

Minutes of the Special Meeting of The Presbytery of Arkansas

August 11, 2019

Call to Order/Opening Prayer

The Special Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, carried out as a result of the affirmative vote on the Committee on Ministry's motion at the 141st Stated Meeting on June 8, 2019 ("to call a special meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas for the purpose of examining and ordaining Candidate Max Hill"), was called to order with prayer and the lighting of the Christ candle in the Sanctuary of Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, Arkansas at 3:00 p.m. by Vice Moderator MWS Marion Humphrey on Sunday, August 11, 2019.

Report of Enrollment/Declaration of a Quorum

Stated Clerk MWS Leslie Smith Belden declared a **quorum present** with 26 Ministers of the Word and Sacrament (MWS), and 12 Ruling Elders (RE) from 10 churches, 3 elder members-at-large and 3 other church professionals, for a grand total of 44 voting commissioners at the gavel. "A quorum for Called or Adjourned meetings of the Presbytery of Arkansas shall be ten (10) Ruling Elders, and ten (10) Ministers of the Word and Sacrament with at least 10 congregations represented overall. Only those ministers and elder commissioners within a 75-mile radius of the place of meeting shall be expected to attend." (Presbytery Ministry Manual, Part I: Organization and Structure, III. D.) The record of total attendance is included in the Appendix as Attachment A.

Adoption of the Docket

Stated Clerk MWS Belden moved the adoption of the docket. The motion was seconded, and the **docket as originally distributed was adopted.**

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

There were no **corresponding members present.**

The Temporary Stated Clerk **moved that privilege of the floor and voice be granted to Candidate Max Hill. Motion was seconded, and approved.**

Moderator MWS Humphrey appointed tellers and Leaves of Absence Committee as follows:
Tellers: RE Ted Belden and MWS Dari Rowen
Leaves of Absence Committee: Stated Clerk MWS Leslie Belden

Welcome from the Host

MWS Steve Hancock, Pastor of Second Presbyterian, welcomed commissioners and guests to Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, orienting all to the facilities and schedule.

Worship

The worship service began at 3:08 p.m. and was led by RE Marie Holder of Second Presbyterian Church, MWS Dari Rowen of First Presbyterian Church of Benton, and MWS Susan Rose, former Campus Minister of the United Campus Ministry at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, with Candidate Max Hill delivering the sermon as part of his examination for ordination. The worship bulletin is included in the Appendix as Attachment B. The worship offering recipient was the United Campus Ministry Center at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and totaled \$682.00.

Report of the Committee on Ministry

Moderator RE Cyril Hollingsworth gave the report. RE Hollingsworth requested to proceed with the examination of Candidate Max Hill, and Vice Moderator Humphrey asked him to proceed. RE Hollingsworth asked questions concerning doubt in the ministry of Candidate Max Hill, and how his faith developed in seminary.

Motion to sustain the faith and commitment portion of the exam. Motion was seconded and approved.

Motion to sustain the sermon portion of Candidate Hill's exam, preached earlier. Motion was seconded and approved.

Motion to sustain the faith statement portion of his exam. Motion was seconded and approved. Faith statement is included in the Appendix as Attachment C.

MWS Alisa Secrest asked the question in the area of Bible, asking candidate Hill how Hill might use scripture to help those struggling through times of estrangement and anxiety. Hill answered with Matthew 25, the Psalms, and Lamentations. Hill stressed the love of God throughout scripture, and his desire to work with students in their faith journey. **Motion to sustain the Bible portion of the exam. Motion was seconded and approved.**

MWS Lacy Sellars asked the question in the area of Reformed Theology about the "communion of the saints" from the Apostles' Creed, and Hill connected it with the holy catholic and apostolic church – that through Christ we are one body, past present and future. RE Ted Belden, Moderator of the Future of the Church Ministry Area, asked a question based on the book *Canoeing the Mountains*, asking how Hill believes the church can address today's post-Christian culture. Hill shared that in the past he saw a church that was more harmful to people's faith than helpful, but that the church can share what resurrection life looks like, perhaps in new non-traditional ways, stressing diversity and inclusion, and offering hope. **Motion to sustain the Reformed Theology portion of the exam. Motion was seconded and was approved.**

MWS Michael Ulasewich asked a question in the area of Worship and Sacraments on how Hill will invite people to holy communion, and Hill answered that he believes that

communion should be celebrated every single week, and in his ministry context he's been allowed to invite the congregation to the table, stressing that the community is not the community until all are welcomed. **Motion to sustain the Worship and Sacraments portion of the exam. Motion was seconded and was approved.**

RE Cyril Hollingsworth asked the question in the area of polity about why the session doesn't just elect someone to moderate the session rather than the Pastor moderating, and Hill answered that all aspects of ministry are shared, from pastoral care to polity, which includes the pastor as a minister of the Word and Sacrament as well as ruling elders. **Motion to sustain polity portion of the exam. Motion was seconded and approved.**

Motion to sustain the exam to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament as a whole. Motion was seconded and approved.

