

First Presbyterian Church  
Harrison  
October 21-22, 2016

# 133rd Stated Meeting

## Next Meetings

134<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting  
Univ. of the Ozarks,  
Clarksville  
February 17-18, 2017

## The Presbytery of Arkansas

135<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting TBD

136<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting TBD

## Meeting Schedule

### Friday

- 3pm Exhibitor Set-up
- 3pm Clerk of Session Training
- 4pm Registration Opens
- 6:45pm The Presbytery Convenes
- 7pm Theological Discussion
- 7:45pm Worship including the Lord's Supper

### Saturday

- 8:30am The Presbytery Reconvenes
- 8:35am Morning Prayer
- Noon Lunch

## Presbytery Leadership

- Moderator TE Lacy Sellers
- Vice-Moderator RE Ruth Hamilton
- Moderator of CT RE Ed Wilkinson
- General Presbyter TE Stewart Smith
- Stated Clerk TE Robert Lowry
- Moderator of Administration  
TE Catherine Aisbury
- Moderator of CCM TE Dari Rowen
- Moderator of CLD TE Kade Curry
- Moderator of Future of the Church  
RE Leah Shell
- Moderator of Church & Its Mission  
RE Kelley Pearson
- Moderator of Youth, Campus & YA  
RE Mary Shaw
- Moderator of Nominations  
TE Elizabeth Gabbard

## Docket

Friday October 21

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### We Gather in God's Name

- 6:45 pm Call to Order
- Opening Prayer
- Report of Enrollment and Declaration of Quorum
- Adoption of the Docket
- Seating of Corresponding Members and Granting of Privilege of the Floor/Voice
- Welcome to First-Time Commissioners
- Introduction of Presbytery Staff
- Welcome from Host Church
- Adoption of Consent Agenda (Section A)
- Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings (Section S)

### We Encounter God's Word

- 7:15 pm Order of the Day-Theological Discussion on the Lord's Supper (Section L)
- 8pm Worship including the Lord's Supper

Saturday October 22

### We Respond to God's Call

- 8:30 am Call to Order
- Morning Prayer
- Report of the Stated Clerk (Section B,N,P)
- Report of the Coordinating Team (Section C)
- Report of the General Presbyter
- Report of the Administration Ministry Area (Section D)
- Report of the Committee on the Church's Ministries (Sections E and R)

Report of the Committee on Leadership Development (Section F)

Report of the Committee on Nominations (Section G,N)

Report of the Future of the Church Ministry Area (Section H)

Report of the Mission of the Church Area (Section J)

Report of the Subcommittee on Disaster Preparedness (Section K)

11am Order of the Day-Theological Discussion on Mental Health Issues

Minute Announcements

Noon Lunch

12:45 pm Order of the Day-Report of the Polity Committee (Section M)

Report from Youth Triennium

Report of the Presbyterian Women

New Business

a.

b.

c.

Report of the Leaves of Absence Committee

We Are Sent in God's Service

Closing Prayer Service

**MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-THIRD STATED MEETING OF THE  
PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS  
OCTOBER 21-22, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER/OPENING PRAYER**

The 133<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was called to order at 6:45 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, Harrison, Arkansas on Friday, October 21, 2016 by Teaching Elder Lacy Sellars, Moderator of the Presbytery. He invited all to greet others and offered opening prayer.

**BUSINESS SESSION**

**REPORT OF ENROLLMENT/DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

Stated Clerk TE Robert Lowry declared a **quorum present, 29 TE, 26 RE present at gavel.**

**TEACHING ELDERS (who checked on sign-in sheet):** DC Adams, Bill Bailey, Leslie Belden, Brian Brock, Carol Clark, Mark Clark, Kade Curry, Ruskin Falls, Steven Frazier, Paul Fulks, Elizabeth Gabbard, Gordon Garlington, Robert Hadley, Steve Hancock, “Chip” Hatcher, Marion Humphrey, Kim Young Doo, Courtney Bacon-Latina, Robert Lowry, “Mike” McCracken, Larry Mitchell, Rebecca Purcell, Dennis Ritchie, Leslie Bethell Roper, Dari Rowen, Cinthia Saul, David Schaller, Patricia Schaller, William Seitz, Lacy Sellars, Georgia Senor, Stewart Smith, Rebecca Spooner, Michael Ulasewich, Michael Vinson, Elizabeth Wagner, Marci Ward.

**HONORABLY RETIRED TEACHING ELDERS:** Catherine Allsbury, Ben Bateman, Ira “Ike” Brighton, Howard “Flash” Gordon, John King, James Miller, Richard Shinkle, Fred Taylor.

**RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS FROM CONGREGATIONS (who signed in):** Memorial, Atkins, Mark Murdoch; First, Batesville, Karen Lange; Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, Ronnie Prevost and Burnis Leavens; Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals, Meg Simons; First, Clarksville, Heather Patton; First, Conway, Peg Falls-Corbitt; First, Eureka Springs, Margie Bullock; First United, Fayetteville, Curt Patton, Graham Memorial, Forrest City; Bill Mitchell and LeNelle Cagle; Central, Fort Smith, Janis McClure; Good Shepherd, Greenwood, Ed Wilkinson; First, Harrison, Brian Davis; First, Heber Springs, David Clark; Holiday Island, Susan Stille; Faith, Horseshoe Bend, George Jackson; First, Hot Springs, Frances Bateman; Westminster, Hot Springs, Lawrence Grubb; Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village, Jerrel Johnson; First, Huntsville, Carla Taylor; First, Jacksonville, Mary Lee Schultz; Allison, Little Rock, Tim Anthony; First, Little Rock, Roberta Saxon; Grace, Little Rock, Laurine Williams; Pulaski Heights, Little Rock, LaWanda Harris; Second, Little Rock, Linda LeBron, Diane Skinner; Westover Hills, Little Rock, H. K. Stewart; First, Mountain Home, Marti Frazier; Mount Vernon, Pea Ridge, Ron Davis; Central, Pine Bluff, Marty Shell; First, Pine Bluff, Don Harris; First, Prairie Grove, Jill Maddox; First, Rogers, Betty Hilton; Central, Russellville, Garrie Kellam; First, Springdale, Davis Morris, Scarlett Morris; First, Yellville, Felice Dennis.

