hearing, mobility, eyesight, etc.) _____(all are encouraged to serve)

Particular Gifts/Talents/or Areas of Expertise or Interest _____

Ministry Areas or Committees on Which This Person Might Serve _____

Please return this form to the Stated Clerk, MWS Leslie Belden, at lesliebeld@aol.com, or mail it to the Presbytery of Arkansas, 9221 N. Rodney Parham Road, Little Rock, AR 72227, by March 30, 2020. Thank you so much for all that you do within your congregation and the Presbytery.

Presbytery of Arkansas

Ministry Area and Committee Descriptions

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 meets at least quarterly, in-person at the Presbytery office in Little Rock.

The Administration Ministry Area is responsible for the budget and financial areas of the Presbytery, matters concerning the personnel of the Presbytery, and the property of the Presbytery. The Administration Ministry Area ordinarily meets at least quarterly.

The Mission of the Church Ministry Area provides oversight, planning, and support for programs that connect our congregations in practicing our faith through mission and outreach, Christian Education, and spiritual development. The Mission of the Church Ministry Area ordinarily meets at least quarterly.

The Ministries with Youth, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry Area coordinates, supports, and encourages the ministry of the church with middle school and high school youth, college and campus-based ministries within the bounds of the Presbytery, and ministries with Young Adults up to age 35. It serves as the Presbytery's conduit between the sub-committees of the Presbytery that carry out the programming aspects of the Presbytery's ministries with youth and campus ministry, as the entity that encourages prioritization of youth, young adults, and campus ministry within the context of the work of the other committees and ministry areas, and as the resource for congregational ministry to these age groups. The Ministries with Youth, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry Area ordinarily meets at least quarterly.

The Future of the Church Ministry Area serves as a catalyst to engage congregations and the Presbytery in creative thinking and planning beyond current models of ministry and programming to meet the challenges of new demographics and trends as society continues to change. The Future of the Church Ministry Area assists with visioning, branding technology, and development of new ministries. It provides new church development functions of the Presbytery and ordinarily meets at least quarterly on a Tuesday.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) oversees the training, certification, and examination of Inquirers and Candidates for the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament (MWS) and Candidates for the role of Commissioned Ruling Elder. The CPM shall also provide for the certification of qualified Christian Educators and Associate Christian Educators. The CPM ordinarily meets on Saturdays.

The Committee on Ministry oversees the enrollment and dismissal of Ministers of Word and Sacrament, the call process for both MWSs and Commissioned Ruling Elders, the care and nurture of church professionals, and, in cooperation with the Future of the Church Ministry Area, inquires into difficulties in congregations per Presbytery policies. The COM meets the first Tuesday of every month at 10 am and those serving must either be a Minister of Word and Sacrament or a Ruling Elder.

The Committee on Representation (COR) advises the Presbytery with respect to its membership and that of committees, agencies, and other entities under the direction of the Presbytery to insure fair and effective representation according to the principles of parity and representation. The Committee on Representation meets as needed.

The Committee on Nominations is responsible for the nomination process in the Presbytery. The Committee on Nominations has an in-depth meeting in the Spring and follow-up meetings as needed throughout the year.

The Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) considers all cases either of a remedial or a disciplinary nature transmitted to it from the Presbytery. Terms of service on the PJC are for six years, and the PJC meets on an as-needed basis.

More in-depth descriptions of ministry areas and committees may be found in the Presbytery of Arkansas's Ministry Manual which may be found on the Presbytery's website at www.presbyark.org. Under the tab "Resources" click on "Presbytery Resources," and look in the documents of the Stated Clerk to find both "Part I – Organization and Structure," which explains each ministry area and committee in general and how many members each group has, and "Part II – Ministry and Committee Duties," which gives more extensive information on each group.

Section C – Exhibit II

First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock/Argenta, Arkansas Administrative Commission

Motion to the Coordinating Team to form an Administrative Commission with the following members and authority, and the responsibility to report to the Presbytery of Arkansas:

1. Members:
 - a. MWS Carol Clark, HR
 - b. MWS Mike Ulasewich, First Conway; Future of the Church representative
 - c. RE Leah Shell, Second Little Rock
 - d. RE Ted Belden, First United Fayetteville; Future of the Church representative
 - e. RE Melanie Gibson, Grace Little Rock
 - f. RE Karene Jones, Park Hill North Little Rock
 - g. RE Joel Gill, First North Little Rock (Argenta)
 - h. MWS Leslie Belden, Stated Clerk (ex-officio)
 - i. MWS Stewart Smith, General Presbyter (ex-officio)
 - j. RE Sarah Keith-Bolden, First Little Rock (legal counsel, ex-officio)

2. Charged with the authority to:
 - a. Determine the financial situation of First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock/Argenta;
 - b. Counsel the Session of First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock, in the Session’s discernment of the financial needs of the church;
 - c. Counsel the Session and membership of First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock, in the Session’s and congregation’s deliberations and actions toward the “selling of real property” (G-1.0503d) or redevelopment of the property;
 - d. Serve as the presence of the Presbytery of Arkansas in determining what the needs of the property are and taking steps to address those needs;
 - e. Serve as the presence of the Presbytery of Arkansas in the development of any covenants or partnerships;
 - f. Sell or encumber any real property;
 - g. Assume original jurisdiction of the church, if necessary.
 - h. Dissolve the congregation if requested, taking the necessary steps on behalf of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

3. Reporting: The AC shall communicate to the Stated Clerk all actions taken on behalf of the presbytery. Actions shall be reported within two weeks of having been taken. (Email is a satisfactory way to report actions taken). Written reports of the AC’s actions shall be submitted no less than 30 days prior to each stated meeting of the presbytery. Prior to dissolution, minutes of all meetings of the AC shall be submitted to the Stated Clerk.

Section D – Exhibit I

MWS Kris Crawford Statement of Faith

God's grace is like a thread sewn throughout the tapestry of my life. It is constant and sure. I am a child of God, nurtured in a Christian home and strengthened in a faith community. Within my family and the church, I was taught God is love and that I was loved by God, yet as a teen in the midst of my parents' divorce I felt judgment, not love. I found myself silently crying, "Where is that love when I need it the most!" I defiantly declared that I had no need to congregate in order to live out my baptism. I set myself adrift clutching prayer without the Word and facing high school and college without community.

