

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

**June 6, 2020**

## **Prelude and Announcements**

The 144<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was the first-ever meeting conducted utilizing Zoom technology. A prelude time to assist with getting participants on-line and sharing information began at 8:30 am on Saturday morning, June 6, 2020. Information and instructions concerning Zoom, as well as announcements, were scrolled across the Zoom screen while the Zoom function of “chat” was turned on so that participants in the Presbytery meeting could fellowship.

## **Preliminaries**

At 8:45 am MWS Marion Humphrey, Moderator of the Presbytery of Arkansas, welcomed all to the 144<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas and introduced MWS Jeff Price, Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church of Little Rock and host of the 144<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, who explained the technology of Zoom.

MWS Leslie Belden, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Arkansas, lifted up the theme of the 144<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting: All Together, Many Places. One Spirit. She also welcomed Corresponding Members, First-Time Commissioners, and non-Commissioners/Visitors, explaining that all who registered for the meeting will be granted privilege of the floor if the Consent Agenda is approved later in the meeting. She also tested the “raise hand” function of Zoom by asking all First-Time Commissioners to raise their hands. Belden also encouraged all participants to fill out the evaluation survey that will be sent out following the meeting to assist the Coordinating Team in planning for future meetings.

Stated Clerk Belden then explained that the Consent Agenda also contained motions granting the technology aspect of Zoom functions ordinarily relegated to what are traditionally referred to as “Tellers” and the “Leaves of Absence Committee.” She further explained who could vote, and shared that as of 7:50 am that morning registration indicated that there were 233 participants registered for the meeting.

## **Call to Order and Opening Prayer**

The 144<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was called to order with prayer and the lighting of the Christ candle at Trinity Presbyterian Church of Little Rock at 9:00 am on June 6, 2020, by Moderator MWS Marion Humphrey.

## **Declaration of a Quorum**

**Moderator Humphrey declared a quorum present with 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 attendance is included in the Appendix as Attachment 1.

### **Words of Welcome from MWS Stewart Smith, General Presbyter**

General Presbyter MWS Stewart Smith welcomed participants and thanked those whose work made having a Zoom meeting possible. After explaining that MWS Rebecca Spooner was chosen to lead worship because she is considered the “Presbytery’s therapist,” he led those on-line in a moment of silence to acknowledge the painful and divisive time period the nation, and world, is currently in. MWS Smith shared dates associated with the election of the General Assembly’s Co-Moderators, which MWS Marie Mainard-O’Connell is standing for. The *Presbyterian Outlook* has scheduled a webinar with the candidates for June 10, 2020 at 6:00 pm, and the election itself is slated for June 19, 2020 at 7:00 pm. He explained that the General Assembly itself will be held via Zoom on Friday, June 19, 2020 from 6-9:00 pm and on Friday and Saturday, June 26-27, 2020, beginning at 10 am both days. There will be links to watch the meeting at [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org).

Other information shared by General Presbyter MWS Smith included:

- Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center has 25,000 masks available for when congregations in the Presbytery resume in-person gatherings. Those interested may call Ferncliff or look for an application on the Presbytery’s Facebook page.
- Ferncliff has applied for a Lilly Grant to be a host site for the "Creating a Culture of Renewal" program led by Rebecca Simon Peters. If selected, Ferncliff would market the program to regional Presbyterian and Methodist congregations and pastors.
- The University of the Ozarks has been given seed money to make preparations for an application for a 1 million dollar grant in the Lilly Foundation's "Thriving in Ministry" program. It is designed to help pastors and congregations thrive in their ministries in rural congregations. Smith encouraged pastors and Clerks of Sessions to be on the lookout for an email from Rich Dunsworth, President of the U of O, with a survey to fill out, and urged them to fill it out.

### **Consent Agenda**

Stated Clerk MWS Belden moved the adoption of the Consent Agenda, containing the following motions:

- 1. Motion to adopt the docket.**
- 2. Motion to approve the minutes of the 143<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, March 6-7, 2020, held at Lyon College, Batesville, Arkansas.**
- 3. Motion to enroll corresponding members named by the Stated Clerk with voice but not vote.**

4. **Motion to grant privilege of the floor (voice) to those persons named by the Stated Clerk.**
5. **Motion for the technology of Zoom to count votes, serving as what the Presbytery of Arkansas has historically termed the “Tellers.”**
6. **Motion for the Stated Clerk to record those absent and those present and include those names and numbers in the minutes, serving as what the Presbytery of Arkansas has historically termed the “Leaves of Absence Committee.”**

**The motion was seconded, and the Consent Agenda was approved.**

### **Worship**

An inspiring worship service centered on the message given by MWS Rebecca Spooner, considered the Presbytery of Arkansas’ pastoral counselor. Worship included both live segments on-site at Trinity Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, as well as spotlighted elements of worship from across the Presbytery, and pre-recorded musical contributions. The message of MWS Spooner focused on pastoral concerns generated by COVID-19 and the cry for justice elicited by racial inequities made more evident by law enforcement’s bias against the black community as protested across Arkansas, the United States, and the international community.

Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center was the designated offering recipient, which totaled \$546.41.

### **Coffee Break**

The Presbytery took a fifteen-minute break during which written announcements and explanations of various aspects of a Zoom meeting were scrolled across the screen, and the chat function of Zoom was turned on.

### **Celebrations and News of the Presbytery**

The Presbytery was inspired and encouraged by an entertaining video compiled by Presbytery Builder MWS Carol Clark, Presbytery Connector RE Julie Price, and Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Brianne Christiansen. The video lifted up the ministries of congregations and other ministries around the Presbytery of Arkansas, including the following:

First Presbyterian Church of Conway – Advent/Lent Taize services and shadow theatre

First Presbyterian Church of Lincoln – Worship time change that increased participation

First Presbyterian Church of Searcy – Drive-in Sunday services in their cars

First Presbyterian Church of Prairie Grove – Acting out scripture in worship

Youth Ministries and the Work of the A-Team – Led by Brianne Christiansen

Honduras Ministry – MWS Dori Hjalmarson, PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker  
Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center – MWS Jocelyn Wildhack  
West End Presbyterian Church of Arkadelphia – Shared ministries and their pulpit exchange  
Mt. Comfort Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville – "The Old School House" improved and available to the community  
The Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista – Systematic program of welcoming and integrating visitors

Moderator Humphrey encouraged Pastors, Christian Educators, and Commissioned Ruling Elders to join the Presbytery's Zoom conversations aimed at encouraging leaders in their ministries during the COVID-19 pandemic through the sharing of ideas and mutual support on Friday mornings at 10:00 am. He explained that the Zoom information for these meetings was the same as for the Presbytery meeting.

### **Report of the Committee on Administration**

Moderator RE Tom Verdery gave the report of the Committee on Administration, referring to the written report of the Committee on Administration, included in the Appendix as Attachment 2. Verdery lifted up the Operating Income Statement as of April 30, 2020, Benevolences as of June 2, 2020, and the Balance Sheet Summary as of April 30, 2020, included in the Appendix with the report. He explained that income in 2020 may be limited due to the volatility of the stock market, but that the Presbytery's expenses have been reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. MWS Becky Purcell asked for more detailed information about income and expenses, and RE Verdery re-emphasized the current situation due to COVID-19.

### **MWS Joseph Moore of the Presbyterian Foundation**

MWS Joseph Moore brought greetings from the Presbyterian Foundation. He shared that he is a resource for sessions and finance committees, and is also available to preach – including emailing a sermon. He serves as a pastor in Austin, Texas, where he lives with his wife and three children and puppy. He explained that the Foundation is one of the six entities of the PC(USA), and that the Presbyterian Foundation offers resources to congregations to talk about planned giving and to encourage generosity. MWS Moore explained that the Foundation can also assist congregations with ways to give on-line, and encouraged those attending the Presbytery meeting to visit the Presbyterian Foundation's website. Moore explained that General Presbyter Stewart Smith has his contact information for those wishing to contact him.

### **RE Kevin Keaton of the Board of Pensions**

RE Kevin Keaton, Consultant of the Board of Pensions for the Synod of Mid-America and the Synod of the Sun, shared a video on "Serving More, Serving Better: Understanding the 2021 Benefits Plan." He explained that employee benefits extend to mental health benefits, and shared that the number of non-ordained, non-employee participants in the plan now exceeds

the number of ordained pastors in the plan. He also shared that the new plans in the financial protection programs for 2021 are the “Temporary Disability Plan” and the “Long-Term Disability Plan”, and Kevin explained those plans in more detail. The PowerPoint presentation that Kevin shared is available to those interested in sharing it with their sessions or finance committees, and RE Kevin Keaton may be contacted at 215.435.1301 or [kkeaton@pensions.org](mailto:kkeaton@pensions.org).

MWS Marie Mainard O’Connell, Pastor of Park Hill Presbyterian Church in North Little Rock, asked about the minister’s choice benefits and whether other employees may be covered. Kevin explained that there is a “Menu Option” program for non-installed pastors and staff, and went into more detail. CRE Claire Rhodes, CRE of West End Presbyterian Church of Arkadelphia, asked about benefits for Commissioned Ruling Elders. Again, the answer was that they may participate through “Menu Options.” Benefits may be selected according to the needs of that position and congregation in the “Menu Options” program. MWS Bradley Rito, Pastor of Holiday Island Presbyterian Church asked how sessions could learn about these programs. Kevin explained that the new benefits are included in the existing benefits package so no decisions will need to be made. The pension remains at 37% of effective salary, and there will be more communications from the Board of Pensions, as well as gatherings, to explain the changes. MWS Susan Arnold, Pastor of Wynne Presbyterian Church, asked about the post-retirement plan, which Kevin explained as a medicare supplement plan and went into more detail.