**AT-LARGE COMMISSIONERS:** Ex-Officio Members of Coordinating Team, Ruth Hamilton and Bob Boehmler. Ruling Elder Members of Coordinating Team, Ted Belden. Moderators of Presbytery Ministry Areas, Committees, Subcommittees: RE Leah Shell, Future of the Church. Ruling Elder Commissioners to General Assembly 222, Gail Murdoch. Moderator of Presbyterian Women, RE Jeanne Lloyd.

**COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS:** Chuck Olson, Memorial, Atkins; Kelly Pearson, First, Dardanelle.

**CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:** NiAnn Thompson, Presbytery Staff.

**Certified Associate Christian Educators:** None.

**VISITORS TO THIS MEETING:** 23 registered.

**YOUNG ADULT DELEGATE ADVISORS:** Hartley Allen, First, Springdale, United Campus Ministry, UofA; Julianna Whitson, United Campus Ministry, UofA, Fayetteville.

**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:** Lemuel Garcia, Mission Presbytery, Austin Seminary; Terry McLellan, honorably retired, Grace Presbytery; Jeremy Wilhelmi, Presbytery of The James, Chaplain, University of the Ozarks, Clarksville.

**TEACHING ELDERS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Nancy Benson-Nicol, Phil Butin, Janet Butin, Joy Carrington, Lance Clemmons, Jeff Cranton, Fern Davis, Lewis Donelson, James Farley, Debra Freeman, Susan Gray, Al Henager, Chris Jones, Anne Russ, Rachel Shepherd, Shauna Silmon, Lindy Vogado, Susan Carter Wiggins, Robert Williamson, Harry Young.

**HONORABLY RETIRED TEACHING ELDERS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES:** David Dyer, William Galbraith, Lance Jones, David King, Nancy Taylor, Rita Wilson.

**TEACHING ELDERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE:** Karen Akin, Phil Blackburn, Tasha Blackburn, Bryan Bond, Kris Crawford, Katie Cummings, Clif Ford, John Gibson, David Gill, Clare Martin Kelley, Frank LeBlanc, Libby Lizarraga, Ray McCalla, Jeff Parker, Emmett Powers, Jeff Price, Timothy Reeves, Susan Rose, Ward Rudolph, Terry Tallent, Dan Wooley.

**HONORABLY RETIRED TEACHING ELDERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE:** William Branch, Don Campbell, Milton Davis, Guy Delaney, Heinrich Eiler, Alan Ford, Orin Frank, Richard Frothingham, William Henning, Robert Hyatt, Sally Johnson, Mark Lenneville, "Bo" Lewis, Carlos Lopez, Richard Miller, Jerry Rice, Michael Seitz, Ken Upham, Don Wardlaw, Darwin Wolfe.

**SESSIONS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Arkadelphia, West End; Bentonville, Vaughn; Little Rock, Westminster.

**SESSIONS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE:** Alma, First; Amity, Alpine; Arkadelphia, First; Beebe, First; Benton, First; Bentonville, First; Brinkley, First; Cane-Hill; Clarksville, Harmony; Dardanelle, First; Elkins; Fairfield Bay, Kirk of the Hills; Mt. Comfort, Fayetteville; Fort Smith, First; Gamaliel, One-O-One; Gravette, First; Gurdon, First; Hardy, Spring River; Helena, First; Holly Grove; second commissioner Hot Springs Village, Kirk in the Pines; Hot Springs Village, Woodlands; Jonesboro, First; Lincoln, First; third and fourth commissioner, Little Rock, Second; Little Rock, Trinity; Lonoke, First; Malvern, First; Marianna, First; McGehee, First; Mena, First; Morrilton, First; Hopewell, Morrilton; Mountainburg; Newport, First; Norman, Barr Memorial; North Little Rock,

Park Hill; Ozark, First; Paragould, First; Pine Bluff, Faith; Pocahontas, First; second commissioner, Russellville, Central; Searcy, First; Stuttgart, First; Van Buren, First; Walnut Ridge, First; West Helena, Cleburne Avenue; Wynne.

**AT-LARGE MEMBERS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE:** Representation, RE Led Davis.

**AT-LARGE MEMBERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE:** Ruling Elder Members of Coordinating Team, Justin Clark, Ken Coker, Jan Enke, Karene Jones, Emily Laurel, Patty Minga, Laura Pierce; RE Moderators of Presbytery Ministry Areas, Committees, Subcommittees: Elizabeth Branch, Disaster Preparedness Subcommittee; Mary Shaw, Ministries with Youth, Campus, and Young Adults. Ruling Elder Commissioners to General Assembly 222 (2016 Portland): Jessie Rancifer.

**COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE:** Carolyn Beane, Barr Memorial, Norman; Claire Rhodes, West End, Arkadelphia; Kenneth Rhodes, West End, Arkadelphia.

**COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE:** K. C. Chanthorn, Laotian-First, Fort Smith; G. Hartley Jones, Barr Memorial, Norman; Jim Keyes, 101, Gamaliel; Rita Manske, Cane Hill Presbyterian; Harlis Wright, Faith, Pine Bluff.

**CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE:** Kristi Button; Jeannie Ford; Lynn King, retired; Nancy Irving Smith, retired.

**Certified Associate Christian Educators Absent with Excuse:** Lynn Condra, retired; Theresa Spragins, Susie Wright.

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

The Moderator moved the adoption of the docket with changes. **The docket was adopted with additions (adding items 8-12 to Committee on Church's Ministry, two faith statements and covenants under Section R, and one item in Stated Clerk's report).**

#### **SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS/GRANTING PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Seated as corresponding members with privilege of the floor and voice were: TEs Lemuel Garcia, APTS, Mission Presbytery; TE Terry McLellan, HR, Grace Presbytery, and TE Jeremy Wilhelmi, Presbytery of The James.

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

Moderator asked for first time elder commissioners to stand and introduce themselves with reason they are attending meeting. Elders from Second, LR; Rogers, Springdale, Holiday Island, FUPC, and Bull Shoals were welcomed.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF PRESBYTERY STAFF**

Moderator introduced the following: General Presbyter Stewart Smith, Stated Clerk Robert Lowry, Resourcing Director and Recording Clerk NiAnn Thompson, Director of Mission Support Kenneth Rich, Vital Congregations Staff Michael Vinson, Youth Staff Britton Varn, as well as presbytery's Vice Moderator Ruth Hamilton and Coordinating Team moderator Ed Wilkinson. Treasurer Bob Boehmler was also present.

### WELCOME FROM HOST CHURCH

Pastor DC Adams brought greetings and invited all to slow down and enjoy their time in the Ozarks. Volunteers from the congregation are ready to help and answer questions.

### ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Stated Clerk Lowry moved the following:

1. That the Synod Minutes Review report be received and that the presbytery minutes reflect appreciation to Recording Clerk NiAnn Thompson for her work in preparing the year-end minutes.
2. That the presbytery affirm that current insurance coverage for the presbytery is adequate and instruct the Stated Clerk to include a summary of coverage upon the minutes of this meeting (appendix)
3. That the presbytery affirm that sexual misconduct and child and youth safety policies are in effect in the presbytery and instruct the Stated Clerk to include copies of both upon the minutes of this meeting (appendix).

No items were pulled from the consent agenda for individual consideration. Motion passed.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Stated Clerk moved approval of minutes of 132<sup>nd</sup> stated meeting in June, 2016 as printed in the packet. Motion passed.

### APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Moderator appointed the following to serve during the meeting and thanked Vice Moderator for securing their service:

Tellers: RE Steven Hudson, First, Harrison; TE Dari Rowen, First, Benton; TE Ruskin Falls, Pulaski Heights, LR; TE Patty Schaller, at large.

Leaves of Absence Committee: TE Georgia Senor, First, Bentonville; RE Ron David, Mt. Comfort, Pea Ridge; RE Don Harris, First, Pine Bluff.

Host pastor Adams was asked to tell more about the history of the church's move from downtown Harrison in 2007. He praised the loving nature of the congregation and their hospitality to him and his family upon arrival in Harrison.

### ORDER OF THE DAY

#### THEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

At 7:05 p.m. TE Ruskin Falls led discussion of amendment to the PC(USA) constitution 16-G. Access to the Lord's Table on amending W-2.4011 a. and b. which will be voted on at the February, 2017 presbytery meeting. He pointed out the current wording and the proposed wording. Many speakers shared their opinions on this amendment.

#### WORSHIP INCLUDING LORD'S SUPPER

At 8:00 Emme and Ellie Bell, Hartley Allen, Benjamin Adams, Marvin Murphree, Melody Davis, Harry Cikanek, Steven Hudson, Elizabeth Adam, Dr. Mark Bowdidge, and the Chancel Choir led

worship with TE Carol Clark bringing the sermon and the worship offering benefitting the Delta Initiative of the AR Food Bank, newly merged with AR Rice Depot. TEs Adams and Clark officiated at the Lord's Table. Communion was served by intinction.

Adjournment for the night came at 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Moderator Sellars called the council to order in the sanctuary at 8:30 a.m. for morning prayer. Worship offering from Friday night was \$1,346.

**MORNING PRAYER**

TE Adams led morning prayers and read scripture of the Parable of the Sower.

**BUSINESS RESUMES**

Moderator is pleased with the presbytery's progress under the new structure.

**REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK**

Stated Clerk Lowry referenced the "Cheat sheet" for understanding the meeting and gave the following report:

**For Information:**

1. The Synod of the Sun has reviewed 2015 presbytery minutes and reported only minor exceptions. The exceptions noted will be corrected in the next reporting period.
2. All Teaching Elders (including those who are Honorably Retired-Active) are reminded that a condition of continued employment and membership in the Presbytery of Arkansas requires periodic background checks. ALL Teaching Elders must complete a background check Authorization and Release form (found in Section M of the packet) and forward \$10 for the cost of the background check. All releases must be received by February 1, 2017. Congregations employing Teaching Elders are encouraged to cover the cost of the background check.
3. All Teaching Elders must complete and return to the Stated Clerk an Acknowledgement of Receipt of the presbytery's Sexual Misconduct Policy (found in Section M of the packet). Completed Acknowledgements of Receipt must be returned to the Stated Clerk no later than February 1, 2017.
4. Moderators and Clerks of Session are reminded that Church Record and Session Minutes reviews are to be completed no later than December 1, 2016. Reading assignments and

checklists are included in Section N of the packet and Appendix C of the Clerks Manual. Please contact the Stated Clerk with any questions or concerns.

5. Urgent correspondence has been received from the Board of Pensions concerning new Board of Pension changes. ALL institutions utilizing or planning to utilize the Board for employee benefits (this includes ALL congregations whether or not they currently have a Teaching Elder) must submit certain information for the plan. An informational flyer is included in Section N in this packet. The electronic version contains live links to the appropriate websites.

**For Action:**

1. The revision of the map of regions by the Coordinating Team necessitates changes to the Organization and Structure of the presbytery to accommodate the reduced number of regions for nominations. In order to prevent disruption of ministry work and in an effort to simplify the process of nominations, the Stated Clerk recommends the following actions:
  - a. That the presbytery declare all committee, subcommittee, and ministry positions formerly designated as Region 5 as “at-large.” Motion seconded and passed.
  - b. That the Organization and Structure be amended as follows (text to be deleted indicated by a ~~strikethrough~~ and text to be added indicated by *italics*):
    - i. 5.B.1 One member from each of the ~~five~~ regions...up to ~~three~~ *four* at-large
    - ii. 5.C.a.1 ~~Four~~ *five* additional at-large...
    - iii. 5.C.b.1 ~~Eight~~ *ten* additional at-large...
    - iv. 5.D.1 Two members from each of the ~~five~~ regions...Up to ~~three~~ *additional five* at-large
    - v. 5.D.3 ideally one from each of the ~~five~~ regions
    - vi. 5.E.1 Two members from each of the ~~five~~ regions
    - vii. 5.F.1 Two members from each of the ~~five~~ regions and ~~four~~ *six* at-large
    - viii. 5.H.1.b ~~Five additional members shall be elected from the presbytery (one from each region.)~~ Five at-large members shall be elected from the presbytery (no more than two from any region.) Motion seconded, discussed and approved. List of congregations will be placed on presbytery website.

- c. That the Committee and Ministry Duties section be amended to reflect the changes to the Organization and Structure. Motion seconded and approved.
2. Motion that the Presbytery of Arkansas approve the sale of “the Chenal property” for \$1.13 million under the terms of sale contracted with the purchaser. Details were shared. Motion, seconded and approved (with joy).
3. Motion that the Presbytery of Arkansas empower the Administrative Commission charged with selling the NWA “Crossover” property to complete the necessary steps to conclude the sale of the “Chenal” property. Motion, seconded and approved.