Hill was escorted from the room. **Motion to approve Candidate Max Hill for ordination to the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament. Motion was seconded and approved.** Candidate Hill returned to applause. **Motion to enroll him as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas. Motion was seconded and approved.** Max will be transferred to the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy upon their request. Members of Max's family were recognized, as were members of Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock.

COM Moderator Hollingsworth asked that the Moderator proceed to ordain Candidate Hill as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament.

Ordination of Candidate Max Hill

Candidate Max Hill was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Report of the Leaves of Absence Committee

Stated Clerk MWS Belden reported for the committee, stating that she would reconcile the enrollment with the requests for excused absences and the 75 mile radius, and include the report in the minutes of the meeting which will be posted on the Presbytery's website. There were 27 MWSs, 2 CREs, 2 CCEs, and 16 ruling elders who signed in for a total of 47 voting commissioners. There were also 4 non-voting visitors. Fifteen requested excused absences.

Closing Prayer and Benediction

MWS Max Hill gave the closing prayer and benediction.

Adjournment came at 4:11 p.m., and a reception followed in the Narthex.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS Leslie Smith Belden, Stated Clerk

Draft – for Presbytery Approval Only

Attachment A - Roster of Attendance/Enrollment

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament

Karen Kokles Akin	Cameron Highsmith
Catherine L. Allsbury, HR	Marion A. Humphrey
Maggie Alsup	Frank LeBlanc
Bill Bailey	Jeff Price
Leslie F. Belden	Leslie Bethell Roper
William W. Branch, HR	Susan Rose
Elizabeth Brinegar	Dari Rowen
Carol Clark, HRA	Alisa Secrest
David H. Dyer, HRA	Lacy Sellars
Ruskin Falls	J. Stewart Smith
Gordon F. Garlington, III, HR	Michael Ulasewich
Stacey Hammons	Lindy Vogado
Steve Hancock	Linda Whitworth-Reed, HR
Chip Hatcher	

Commissioned Ruling Elders

Chuck Olson	Harlis Wright
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Certified Christian Educators

Jeannie Ford	NiAnn Thompson, retired
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Ruling Elder Commissioners

Atkins, Memorial – Gail Murdoch
Batesville, First – Jeff Roper
Benton, First – Richard Galbraith
Conway, First – Richard Talley
Hot Springs, Westminster – Steven B. Smith
Little Rock, First – Sarah Keith-Bolden
Little Rock, Grace – Debbi Buckalew
Little Rock, Pulaski Heights – David Harper
Little Rock, Second – Mike Paulus, Marie Holder, Sam Byrd, Phillip Boggs
Morrilton, First – Gary Harris
Pine Bluff, Faith – Bettye Wright

Members at Large

RE Ted Belden, Moderator of the Future of the Church Ministry Area
RE Cyril Hollingsworth, Moderator of the Committee on Ministry

Visitors

David Chitwood
Lynelle Chitwood
Emily Hall, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
Mary Virginia Smith, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

Excused Absences

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament

Courtney Bacon-Latina
Jen Evans
Stephen Frazier

Sally Johnson, HR
Ward Rudolph

Congregational Commissioners

Arkadelphia, West End
Fairfield Bay, Kirk of the Hills
Hot Springs, First

Little Rock, Westminster
Searcy, First

Commissioned Ruling Elders

David Clark
Hartley Jones

Claire Rhodes
Kenneth Rhodes

Absent Without Excuse

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament

Ike Brighton, HR
Brian Brock
Don Campbell, HR
Mark Clark
Milton Davis, HR
Dick Frothingham, HR
David Gill, HR
Howard Gordon, HR
Bob Hadley, HR