After college, God's grace called me back into community in the Reformed tradition. It was exhilarating. I felt like the lost sheep who had been found and the prodigal child who had been called home. Through the hearing of the Word preached in the Reformed tradition I learned that Christians are called into community, not isolation.

Participation in the life of the church as a lay leader wove within me an increased understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ. Through participation in worship, I learned prayer is a central act of corporate life and the heart of my personal devotion. Through the study of Scripture, my understanding of God and how God has acted in history and in my own life was freshly revealed and a thirst for more was sparked. The reaffirmation of my faith, acknowledging my sin while affirming my dependence upon God's incredible grace, fueled within me a new sense of Jesus' Lordship. When I witnessed God's unmerited love at my children's baptism I was awed by the breadth and depth of God's grace. Over and over again as I come to the table I gain an increased sense of God's sustaining presence through this sacramental meal. Set apart for leadership as a Teaching Elder has been joyful, provocative, humbling, and filled with immeasurable growth.

My life is full of integrative moments of grace fashioned by God's renewing power, even though I have pushed and pulled from God in anger and sin, only to return again and again in guilt and sadness. Throughout my life God has persistently forgiven me, loved me, and called me to service and new life. Accordingly, I believe God is the sovereign Creator and the loving Redeemer exalted in the risen Lord. That Jesus Christ, God incarnate, is my Lord and Savior. God in Christ is separate and just and personal and gracious ---fully human and fully divine. I believe that the Holy Spirit, God's gift to us through Jesus Christ, is the dynamic, life-giving force of the Church in the world. I believe Scripture witnesses to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and to the redeeming love of God for all of humanity. I believe the Christian life is an invitation to a relationship with the divine, to a life lived in community, and a call to respond in grateful praise and joyful obedience to almighty God.

God has embellished my life with a variety of vocations: daughter, sister, wife, mother, friend, teacher and pastor. Through the years I have come to see the church as a hope-filled, motley, but wonderful bunch of forgiven sinners, reconciled by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. I remain steadfast in my desire to be led by the Spirit to proclaim God's redeeming grace in Jesus Christ for all people and all of creation.

Section D - Exhibit II

Candidate Jocelyn Wildhack Statement of Faith

I believe in one, triune God - creator, redeemer, sustainer - always present. I believe in God, three in one, three divine persons in constant communion as one. I believe this triune God created the world good and continues to love it. Out of nothing, God created everyone and everything. I believe God created us and this world with love - a love that is given equally to all without regard to gender, race, sexual orientation, age, or income level.

I believe in Jesus Christ - fully human, fully God - God who took on flesh in order to accessibly communicate with humanity and teach us how to live with each other. Jesus came to teach us the way - the way to worship, the way to pray, the way to treat each other, the way to love. In Jesus, we see God's love for us and suffering with us. Sin separates us from God's will and adds distance to our relationship, but through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, grace overcomes our inclination away from God, forgives our sins, and restores our relationship with God.

I believe in the Holy Spirit - present and moving in everyone, connecting us to God and to the community of believers. The Holy Spirit is the way we experience the presence and power of God, actively moving in the world and in us. The Holy Spirit is comfort in times of mourning, hope in times of pain, joy in times of despair, and guidance in times of confusion. I believe the Holy Spirit is the way we encounter God with us.

I believe the Word of God is communicated through the Old and New Testaments. I believe scripture to be historically and contextually influenced by the times in which the writers lived. I believe scripture guides us in the way we should live in the world, and that this requires peeling away the layers of historical context, translation, interpretation, and human authors. I believe we read and interpret the Bible always under the influence of our own contexts and life experiences, and that we need to be aware of these factors in our interactions with scripture. I believe all of this interpretation can only be done with the Holy Spirit as our guide.

I believe in the Church - that together as a community of faith we are better able to serve God and serve one another. I believe we hear God's call in community. I believe God's presence is often felt most when people are gathered together. I believe the Church gathers people together to connect them to the message and mission of God and then sends them out into the world to carry that to others. I believe the Church is necessarily about justice, love, and compassion. I believe the Church is at its best when all are truly welcome at the table.

As we enter into this community of faith, our baptism is the sign and seal of our integration into Christ and the people of God. In baptism, we are given new life as a part of the community of faith. Like Jesus' baptism in the Jordan, our baptisms mark a transition point from one way of living to another. Baptism is a sign of our participation in God's gracious covenant with us; we become members of the family of God.

I believe that we remember Jesus' life with us and the covenant we have with God when we celebrate together the Lord's Supper. This meal is a sign of our communion with God. In the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup, we remember Christ's presence with us, reminding ourselves that God is with us always.

I believe faith in God and love of God leads us to grateful action for the wider mission of the Church. I believe God calls us to live lives of love – loving God, loving neighbor, and loving ourselves. I believe this to be true for everything we do, every day of our lives.

Section D - Exhibit III

Necrology of Rev. Eugene Edwards

Rev. Eugene Edwards, retired member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, died on February 8, 2020. Gene was a 1989 graduate of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. His first call was in the Presbytery of Arkansas, serving as pastor of the John T. Barr parish, which included the Mt. Ida and Barr Memorial congregations. Our presbytery allowed Gene to be ordained by Mission Presbytery in his home congregation, Wilshire Presbyterian Church, in Austin, TX. Gene later moved to serve a yoked parish that was split between two presbyteries when he served the First Presbyterian Church in Gurdon and the Tate's Bluff Presbyterian Church in Pines Presbytery at Chidester. Gene moved out of the presbytery for calls in Pryor, Oklahoma and the Houston, TX area. He retired from New Covenant Presbytery in 2008 and moved back to Hot Springs and transferred back into the Presbytery of Arkansas in 2012.

Prior to enrolling at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Gene served as a chaplain at several hospitals in Austin, TX. Gene served in the United States Air Force both as active duty and reserve for more than 22 years as a medic and a chaplain.

A memorial service was held on Monday, February 17 at 10:00 am at Gross Funeral Home in Hot Springs. Interment followed the service at Greenwood Cemetery in Hot Springs.

Section F – Exhibit I

October 4, 2019

Dear Leaders of Presbytery of Arkansas Congregations:

The Mission of the Church and the Future of the Church Ministry Areas have prepared a short survey to help us in the task of identifying practices in our congregations that may help us better serve you and help other churches in our Presbytery become stronger. Our hope is that we develop and nurture one another in growing our ministries by learning and sharing the strengths of our congregations.