#### REPORT OF THE COORDINATING TEAM

Team Moderator Ruling Elder Ed Wilkinson gave the following detailed report:

For Information:

The Coordinating Team took the following actions on behalf of the presbytery at their Stated Meeting August 31, 2016:

1. Approved three requests concerning the October Stated Meeting of the Presbytery:
  - From Second, Little Rock a request to include a flyer and registration information on an Eneagram workshop
  - From Presbyterian Pilgrimage to include information on upcoming pilgrimage events.
  - From TE Marie Mainard O’Connell to present a short video introduction of the new PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteers at Ferncliff.
2. Revised the presbytery region map to eliminate current Region 5 (east Arkansas) and reduce the number of regions to four. The churches from Region 5 have been reassigned as follows:
  - Faith, First, and Central Pine Bluff and First McGehee move from Region 5 to Region 3
  - All other churches in Region 5 move to Region 4
3. To balance the remaining regions, the following churches have been reassigned:
  - Central, Russellville and Memorial, Atkins move from Region 4 to Region 2
  - Yellville and Bull Shoals move from Region 4 to Region 1
4. On the advice of the Nominating Committee, named Jennifer McCracken (Wynne) to an unexpired term in the class of 2016 on the Ministry with Youth, Campus, and Young Adults.

5. On the advice of the Nominating Committee, named TE Ike Brighton, HR (member at-large) to an unexpired term in the class of 2016 on the Subcommittee on Disaster Preparedness:
6. On the advice of the Nominating Committee, named TE Paul Fulks (First, Heber Springs) to an unexpired term in the class of 2016 on the Church and Its Mission ministry.
7. The Moderator of Coordinating Team was asked to communicate with the Moderator of Nominations to ensure that the at-large positions on CT are filled in keeping with the needs of the CT. It was noted that two current members, TE Ruskin Falls and RE Laura Pierce, rotate off at the end of 2016.
8. The Nominating Committee asked the CT for guidance concerning volunteers willing to serve on committees and ministries where there was no vacancy. It was decided that by reducing the number of regions and eliminating the difficulty with finding Region 5 representatives, this was no longer a pressing concern.
9. The Stated Clerk informed the CT that declines in membership in next year's statistical reporting may drop the presbytery below the threshold for current number of GA Commissioners. Since it is not necessary to elect commissioners until next year, it was suggested that Nominations not bring those names to the presbytery until it is clear how many commissioners will be needed.
10. The Stated Clerk presented the corrected minutes of the 130<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting. The CT was asked to approve the revised minutes so they may be presented to the Synod of the Sun for review. A motion was made and seconded to approve the revised minutes.
11. The CT returned to the discussion begun in May concerning the scope, design, frequency, location, and purpose of presbytery meetings.
  - Data gathered during the Restructure process was presented along with some statistics on attendance and past experience with various locations for presbytery meetings.
  - The relative advantages and disadvantages of different potential models were discussed.
  - Following a lengthy conversation, it was decided that for the near term, the presbytery will continue with its current meeting schedule. Attention will be paid to the flow and content of the meetings in October, February,

and June. The CT will return to the questions of logistics, timing, etc. at the October 1 meeting.

- The Stated Clerk asked for guidance in seeking a host for the June 2017 meeting. A preference was expressed during the Restructure for meeting around tables if possible. The CT was in general agreement with that preference but did not act to make it a requirement. The Stated Clerk was instructed to seek a host for the June 2017 meeting in accordance with current criteria with a preference (but not requirement) for meeting space allowing for table gathering.
12. Decided that the topic for primary theological discussion at the October meeting will be issues surrounding mental health and that TE D.C. Adams be charged with coordinating it. After lengthy discussion, it was decided that a second discussion concerning the new Directory for Worship and the proposed changes to language concerning admittance to the Lord's Supper will be a second theological discussion if time permits. TE Ruskin Falls will coordinate the second discussion.
13. At the request of the Stated Clerk, adopted the following policy as a Standing Rule (numbered as Standing Rule #1) for the filing of business for presbytery meetings.
- All business to come before the presbytery must be submitted in writing to the Stated Clerk no later than 21 days prior to the date of the stated or called meeting.
  - Business not submitted by the deadline is treated as new business. It is the responsibility of the maker of the motion to provide hard copies for all commissioners.
  - The Stated Clerk will post the docket and all relevant documents no later than 7 days prior to a Stated Meeting.
14. Decided that due to conflicting existing policies, the CT determined that the host congregation (First, Harrison) shall plan worship for the October Stated Meeting.
15. The Stated Clerk informed the CT of a referral made by the presbytery at the 130<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting. The referral reads:
- *"That our General Committee (now Coordinating Team) study, discuss, and propose to our presbytery and its congregations action and strategies by which we may be "salt" and "light" amidst a culture increasingly violent, to include but not be limited to issues of the proliferation of fire arms, the*

*treatment and care of the mentally ill, alienation among younger generations, racism, and poverty.”*

- The CT chooses to begin answering the referral with the Theological Discussion on mental health at the 133<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meeting. The Stated Clerk will include in his October report to presbytery communication acknowledging this ongoing consideration.
16. The Stated Clerk is working on completion of the revised Policies and Procedures section of the Presbytery Ministry Manual. Two presbytery policies in need of revision are the Emergency Loans to Pastors and the Emergency Loans to Congregations policies. Those policies were referred to the Administration Ministry with a request that they report back to the CT by December.
  17. TE Roper raised the issue of how the families of former pastors relate to congregations: She noted that there is a policy for former pastors but no guidance for their families. The question was referred to the CCM with instructions to consider the issue and report back no later than November 30, 2016 with any policy recommendations.

The Coordinating Team took the following actions on behalf of the presbytery during a called conference call September 9, 2016:

1. The Stated Clerk presented the referral from the CCM concerning formation of an Administrative Commission with power to assume original jurisdiction to inquire into difficulties and work with the congregation and Session of First Presbyterian Church of Little Rock. The General Presbyter and TE Leslie Belden (CCM representative to CT) described the situation and referral from CCM. Members discussed the timing of the AC, the scope of its business, and the proposed membership.
2. The CT adopted the following motions:
  - a. That the Presbytery of Arkansas elect an Administrative Commission to counsel with the Session and congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Little Rock in discerning God’s future for the church and its effective witness to the community. The Administrative Commission shall have the power to assume original jurisdiction.
  - b. Elect the following members of the AC:

- i. TE Bill Bailey Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village
  - ii. TE Debbie Freeman First, Jacksonville
  - iii. TE David Dyer, HR Westminster, Little Rock
  - iv. RE Ruth Hamilton Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village
  - v. RE Cyril Hollingsworth Second, Little Rock
  - vi. RE Mike Szabo First, Searcy
- c. That the AC appointed to work with First Presbyterian Church of Little Rock be charged with reporting back to the Coordinating Team no later than November 10, 2016. The Stated Clerk is instructed to forward the report to the CCM and Future of the Church Ministry prior to their November retreats. In addition to reports of any actions taken by the AC on behalf of the presbytery, the report shall include at least answers to the following:
- i. Shall the Session continue as presently constituted?
  - ii. Is there a viable remnant to move forward?
  - iii. If the answer to question 2 is yes, what necessary steps need to be taken in budgeting and relationships with current and former staff to prepare the remnant church for the future?