Lance Jones, HR
Bo Lewis, HR
Marie Mainard-O'Connell
Richard Miller, HR
David Reed
Tim Reeves
Anne Russ
Rebecca Spooner
Robert Williamson

Congregational Commissioners

Arkadelphia, First
Beebe, First
Brinkley, First
Gurdon, First
Heber Springs, First
Hot Springs Village, Kirk in the
Pines
Jacksonville, First
Little Rock, Allison Memorial
Little Rock, Trinity

Little Rock, Westover Hills
Lonoke, First
Malvern, First
Morrilton, Hopewell
North Little Rock, First
North Little Rock, Park Hill
Pine Bluff, Central
Pine Bluff, First
Russellville, Central
Stuttgart, First

Members at Large

Nancy Bateman

Karene Jones

Attachment B – Docket/Order of Worship



142nd Special Called Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas

Sunday, August 11, 2019 - 3:00 pm

Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

We Gather in God's Name

Call to Order in the Sanctuary

Vice Moderator, MWS Marion Humphrey

Opening Prayer

Report of Enrollment and Declaration of a Quorum

Stated Clerk, MWS Leslie Belden

Adoption of the Docket

Seating of Corresponding Members, Granting of Privilege of the Floor/Voice

Appointment of Leaves of Absence Committee and Tellers

Welcome from the Host

Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, MWS Steve Hancock

* Call to Worship in the Sanctuary

Elder at Second Presbyterian Church, RE Marie Holder

Leader What does God require of us?

People To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

Leader What does Christ command of us?

People To love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Leader With joy, gratitude, and dedication, let us worship God!

* Opening Hymn #411

God is Here Today

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, you have called us to be your people and claimed us for the service of Jesus Christ.

**We confess that we have not lived up to our calling.
We confess that we have failed to love you and love our neighbor as ourselves.
We confess that we have not proclaimed your good news of justice and reconciliation for all,
that we live, work and promote systems that cause oppression.
We are quick to speak when we should listen
and remain silent when it is time to speak.
We put too much faith in our own actions
and fail to trust the strength of your Spirit.**

**Gracious God, forgive our ignorant and foolish ways.
Forgive our silence and inaction.
Forgive our actions that do not promote your will.
Give us the strength to follow Christ's way in the world.
Through your Spirit give us the grace we need to be faithful disciples and fulfill our common
calling; through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Assurance of God's Grace

Leader Friends, God's love for us extends as far as the East is from the West. God knows us
inside and out and loves us unconditionally. Let us declare the good news:
People **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

We Encounter God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Candidate Max Hill

Open our eyes to the work of your Spirit, O God, that these words might speak to us as your word, and
our lives bear witness to the good news of your love. Amen

Scripture

Numbers 27:1-11

Then the daughters of Zelophehad came forward. Zelophehad was son of Hephher son of Gilead son of Machir son of Manasseh son of Joseph, a member of the Manassite clans. The names of his daughters were: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. They stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders, and all the congregation, at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and they said, "Our father died in the wilderness; he was not among the company of those who gathered themselves together against the LORD in the company of Korah, but died for his own sin; and he had no sons. Why should the name of our father be taken away from his clan because he had no son? Give to us a possession among our father's brothers."

Moses brought their case before the LORD. And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: The daughters of Zelophehad are right in what they are saying; you shall indeed let them possess an inheritance among their father's brothers and pass the inheritance of their father on to them. You shall also say to the Israelites, "If a man dies, and has no son, then you shall pass his inheritance on to his daughter. If he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers. If he has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father's brothers. And if his father has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to the nearest kinsman of his clan, and he shall possess it. It shall be for the Israelites a statute and ordinance, as the LORD commanded Moses."

Sermon

Radical Acts for a Radical Calling

* Affirmation of Faith (Confession of Belhar)

MWS Dari Rowen

Leader We believe in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
who gathers, protects and nourishes the Church

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from the beginning of the world to the end.

People **The Church is holy; the Church is universal; it is the fellowship of God's children, called together from the whole of humanity To proclaim God's wonderful deeds.**

Leader We believe that the reconciling work of Christ gives birth to a uniting Church, because Church unity is a gift from God and a goal we need to strive for.

People **The unity of the Church must become visible so that the people around us can see how separation and hatred are overcome in Christ.**

Leader We believe that genuine faith in Jesus Christ is the only condition for membership in this Christian Church.