### **Report of the Coordinating Team**

RE David Stricklin, Moderator of the Coordinating Team, explained to the body that the Coordinating Team does the business of the Presbytery between meetings of the Presbytery. He shared that the Coordinating Team came to the body with one motion, and made the following:

**Motion of the Coordinating Team to ratify the election of MWS Maggie Alsup, Chaplain of Lyon College, as Moderator of the Committee on Youth, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry.**

Moderator Humphrey opened the floor to nominations from the floor. There being none, the body proceeded to the vote.

**The motion was approved with 103 positive votes and no negative votes.**

RE Stricklin shared that the Presbytery had a celebration to share: That MWS Marie Mainard O’Connell, Pastor of Park Hill Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock and Presbytery commissioner to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, is standing for Co-Moderator and that the Coordinating Team approved endorsing her on behalf of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

MWS Mainard O’Connell shared that she is grateful for the opportunity to stand for Co-Moderator. She was reporting from a pastor’s conference at which they were addressing

issues related to racism. Marie expressed her enthusiasm about the prospect of serving the denomination.

That concluded the business of the Coordinating Team. Their report is included in the Appendix as Attachment 3.

### **Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

Moderator MWS Susan Gray explained the process of candidates under care, and made the following motion:

**The Committee on Preparation for Ministry moves that Inquirer Brianne Christiansen be enrolled as a Candidate for Minister of the Word and Sacrament.**

Inquirer Christiansen addressed the Presbytery and Moderator Humphrey asked if anyone had a question of Christiansen based on her Statement of Faith that is included in Appendix as Attachment 4 in the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

MWS Bradley Rito, Pastor of Holiday Island Presbyterian Church, commended Brianne on her Statement of Faith and asked about gender language in her statement. Brianne responded that she wanted to honor the incarnational aspect of Jesus, that he was born human as a male and lived here as a male, so she chose to use the masculine pronoun when referring to Jesus.

MWS Becky Purcell, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Prairie Grove, questioned Brianne about the language she used in her statement, "Jesus fully returned to God." Purcell asked Christiansen whether she believes that Jesus was God or returned to God. Brianne answered with a "yes/and" response, elevating that that Jesus is also with us as Holy Spirit. There being no further questions, Christiansen was put into the Zoom waiting room for the vote.

**Motion approved with 105 positive votes and no negative votes.**

Christiansen returned to silent applause, and her husband, Jacob, and the congregation of First United Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville were recognized. MWSs Jan and Phil Butin led the Presbytery in prayer on Christiansen's behalf.

MWS Gray made the following motion on behalf of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry:

**The Committee on Preparation for Ministry moves that Meredith Burnett, a deacon at Mountainburg Presbyterian Church, be enrolled as an Inquirer.**

Burnett spoke to the Presbytery, and was put in the Zoom waiting room for the vote. MWS Becky Purcell, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Prairie Grove, asked whether Burnett

was enrolled in a MDiv program. MWS Gray responded that Burnett is enrolled in the MDiv program at Phillips Seminary in Tulsa.

**Motion approved with 104 positive votes and no negative votes.**

Burnett was welcomed back to the meeting with silent applause, and her family and the congregation of Mountainburg Presbyterian Church were recognized. RE Art Richmond, the father of Meredith Burnett, led the Presbytery in prayer on Burnett's behalf. That concluded the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

### **Report of the Committee on Ministry**

RE Cyril Hollingsworth, Moderator of the Committee on Ministry, made the following motion on behalf of the committee:

**Motion to approve the call of MWS Sara Anne Berger as Pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church, with the effective date of August 3, 2020, and enroll her as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, pending her dismissal by the Presbytery of the Pines, with the following terms of call:**

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>Effective Salary</b>  |                    |
| <b>Cash Salary</b>   | <b>\$30,040.00</b> |
| <b>Housing Allowance</b>   | <b>\$14,000.00</b> |
| <b>Reimbursable Expenses</b>   |                    |
| <b>Business/Professional Expenses</b>  | <b>\$1,200.00</b>  |
| <b>SECA Supplement (up to 50%)</b>   | <b>\$3,369.06</b>  |
| <b>Continuing Education</b>  | <b>\$3,500.00</b>  |
| <b>Full Medical/Pension</b>  | <b>\$16,294.00</b> |
| <b>Moving costs (up to)</b>  | <b>\$1,500.00</b>  |
| <b>Paid Vacation</b>   | <b>4 weeks</b>     |
| <b>Paid Continuing Education</b>   | <b>2 weeks</b>     |
| <b>Paid Parental Leave</b>   | <b>6 weeks</b>     |
| <b>Sabbatical plan to be approved by the COM at the end of five years of full-time ministry.</b> |                    |

**Motion approved with 110 positive votes and no negative votes.**

RE Hollingsworth recognized the congregation of Grace Presbyterian Church in Little Rock, and asked that MWS Berger be recognized to say a few words to the Presbytery. MWS Sara Anne Berger addressed the Presbytery, sharing her enthusiasm for her new ministry at Grace Presbyterian Church, and with her new friends in the Presbytery of Arkansas, whose faces she said that she had checked out while waiting to be on-screen.

Hollingsworth then called the Presbytery's attention to information on the screen about the life of MWS Fred Taylor, former Pastor of Bull Shoals Presbyterian Church, who passed away on May 10, 2020, and led the Presbytery in a moment of silence to honor the life and ministry of MWS Taylor. Other information from the Committee on Ministry is included in the Appendix as Attachment 5. That concluded the report of the Committee on Ministry.

### **New Business**

Moderator Humphrey asked Stated Clerk Belden if there was any new business, and Belden pointed to the request of RE Ted Belden, Moderator of the Committee on the Future of the Church, to share information from that committee, and of MWS Becky Purcell, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Prairie Grove and RE Wynona Bryant-Williams, of Allison Memorial Presbyterian Church, to speak on their experience at the **"CoInspire: Liberating Imagination, Eviscerating Racism"** event held at Montreat last fall.

RE Belden reported on the grant requests of Future of the Church to date, stating that the committee will review the requests at their next meeting. MWS Purcell and RE Bryant-Williams encouraged the Presbytery of Arkansas to embrace Matthew 25's focus of dismantling structural racism.

Other announcements during "New Business" included a greeting from Lemuel Garcia, Mission Engagement Officer of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, on behalf of MWS Diane Moffett, President and Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, encouraging the Presbytery in its commitment to Matthew 25; an encouragement to utilize the resources of Ferncliff and sharing that Ferncliff has facial masks for those needing them by MWS Jocelyn Wildhack, Chaplain of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center; and information on United Campus Ministry at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville by DCE Kristi Button of United Campus Ministry and First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville.

Stated Clerk Belden then thanked all participants of the meeting for their patience and asked them to complete the on-line survey to be sent to them by email, acknowledging that there were 165 participants still on-line at that point of the meeting. She also thanked those who had helped plan and pull-off the first-ever Presbytery of Arkansas Zoom meeting, particularly MWS Jeff Price, Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, and the technicians who had assisted with the meeting.

Belden shared that originally the focus of the June meeting had been the Matthew 25 focus of dismantling structural racism, but that in light of the COVID-19 virus that discussion was postponed to the October 23-24, 2020 meeting of the Presbytery at First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville when it might be able to be held in person.

### **Adjournment/Benediction**

Moderator Humphrey shared his perspective on racial tension in the nation associated with the murder of George Floyd and the protests both locally and internationally, and his appreciation of the support of the white community in Arkansas for the cause of Black Lives



Matter. He encouraged his Caucasian brothers and sisters to continue to speak up and speak out. He then shared the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi as the closing prayer, and adjourned the meeting with the extinguishing of the Christ candle at 12:20 pm.

All written reports and flyers within the packets distributed prior to the meeting are included in the Appendix.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS Leslie Belden  
Stated Clerk

Draft Two

## **Index of Appendix**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Attachment 1: Roster of Attendance/Enrollment .....                                 | 11 |
| Attachment 2: Report of the Committee on Administration and Financial Reports ..... | 17 |
| Attachment 3: Report of the Coordinating Team .....                                 | 25 |
| Attachment 4: Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry .....             | 27 |
| Attachment 5: Report of the Committee on Ministry .....                             | 29 |
| Attachment 6: Report of the Honduran Ministry Subcommittee .....                    | 32 |
| Attachment 7: Report of the Stated Clerk .....                                      | 33 |
| Attachment 8: Report of the Committee on the Future of the Church .....             | 34 |
| Attachment 9: Report of the Committee on the Mission of the Church .....            | 35 |
| Attachment 10: Presbyterian Women Flier for Fall Gathering .....                    | 37 |
| Attachment 11: Synod of the Sun Flier for Synod Sunday .....                        | 38 |

## **Attachment 1 - Roster of Attendance/Enrollment**

### **Voting as Ministers of Word and Sacrament**

#### **Ministers of Word and Sacrament – 60 in attendance (voting)**

(There were 39 on March 6-7, 2020; 45 on October 4-5, 2019; and 43 on June 8, 2019 )

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alsup, Maggie          | Herrick, Ainsley         |
| Arnold, John           | Highsmith, Cameron       |
| Arnold, Susan          | Hook, Emily              |
| Bacon-Latina, Courtney | Humphrey, Marion         |
| Bailey, Bill           | Kurtz, Steven            |
| Belden, Leslie         | Mainard-O'Connell, Marie |
| Bell, Valerie          | Price, Jeff              |
| Blackburn, Phil        | Purcell, Becky           |
| Blackburn, Tasha       | Reeves, Tim              |
| Brinegar, Blake        | Ritchie, Dennis          |
| Brinegar, Elizabeth    | Rito, Bradley            |
| Brock, Brian           | Roper, Leslie            |
| Bussell, Matt          | Rudolph, Ward            |
| Butin, Jan             | Saul, Cinthia            |
| Butin, Phil            | Schaller, David          |
| Carrington, Joy        | Schaller, Patty          |
| Chanthorn, KC          | Secrest, Alisa           |
| Clark, Mark            | Seitz, Bill              |
| Cummings, Katie        | Sellars, Lacy            |
| Curry, Kade            | Senor, Georgia           |
| Davis, Fern            | Smith, Stewart           |
| Denne', Krista         | Spooner, Rebecca         |
| Evans, Jen             | Ulasewich, Michael       |
| Falls, Ruskin          | Vinson, Michael          |
| Frazier, Steven        | Vogado, Lindy            |
| Fulks, Paul            | Ward, Marci              |
| Gray, Susan            | Wildhack, Jocelyn        |
| Hammons, Stacey        | Wilhelmi, Jeremy         |
| Hancock, Steve         | Williamson, Robert       |
| Hatcher, Chip          | Wooley, Dan              |