The Coordinating Team took the following actions on behalf of the presbytery during a stated meeting via conference call on October 1, 2016:

1. A motion was made and seconded naming the following as the slate for at-large membership on the Nominations Committee:
  - o RE Susie Wright (Westminster, HS)
  - o RE Mike Harden (First, Arkadelphia)
  - o RE Matt Curry (First, Jonesboro)
  - o RE Kathy Rogers (First, Bentonville)
  - o The Stated Clerk was instructed to contact the list in this order.
  - o The slate will be presented to the presbytery at the 133<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meeting.  
(Note: a subsequent motion will clarify the membership of Nominations)
2. A motion was made and seconded to present the following to the presbytery for adoption as a Standing Rule:

In an effort to engage diverse voices from across the presbytery and honor the commitment of time and energy of ministry members, individuals may not serve concurrently on more than one of the following committees and subcommittees: CCM, CLD, Mission, Youth, Campus, and Young Adults,

Campus Ministry subcommittee (except those automatically assigned to Youth, Campus, and Young Adults), Administration, Future of the Church, or Disaster Preparedness.

An exception is made for those who are automatically members of more than one ministry, committee or subcommittee by virtue of office or role in the presbytery.

3. The docket for the 133<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meeting was distributed before the meeting. Based on requests for time from committees, the needs of the host church, and discussion on the best way to ensure flow for the meeting, a motion was made and seconded to set the docket as discussed. *(NB: Due to the later than usual start time and the addition of theological discussion on Friday night, the CT chose not to have a reception following worship on Friday night.)*
4. The date and length of the June 2017 meeting (135<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting) was discussed. The Mission Ministry shared that there is at present no leader for the 2017 PLACE event. The possibility of combining the PLACE event with the June meeting was discussed at length. It was decided that since the June docket is normally light, combining the two would be possible and potentially beneficial to the presbytery. In anticipation of this possibility, the Stated Clerk was instructed to secure a host church with sufficient facilities to host the PLACE as well as the meeting. The consensus of the group was to abide by the tradition of holding the June meeting in central Arkansas.
5. The 2017 contract with Wellspring Renewal Center was presented for approval. Following a lengthy discussion about the contract and the program of providing referral services for church professionals and their families, the CT took the following actions:
  - Approved the 2017 contract.
  - A motion was made and seconded to instruct the Committee on the Church's Ministries to review the program with attention to the following:
    - Rates of utilization
    - Whether the program as it stands meets the needs of the presbytery
    - Report back their findings to the CT prior to the April 2017 CT meeting.

6. A request was received from the Ozark church for permission to sell vacant land and use the proceeds to make essential repairs to the church building. The AC assigned to Ozark agreed with the request. Following lengthy conversation about the context of the situation including Ozark's financial position and the fact that the congregation is pursuing dismissal from the PC(USA), a motion was made and seconded to:
  - o Approve the sale of the property with proceeds earmarked for repairs to the church building.
  - o Require that any sale be approved by the Ozark Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission prior to sale.
  
7. Dissolved the Woodlands Presbyterian Church (HSV) Administrative Commission with the thanks of the presbytery. The AC was dissolved because litigation is pending with WPC.
  
8. The report from the Administration Ministry Area distributed before the meeting was discussed. GP Smith offered insights into the history of the budget and the unrestricted mission giving to Synod and GA above and beyond per capita giving.

Smith explained the financing of the presbytery office building and the repayment plan to the NCD fund of the presbytery.

A lengthy conversation followed focused on the following:

- o The need to interpret the mission of the PC(USA) and the funding streams (per capita vs. mission giving) within the church to congregations.
- o The need to evaluate our giving priorities in light of changing budget demands and lower levels of income. (NB: GP Smith will address this and other financial issues in his report to the presbytery at the 133<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meeting)
- o The need to evaluate our budget in light of presbytery priorities.

After the discussion focused on next steps, the sense of the CT was expressed that RE Jan Enke (Moderator, Administration), RE Leah Shell (Moderator, Future of the Church), and GP Smith should begin a process of conversation addressing the issues above. No formal motion was made, however Enke and Smith indicated their willingness to begin this conversation soon and report back to the CT on progress.

For Action:

1. **The Coordinating Team recommends that the presbytery adopt the following as a Standing Rule (numbered as Standing Rule #2):**

#### **Committee Membership**

**In an effort to engage diverse voices from across the presbytery and honor the commitment of time and energy of ministry members, individuals may not serve concurrently on more than one of the following committees and subcommittees: CCM, CLD, Mission, Youth, Campus, and Young Adults, Campus Ministry subcommittee (except those automatically assigned to Youth, Campus, and Young Adults), Administration, Future of the Church, or Disaster Preparedness.**

**An exception is made for those who are automatically members of more than one ministry, committee or subcommittee by virtue of office or role in the presbytery. Motion was approved.**

2. **Motion to affirm the nine members of the Committee on Nominations and their classes as all are currently serving and willing to continue:**  
**Class of 2017: RE Kim Brooks, TE Robert Hadley, TE Joy Carrington.**  
**Class of 2018: RE Wendell Phillips, TE Cinthia Saul, TE “Mike” McCracken**  
**Class of 2019: TE Elizabeth Gabbard, RE Jane Anne Spikes, RE Susie Wright. Gabbard will serve as moderator in 2017. Motion was approved. Coordinating Team report was received.**

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

General Presbyter TE Stewart Smith gave the report.