We encourage you as you complete this survey to gather with other friends in your congregation – in a Session meeting, or Sunday school class, or after worship one Sunday – and brainstorm all the ways in which you are serving Christ.

Please as you complete the survey “think outside the box!”

Christian education includes, certainly, Sunday school classes. But are there other ways your church is helping folks grow in the knowledge of and love for the God we’ve come to know in Jesus Christ -- midweek Bible studies, Presbyterian Women’s Bible studies, providing devotional aids such as These Days, etc.?

Likewise, mission and service in Christ’s name includes formal mission projects of your congregation, a food pantry or prison ministry, for example, as well as mission dollars shared through your Presbyterian Church (USA) benevolent dollars, but are there other ways your congregation in Christ’s name is serving those less fortunate -- individuals delivering Meals on Wheels, tutoring at a local school, caring for a person in your community who has little or no family nearby, etc.?

Notice we also invite you to share with us what worship opportunities are offered in your church. Sunday morning worship, yes, but are there other things like midweek worship, special services during Advent and Christmas, Lent and Holy Week, prayer groups, etc.? Or joint, interdenominational worship such as a community Thanksgiving service?

Why are we asking you to share this information? What will happen as a result of your completing the survey?

First, we hope it will be helpful for you to intentionally review in these different areas, ways your congregation is seeking to live out our calling as Christ’s disciples, that that process of review might be encouraging as you see the list of things you are doing, But also that it might spark ideas of new ministries you might undertake, or perhaps

different ways to cooperate with the Spirit seeking to nurture fruitful discipleship in us all.

We also hope that hearing from all of our congregations, we might discover potential partnerships among neighboring churches, opportunities for doing things together that perhaps as solo congregations might not seem possible. Whether in areas of worship, or Christian education, or mission, we might discover additional ways to cooperate and in so doing multiply the opportunities for Christian nurture and service we have.

Our hope is that hearing from congregations across the Presbytery, we might learn of ways we might better resource congregations as they seek to offer and carry out ministries.

Thanks for your attention to this survey, and for all your efforts to share the love of Christ through the life of your congregation and the life of the Presbytery of Arkansas!

We ask that this survey be returned to both of us by December 1st.

Sincerely,

Gordon Garlington - ggarlington3@hotmail.com
Moderator, Mission of the Church Ministry Area

Ted Belden – TedBelden@aol.com
Moderator, Future of the Church Ministry Area

Survey of the Presbytery of Arkansas Congregations

1. All churches are unique, just like every person is unique. What is something your church does regarding the following areas that has been especially important to the vitality of your congregation and extending Christ's love to all? Feel free to brag about your church! List as many things as you wish.

Worship -

,

Education -

Fellowship -

Outreach and partnerships -

2. What works well in one church may be very different from what works well in another. Are there particular aspects about your church or local community that you think make the items you have described in Question 1 important and helpful? Please describe.

3. What forms of support from the Presbytery have been, or if available could be helpful to the vitality of your congregation?

4. What collaborations does your church have with other Presbyterian churches or other non-profits?

Church _____

Person submitting this information _____

Section H – Exhibit I

Proposed Budget (Summary) For the Year 2020

Revenues	2018 Budget	2019 Budget	2020 Asking
Mission Acceptance	\$ 600,000.00	590,000.00	590,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 13,500.00	13,800.00	14,600.00
Income from Investments	\$ 166,529.00	180,000.00	195,060.00
Transfer from Investments	\$ -	-	
Previous Year Pledges	\$ 1,500.00	1,500.00	
Total Revenues	\$ 781,529.00	785,300.00	799,660.00
Expenses			
Coordinating Team	\$ 3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
Administration	\$ 59,000.00	59,000.00	59,000.00
Ministry of the Church, CCM & CLD	\$ 16,655.00	17,735.00	17,735.00
Youth Collegiate and Young Adult	\$ 43,730.00	64,500.00	64,500.00
Future of the Church	\$ 60,067.00	60,000.00	60,000.00
Church and its Mission	\$ 68,000.00	68,000.00	68,000.00
Nominations	\$ 300.00	300.00	300.00
Representation	\$ 45.00	45.00	45.00
Administrative Commissions	\$ 5,000.00	2,000.00	5,000.00
Presbytery Office	\$ 47,700.00	43,400.00	45,300.00
Staff Salaries	\$ 210,605.00	210,605.00	253,525.00
TPF Bookkeeping Fees	\$ 11,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00
Payroll Taxes	\$ 15,750.00	15,750.00	18,850.00
Staff Pension/Medical	\$ 55,000.00	55,000.00	19,750.00
Staff Con't. Ed/Travel	\$ 36,350.00	36,350.00	28,500.00
General Assembly Per Capita - OGA	\$ 93,827.00	98,414.00	90,655.00
General Assembly Benevolence	\$ 30,000.00	29,500.00	29,500.00
Synod of the Sun Benevolence	\$ 25,000.00	24,500.00	24,500.00
Total Expenses	781,529.00	799,599.00	799,660.00
	Surplus / (Deficit)	(14,299.00)	-