#### **Excused Absences**

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Adams, DC | Crawford, Kris |
|-----------|----------------|

#### **Absent Without Excuse**

|              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| Chan, Moises | Kim, Young Doo |
| Ford, Clif   | Tallent, Terry |
| Gibson, John |                |

**Honorably Retired Ministers of Word and Sacrament – 22 in attendance (voting)**

(There were 7 on March 6-7, 2020; 9 on October 4-5, 2019; and 8 on June 8, 2019)

Akin, Karen  
Allsbury, Catherine  
Branch, Bill  
Brighton, Ike  
Carl, Debbie  
Clark, Carol  
Daniel, Danny  
Daniel, Joyce  
Dyer, David  
Garlington, Gordon  
Gill, David

Hadley, Robert  
Johnson, Sally  
Jones, Lance  
Kelley, Clare  
King, David  
King, John  
Lizarraga, Elizabeth  
Powers, Emmett  
Reed, David  
Tropansky, Joe  
Whitworth-Reed, Linda

**Excused Absences**

Campbell, Don

**Temporary Members of the Presbytery – 2 in attendance (voting)**

Ratliff, Jim – Hardy, Spring River

Smith, Jason – Arkadelphia, First

**Absent Without Excuse**

Clark, Mike – Mountain Home, First

**A total of 84 voting as Ministers of the Word and Sacrament in attendance.**

**Voting as Ruling Elders**

**Ruling Elder Commissioners – 52 in attendance (voting) representing 45 congregations**

(There were 40 on March 6-7, 2020; 44 on October 4-5, 2019; and 48 on June 8, 2019.)

Arkadelphia, West End – Wright, Patricia  
Atkins, Memorial – Murdoch, Mark  
Batesville, First – Thomas, Janet  
Bella Vista, Presbyterian Church of  
Maples, Darrell  
Prince, Jim  
Benton, First – Garrett, Heather  
Bentonville, First  
Adams, Nathan  
Horan, Roy  
Cane Hill, Cane Hill – Ellis, David  
Clarksville, First – Rommel, Connie  
Conway, First – Neumeier, Amy  
Fayetteville, First United

Fulton, Elizabeth  
 Verdery, Barbara  
 Fayetteville, Mount Comfort – Ashworth, Dottie  
 Forrest City, Graham Memorial – Patton, Curt  
 Fort Smith, Central – Cook, Charles  
 Greenwood, Good Shepherd – Middleton, Kathy  
 Hardy, Spring River – Mohr, Barbara  
 Heber Springs, First – Reed, Allison  
 Hot Springs, First – Muse, Richard  
 Hot Springs, Westminster – Thompson, NiAnn  
 Hot Springs Village, Kirk – Hamilton, Ruth  
 Jacksonville, First – Fischer, Mary Jane  
 Jonesboro, First – Carey, Corrine  
 Lincoln, First - Ray-Hill, Sarah  
 Little Rock, Allison Memorial - Latimar, Amanda  
 Little Rock, First – Ingram, Libby  
 Little Rock, Grace – Williams, Tres  
 Little Rock, Pulaski Heights – Spikes, Jane Anne  
 Little Rock, Second  
     Elliott, Roger  
     Farrow, Becky  
     Paulus, Michael  
     Lants, Leon  
 Little Rock, Trinity – Julie Price  
 Little Rock, Westover Hills - Branch, Liz  
 Mena, First – Spurgin, Linda  
 Morrilton, First – Davies, David  
 Morrilton, Hopewell – Morris, Susan  
 Mountainburg – Richmond, Art  
 Norman, Barr Memorial – Lysobey, Mary Beth  
 North Little Rock, Park Hill – Jones, Karene  
 Pea Ridge, Mount Vernon – David, Ronnie  
 Pine Bluff, Central – Cosner, Zac  
 Pine Bluff, First – Harris, Don, Jr.  
 Prairie Grove, First – McMahon, Clancy  
 Rogers, First – Treptow, Glennis  
 Russellville, Central  
     Jordan, Susan  
     Verdoorn, Marty  
 Springdale, First – Sheets, Kim  
 Walnut Ridge – Vicky Davis  
 Wynne, Wynne Presbyterian – Bradshaw, Stan  
 Yellville, First – Kelly, Kay

**Absent Without Excuse – 30 Congregations**

Alma, First  
Amity, Alpine  
Arkadelphia, First  
Beebe, First  
Bentonville, Vaughn  
Brinkley, First  
Bull Shoals, Bull Shoals  
Clarksville, Harmony  
Dardanelle, First  
Elkins, First  
Eureka Springs, First  
Fairfield Bay, Kirk of the  
Hills  
Fort Smith, First  
Gurdon, First  
Harrison, First

Helena, First  
Holiday Island, Holiday  
Island  
Holly Grove, Holly Grove  
Horseshoe Bend, Faith  
Huntsville, First  
Little Rock, Westminster  
Malvern, First  
Marianna, First  
McGehee, First  
Mountain Home, First  
Newport, First  
Paragould, First  
Pine Bluff, Faith  
Searcy, First  
Van Buren, First

**Ruling Elder Voting Members of Presbytery – 9 in attendance (voting)**

(There were 10 on March 6-7, 2020; 7 on October 4-5, 2019; and 11 on June 8, 2019.)

Belden, Ted – FOTC Moderator  
Boehmler, Bob – Treasurer  
Falls-Corbitt, Peg – CT Member  
Gillaspie, Julie – Vice Moderator  
Hollingsworth, Cyril – COM Mod.

Stricklin, David – CT Moderator  
Sweeney, Maryann – PW Mod.  
Verdery, Tom – Admin. Moderator  
Willis, Carolyn – CT Member

**Absent Without Excuse**

Laurel, Emily – CT Member

Rezabek, Scott – CT Member

**Commissioned Ruling Elders – 8 in attendance (voting)**

(There were 6 on March 6-7, 2020; 6 on October 4-5, 2019; and 5 on June 8, 2019.)

Clark, David – Heber Springs, First  
Jones, G. Hartley – Norman, Barr Memorial  
Olson, Charles – Atkins, Memorial  
Pearson, Kelly – Lincoln, First  
Rhodes, Claire – Arkadelphia, West End  
Rhodes, Kenneth – Arkadelphia, West End  
Shaw, Mary – Elkins, Community  
Wilkinson, Ed – Greenwood, Good Shepherd

**Absent Without Excuse**

Beane, Carolyn – Norman, Barr Memorial  
Chantorn, KC – Fort Smith, Laotian Ministry  
Manske, Rita – Cane Hill, Cane Hill  
Wright, Harlis – Pine Bluff, Faith  
Wright, Susie – Hot Springs, Westminster

**Certified Christian Educators** – 2 in attendance, 1 voting

(There were 3 on March 6-7, 2020; 3 on October 4-5, 2019; and 3 on June 8, 2019 )

Button, Kristi – Fayetteville, First United

Ford, Jeannie – Little Rock, Second (voting)

**A total of 70 voting as Ruling Elders in attendance.**

**Non-Voting Attendees**

**Pastoral Supplies** – 3 in attendance (non-voting)

Moody, Stephen – Little Rock, First

Shirer, David – Mountainburg

Walker, Elijah – Jonesboro, Solomon's Porch

**Attendees/Visitors** – 44 in attendance (non-voting)

Presbytery of Arkansas

Kim Palmer

Arkadelphia, West End

Bragg, Yvette

Fallin, Gloria

Bella Vista, Presbyterian Church of

Smith, Betsy

Benton, First

Ballard, Bill

Conway, First

Gillaspy, Emma

Fayetteville, First United

Brewer, Dennis

Christiansen, Brianne

King, Jill

King, Sally

Koepp, Jessie

Rossetti, Amy

Thomas, Isaac

Warren, Diane

Forrest City, Graham Memorial

Danehower, Carol

Hardy, Spring River

Ballard, Nancy

Hot Springs, First

Davis, Ledridge

Lincoln, First

Griscom, Barbara

Little Rock, Allison

Bryant-Williams, Wynona

Little Rock, Grace Presbyterian

Allsopp, Mary

Branigan, Huberta

Herbert, Jerry

Herbert, Karen

Stroud, Anne

Thannish, Martha

Williams, Laurine

Williams, Sharon

Little Rock, Second

Highsmith, Sam

Markham, Vernon

Paulus, Jo

Little Rock, Pulaski Heights

Fairchild, Greg

Little Rock, Westover Hills

Austin, David

Hughes, Doyle

Misenheimer, Candice

Nash, Roy

Patterson, Ann

Pflug, Tammy

Stanfield, Mary Lois

Stephens, Ray

Mountainburg, Mountainburg

Burnett, Meredith  
Rogers, First  
Matthew-Thompson, Laura  
Webb, Jane

Springdale, First  
Cartwright, Blair  
Walnut Ridge, First  
Paterson, Ann

**Corresponding Members/Visitors – 14 in attendance (non-voting)**

Heartland Presbytery  
Lindsey, Liz  
New Covenant Presbytery  
Keaton, Kevin – Board of Pensions  
Northeast Georgia Presbytery  
McGowan, Matthew  
Presbyterian Foundation  
Moore, Joseph  
Presbyterian Mission Agency  
Garcia, Lemuel  
Presbytery of Central Nebraska  
Deepen-Williams, Polly  
Rees, Sharon  
Rothenberger, Judy  
Stewart, W.K.  
Presbytery of the Pines  
Berger, Sara Anne  
Wortham, George  
Synod of the Sun  
Young, Valerie  
Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services  
French, Kathy  
West Tennessee Presbytery, Cumberland  
Anderson, Barry

**A total of 61 non-voting Visitors in attendance.**

**Total Attendance**

**A total of 215 registered or were in attendance at some point in the meeting, of whom 154 could vote:**

|                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| <b>9:45 am</b>  | <b>185 participants</b> |
| <b>10:30 am</b> | <b>187 participants</b> |
| <b>11:30 am</b> | <b>192 participants</b> |
| <b>12:00 pm</b> | <b>170 participants</b> |
| <b>12:20 pm</b> | <b>156 participants</b> |

144 total on March 7, 2020, of whom 105 could vote; 165 total on October 4-5, 2019, of whom 115 could vote; and 158 on June 8, 2019, of whom 117 could vote.