He celebrated the joyful vote of potential sale of Chenal property. Having learning of the hurt feelings related to the pledge to the Ferncliff Capital Campaign by the presbytery and the loans to “cover” that pledge, Smith will be open and transparent. He reported that the new structure is working, and committees are doing patient work. He thanked the presbytery for their cooperation. New structure did not address finances or staffing. He and Administration Ministry are dealing with \$134,000 shortfall but are not doing across-the-board cuts. Two committees are cutting 2017 asking drastically (Future of the Church and Church and its Mission). He hopes that congregations will give in 2017 what they gave in 2016. He spoke of Per Capita giving and invites those congregations that “cleaned their rolls” to keep up the good work. He calculated that dividing the budget by reported members yielded a \$71 “presbytery per capita” and that 16 congregations meet that per capita. He is grateful that this presbytery disproves the model of large churches not giving or being involved in presbytery. He highlighted and thanked these: Second, LR; First United, Fayetteville; Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista; First, Springdale; Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village; Park Hill, NLR; First, Malvern; Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay; Wynne

Presbyterian; First, Dardanelle; First, Prairie Grove; First, Mena; Grace, Little Rock; Spring River, Hardy; Barr Memorial, Norman; and Elkins Federated. He is aware of the challenges other congregations face in giving but encourages all to take steps toward the goal of tithing. He updated the presbytery on the situation with Woodlands Presbyterian, Hot Springs Village, which is taking legal action to be dismissed to Evangelical Presbyterian Church with their property. He acknowledged the struggle to find pastoral leadership for smaller churches. He invited ruling elders to pursue commissioned ruling elder training. Finally he asked for prayers for members of FUPC, Fayetteville; Second, LR; Bella Vista; Springdale; Westover Hills and Trinity, LR who are leaving for Honduras mission trip on Oct. 23.

#### REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY AREA

Moderator TE Catherine Allsbury gave the report. The bad news is that giving continues to decline. The good news is that giving to Presbytery should meet budget. Administration plans to reduce the budget by \$80,000 for next year though to date there is no tentative budget for 2017. Going forward, more cuts for coming years are expected. Administration is struggling for places to reduce and has asked Coordinating Team to set priorities to guide budgeting.

For Information:

1. Income & Expense as of June 2016:
  - a. As approved in February, the budget anticipated a **shortfall of \$133,928** – to be met by taking funds from the Presbytery investments (to meet the total budget of \$885,428).
  - b. Interest income is higher than expected, (+ **\$20,000**) as of June 2016.
  - c. Giving by local congregations is slow, but will be close to budget (**\$615,000**) by the end of December 2016.
  - d. Some discretionary spending has been more conservative than budgeted, which will bring presbytery closer to a balanced picture at the end of the year.
2. Areas of Greatest Expense for 2017
  - a. Administration of the Presbytery Office (costs of personnel, building and equipment).
    - i. The General Presbyter and the Administration Ministry Area will be scrutinizing this portion of the budget for potential savings.
    - ii. This section includes repayment to the Presbytery of \$36,000 annually:
      1. \$2,000/month for New Church Development;
      2. \$1,000/month to an Office Building Maintenance & Repair fund; fund currently has a balance of \$100,000. *Administration Ministry has voted to suspend those payments.*
      3. The presbytery could save money if the debt to the NCD fund were forgiven, or payments reduced.

b. Commitments to the Greater Church

- i. Total giving to General Assembly and Synod of the Sun is nearly 16% of expected giving from churches. ***Currently, we are giving a tithe in addition to the Per Capita tax.***
- ii. It is believed the original intent was to model good stewardship by tithing to the Greater Church, in faith that churches of the presbytery would follow that example by tithing to presbytery.
- iii. The Administration Ministry is seeking guidance from other bodies in this Presbytery, in the form of theological or missional statement of intent for support of the Greater Church.

c. Expenses for Committees and Ministry Areas

- i. Traditionally, we have tried to balance the budget by asking each committee to trim their expenses by a flat rate. We have reached a point where, for instance, asking the Committees on Nominations (\$360 annually) and Representation (\$45 annually) to do so will not bear much fruit.
- ii. The groups spending the most are those that are driving the mission of Presbytery: Mission of the Church; Future of the Church; Ministries of the Church; Youth, Collegiate and Young Adults.
- iii. These areas of mission are at the heart of what we believe the church is called to do.
- iv. *We encourage those Ministry Areas to carefully consider the financial resources available, and the most fruitful use of those resources. We cannot continue business as usual.* The Administration Ministry does not intend to micromanage by suggesting line item cuts, but does believe there is room for saving.

d. Payments on Loan for Ferncliff Capital Campaign

- i. The two loans totaling \$1,000,000 continue to be a source of distress.
- ii. Interest-only payments have been **\$32,304.00 annually** since 1/1/2015. Reducing or eliminating those payments would be a big step forward in balancing our budget.
- iii. To date, no relief in the form of property sales has arrived. (Prior to very recent acceptance of offer by potential buyer.)

3. Funds from sale of Presbytery owned property

- a. The long-standing policy has been that sale of property (either donated or from churches that close) automatically goes into an endowment for New Church Development. Now is a time when New Church Development is rare.

- b. The Administration Ministry suggests that it is time to revisit that position. Perhaps it could be reshaped to say that funds will be used where the *greatest need or call to mission presents itself*.
- c. This would give the Presbytery greater flexibility in responding to areas of need, and calls to mission (locally and abroad).

Sellars asked if Ferncliff would be placed in 2017 budget; Allsbury answered that is up to Mission Committee.

Vice Moderator Ruth Hamilton moderated the next part of the meeting.

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE CHURCH'S MINISTRIES

Moderator TE Dari Rowen gave the report.

##### For Information:

- TE Gordon Garlington was granted Honorably Retired status effective July 31, 2016. GP Smith spoke on his behalf. Garlington came to AR in 1980 as pastor of First, Bentonville and later, Park Hill, NLR. He befriended Stewart in 1994. Garlington thanked his mentors.
- TE David Gill was granted Honorably Retired status effective January 31, 2017. He will be honored in Feb.
- The membership of TE Debbie Spangler was transferred to Grace Presbytery.
- The CCM will henceforth use the following terminology for pastoral relationships:
  - Pastor/Co-Pastor/Associate Pastor;
  - Transitional Pastor;
  - Stated Supply Pastor;
  - and Pulpit Supply.
- The CCM will no longer use the terms:
  - Temporary Supply
  - Designated Pastor/Associate Pastor/coPastor
  - Interim Pastor/Associate Pastor/co-Pastor
  - *NB: the Parish Associate designation will continue to be used.*
- The CCM will present a key-ring on the 5-year anniversary of ordinations, certifications, and commissionings, at the October presbytery meeting, and subsequent anniversaries will be appropriately commemorated by an announcement in the October CCM report.