Section H - Exhibit II

Operating Income Statement as of December 31, 2019

THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS										
Operating Income Statement										
For the Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2019										
		Current Month	Current Month	Over/(Under)		Year to Date		2019		Over/(Under)
		Actual	Budget	Budget		Actual		Budget		Budget
6000-01	Mission Acceptance	\$ 262,334.73	242,500.00	19,834.73		\$ 592,691.99		590,000.00		2,691.99
6000-01-1-101	Previous Year Pledges	0.00	0.00	-		500.00		1,500.00		(1,000.00)
Misc (Acct. 6015)	Investment Spend Rate	16,740.64	15,000.00	1,740.64		198,791.64		180,000.00		18,791.64
Misc	Transfer from Investments	0.00	0.00	-		0.00		0.00		0.00
6001-00-1-000	Miscellaneous Revenue	2,075.00	1,150.00	925.00		14,568.64		13,800.00		768.64
	Total Revenues	281,150.37	258,650.00	22,500.37		806,552.27		785,300.00		21,252.27
Expenses										
7000-01-1-000	Coordinating Team--Meeting Exp. Meals, Worship	148.00	100.00	48.00		934.25		1,200.00		(265.75)
7000-06-1-000	Coordinating Team--Gifts	35.95	4.17	31.78		35.95		50.00		(14.05)
7000-09-1-000	Coordinating Team--Moderator's Expense	1,423.67	37.50	1,386.17		1,599.17		450.00		1,149.17
7000-10-1-000	Coordinating Team--Vice moderator's Expense	0.00	91.67	(91.67)		0.00		1,100.00		(1,100.00)
7000-20-1-000	Coordinating Team--Presbytery Workshop/Speaker	0.00	33.33	(33.33)		1,097.67		400.00		697.67
7000-31-1-000	Coordinating Team--Background Checks	1,607.62	291.67	1,315.95		3,884.74		3,500.00		384.74
7100-01-1-000	Administration--Meeting Expense, Financial Review	0.00	583.33	(583.33)		1,934.36		7,000.00		(5,065.64)
7100-04-1-000	Administration--Debt Reduction Contingency (e.g. land appraisal)	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00
7100-05-1-000	Administration--Fenciliff General Site Support	0.00	2,333.33	(2,333.33)		28,000.00		28,000.00		0.00
8400-46-1-000	Repay CCD -- Building mortgage	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00		24,000.00		24,000.00		0.00
		2,000.00	4,916.66	(2,916.66)		53,934.36		59,000.00		(5,065.64)
7200-01-1-000	Min. of the Church--Crnte on Prep. for Ministry--Travel, food, lodging, suppl	0.00	41.25	(41.25)		0.00		495.00		(495.00)
7200-02-1-000	Min. of the Church--Crnte on Prep. for Ministry--ConEd--EmergencyFund, Etc	0.00	83.33	(83.33)		1,000.00		1,000.00		0.00
8000-01-1-000	Min. of the Church--Crnte on Prep. for Ministry--Mtg. Expenses, etc.	0.00	42.08	(42.08)		0.00		505.00		(505.00)
8000-09-1-000	Min. of the Church--Crnte on Prep. for Ministry--Eval. Retreat, Support, Bkg Checks	714.53	250.00	464.53		1,439.53		3,000.00		(1,560.47)
8400-08-1-000	Min. of the Church--Wellspring Contract	0.00	644.58	(644.58)		7,735.00		7,735.00		0.00
7700-01-1-000	Committee on Ministry--travel/food/mtg. support	725.00	416.67	308.33		3,190.22		5,000.00		(1,809.78)
		1,439.53	1,477.91	(38.38)		13,364.75		17,735.00		(4,370.25)
7300-29-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--Campus Min./All	7,069.98	2,500.00	4,569.98		28,279.92		30,000.00		(1,720.08)
7300-71-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--Meetings, travel, meals	0.00	83.33	(83.33)		923.98		1,000.00		(76.02)
7300-73-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT Scholarships	0.00	41.67	(41.67)		0.00		500.00		(500.00)
7300-74-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT Triennium	0.00	166.67	(166.67)		6,792.46		2,000.00		4,792.46
7300-75-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT-YAD at Presbytery	0.00	41.67	(41.67)		(70.25)		500.00		(570.25)
7300-76-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT SR HI YouthQuake	0.00	250.00	(250.00)		4,218.13		3,000.00		1,218.13
7300-77-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT JR HI YouthQuake	(665.00)	166.67	(831.67)		3,052.22		2,000.00		1,052.22
7300-78-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT Montreat	2,000.00	208.33	1,791.67		4,980.90		2,500.00		2,480.90

THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS									
Operating Income Statement									
For the Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2019									
	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	Year to Date Actual	2019 Budget	Over/(Under) Budget			
7300-79-1-000	0.00	208.33	(208.33)	731.20	2,500.00	(1,768.80)			
7300-80-1-000	0.00	208.33	(208.33)	0.00	2,500.00	(2,500.00)			
7300-81-1-000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
7300-84-1-000	6,000.00	208.33	5,791.67	5,540.40	2,500.00	3,040.40			
7300-86-1-000	0.00	41.67	(41.67)	54.84	500.00	(445.16)			
7300-98-1-000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
7300-99-1-000	0.00	1,250.00	(1,250.00)	0.00	15,000.00	(15,000.00)			
	14,404.98	5,375.00	9,029.98	54,503.80	64,500.00	(9,996.20)			
7500-01-1-000	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	1,030.00	1,000.00	30.00			
7500-06-1-000	0.00	64.33	(64.33)	386.00	772.00	(386.00)			
7500-15-1-000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
7500-21-1-000	3,375.00	1,125.00	2,250.00	13,500.00	13,500.00	0.00			
7500-25-1-000	300.00	0.00	300.00	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00			
7500-28-1-000	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,340.00	0.00	1,340.00			
7500-40-1-000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
7500-51-1-000	0.00	2,666.67	(2,666.67)	33,006.45	32,000.00	1,006.45			
7500-53-1-000	900.00	300.00	600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	0.00			
7500-92-1-000	0.00	166.67	(166.67)	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)			
7500-98-1-000	1,782.00	594.00	1,188.00	7,128.00	7,128.00	0.00			
	6,357.00	5,000.00	1,357.00	62,990.45	60,000.00	2,990.45			
7300-01-1-000	60.00	37.50	22.50	942.62	450.00	492.62			
7300-10-1-000	0.00	166.67	(166.67)	790.77	2,000.00	(1,209.23)			
7300-21-1-000	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	24,000.00	24,000.00	0.00			
7300-24-1-000	0.00	416.67	(416.67)	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00			
7300-30-1-000	0.00	166.67	(166.67)	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00			
7300-41-1-000	0.00	31.25	(31.25)	0.00	375.00	(375.00)			
7300-90-1-000	698.20	166.67	531.53	2,467.02	2,000.00	467.02			
7300-91-1-000	0.00	91.67	(91.67)	972.13	1,100.00	(127.87)			
7600-03-1-000	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	950.00	1,000.00	(50.00)			
7600-05-1-000	0.00	166.67	(166.67)	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00			
7600-26-1-000	875.00	291.67	583.33	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00			
7600-44-1-000	250.00	83.33	166.67	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00			
7600-45-1-000	125.00	41.67	83.33	500.00	500.00	0.00			
7600-49-1-000	250.00	83.33	166.67	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00			
7600-51-1-000	625.00	208.33	416.67	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00			
7600-62-1-000	2,200.00	1,172.92	1,027.08	13,000.00	14,075.00	(1,075.00)			
7600-96-1-000	250.00	83.33	166.67	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00			
8300-01-1-000	425.00	41.67	383.33	499.99	500.00	(0.01)			
8300-07-1-000	693.00	291.67	401.33	3,499.34	3,500.00	(0.66)			

THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS									
Operating Income Statement									
For the Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2019									
	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	Year to Date Actual	2019 Budget	Over/(Under) Budget			
9400-01-1-000	Mission of the Church--Disaster Preparedness	362.92	41.67	321.25	500.00	0.00	66,121.87	68,000.00	(1,878.13)
7800-01-1-000	Nominations--travel, food	0.00	25.00	(25.00)	218.08	(81.92)		300.00	(81.92)
8100-01-1-000	Representation--Meeting Expenses	0.00	3.75	(3.75)	0.00	(45.00)		45.00	(45.00)
8400-01-1-000	POA/Supplies & Office Exp.	825.69	333.33	492.36	2,276.79	4,000.00		4,000.00	(1,723.21)
8400-02-1-000	Utilities/Telephone	880.33	750.00	130.33	9,855.63	9,000.00		9,000.00	855.63
8400-03-1-000	Copy Machine	577.38	600.00	(22.62)	5,751.43	7,200.00		7,200.00	(1,448.57)
8400-05-1-000	Technology	(1,399.84)	250.00	(1,649.84)	4,662.63	3,000.00		3,000.00	1,662.63
8400-07-1-000	Replace Equipment	8,542.67	166.67	8,376.00	8,542.67	2,000.00		2,000.00	6,542.67
8400-09-1-000	Insurance	0.00	641.67	(641.67)	8,266.00	7,700.00		7,700.00	566.00
8400-10-1-000	Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	41.67	(41.67)	482.40	500.00		500.00	(17.60)
8400-12-1-000	Maintenance(Grounds,Bldg, Upkeep)	640.84	833.33	(192.49)	12,739.04	10,000.00		10,000.00	2,739.04
		10,067.07	3,616.67	6,450.40	52,576.59	43,400.00		43,400.00	9,176.59
8400-13-1-000	SC-travel,computer,etc.	0.00	358.33	(358.33)	86.64	4,300.00		4,300.00	(4,213.36)
8400-15-1-000	Assistant Stated Clerk Expense	0.00	106.25	(106.25)	942.22	1,275.00		1,275.00	(332.78)
8400-22-1-000	K. Rich/Travel	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	200.32	1,000.00		1,000.00	(799.68)
8400-24-1-000	N. Thompson/Travel	275.00	62.50	212.50	384.89	750.00		750.00	(365.11)
8400-25-1-000	S. Smith/Professional Ex	3,046.87	1,250.00	1,796.87	14,527.78	15,000.00		15,000.00	(472.22)
8400-29-1-000	Salaries	19,275.05	14,575.42	4,699.63	140,690.86	174,905.00		174,905.00	(34,214.14)
8400-30-1-000	Pension/Major Medical	2,965.61	4,583.33	(1,617.72)	36,677.54	55,000.00		55,000.00	(18,322.46)
8400-31-1-000	S. Smith/Continuing Ed.	0.00	125.00	(125.00)	1,189.72	1,500.00		1,500.00	(310.28)
8400-33-1-000	Payroll Taxes	795.61	1,312.50	(516.89)	8,561.07	15,750.00		15,750.00	(7,188.93)
8400-34-1-000	Housing	2,975.00	2,975.00	0.00	35,700.00	35,700.00		35,700.00	0.00
8400-37-1-000	K. Rich/Cont. Ed.	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	352.00	1,000.00		1,000.00	(648.00)
8400-40-1-000	S. Smith/FICA	526.66	583.33	(56.67)	6,319.92	7,000.00		7,000.00	(680.08)
8400-41-1-000	N.Thompson/Cont. Ed.	0.00	43.75	(43.75)	0.00	525.00		525.00	(525.00)
8400-49-1-000	H. Lahodny/Travel	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	0.00	1,000.00		1,000.00	(1,000.00)
8400-50-1-000	M. Vinson/Travel	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	7.50	1,000.00		1,000.00	(992.50)
8400-51-1-000	B. Christiansen/Con. Ed.	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	750.00	1,000.00		1,000.00	(250.00)
8400-52-1-000	M. Vinson/Con. Ed.	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	0.00	1,000.00		1,000.00	(1,000.00)
8400-53-1-000	TPF Bookkeeping Fees	2,049.77	916.67	1,133.10	10,803.59	11,000.00		11,000.00	(196.41)
		41,976.64	31,008.73	10,967.91	309,770.64	328,705.00		328,705.00	(62,334.36)

THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS									
Operating Income Statement									
For the Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2019									
	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	Year to Date Actual	2019 Budget	Over/(Under) Budget			
8400-17-1-000	Administrative Commissions	0.00	166.67	(166.67)	5,273.75	2,000.00	3,273.75		
8600-01-1-000	General Assembly	1,798.14	2,458.33	(660.19)	28,899.07	29,500.00	(600.93)		
8700-01-1-000	GA Per Capita	8,196.05	8,201.17	(5.12)	98,414.00	98,414.00	0.00		
8800-01-1-000	Synod Mission	0.00	2,041.67	(2,041.67)	25,100.93	24,500.00	600.93		
		9,994.19	12,701.17	(2,706.98)	152,414.00	152,414.00	0.00		
	Total Expenses	84,594.08	66,633.25	17,960.83	722,476.44	799,599.00	(77,122.56)		
	Net Income	\$ 196,556.29	\$ 192,016.75	\$ 4,539.54	\$ 84,075.83	\$ 14,299.00	\$ 98,374.83		