## **Attachment 2 – Report of the Committee on Administration**

RE Tom Verdery  
Moderator

### **For Information:**

1. With the additions of Carol Clark (Presbytery Builder) and Julie Price (Presbytery Connector), the Presbytery of Arkansas is now fully staffed and focused on supporting the needs of the churches and its members in 2020 and beyond. The Committee on Administration is responsible for supporting our staff and finances for the Presbytery of Arkansas and our denomination.
2. While 2020 financial results to date appear challenging, the Committee on Administration is optimistic that the Presbytery will complete the calendar year on or close to a balanced operating income budget. While year to date Mission Acceptance appears below average, it is because much of the benevolence revenue comes in at the end of the year from several churches. Administration anticipates expenses to be lower in some areas due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. The church benevolence report appears higher than reported in the Operating Income Statement through April due to time lags of reporting church gifts from the record keeping services at Texas Presbyterian Foundation. The Committee on Administration is optimistic in the 2020 Presbytery Benevolence from congregations and grateful for the congregations' continued support during these uncertain times.
4. To help support all of the Presbytery's churches during this difficult financial year, the Presbytery of Arkansas has extended the Short-Term Operating Assistance Program through August 28, 2020. Any church who is interested in a 0% interest rate loan, please contact the Presbytery office to receive further details on this program.
5. With all of the staff transitions in 2019, the Committee on Administration has begun the process of a full review of all of the financial books and records made during 2019 by a certified public accountant firm. The goal is to have this review completed by the end of the summer of 2020.

## Operating Income Statement - April 30, 2020

|  | Current<br>Month<br>Actual | Current<br>Month<br>Budget | Over/(Under)<br>Budget | Year to Date<br>Actual | 2020 Budget       | Over/(Under)<br>Budget |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Mission Acceptance   | \$ 33,780.82               | 32,500.00                  | 1,280.82               | \$ 85,823.48           | 590,000.00        | (504,176.52)           |
| Investment Spend Rate  | 17,547.20                  | 16,255.00                  | 1,292.20               | 70,419.16              | 195,060.00        | (124,640.84)           |
| Miscellaneous Revenue  | 1,216.67                   | 1,216.67                   | -                      | 4,578.67               | 14,600.00         | (10,021.33)            |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>  | <b>52,544.69</b>           | <b>49,971.67</b>           | <b>2,573.02</b>        | <b>160,821.31</b>      | <b>799,660.00</b> | <b>(638,838.69)</b>    |
| Coordinating Team--Meeting Exp. Meals, Worship                                     | 0.00                       | 100.00                     | (100.00)               | (119.15)               | 1,200.00          | (1,319.15)             |
| Coordinating Team--Gifts   | 0.00                       | 4.17                       | (4.17)                 | 0.00                   | 50.00             | (50.00)                |
| Coordinating Team--Moderator's Expense   | 173.19                     | 37.50                      | 135.69                 | 173.19                 | 450.00            | (276.81)               |
| Coordinating Team--Vice moderator's Expense  | 0.00                       | 91.67                      | (91.67)                | 0.00                   | 1,100.00          | (1,100.00)             |
| Coordinating Team--Presbytery Workshop/Speaker                                     | 0.00                       | 33.33                      | (33.33)                | 125.50                 | 400.00            | (274.50)               |
| Coordinating Team--Background Checks   | 20.45                      | 25.00                      | (4.55)                 | 36.90                  | 300.00            | (263.10)               |
|  | 193.64                     | 291.67                     | (98.03)                | 216.44                 | 3,500.00          | (3,283.56)             |
| Administration--Meeting Expense, Financial Review                                  | 0.00                       | 583.33                     | (583.33)               | 0.00                   | 7,000.00          | (7,000.00)             |
| Administration--Debt Reduction Contingency (e.g. land appraisal)                   | 0.00                       | 0.00                       | 0.00                   | 0.00                   | 0.00              | -                      |
| Administration--Ferncliff General Site Support                                     | 28,000.00                  | 2,333.33                   | 25,666.67              | 28,000.00              | 28,000.00         | 0.00                   |
| Repay CCD -- Building mortgage   | 2,000.00                   | 2,000.00                   | 0.00                   | 8,000.00               | 24,000.00         | (16,000.00)            |
|  | 30,000.00                  | 4,916.66                   | 25,083.34              | 36,000.00              | 59,000.00         | (23,000.00)            |
| Min. of the Church--Cmte on Prep. for Ministry--Travel, food, lodging, suppl       | 0.00                       | 41.25                      | (41.25)                | 0.00                   | 495.00            | (495.00)               |
| Min. of the Church--Cmte on Prep. for Ministry--ConEd--Emergency Fund, Etc         | 0.00                       | 83.33                      | (83.33)                | 0.00                   | 1,000.00          | (1,000.00)             |
| Min. of the Church--Cmte on Prep. for Ministry--Mtg. Expenses, etc.                | 0.00                       | 42.08                      | (42.08)                | 0.00                   | 505.00            | (505.00)               |
| Min. of the Church--Cmte on Prep. for Ministry--Eval, Retreat, Support, Bkg Checks | 0.00                       | 250.00                     | (250.00)               | 0.00                   | 3,000.00          | (3,000.00)             |
| Min. of the Church--Wellspring Contract  | 8,415.00                   | 644.58                     | 7,770.42               | 8,415.00               | 7,735.00          | 680.00                 |

|  |          |          |            |           |           |             |
|--|----------|----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Committee on Ministry--travel, food, mtg. support                | 0.00     | 416.67   | (416.67)   | 172.19    | 5,000.00  | (4,827.81)  |
|  | 8,415.00 | 1,477.91 | 6,937.09   | 8,587.19  | 17,735.00 | (9,147.81)  |
| Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--Campus Min./All meals       | 2,356.66 | 2,500.00 | (143.34)   | 9,426.64  | 30,000.00 | (20,573.36) |
| Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--Meetings, travel,      | 783.80   | 83.33    | 700.47     | 1,071.45  | 1,000.00  | 71.45       |
| Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT Scholarships            | 0.00     | 41.67    | (41.67)    | 0.00      | 500.00    | (500.00)    |
| Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT Triennium               | 0.00     | 166.67   | (166.67)   | 0.00      | 2,000.00  | (2,000.00)  |
| Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--YAD at Presbytery      | 182.13   | 41.67    | 140.46     | (112.87)  | 500.00    | (612.87)    |
| Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT SR Hi YthQuake          | 142.00   | 250.00   | (108.00)   | 142.00    | 3,000.00  | (2,858.00)  |
| Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT JR Hi YouthQuake        | 0.00     | 166.67   | (166.67)   | 0.00      | 2,000.00  | (2,000.00)  |
| Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT Montreal                | (600.00) | 208.33   | (808.33)   | (800.00)  | 2,500.00  | (3,300.00)  |
| Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--JrHi Jubilee           | (200.00) | 208.33   | (408.33)   | (200.00)  | 2,500.00  | (2,700.00)  |
| Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--Mission Trip           | 0.00     | 208.33   | (208.33)   | 0.00      | 2,500.00  | (2,500.00)  |
| Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--Young Adult Ministries      | 0.00     | 208.33   | (208.33)   | 0.00      | 2,500.00  | (2,500.00)  |
| Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--Leader Development     | 0.00     | 41.67    | (41.67)    | 0.00      | 500.00    | (500.00)    |
| Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--Collegiate Ministry Support | 0.00     | 1,250.00 | (1,250.00) | 0.00      | 15,000.00 | (15,000.00) |
|  | 2,664.59 | 5,375.00 | (2,710.41) | 9,527.22  | 64,500.00 | (54,972.78) |
| Future of the Church--CCD--Admin., Listening                     | 0.00     | 83.33    | (83.33)    | 0.00      | 1,000.00  | (1,000.00)  |
| Future of the Church--CCD--Black Caucus--AI Branch               | 0.00     | 64.33    | (64.33)    | 0.00      | 772.00    | (772.00)    |
| Future of the Church--Lilly Matching Grant                       | 5,000.00 | 0.00     | 0.00       | 5,000.00  | 0.00      | 5,000.00    |
| Future of the Church--CCD--West End Operation Support            | 0.00     | 1,125.00 | (1,125.00) | 3,375.00  | 13,500.00 | (10,125.00) |
| Future of the Church--CCD--New Ministries' Development           | 0.00     | 2,666.67 | (2,666.67) | 0.00      | 32,000.00 | (32,000.00) |
| Future of the Church--Laotian Ministry support                   | 0.00     | 300.00   | (300.00)   | 900.00    | 3,600.00  | (2,700.00)  |
| Future of the Church--CRE Support                                | 0.00     | 166.67   | (166.67)   | 0.00      | 2,000.00  | (2,000.00)  |
| Future of the Church--Faith Presbyterian Operation Support       | 0.00     | 594.00   | (594.00)   | 1,782.00  | 7,128.00  | (5,346.00)  |
|  | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 | (5,000.00) | 11,057.00 | 60,000.00 | (48,943.00) |
| Christian Education--Meeting Expenses                            | 0.00     | 37.50    | (37.50)    | 0.00      | 450.00    | (450.00)    |
| Christian Education--Special train. Events/presb                 | 0.00     | 166.67   | (166.67)   | 0.00      | 2,000.00  | (2,000.00)  |
| Christian Education--Fmc. Prog/Supt. Summer Camp                 | 0.00     | 2,000.00 | (2,000.00) | 0.00      | 24,000.00 | (24,000.00) |
| Mission of the Church--Ferncliff--Block Grant                    | 5,000.00 | 416.67   | 4,583.33   | 5,000.00  | 5,000.00  | 0.00        |
| Christian Education--Presbyterian Pilgrimage                     | 0.00     | 166.67   | (166.67)   | 0.00      | 2,000.00  | (2,000.00)  |
| Christian Education--Diversity--Scholarship                      | 0.00     | 31.25    | (31.25)    | 0.00      | 375.00    | (375.00)    |