- TE Jeremy Wilhelmi was announced as the new chaplain of the University of the Ozarks, Clarksville.
- TE Carol Clark was approved as the Transitional Pastor of Park Hill Presbyterian Church, NLR effective August 1, 2016 through August 1, 2017, with the following terms of call:
  - Salary \$38,679
  - Pension/Medical 21,790
  - ½ Social Security 4,301\*
  - Travel 1,550
  - Housing 19,125
  - Continuing Ed 600
  - Total compensation \$86,045. She was recognized.
- The CCM requested that the Presbytery, through the Coordinating Team, elect/appoint an Administrative Commission to work with the Session and congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Little Rock in moving toward God's future for the church, with the power to assume original jurisdiction. *(NB: The details of the AC are included in the Coordinating Team report.)*
- Rev. Don Hubbard resigned as the Transitional Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith, effective September 30, 2016, to take the position of Transitional Pastor of First Christian Church, Fort Smith. Rev. Hubbard is an ordained pastor in the Disciples of Christ denomination.
- Central Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith, First Presbyterian Church of Springdale, and First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro were granted permission to elect Pastor Nominating Committees.
- The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, was granted permission to serve as that congregation's Pastor Nominating Committee.
- The CCM re-constituted appropriate members for a subcommittee that will establish guidelines for (1) Transitional Pastors, and (2) the needs of congregations to have pastoral leadership and the lack of available PC(USA) Teaching Elders, including (3) how to work with those who are not ordained as a PC(USA) Teaching Elder and what will be required of them.

**For Action:**

1. Motion to approve the call of TE Karen Akin as Pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church, Little Rock for a designated term of 3 years with the following terms of call:
  - a. Effective Salary
    - i. Cash Salary: \$29,154
    - ii. Housing Allowance: \$18,000
  - b. Benefits
    - i. Full medical, disability, and death benefit coverage under the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
    - ii. Paid Vacation (6 weeks including 3 Sundays)
    - iii. Paid Continuing Education (2 weeks including 2 Sundays)
  - c. Reimbursable Expenses (by voucher)
    - i. Mileage (\$0.54 per mile): \$1200
    - ii. Business/Professional Expenses: \$0
    - iii. SECA Supplement (up to 50%): \$0
    - iv. Continuing Education: \$3500

Motion was approved.

2. Motion to approve the following details concerning the Installation Service of TE Karen Akin as Pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church:
  - a. Date and Time of Installation: November 20, 2016 at 3:00 pm
  - b. Offering Recipient: Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center
  - c. Members to serve on the Administrative Commission to include:
    - i. TE Lacy Sellars, Moderator of the Presbytery, to moderate and propound the Constitutional Questions
    - ii. TE David Gill, Director, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, to preach
    - iii. TE Lindy Vogado, Associate Pastor, Second Presbyterian Church, to charge the congregation
    - iv. RE Cyril Hollingsworth, elder, Second Presbyterian Church, to charge the pastor
    - v. RE Betty Glenn, elder, Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, LR
    - vi. TE Anne Russ, pastor, First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock
    - vii. RE Betty Winter or Jerry Herbert, Grace Presbyterian Church

**Motion was approved.** Members of Grace stood and were recognized.

- 3. Motion to approve the following details concerning the Installation Service for TE Paul Fulks as pastor of First, Heber Springs:**
  - a. Date and Time of Installation: November 6, 2016 at 3:00 pm**
  - b. Offering Recipient: Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center**
  - c. Members to serve on the Administrative Commission to include:**
    - i. TE Lacy Sellars to Moderate and Propound Constitutional Questions**
    - ii. TE Stewart Smith to Preach**
    - iii. TE Dari Rowen**
    - iv. TE Carol Clark to Charge the Pastor**
    - v. TE Kade Curry to Charge the Congregation**
    - vi. RE Ruth Hamilton, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village**
    - vii. RE Carolyn Buchanan, First, Batesville**
    - viii. RE Anton Bucher, First, Heber Springs**
    - ix. Sitting with the Commission: TE Milton Davis, HR and RE David Clark, First, Heber Springs**

**Motion was approved.** Members of church were recognized.

- 4. Motion to approve the call of Rev. Jai Deok Kwak as Pastor (part-time) of Central Presbyterian Church of Pine Bluff with the following terms of call:**
  - a. Effective Salary**
    - i. Cash Salary: \$15,867.78**
    - ii. Housing Allowance: \$12,000**
    - iii. Deferred Compensation: \$11,652.54**
  - b. Benefits**
    - i. Full medical, disability, and death benefit coverage under the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (USA)**
    - ii. Moving Expenses (negotiated)**
    - iii. Paid Vacation (3 weeks including 3 Sundays)**
    - iv. Paid Continuing Education (2 weeks including 2 Sundays)**
    - v. Clergy Renewal Leave (3 months including Sundays) with continued salary and benefits following the seventh year of service.**

*vi. NB: This position is ¾ time and is therefore exempt from presbytery minimum requirements for leave.*

**c. Reimbursable Expenses (by voucher)**

- i. Mileage (\$0.54 per mile): \$1200**
- ii. Business/Professional Expenses: \$0**
- iii. SECA Supplement (up to 50%): \$0**
- iv. Continuing Education: \$1200**

Kwak was welcomed and introduced. Motion was approved.

**5. Motion to approve the following details concerning the Installation Service of Jai Deok Kwak as pastor, Central, Pine Bluff:**

Installation service to be held on December 4, 2016 at 4 p.m. at Central with the offering recipient to be Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services and the following to serve on the Administrative Commission:

TE Lacy Sellars to moderate and propound the constitutional questions

TE Stewart Smith to preach

TE David King, HR to charge the congregation

RE Kay Cromwell, Central, to charge the pastor

CRE Harlis Wright, Faith, Pine Bluff

RE Ruth Hamilton, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village

RE David Stricklin, Westover Hills, LR

RE Kitty Rubenstein, First, Pine Bluff

Motion was approved.