Section H - Exhibit III
Benevolence as of December 31, 2019

LOCATION	2017 Benevolence	2018 Benevolence	2019 Benevolence
Alma	-	-	-
Amity	-	-	-
Arkadelphia, First	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Arkadelphia, West End	1,106.00	1,106.00	1,106.00
Atkins	-	-	-
Batesville	10,000.00	7,500.00	10,000.00
Beebe	1,200.00	1,500.00	900.00
Bella Vista	27,500.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
Benton	8,150.00	8,200.00	9,600.00
Bentonville, First	22,000.00	28,000.00	29,500.00
Bentonville, Vaughn	2,000.00	-	-
Brinkley	-	-	-
Bull Shoals	-	-	-
Cane Hill	-	-	-
Clarksville, First	-	-	-
Clarksville, Harmony	1,000.00	-	-
Conway	7,500.00	6,875.00	8,125.00
Dardanelle	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Elkins	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Eureka Springs	2,000.00	2,750.00	3,000.00
Fairfield Bay	4,510.00	1,650.00	700.00
Fayetteville, First United	41,000.00	37,576.00	44,424.00
Fayetteville, Mt. Comfort	1,000.00	1,660.00	1,660.00
Forrest City	8,250.00	8,250.00	8,250.00
Ft. Smith, Central	16,000.00	16,000.00	16,000.00
Ft. Smith, First	5,250.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Greenwood	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Gurdon	600.00	1,800.00	1,200.00
Hardy	-	500.00	250.60
Harrison	2,083.30	2,083.22	-
Heber Springs	-	860.00	800.00
Helena	1,000.00	500.00	500.00
Holiday Island	3,750.00	6,200.00	6,200.00
Holly Grove	500.00	500.00	500.00
Horseshoe Bend	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
HSV, Kirk	27,270.00	27,270.00	27,270.00
H. Springs, First	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
H. Springs, Westminster	7,999.96	7,342.37	8,013.04
Huntsville	2,400.00	2,000.00	2,400.00
Jacksonville	2,640.00	2,640.00	2,655.00
Jonesboro	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Lincoln	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
LR, Allison	5,000.00	400.00	657.05
LR, First	2,499.99	-	-
LR, Grace	7,500.00	9,375.00	5,625.00
LR, Pulaski Heights	1,500.00	2,035.00	3,478.00
Little Rock, Second	200,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00
LR, Trinity	8,000.00	8,000.00	7,333.33
LR, Westminster	400.00	300.00	300.00
LR, Westover Hills	10,500.00	10,500.00	10,500.00
Lonoke	1,200.00	100.00	900.00
Malvern	10,000.00	2,620.86	5,241.72
Marianna	200.00	-	-
McGehee	2,520.00	2,520.00	2,520.00
Mena	3,750.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Morrilton, First	500.00	-	-
Morrilton, Hopewell	-	-	-

Benevolence as of December 31, 2019

Mountain Home	1,400.00	950.00	1,000.00
Mountainburg	-	-	-
Newport	4,800.00	4,800.00	4,800.00
Norman	20.00	-	-
NLR, First	1,500.00	-	-
NLR, Park Hill	16,000.00	16,000.00	16,000.00
Paragould, First	-	-	-
Pea Ridge	2,750.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Pine Bluff, Central	-	825.00	416.66
Pine Bluff, Faith	-	-	500.00
Pine Bluff, First	4,583.30	4,999.92	4,999.92
Prairie Grove	6,257.00	5,500.00	7,700.00
Rogers	6,416.63	6,999.96	7,000.00
Russellville	-	10,000.00	-
Searcy	-	-	2,000.00
Springdale	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
Stuttgart	-	-	666.67
Van Buren	7,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Walnut Ridge	6,689.00	-	-
Wynne	8,341.66	7,500.00	7,500.00
Yellville	8,000.00	8,000.00	6,000.00
Total	<hr/> 601,536.84	<hr/> 587,688.33	<hr/> 592,691.99

Section H – Exhibit IV

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2019

THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS

Balance Sheet
December 31, 2019

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash TPF & Arvest - undesignated	14,894.55
TPF Investment Cash - designated	498,565.17
TPF Investments	4,078,401.08
TPF Mark to Market 52190	1,709,952.13

Total Current Assets **6,308,374.04**

Property and Equipment

Furniture & Fixtures	68,104.89
Land	213,237.00
Buildings	771,516.12

1,052,858.01

Accumulated Depreciation (404,918.27)

Net Property and Equipment **6,933,252.44**

TOTAL ASSETS **\$ 6,933,252.44**

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Current Liabilities

Payroll & Other Withholdings	2,000.00
------------------------------	----------

Total Current Liabilities **2,000.00**

Fund Balance

Equity Beginning Balance	4,468,944.31
Fund Balance	1,010,687.60
Transfer To & From Account	3,803.60
Unrealized Gains/Losses	1,244,821.57
Net Income	202,995.36

Total Fund Balance **6,931,252.44**

TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL **\$ 6,933,252.44**

Section I – Exhibit I

Background Information on the Proposed Overture

In accordance with Standing Rule A.3. in the Manual of the General Assembly, prior to submitting an overture to the General Assembly the Stated Clerk of a presbytery shall consult with the Office of the General Assembly to discern whether a previous GA has voted on the desired action of a proposed overture or whether a current overture desiring the same action has been submitted. This action was taken by Stated Clerk MWS Leslie Belden who communicated with Kate Trigger Duffert, Program Assistant for General Assembly Business, with the response that the overture that will be considered by the Presbytery of Arkansas is unique enough that it bears standing alone.

Presbyteries submitting overtures must also submit evidence that affected entities were consulted. Such a consultation took place through a February 3, 2020 conference call between Stated Clerk Belden; MWS Ainsley Herrick, who has submitted the overture for the presbytery's consideration; Rob Fohr, Director of Faith-Based Investing and Corporate Engagement of the Presbyterian Mission Agency; Raymond Bonwell of the Board of Pensions; and Anita Clemons, Robyn Sekula, and Katie Carter, representatives from Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI). Further correspondence was exchanged with Barry Creech, Director of Policy, Administration and Board Support of the Presbyterian Mission Agency to include him in the consultations.

Overtures must also meet specific submittal deadlines in order to be considered. In the case of the proposed overture that deadline is 60 days before the commencement of General Assembly since there are financial implications for current or future budgets, which is April 21, 2020. Below are links to information that is relevant to the consideration of the proposed overture.