|  |           |           |            |           |            |              |
|--|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| Christian Education--Resource Center Resources                     | 0.00      | 166.67    | (166.67)   | 269.02    | 2,000.00   | (1,730.98)   |
| Christian Education--Resource Cntr. Admin.                         | 0.00      | 91.67     | (91.67)    | 633.35    | 1,100.00   | (466.65)     |
| Mission of the Church--Scholarship for Mission Trip                | 0.00      | 83.33     | (83.33)    | 0.00      | 1,000.00   | (1,000.00)   |
| Mission of the Church--International Mission Emphasis              | 0.00      | 166.67    | (166.67)   | 0.00      | 2,000.00   | (2,000.00)   |
| Mission of the Church--Arkansas Interfaith Conference              | 0.00      | 291.67    | (291.67)   | 875.00    | 3,500.00   | (2,625.00)   |
| Mission of the Church--Lyon College                                | 0.00      | 83.33     | (83.33)    | 250.00    | 1,000.00   | (750.00)     |
| Mission of the Church--Presby. Village Support                     | 0.00      | 41.67     | (41.67)    | 125.00    | 500.00     | (375.00)     |
| Mission of the Church--Univ. of Ozarks                             | 0.00      | 83.33     | (83.33)    | 250.00    | 1,000.00   | (750.00)     |
| Mission of the Church--Vera Lloyd Mission                          | 0.00      | 208.33    | (208.33)   | 625.00    | 2,500.00   | (1,875.00)   |
| Mission of the Church--Unified Mission Emphasis                    | 0.00      | 1,172.92  | (1,172.92) | 0.00      | 14,075.00  | (14,075.00)  |
| Mission of the Church--Solar Under the Sun                         | 0.00      | 83.33     | (83.33)    | 250.00    | 1,000.00   | (750.00)     |
| Mission of the Church--PW Exp., travel, postage, etc.              | 0.00      | 41.67     | (41.67)    | 0.00      | 500.00     | (500.00)     |
| Mission of the Church--PW--Spring & Fall Retreats, Synod Gathering | 160.50    | 291.67    | (131.17)   | 160.50    | 3,500.00   | (3,339.50)   |
| Mission of the Church--Disaster Preparedness                       | 0.00      | 41.67     | (41.67)    | 0.00      | 500.00     | (500.00)     |
|  | 5,160.50  | 5,666.69  | (506.19)   | 8,437.87  | 68,000.00  | (59,562.13)  |
| Nominations--travel, food  | 0.00      | 25.00     | (25.00)    | 0.00      | 300.00     | (300.00)     |
| Representation--Meeting Expenses                                   | 0.00      | 3.75      | (3.75)     | 0.00      | 45.00      | (45.00)      |
| POA/Supplies & Office Exp.   | 320.00    | 333.33    | (13.33)    | 947.40    | 4,000.00   | (3,052.60)   |
| Utilities/Telephone  | 576.46    | 833.33    | (256.87)   | 2,118.44  | 10,000.00  | (7,881.56)   |
| Copy Machine   | 740.80    | 500.00    | 240.80     | 2,152.48  | 6,000.00   | (3,847.52)   |
| Technology   | 518.22    | 300.00    | 218.22     | 2,076.40  | 3,600.00   | (1,523.60)   |
| Replace Equipment  | 0.00      | 166.67    | (166.67)   | 2,690.02  | 2,000.00   | 690.02       |
| Insurance  | 7,113.00  | 683.33    | 6,429.67   | 8,467.00  | 8,200.00   | 267.00       |
| Miscellaneous Expenses   | 0.00      | 41.67     | (41.67)    | 0.00      | 500.00     | (500.00)     |
| Maintenance(Grounds,Bldg Upkeep)                                   | 1,391.06  | 916.67    | 474.39     | 2,750.22  | 11,000.00  | (8,249.78)   |
|  | 10,659.54 | 3,775.00  | 6,884.54   | 21,201.96 | 45,300.00  | (24,098.04)  |
| Assistant Stated Clerk Expense                                     | 0.00      | 106.25    | (106.25)   | 431.85    | 1,275.00   | (843.15)     |
| K. Palmer/Travel   | 0.00      | 41.67     | (41.67)    | 221.20    | 500.00     | (278.80)     |
| S. Smith/Professional Ex   | 0.00      | 1,250.00  | (1,250.00) | 2,077.06  | 15,000.00  | (12,922.94)  |
| Salaries   | 25,166.70 | 17,462.50 | 7,704.20   | 60,666.72 | 209,550.00 | (148,883.28) |
| Pension/Major Medical  | 3,040.95  | 1,645.83  | 1,395.12   | 7,837.44  | 19,750.00  | (11,912.56)  |

|   |                |                |                |                |            |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| S. Smith/Continuing Ed.                 | 0.00           | 125.00         | (125.00)       | 0.00           | 1,500.00   | (1,500.00)     |
| Payroll Taxes                           | 1,632.64       | 1,570.83       | 61.81          | 3,470.56       | 18,850.00  | (15,379.44)    |
| Housing                                 | 2,975.00       | 2,975.00       | 0.00           | 11,900.00      | 35,700.00  | (23,800.00)    |
| S. Smith/FICA                           | 526.66         | 583.33         | (56.67)        | 2,106.64       | 7,000.00   | (4,893.36)     |
| Builder/Connector Professional Expenses | 0.00           | 833.33         | (833.33)       | 119.60         | 10,000.00  | (9,880.40)     |
| B. Christiansen Professional Expenses   | 0.00           | 125.00         | (125.00)       | 797.74         | 1,500.00   | (702.26)       |
| TPF Bookkeeping Fees                    | 2,062.32       | 916.67         | 1,145.65       | 2,387.41       | 11,000.00  | (8,612.59)     |
|   | 35,404.27      | 31,410.41      | 14,653.40      | 92,016.22      | 331,625.00 | (263,706.82)   |
| Administrative Commissions              | 0.00           | 416.67         | (416.67)       | 0.00           | 5,000.00   | (5,000.00)     |
| General Assembly                        | 1,078.31       | 2,458.33       | (1,380.02)     | 2,567.09       | 29,500.00  | (26,932.91)    |
| GA Per Capita                           | 7,554.55       | 7,554.58       | (0.03)         | 30,218.20      | 90,655.00  | (60,436.80)    |
| Synod Mission                           | 1,078.31       | 2,041.67       | (963.36)       | 2,567.09       | 24,500.00  | (21,932.91)    |
|   | 9,711.17       | 12,054.58      | (2,343.41)     | 35,352.38      | 144,655.00 | (109,302.62)   |
| Total Expenses                          | 107,208.71     | 66,638.34      | 35,570.37      | 222,396.28     | 799,660.00 | (577,263.72)   |
| Net Income                              | (\$ 54,664.02) | (\$ 16,666.67) | (\$ 32,997.35) | (\$ 61,574.97) | \$ 0.00    | (\$ 61,574.97) |