People **We praise God that race, class, gender, or culture does not determine who belongs to this Church.**

Leader We believe that God has entrusted to the Church the message of reconciliation; and that the Church is called to proclaim and embody this reconciliation; to be peacemakers; and to believe and witness that God conquers all powers of sin and death, of hate, bitterness and enmity, through his life-giving Word and Spirit.

People **We praise God that the gospel does not separate people on the basis of race, gender, class, or culture but is the power of reconciliation in Christ.**

Leader We believe that God wants us to bring about true justice and lasting peace on earth; we believe that God is, in a special sense, the God of the suffering, the poor, and the downtrodden.

People **We praise God who gives justice to the oppressed and bread to the hungry; who sets captives free and makes the blind to see; who protects strangers, orphans, and widows and obstructs the plans of the wicked.**

Leader We believe that the Church belongs to God and that it should stand where God stands: against injustice and with those who are wronged.

People **We commit ourselves to reject all forms of injustice and to every teaching that allows injustice to flourish.**

We are called to confess and to do all this in obedience to Jesus Christ, our only Lord, even if authorities or laws oppose this, even if punishment and suffering may be the consequence. Jesus is Lord. We will follow him. To the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be honor and glory for ever and ever.

We Respond to God's Call

Offering former UCM Campus Minister, MWS Susan Rose
The offering recipient is designated as the United Campus Ministry Center at the U of A, Fayetteville.

Prayer of Dedication

Report of the Committee on Ministry – Report A COM Moderator, RE Cyril Hollingsworth
Examination of Candidate Max Hill – Max's Statement of Faith is in the packet as Report A - Exhibit I

Ordination of Candidate Max Hill (if the examination is sustained) Vice Moderator, MWS Marion Humphrey

Sentences of Scripture	I Corinthians 12:4-7, 27
Leader	There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit that gives them.
People	There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.
Leader	God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.
People	To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.
Leader	Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

Statement on Ordination

Constitutional Questions

Prayer of Ordination (the laying on of hands) MWS Steve Hancock

Welcome

Charge to the Newly Ordained former UCM Campus Minister, MWS Susan Rose

Report of the Leaves of Absence Committee

We Are Sent in God's Service

Closing Hymn #757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

Closing Prayer

Benediction MWS Max Hill

Adjournment

* Those who are able are invited to please stand.

Worship Leadership Organist, Adam Savacool
All are invited to celebrate the ordination of MWS Max Hill at a reception immediately following the meeting.

Attachment C – Candidate Max Hill Statement of Faith

I believe in God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit as the Triune God.

I believe that God created the world and became incarnate in Jesus Christ, who was both human and divine in order to save humanity from our sin. Jesus endured and conquered injustice and evil, even to the extent of state brutality and execution. Jesus conquered even this through resurrection. Resurrection shows that nothing can overcome or overpower God's desire to continue to make us all a new creation.

I believe the Holy Spirit acts as our guide as we continue to navigate the injustice of this world. By living Christ's example, being guided by the Holy Spirit, and loved by God divine, we are able to teach, advocate, and love the world. We do this knowing we are all intimately connected as God's creation.

I believe strongly in connecting with God as a lover. As such, I understand that nothing can separate me from the love of God shown in Christ Jesus. No amount of doubt or injustice is strong enough to overcome God's love. God's love was so abundant that it created everything we know. God's love was so plentiful that when God's image became humanity, God wanted so intimately to share life with us and save us from ourselves that God became Jesus Christ.

I believe that scripture is the authoritative revelation of God. This means that scripture is the means through which we share and experience God in our lives. The study of scripture enriches all who seek to follow Christ.

I believe that the church is called to continue the work of Jesus in the world in every age. Jesus' work was that of healing the sick, caring for the poor, the widow, and the orphan. Jesus' healing work uplifts those on the margins. Jesus showed us how we can learn from those that society declares insignificant, silent, unloved, and unworthy. Jesus called the least by name, laid hands on the outcast, and rebuked the power of oppressors.

We proclaim this grace, love, and shared creation in our sacraments. I believe the sacraments are visible signs of invisible grace.

In baptism, we show the invitation of one another into the community of God. We proclaim that we will walk with one another in faith, sharing the liberating love that Jesus showed us.

In communion, we commune with one another in the meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. In this example, Jesus showed us that it is imperative to share our most intimate moments with our friends and our betrayers.

God's invitation and grace is to be shared by all.