- The link to the General Assembly's Divestment Policy: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/GA-1984-Divestment-Strategy.pdf>
- The link to the General Assembly's 2020 Divestment/Proscription List: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/Final-MRTI-2020-GA-Long-Form-Divestment-List-1.pdf>
- The link to the Board of Pensions' Policy on Prohibited Securities, adopted at their Fall 2019 meeting: <http://www.pensions.org/file/our-role-and-purpose/about-us/performance-and-financials/Documents/BOP-Policy-Prohibited-Securities.pdf/>
- The link to the Board of Pensions' broader landing page, which also includes links to the Board's Financials and Investment Review (and the Policy of Prohibited Securities): <http://www.pensions.org/our-role-and-purpose/about-us/performance-and-financials>.
- The link to a similar Divestment Overture, Item 08-02 from the 223rd General Assembly, with comments from PC(USA) agencies and organizations: biz.org/#/search/3000228
- The link to a similar Divestment Overture before the 224th General Assembly, OVT 013, from the Presbytery of Monmouth: <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000523>

Section I – Exhibit II

Overture

The Presbytery of Arkansas overtures the 224th General Assembly (2020) to:

1. Encourage all congregations and presbyteries to learn about and start the process of divestment from fossil fuels through The Presbyterian Foundation and the Board of Pensions using the Carbon Underground 200 and the S&P Global Industry Classification Standard's list of publicly-traded companies engaged in coal, oil and gas exploration, extraction, and production as the criteria to identify which companies are considered to be fossil fuel companies.
2. Direct Mission Responsibility Through Investment to add all companies on the Carbon Underground 200 and the S&P Global Industry Classification Standard's list to the divestment list and recommend divestment to the Board of Pensions.
3. Recognize that the fossil fuel industry has long provided employment for many, including members of our denomination, and therefore:
 - a. Affirm that working in the fossil fuel industry is a necessity for many and assure our members that divestment is not a condemnation or judgment of their choice of employment.
 - b. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to be in conversation with presbyteries whose members are most dependent on the fossil fuel industry, in order to discern ways that we can support them as our society transitions away from our dependence on fossil fuels and jobs are inevitably lost.
4. Recognize that the fossil fuel industry has also caused a climate crisis, and that many around the world are already suffering the impact of climate change, including many within our own denomination, and therefore:
 - a. Direct the PMA to be in conversation with presbyteries whose members are most affected by climate change to discern ways we can continue to support them and minimize the impact of climate change in their lives and communities as we divest from fossil fuels

Rationale:

Although human use of fossil fuels has caused economic and social growth, burning fossil fuels has already raised the average temperature of the earth by 1°C (1.8°F). The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change¹ (IPCC) shows the extent of the

¹ IPCC, 2018: *Summary for Policymakers*. In: *Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty* [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, H.-O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J.B.R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M.I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T.

damage we will cause to creation if we allow the earth's temperature to rise by 1.5-2°C, the targets agreed to by all nations of the world under the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.² Even at 1.5°C of warming, we can expect to see the extinction of over 300,000 species of animals, have an ice-free Arctic in most summers, expose 14% of people to extreme heat waves (especially in the Global South), expose 250 million people to severe drought, and raise sea levels by at least 1.3 feet.

Thus, knowing we must keep climate to 1.5°- 2°C of warming, we are limited to how much fossil fuel can be burned and how much time we have to use our prophetic and moral voices as people of faith called by God to love people and all creation..

We have about 10 years after GA 224 to stay within these warming limits. However, the fossil fuel industry's own estimates³ show that burning the proved reserves of fossil fuels will release almost three times the carbon budget at 2°C⁴ and an astounding five times the 1.5°C budget – CO₂ that will remain in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. Despite these dire realities, oil and gas production is increasing, and PC(USA)'s money has helped allowed oil and gas companies to spend over \$114 Billion in 2017⁵ to acquire new deposits of oil and gas that we can't afford to burn. We can not trust the industry to listen to us and to respond with urgency.

Climate change is no longer some future threat that we will have to contend with at a later date. The effects of climate change are already being seen around the world by a nearly incalculable number of people who are already experiencing due to the natural disasters, malnutrition, pollution, and disease, and death that are also caused by overconsumption of fossil fuels and climate change.

This number is rising every year as we continue to consume fossil fuels at an unsustainable rate. Natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and wildfires are becoming more common and more deadly. In 2017, Hurricane Maria caused the deaths of more than 4,600 people in Puerto Rico.⁶ That same year Hurricane Harvey caused an estimated \$125 billion of damage

Maycock, M. Tignor, and T. Waterfield (eds.)].

https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/SR15_SPM_version_report_LR.pdf

² United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2015. *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twenty-first session, held in Paris from 30 November to 13 December 2015.*

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

³ BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2019. 68th edition. <https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/business-sites/en/global/corporate/pdfs/energy-economics/statistical-review/bp-stats-review-2019-full-report.pdf>

⁴ Richard Heede and Naomi Oreskes 2016. *Global Environmental Change*. Potential emissions of CO₂ and methane from proved reserves of fossil fuels: An alternative analysis. doi: 10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2015.10.005

⁵ Robert Rapier 2018. *Forbes*. Oil Company Spending And Oil Reserves Are On The Rise.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/rrapier/2018/07/27/oil-company-spending-and-oil-reserves-are-on-the-rise/#207559c54a31>

⁶ Arelis R. Hernandez and Laurie McGinley 2018. *Washington Post*. Harvard Study Estimates Thousands Died in Puerto Ric because of Hurricane Maria. https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/harvard-study-estimates-thousands-died-in-puerto-rico-due-to-hurricane-maria/2018/05/29/1a82503a-6070-11e8-a4a4-c070ef53f315_story.html?noredirect=on

in Texas.⁷ Of California's 10 most destructive wildfires in history, 6 happened over a 10 month period in 2017-2018.⁸ Droughts in Latin America are decimating crops, causing a spike in migration north towards the US/Mexico border.⁹

We simply cannot continue to invest in fossil fuels at the rate that we have been if we want to stop the damage already being done to the environment and the millions of people already suffering the impacts of climate change.

Our investments must switch to renewable energy now, before it is too late. That being said, many within our denominations rely on the fossil fuel industry as their main source of income. Just as our members in places already feeling the brunt of the damage from climate change worry about their futures, our members who work in the fossil fuel industry worry about their own futures, as they wonder how they will earn a living as jobs in the fossil fuel industry disappear. Jobs in the fossil fuel industry are already on a decline, as mining resources like coal become less profitable. Whether or not the PCUSA divests from fossil fuels, these jobs will inevitably disappear as our society makes the necessary transition to renewable energy. Just as we must continue to support those in our denomination most impacted by climate change, we must also begin searching for ways to support those who will lose their jobs as fossil fuels become obsolete.