## Benevolences – June 2, 2020

| LOCATION                   | 2018<br>Benevolence | 2019<br>Benevolence | 2020<br>Benevolence |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Alma                       | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Amity                      | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Arkadelphia, First         | 1,500.00            | 1,500.00            | 1,500.00            |
| Arkadelphia, West End      | 1,106.00            | 1,106.00            | -                   |
| Atkins                     | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Batesville                 | 7,500.00            | 10,000.00           | 5,000.00            |
| Beebe                      | 1,500.00            | 900.00              | 300.00              |
| Bella Vista                | 30,000.00           | 30,000.00           | 10,416.65           |
| Benton                     | 8,200.00            | 9,600.00            | 1,800.00            |
| Bentonville, First         | 28,000.00           | 29,500.00           | 8,000.00            |
| Bentonville, Vaughn        | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Brinkley                   | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Bull Shoals                | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Cane Hill                  | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Clarksville, First         | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Clarksville, Harmony       | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Conway                     | 6,875.00            | 8,125.00            | 3,325.00            |
| Dardanelle                 | 6,000.00            | 6,000.00            | 2,500.00            |
| Elkins                     | 1,000.00            | 1,000.00            | -                   |
| Eureka Springs             | 2,750.00            | 3,000.00            | 750.00              |
| Fairfield Bay              | 1,650.00            | 700.00              | 350.00              |
| Fayetteville, First United | 41,000.00           | 41,000.00           | 17,080.00           |
| Fayetteville, Mt. Comfort  | 1,660.00            | 1,660.00            | -                   |
| Forrest City               | 8,250.00            | 8,250.00            | 3,000.00            |
| Ft. Smith, Central         | 16,000.00           | 16,000.00           | 4,000.00            |
| Ft. Smith, First           | 5,000.00            | 5,000.00            | -                   |
| Greenwood                  | 2,000.00            | 2,000.00            | -                   |
| Gurdon                     | 1,800.00            | 1,200.00            | -                   |
| Hardy                      | 500.00              | 250.60              | -                   |
| Harrison                   | 2,083.22            | -                   | -                   |
| Heber Springs              | 860.00              | 800.00              | -                   |
| Helena                     | 500.00              | 500.00              | -                   |
| Holiday Island             | 6,200.00            | 6,200.00            | 1,550.00            |
| Holly Grove                | 500.00              | 500.00              | 500.00              |
| Horseshoe Bend             | 3,000.00            | 3,000.00            | 750.00              |
| HSV, Kirk                  | 27,270.00           | 27,270.00           | 11,362.50           |
| H. Springs, First          | 20,000.00           | 20,000.00           | 5,000.00            |
| H. Springs, Westminster    | 7,342.37            | 8,013.04            | 5,338.35            |
| Huntsville                 | 2,000.00            | 2,400.00            | 800.00              |
| Jacksonville               | 2,640.00            | 2,655.00            | 1,300.00            |
| Jonesboro                  | 3,000.00            | 3,000.00            | 750.00              |
| Lincoln                    | -                   | 1,000.00            | -                   |
| LR, Allison                | 400.00              | 657.05              | -                   |
| LR, First                  | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| LR, Grace                  | 9,375.00            | 5,625.00            | 3,750.00            |
| LR, Pulaski Heights        | 2,035.00            | 3,478.00            | 1,000.00            |
| Little Rock, Second        | 200,000.00          | 200,000.00          | -                   |
| LR, Trinity                | 8,000.00            | 7,333.33            | 4,000.02            |
| LR, Westminster            | 300.00              | 300.00              | 100.00              |
| LR, Westover Hills         | 10,500.00           | 10,500.00           | -                   |
| Lonoke                     | 100.00              | 900.00              | -                   |
| Malvern                    | 2,620.86            | 5,241.72            | 2,620.86            |
| Marianna                   | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| McGehee                    | 2,520.00            | 2,520.00            | 1,050.00            |
| Mena                       | 5,000.00            | 5,000.00            | 1,250.00            |
| Morrilton, First           | -                   | -                   | 200.00              |
| Morrilton, Hopewell        | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Mountain Home              | 950.00              | 1,000.00            | 250.00              |
| Mountainburg               | -                   | -                   | -                   |

|                     |                   |                   |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Newport             | 4,800.00          | 4,800.00          | 1,650.00          |
| Norman              | -                 | -                 | -                 |
| NLR, First          | -                 | -                 | -                 |
| NLR, Park Hill      | 16,000.00         | 16,000.00         | 6,750.00          |
| Paragould, First    | -                 | -                 | -                 |
| Pea Ridge           | 3,000.00          | 3,000.00          | 1,250.00          |
| Pine Bluff, Central | 825.00            | 416.66            | -                 |
| Pine Bluff, Faith   | -                 | 500.00            | -                 |
| Pine Bluff, First   | 4,999.92          | 4,999.92          | 1,666.64          |
| Prairie Grove       | 5,500.00          | 7,700.00          | 2,600.00          |
| Rogers              | 6,999.96          | 7,000.00          | 2,916.65          |
| Russellville        | 10,000.00         | -                 | -                 |
| Searcy              | -                 | 2,000.00          | -                 |
| Springdale          | 30,000.00         | 30,000.00         | 12,500.00         |
| Stuttgart           | -                 | 666.67            | -                 |
| Van Buren           | 4,000.00          | 4,000.00          | -                 |
| Walnut Ridge        | -                 | -                 | -                 |
| Wynne               | 7,500.00          | 7,500.00          | 3,125.00          |
| Yellville           | 8,000.00          | 6,000.00          | 3,000.00          |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>591,112.33</b> | <b>589,267.99</b> | <b>135,051.67</b> |

20,066.17

## Balance Sheet Summary - April 30, 2020

ARKANSAS  
Balance Sheet  
April 30, 2020

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

|                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Cash TPF - undesignated          | (235,605.35)        |
| TPF Investment Cash - designated | 745,246.86          |
| TPF Investments                  | 4,152,703.48        |
| TPF Mark to Market 52190         | <u>1,164,166.91</u> |

|                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Total Current Assets</b> | <b>5,826,511.90</b> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|

#### Property and Equipment

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Furniture & Fixtures | 68,104.89         |
| Land                 | 213,237.00        |
| Buildings            | <u>771,516.12</u> |

1,052,858.01

|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Accumulated Depreciation | <u>(407,186.19)</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------------|

|                                   |                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Net Property and Equipment</b> | <b>6,472,183.72</b> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|

|                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b> | <b><u>\$ 6,472,183.72</u></b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|

### LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

#### Current Liabilities

|                              |                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Payroll & Other Withholdings | 0.00                  |
| Accrued expenses             | <u>(\$ 13,716.92)</u> |

|                                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b> | <b>(13,716.92)</b> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|

#### Fund Balance

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Equity Beginning Balance | 4,488,088.31     |
| Fund Balance             | 2,064,603.79     |
| Unrealized Gains/Losses  | (147,525.36)     |
| Net Income               | <u>80,733.90</u> |

|                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Total Fund Balance</b> | <b>6,485,900.64</b> |
|---------------------------|---------------------|

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; CAPITAL</b> | <b><u>\$ 6,472,183.72</u></b> |
|--|-------------------------------|



### **Attachment 3 - Report of the Coordinating Team**

RE David Stricklin  
Moderator

#### **For Action**

**Motion to ratify the election of MWS Maggie Alsup, Chaplain of Lyon College, as the Moderator of the Committee on Youth, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry.** (Motions from the floor may be accepted if the person nominated has agreed to serve. A nomination from the floor must be seconded.)

#### **For Information**

The Coordinating Team approved recommending that congregations set up a Zoom Room account and that, when requested, the Presbytery will be glad to pay the cost for a year's subscription, which is \$180.00 per year.

The Coordinating Team approved postponing records reviews until Spring 2021 due to the COVID-19 virus which discourages face-to-face reviews of physical records, and the need for Clerks of Sessions to be fully aware of changes to the records review form and thus be prepared for the review.

The Coordinating Team approved the Presbytery of Arkansas including congregations who do not have their own electronic meeting policy under the Presbytery's policy if they desire, and encouraging them to adopt their own when able.

The Coordinating Team approved the Short-Term Special Assistance Policy, and set \$300,000 as the ceiling for the amount of funding the Short-Term Special Assistance Task Force may loan without consulting the Coordinating Team. The following were approved to serve on the Task Force:

RE Tom Verdery – Moderator of the Committee on Administration

RE Carolyn Willis – Member of the Committee on Administration

MWS Gordon Garlington, HR – Moderator of the Committee on the Mission of the Church

RE Ted Belden – Moderator of the Committee on the Future of the Church

MWS Maggie Alsup – Member of the Coordinating Team

The Coordinating Team extended the deadline for submitting requests for the Short-Term 0% loan through May 25, 2020.

By a unanimous vote, meeting the 2/3 minimum requirement, the Coordinating Team approved suspending the rules of the Presbytery of Arkansas' Ministry Manual limiting service on a committee to two three-year terms in order that RE Tom Verdery may continue his service as Moderator of the Committee on Administration through 2021.

The Coordinating Team gave staff members General Presbyter MWS Stewart Smith, Stated Clerk MWS Leslie Belden, Presbytery Builder MWS Carol Clark, Presbytery Connector RE Julie Price, and Presbytery Youth Coordinator Brianne Christiansen, and the elected leaders of Presbytery Moderator MWS Marion Humphrey, Presbytery Vice Moderator RE Julie Gillaspay, and Coordinating Team Moderator RE David Stricklin, plus MWS Jeff Price, as pastor of the host church, the authority to plan the June 6, 2020 meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, pulling in appropriately technologically savvy people to help.

## **Attachment 4 - Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

MWS Susan Gray  
Moderator

### **For Action**

**The Committee on Preparation for Ministry moves that Inquirer Brianne Christiansen be enrolled as a Candidate for Minister of the Word and Sacrament.** Brianne's Statement of Faith is included as Section C – Attachment I.

**The Committee on Preparation for Ministry moves that Meredith Burnett, a deacon at Mountainburg Presbyterian Church, be enrolled as an Inquirer.**

### **For Information**

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry approved a motion reaffirming that CRE candidates be required to follow the existing CRE process.

MWS Matt Bussell, CRE David Clark and CCE NiAnn Thompson, HR, will serve as a sub-committee to grade CRE exams.

Reports from liaisons indicate that there are no specific problems during the pandemic crisis.

It is noted that ordained persons from other denominations must pass ordination exams to become ordained in the PC (USA). If they fail an exam twice, alternative means may be found.

### **Interviews**

RE Mary Jane Fischer, a ruling elder at First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville and a candidate for the CRE program, was interviewed for her annual consultation. Mary Jane was thanked for her service to the Church.

Inquirer Brianne Christiansen was interviewed per her request to be moved from Inquirer to Candidate, pending the approval of the session of First United Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville on April 19, 2020. She is completing year three of a five-year program of distance learning at Western Theological Seminary. She is also taking CPE at Washington Regional Medical Center, serving as Co-Youth Director at FUPC, and on staff at the Presbytery.

Meredith Burnett, a deacon at Mountainburg Presbyterian Church, was interviewed to become an Inquirer. She has long felt the call to ministry and has always been active in the church.

## **Inquirer Brianne Christiansen's Statement of Faith**

I believe in God the Parent, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. As Trinity, God lives in perfect communion and desires all creation to be part of that communion. God created humans in God's image, inviting us to relationship with God. But humans chose disobedience, and thus, our sin separates us from our holy God.

From the beginning of time, God pursued God's people. God sent covenants, laws, prophets, and finally the Son, Jesus the Messiah, fully God and fully human. Jesus lived among creation, proclaiming the good news that the kingdom of God had come. He taught humans how to follow God's way through word and action. Choosing to die on a cross, Jesus came back to life on the third day as the firstborn of many brothers and sisters. Because Jesus lives, we will also live with God forever when God restores all creation.

Jesus eventually returned to God, but he did not leave humans alone on earth. He sent the Holy Spirit, the Greater Comforter, to walk with all who follow God. The Holy Spirit teaches us the way of Christ, sanctifying us and transforming into the image of Christ.

This was God's plan from before the creation of the world, to reach out to a creation that could not reach out to God, to draw all to Godself. We learn this wonderful story in the Bible, the Word of God. I believe that scripture is God's Holy Word to God's people, passed down from the ancients and alive today. God breathes through the living and active Word, teaching the larger story of scripture, convicting of wrongdoing, healing the brokenness, and training in righteousness. All this equips the saints for the work of the Church.

I believe the Church is a universal body of believers, composed of who call on the name of the Lord from every time and place. Each child of God plays an important role in the Church based on their unique reflection of God's image. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, God's people join together under Christ, the head of the Church. As the visual representation of God to a suffering world, the church continues the work of restoration that Jesus began, spreading the good news of redemption until Christ returns again.

I believe Sacraments are tangible representations of God's grace which Christians participate in as a declaration of faith. The Sacrament of Communion transforms bread and wine into a celebration of the intangible love of Christ for us. We remember Christ's body broken for us and his blood shed for us, and we are thankful that through Christ's death and resurrection we are forgiven. The Sacrament of Baptism transforms water into a reminder of God's intangible covenant to God's people. Like a seal over our hearts, we claim that God has loved us from the beginning of time, that God will never leave us or forsake us, and that God will fulfil God's covenant to give us new life forever with God.

## **Attachment 5 – Report of the Committee on Ministry**

RE Cyril Hollingsworth  
Moderator

### **For Action**

**Motion to approve the call of MWS Sara Anne Berger as Pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church, with the effective date of August 3, 2020, and enroll her as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, pending her dismissal by the Presbytery of the Pines, with the following terms of call:**

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>Effective Salary</b>  |                    |
| Cash Salary  | <b>\$30,040.00</b> |
| Housing Allowance  | <b>\$14,000.00</b> |
| <b>Reimbursable Expenses</b>   |                    |
| Business/Professional Expenses   | <b>\$1,200.00</b>  |
| SECA Supplement (up to 50%)  | <b>\$3,369.06</b>  |
| Continuing Education   | <b>\$3,500.00</b>  |
| Full Medical/Pension   | <b>\$16,294.00</b> |
| Moving costs (up to)   | <b>\$1,500.00</b>  |
| <b>Paid Vacation</b>   | <b>4 weeks</b>     |
| <b>Paid Continuing Education</b>   | <b>2 weeks</b>     |
| <b>Paid Parental Leave</b>   | <b>6 weeks</b>     |
| <b>Sabbatical plan to be approved by the COM at the end of five years of full-time ministry.</b> |                    |

MWS Sara Anne Berger's Statement of Faith is included as Section E – Attachment I. Approval of the Administrative Commission and worship service to install her will be put before the Coordinating Team for consideration at a later date.

### **For Information**

A new sample covenant/contract for sessions to use when writing a covenant/contract for a temporary pastoral relationship was put on the Presbytery of Arkansas' website presbyark.org under the "Resources" tab and "COM Resources," replacing an earlier version.

The covenant/contract between Rev. David Schirer and Mountainburg Presbyterian Church, was approved, but without permission to administer the sacraments or moderate the session, and MWS Terry McClellan will continue to moderate the session.

### **MWS Sara Anne Berger's Statement of Faith**

I believe that the eternal God is the Creator of everything that is, was and will be. I believe that God is sovereign over all creation. I believe that God created human beings in the image of God. I believe that human beings rebelled against God and fell into sinfulness.

I believe, therefore, that God, with divine mercy, ordained a plan for salvation of sinful creatures, which came to full fruition in the life of Jesus Christ. I believe that Jesus the man lived and died in the historical time and place of the 1st century CE, but that while on earth he remained the sovereign Son of God. I believe that as an eternal being, Jesus the Christ is co-eternal and beyond time and place along with God and the Holy Spirit within the Holy Trinity. I believe that Jesus died on the cross in that particular time and place, but that his death atoned for humanity's sin and so he is not only a human man, but is the Messiah of the people of God. I believe his role as Messiah and Son of God were fulfilled in his resurrection from the dead. I believe that the resurrection made him victorious over all death, and demonstrates to human beings that they too are victors and that their salvation is secure through faith in him.

I believe that this act of atonement, on behalf of humanity and its sinfulness, facilitated the grace of God being fully given to God's creatures. I believe that faith in the grace of God which comes through the atoning death of Jesus Christ is the only thing needed for human beings to be assured of their eternal salvation. I believe that grace is given through God's divine decree and cannot be taken away from a person or lost by that person. I believe that human beings do nothing which merits this grace, and it is solely God's prerogative to have ordained a gracious plan for salvation for all creatures. I believe that a creature cannot reject the grace of God given through Jesus Christ's death on the cross once that grace has been extended.

I believe that the grace of God is fully extended by the Holy Spirit's workings in the world, making humans aware of the salvation that has already been achieved for them in the death of Jesus Christ. I believe that the Holy Spirit, as part of the Trinity, then gives humanity the ability to work for God's purposes in the world, and to seek God's will, while remaining sure of their salvation. I believe that the Holy Spirit inspires the Church to worship and work as people who have faith in God and Jesus Christ. I believe that the Church's sacraments of baptism and communion bring the people of faith into closer relationship with God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. I believe the sacraments, as signs and seals, remind the Church of what has been done for them already by God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit and renew the people's energy to do God's work in the world today and change them in ways that they are able to do that work. I believe that God uses the people's work to further God's purposes for creation.

**Necrology**  
**MWS Fred Taylor**  
**June 1, 1938 – May 10, 2020**

Rev. Dr. Fred Taylor, a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, died on May 10, 2020 at Baxter Regional Medical Center in Mountain Home, Arkansas.

Fred was born June 1, 1938, in Saint Louis, Missouri, the son of Andrew and Willie Wells Taylor. He married Norma Woodworth on May 31, 1959, in Ewing, Missouri. Fred was a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War. Fred lived in Bull Shoals and most recently in Mountain Home since moving from Granite City, Illinois, in 1991.

Fred was ordained at the Vincent Avenue Baptist Church in Covina, CA in 1959 where he served as a youth director. Fred received his Master of Divinity degree at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, his Master of Theology degree at Princeton Theological Seminary, and his Doctor of Ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary. Fred served two churches and taught for a year at St. Leo College before becoming a chaplain for 19 years in the United States Army, reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He then worked for 4 years as a Religious Activities Coordinator for the U.S. Army Aviation Systems Command in St. Louis, Mo.

Fred moved to Bull Shoals, Arkansas and served twice as pastor of Bull Shoals Presbyterian Church and transferred his ordination to the Presbyterian Church (USA). Fred served for a year as mayor of Bull Shoals and served for 8 years as chaplain of the Civil Air Patrol, Auxiliary, United States Air Force. Fred served as an interim pastor for the First Presbyterian Church of Mountain Home and returned to serve as supply pastor for the Bull Shoals Presbyterian Church in his retirement.

Fred is survived by his wife, Norma Woodworth Taylor of Mountain Home, AR; son, Jeffrey (Lynne) Taylor of Belleville, IL; son, Kyle (Kerrie) Taylor of Enterprise, AL; daughter, Rebecca (Robert) Wilson of Lake City, FL; daughter, Diane Spurlin of Saint Louis, MO; 5 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Funeral Services for Fred were held 2:00 pm, Thursday, May 14, 2020, at the Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals. Due to CDC and Health Department Guidelines for COVID-19, seating was limited to 50 and masks were required. Burial was in the Kirby's Tucker Memorial Cemetery, Mountain Home, Arkansas. Military Honors were provided by the Hoevel-Barnett V.F.W. Post #1341 and United States Army Honor Guards.

## **Attachment 6 – Report of the Honduran Ministry Subcommittee**

RE Leigh Woodruff and MWS Phil Butin  
Co-Moderators

### **For Information:**

The Sub-Committee canceled the Spring Break trip for 2020 due to the inability to travel during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The PC(USA) Mission Co-worker, MWS Dori Haljmarsen, and the Rev. Juan Rodas, the Honduran General Presbyter, asked for financial help in order to donate food bags to Presbyterian families across the country.

- The Presbytery's Honduran Ministry Sub-Committee voted to send \$1,000 per month for the next 6 months to the Honduran Presbytery's Pastor Emergency Fund.
- Also sent from Presbytery of Arkansas congregations were \$2,600 from First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, \$300 from Westminster Presbyterian Church of Hot Springs, \$100 from Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, and money from other individuals making a donation to the Pastor's Emergency Fund totaling \$4,600.
- Other churches, presbyteries, and individuals are also helping with this matter.

No trips are planned in 2020 by the Presbytery of Arkansas, and the Presbytery of Honduras has requested that no groups plan for trips until further notice. The situation in Honduras is very bad with their limited ability to provide medical assistance. The government has instituted a "stay at home" order enforced through the military and road blocks. The Rodas family has permission to distribute food through their passport numbers.

Stated Clerk MWS Leslie Belden, MWS Phil Butin, RE Duke Monroe, MWS David Gill, and RE Leigh Woodruff are members of the PC(USA) Honduran Network and receive monthly Zoom Room updates on the situation in Honduras. It is hoped that a trip may be scheduled for Spring Break 2021.