⁷ nhc.noaa.gov/news/UpdatedCostliest.pdf

⁸ Chris Dolce 2018. *The Weather Channel*. Six of California's Most Destructive Wildfires Have Struck in the Past 10 Months. <https://weather.com/news/news/2018-07-30-california-20-most-destructive-wildfires-carr-fire>

⁹ Miranda Cady Hallet 2019. *Latino USA*. How Climate Change is Driving Emigration from Central America. <https://www.latinousa.org/2019/09/09/climatechange/>

Worship Leadership

Dr. Russell Stinson ~ Josephine Emily Brown Professor of Music and College Organist, Lyon College

James M. Bell ~ Director of Pipe Band and Director of Scottish Heritage Program, Lyon College

Rev. Maggie Alsop ~ Chaplain, Lyon College

Allison Mundy ~ Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock; Lyon College Class of 2021

Emma Gillaspay ~ First Presbyterian Church, Conway; Lyon College Class of 2020

Dr. Michael Oriatti ~ Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Lyon College Chorale, Lyon College

Payne Moser ~ First Presbyterian Church, Batesville, Lyon College Class of 2023

David Stricklin ~ Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock; Moderator of the Presbytery of Arkansas (2019)

Sabrina Denmon ~ First Presbyterian Church, Batesville; Lyon College Class of 2021

Claire Rhodes ~ Commissioned Ruling Elder, West End Presbyterian Church, Arkadelphia

Rev. Marion Humphrey ~ Allison Memorial Presbyterian Church, Little Rock; Moderator of the Presbytery of Arkansas (2020)

Cyril Hollingsworth ~ Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

Rev. David Hutchison ~ Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Lyon College

Kenton Adler ~ Piper, Lyon College

Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett ~ President and Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission Agency

Rev. Stewart Smith ~ General Presbyter, Presbytery of Arkansas

Presbytery of Arkansas



**A Service of Word
and Sacrament**

We acknowledge that Christ chooses to be known in the world through this community of ordinary people, therefore we dare not despise or abandon the church. Christ is the head of the church, therefore we are responsible to Christ when we make policy and decisions in the church. Christ is the foundation of the church, therefore it will not fall despite our weakness.

From "A Declaration of Faith"

**March 6, 2020
7:30 PM**

Brown Chapel at Lyon College

The Church at Worship

(* Those who are able are invited to stand.)

*Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

The Gathering

Prelude *Prelude and Fugue in e-flat Major* J.S. Bach
Dr. Russell Stinson
Processional *Scotland the Brave; Lyon College March; Clan Lyon*
Lyon College Pipe Band
Call to Worship Rev. Maggie Alsup

One: As we gather for worship this evening, we are ever mindful of the task at hand.

All: **Help us to let go of our wants and desires to better follow and serve you.**

One: In an ever-changing world, we want tangible proof of your care.

All: **Help us pick up the gift of your grace found in each other, this community, and this time of worship.**

One: May our souls be nourished here at the ever-flowing stream of your mercy and grace.

All: **Strengthen our faith, that we may have life in Christ's name. Amen.**

* Hymn of Praise *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High*

O love, how deep, how broad, how high.

How passing thought and fantasy

That God, the Son of God, should take

Our mortal form for mortals' sake.

For us baptized, for us He bore

His Holy fast and hungered sore;

For us temptations sharp He knew;

For us the tempter overthrew.

* Charge and Benediction David Stricklin

*Recessional *Bonnie Dundee and Geordies Byre*
Lyon College Pipe Band

* Postlude *Agincourt Hymn*
(attr. John Dunstable)
Dr. Russell Stinson

*Following this evening's worship, all are invited to join Dr.
W. Joseph King at a reception held in the Bevens Room,
adjacent to Brown Chapel.*

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Communion of the People

(We will receive Communion by intinction. Please follow the instructions of the ushers in each aisle.)

Prayer after Communion

* Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,

Fix in us thy humble dwelling; all they faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;

Visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;

Let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;

End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

(Choir ONLY)

Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive;

Suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temple leave.

Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above;

Pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;

Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:

*For us to evil power betrayed,
Scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death;
For us gave up His dying breath.*

(Choir ONLY)

For us He rose from death again;

For us He went on high to reign;

For us He sent the Spirit here

To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

All glory to our Lord and God

For love so deep, so high, so broad:

The Trinity whom we adore

Forever and forever more.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

If, at times, we deny you, God forgive. When the risks of discipleship are high, and we are nowhere to be found: God forgive. When we wash our hands of responsibility: God forgive. When we cast our lot with the powerful and seek to buy freedom with silver: God forgive. When fear keeps us from witnessing to your truth, or prejudice keeps us from believe it: God forgive. We know that in the bright light of Easter morning, O God, our sin is exposed, and your grace is revealed. Tender God, walk with us in your love, this Lent so that our hearts may be ready to see.

*Assurance of Pardon

*The Peace

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us also forgive each other and share the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you all.

Worship Leadership

Dr. Russell Stinson ~ Josephine Emily Brown Professor of Music and College Organist, Lyon College

James M. Bell ~ Director of Pipe Band and Director of Scottish Heritage Program, Lyon College

Rev. Maggie Alsop ~ Chaplain, Lyon College

Allison Mundy ~ Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock; Lyon College Class of 2021

Emma Gillaspay ~ First Presbyterian Church, Conway; Lyon College Class of 2020

Dr. Michael Oriatti ~ Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Lyon College Chorale, Lyon College

Payne Moser ~ First Presbyterian Church, Batesville, Lyon College Class of 2023

David Stricklin ~ Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock; Moderator of the Presbytery of Arkansas (2019)

Sabrina Denmon ~ First Presbyterian Church, Batesville; Lyon College Class of 2021

Claire Rhodes ~ Commissioned Ruling Elder, West End Presbyterian Church, Arkadelphia

Rev. Marion Humphrey ~ Allison Memorial Presbyterian Church, Little Rock; Moderator of the Presbytery of Arkansas (2020)

Cyril Hollingsworth ~ Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

Rev. David Hutchison ~ Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Lyon College

Kenton Adler ~ Piper, Lyon College

Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett ~ President and Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission Agency

Rev. Stewart Smith ~ General Presbyter, Presbytery of Arkansas

Presbytery of Arkansas



(U S A)

A Service of Word and Sacrament

We acknowledge that Christ chooses to be known in the world through this community of ordinary people, therefore we dare not despise or abandon the church. Christ is the head of the church, therefore we are responsible to Christ when we make policy and decisions in the church. Christ is the foundation of the church, therefore it will not fall despite our weakness.

From "A Declaration of Faith"

**March 6, 2020
7:30 PM**

Brown Chapel at Lyon College