## **Attachment 7 - Report of the Stated Clerk**

MWS Leslie Belden  
Stated Clerk

The General Assembly meeting to be held this June will be utilizing technology and will not meet in person in Baltimore. Only essential business will take place this year and other business will be postponed until the following meeting in the summer of 2022.

Sessions are encouraged to use Zoom Room or conference calls for meetings as much as possible when in-person gatherings are discouraged by the Governor of the State of Arkansas or the CDC. Decisions that must be made by congregations, such as approving changes in the terms of call of pastors, can be temporarily approved by sessions and later ratified by the congregation. Other Presbyterian polity questions raised by the need for social distancing may be addressed to the Stated Clerk, but the general consensus among Stated Clerks across the denomination is to do what seems reasonable, communicate that widely, be completely transparent and open to feedback, and resolve conflicts with polity issues when able.

A proposed new form for annual Records Reviews of session and congregational records will be reviewed and possibly approved by the Coordinating Team in the near future. Clerks of Sessions have been asked for input regarding the proposed new form, and will be counseled with regard to the form if and when it is approved. Because of this transition in forms, and the inability of Records Reviews to be done in person this Spring due to COVID-19, the Coordinating Team approved postponing all reviews until 2021.

The following Administrative Commissions continue to work on behalf of the Presbytery:

First, Clarksville Administrative Commission charged with selling the property – RE Ted Belden and MWS Clare Kelley, 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, Moderator

## **Attachment 8 - Report of the Committee on the Future of the Church**

RE Ted Belden  
Moderator

The Committee on the Future of the Church is pleased to have the resources of MWS Carol Clark, the new Presbytery Builder on staff, who is resourcing our committee. She has been reviewing the comments on the surveys sent back to us by the churches. If you have not sent back your survey, she may be calling you!

Future of the Church extended the deadline for churches to apply for grants from April 15, 2020 to until June 1, 2020. With COVID-19 disrupting our church lives we wanted to give churches more time to request grants. We have received 6 grant requests which will be reviewed and acted on at our next meeting in July.

Many of us are now using Zoom Room as a way to conduct our business and to stay in touch with each other. Future of the Church is continuing to work on getting a few churches set up for Zoom Room capabilities.

I hope that as we experience a new way to be church that it will allow us to be open to new and exciting ways to share God's love in the world. I want to personally thank General Presbyter MWS Stewart Smith and the rest of the staff of our Presbytery in helping us stay connected. This Presbytery meeting will be very unique because although we cannot be together in person, more people will be able to participate via the internet.

Blessing on all of your efforts.

## **Attachment 9 - Report of the Committee on the Mission of the Church**

MWS Gordon Garlington  
Moderator

Members serving on Mission of the Church 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). Staff resource is Julie Price, our new Presbytery Connector.

The Committee met via Zoom on April 24, 2020.

Joel Gill of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center joined us, reporting that Ferncliff's summer programs had been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Joel also told of Ferncliff's developing "Camp in a Box" for congregations and families in lieu of traditional camp and VBS experiences for children K-6<sup>th</sup> grade. For more info or to order "Camp in a Box" kits, contact Emily Wernsdorfer (501-821-3063 or [emily@ferncliff.org](mailto:emily@ferncliff.org)).

As reported at our Presbytery meeting on March 7, 2020, Mission of the Church was looking forward to our first annual ***"Presbyterian Days of Serving, Connecting and Celebrating,"*** the week of September 27 – October 4.

**Regrettably, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, our Committee recommends that this special celebration of our Matthew 25 ministries be postponed until 2021.**

Remembering our Presbytery's goal of building strong congregations that faithfully and effectively share the gospel through mission and ministry, our Committee looks forward to the day when we will be able to engage our congregations and communities in this way, carrying out and celebrating our ministries of compassion and justice!

For those not at the March 6-7 meeting of Presbytery, ***"Presbyterian Days of Serving, Connecting and Celebrating"*** was to invite congregations to actively demonstrate our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ to share Christ's love concretely with neighbors by choosing a day to participate in and highlight a mission project in their local community (new or continuing) and to celebrate their commitment to that ministry in worship on a given Sunday.

An informative packet detailing ***"Presbyterian Days of Serving, Connecting and Celebrating"*** was passed out at our March 6-7 Presbytery meeting, containing initial information to help you begin planning with your Session. Looking toward the future, if you would like additional copies of this packet, please contact Gordon Garlington ([ggarlington3@hotmail.com](mailto:ggarlington3@hotmail.com)).

Our gratitude to the Planning Team and others who have been working hard planning ***“Presbyterian Days of Serving, Connecting and Celebrating,”*** including Jan Butin, Emily Laurel, Mary Shaw, Renee Nestor, Mary Beth Lysobey, Kade Curry, Elizabeth Brinegar, Leslie Roper, Sally Roden, and Stewart Smith and Leslie Belden (Presbytery of Arkansas’ ministry staff).

**Our Committee was glad to welcome as our staff resource, Julie Price, our new Presbytery Connector.** Julie spoke about the kinds of things she hopes to be doing in her new position, among them providing virtual Christian education resources, the use of live streaming for Elder and Christian education training, assisting with grants and training for churches that are “virtually/cyberly” challenged, assisting parents with school aged children particularly stressed during the pandemic, as well as better ways for our congregations to share with each other ministries that are working for us. Connecting and linking congregations all over the presbytery will be a priority. Suggested to Julie was a gathering (“virtual,” perhaps) of Christian educators and others active in Christian education in our churches, enabling them to share ideas and support one another.

Reports were shared from the “Corresponding Entities” assigned to our Committee: Presbytery of Arkansas’ Black Caucus, Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Ferncliff, Honduras Ministry Subcommittee, Presbyterian Disaster Preparedness and Response Subcommittee, Presbytery’s Resource Center and Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery. Numerous events and activities of these groups had been postponed as a result of the pandemic.

Julie Price reported on two gatherings of pastors, Commissioned Ruling Elders and church leaders last fall at Wynne and Greenwood which were well attended and from which positive feedback was received. Another event offered resources and discussion for the Lenten season and VBS programming. Julie will be developing online platforms to connect people, provide resources and build relationships.

Appreciation was again expressed to the congregations that have returned the survey from our Committee and the Committee on Mission and Vision. We continue learning from the surveys about the needs of congregations, as well as to celebrate and share ideas and ministries that are working well.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee voted to postpone all PLACE (Presbyterian Leadership Academy for Congregational Enrichment) events until 2021, appointing a task force to plan toward those events: Jan Butin, Mary Shaw, Kristi Button and the Rev. Ainsley Herrick

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM via Zoom.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF ARKANSAS

FALL RETREAT: Friday & Saturday, August 7-8, 2020  
*"Preserving Traditions While Moving Forward"*



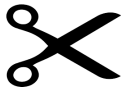
Mount Sequoyah

150 No. Skyline Dr., Fayetteville, Arkansas  
\$75 REGISTRATION FEE includes all meals and workshops

Our theme is *"Preserving Traditions While Moving Forward."* Activities will be varied and unique (singing, dancing, storytelling, cooking, etc.) and our own Rev. Becky Purcell will be the worship leader. An overview of the 2020-2021 Horizons Bible Study and a program on the history, traditions and pottery of the Quapaw Indians of Arkansas will be presented. The Retreat will begin on Friday at 9:00 am with registration and refreshments. Planned activities on Friday will end at 8:00 pm, allowing for some social time and fellowship. Saturday's activities will begin with breakfast at 8:00 am and will end following lunch. Cottage-style rooms (\$90 double occupancy) are available at Mt. Sequoyah. Please make your own room reservations. Call Mount Sequoyah at (479) 443-4531 and request one of the rooms set aside for Presbyterian Women. **The deadline for room reservations is July 7th.** Please bring a neck scarf for use during Friday evening Vespers.

Call PWPCT Co-Moderators Maryann Sweeney (479) 802-9620 or Vicki Erickson (479) 652-2398 with questions.

(Scholarships are available for room and board; contact Maryann or Vicki)



### FALL RETREAT — REGISTRATION FORM

The \$75 Registration Fee is due by July 7th. Make check payable to PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN and send with the following information to PWPCT Treasurer: Gail Phillips, 6400 Kenwood Rd., Jacksonville, AR 72076.

Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Church & City \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the two (2) workshops you wish to attend:

- \_\_\_\_\_ A Cooking Class led by chef and author Erin Rowe  
\_\_\_\_\_ An Art of Photography Class led by award-winning photographer Jan Hilgrim  
\_\_\_\_\_ An Interpretive Dance Class led by dance instructor Kathy Fidler

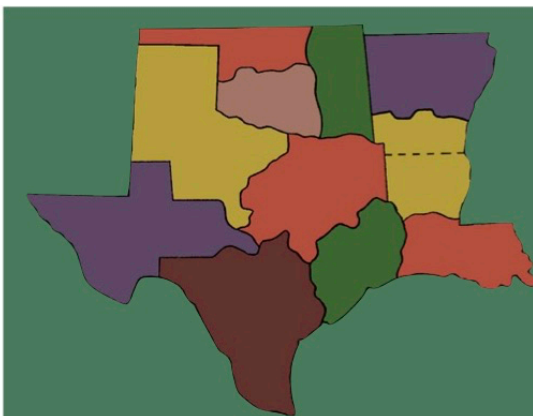


The Synod of the Sun is collecting Good News Stories about congregations and individuals who are reflecting Hope Through Connections, Unhindered By Walls. Do you know of a Good News Story? Send your story ideas to [thomas.riggs@synodsun.org](mailto:thomas.riggs@synodsun.org).

# Synod Sunday

August 23, 2020 - Celebrated Everywhere

Hope Through Connections, Unhindered By Walls  
1 Thessalonians 1:3



Join more than 750 congregations in 11 Presbyteries to celebrate the mission and ministry happening throughout the Synod of the Sun.