**6. Motion to enroll TE Jai Deok Kwak as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, from East TN Presbytery. Motion was approved. His statement of faith is below:**

**Statement of Faith Rev. Jai Deok Kwak**

*I believe in One God, the triune God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, three divine persons in one God. Three distinctive beings, yet One God for they are in same substance and share the eternity together. They suffer together, and sacrifice together to give new life to humanity and the renewing of the creation. They share the everlasting, uninterrupted love relationship forever.*

*I believe the divinity of the Son, Jesus Christ. I believe that through Christ, the Trinity God reveals Himself to humanity. Jesus is the most comprehensive and substantial revelation of the Triune God to humanity. His birth, His Baptism, His teachings, His miracles, His Crucifixion, and His resurrection*

*display the identity and the works of three divine beings. I believe that the truth -- that there is only ONE God -- means that the Creator of the Universe, and the incarnated Son, and the one who indwells within the believers and do the work of sanctification are the same "ONE God." Though there are peculiarities in the work each person does, they work together for the salvation of humanity.*

*I also confess that I believe Jesus is a man. The Second person of the Trinity became a human being in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. He took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by mean of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the "just seed of David," the very Messiah promised. In His humanity, the promises of God, the Prophecies of the Old Testament Prophets were fulfilled. In His humanity, Jesus became the Lamb of God, the suffering servant for the whole world. Through the humanity of Jesus Christ, the power of God made perfect in weakness. As a man Jesus experienced every human needs and limitation. He also was tempted to sin, and yet lived a sinless life. In the mystery of "incarnation," the Creator (God) became the created (human). In this union, the fallen humanity sees the way of salvation, the way of reconciliation to God and others. In this sense, Jesus is the perfect link between two quiet distinct beings, God and humanity. For Christ is both God and human, not partially but in perfect form, Jesus can be one and only Mediator between God and man. In Him, God is really with us. Humanity of Jesus Christ exhibits God's genuine love toward the humanity. In Jesus Christ, human life was accepted, and reconciled to God. God embraces who we really are. I believe that I am a beloved child of God, and God called me out of this world to live a Christ-like life. I believe that God desires the reconciliation of the world through Jesus. For this work of reconciliation, God called Christians out of darkness and placed the Spirit of Christ in them. Just as the Christ was predestined to be the mediator between the God and the Humanity, Christians are predestined to be the agents of the Christ to bring the world back to the Christ. I was formed in His image. I am called to be in likeness of Christ. I find my value and purpose of my life only in Him.*

Members of Central and Kwak's wife were recognized.

7. Approve the renewed CRE covenant (Jan. 1, 2017-Dec. 31, 2019) between Kenneth Rhodes and Claire Rhodes and the congregation of West End, Arkadelphia. Motion was approved.
8. Approve the renewed CRE covenant (Jan. 1, 2017-Dec. 31, 2019) between Kelly Pearson and First, Dardanelle. Motion was approved. Pearson stood.
9. Approve the renewed CRE covenant (Jan. 1, 2017-Dec. 31, 2019) between Harlis Wright and Faith, PB. Motion was approved.
10. Motion to enroll TE Jeremy Wilhelmi, chaplain at UofO, into membership upon dismissal from Presbytery of The James. Motion was approved. He was welcomed back to AR, which is his home. (Faith statement is in appendix). His wife was also recognized.

11. **Motion to enroll TE Terry McLellan, HR into membership upon dismissal from Grace Presbytery. Motion was approved.** He was welcomed and introduced wife Kay. He will be back in Fort Smith. (Faith statement is in appendix).

Moderator Sellars resumed leadership of the meeting.

#### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Moderator TE Kade Curry gave the report, thanked his committee members and praised the candidates and incoming inquirers.

#### **For Information:**

The Committee on Church Leadership Development of Arkansas Presbytery met at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center at 9:30 am on Saturday, September 3, 2016. A quorum was present.

The process for examining the candidates was discussed prior to their joining the meeting. Because of the number of candidates, there will be a group interview process where all candidates may participate and also hear other answers. This will be followed by individual interviews. Time will be flexible based on the needs of the Candidates/Inquirers.

It was suggested that the Mentors be given a schedule to enforce for candidates to turn in paperwork and to move the process forward. It will be the responsibility of the Candidates/Inquirers to enforce their own schedules.

Two Liaisons are being assigned for each Candidate/Inquirer. Some Liaisons who have begun the process but are no longer on the Committee will continue with their assignments. Kathy White will set up a file of all the documents and status of each Candidate/Inquirer. The *Book of Order* has no rules as to how long a person must be in each stage of the process, but the total time between acceptance as Inquirer and Ordination should be at least three years.

Denne was present and moving toward seeking a call next spring.

#### **Liaison assignments:**

- Katherine Norwood – Susan Anderson and Lynn Condra, inquirer
- Molly DeWitt – Susan Rose and Kade Curry, inquirer
- Krista Denne – Debbie Freeman and Sherry Miller, candidate
- Brittany Fiscus Van Rossum – Kade Curry and Debbie Freeman, candidate
- Stacey Hammons – Debbie Freeman and Kathy White, incoming inquirer
- David Mills – Mike McCracken and Debbie Freeman, incoming inquirer
- Jordan Akin – Susan Anderson and Bill Henning, incoming inquirer

- Max Hill – Debbie Freeman and Lynn Condra, incoming inquirer

A repository will be developed on the Presbytery website to contain our forms. Kade Curry will arrange for this. He will also send an e-mail to each Candidate with copies to Liaisons to establish communication.

### Interview Process

The Candidates joined the meeting, and the entire group participated in an icebreaker activity.

Group interview then began. Questions which were discussed included:

- What created the desire or urge to look into becoming a minister?
- How will ordination as a Teaching Elder enhance your opportunities to serve God?
- How can creative and bi-vocational ministry opportunities be developed?

### Individual Interviews

#### Jordan Akin

Jordan indicated that she sees the Inquiry status as definitely a time for discernment for her as she begins her seminary studies. She has spent two years as a YAV which has given her insight into possibilities for ministry. She has spent two weeks at Louisville Seminary in an introductory course. She hopes this committee will be there to support her through her time of discernment. She was encouraged to develop new mentors in her new situation. Louisville Seminary offers field placements during the summer which Jordan plans to take advantage of. She was informed that the pastoral internship required by this committee can generally be coordinated with seminary requirements. Jordan was given information on her liaisons. Motion was approved to accept Jordan Akin as an Inquirer. Kade offered prayer for this relationship.

#### Stacey Hammons

Stacey has already graduated from seminary and is transferring from another denomination which did not allow ordination of women. She is currently working as a Chaplain at Presbyterian Village. She had graduated from seminary without a church but established a relationship with Karen Akin of Second Presbyterian. When Stacey first attended Second, she worried about how her theology would mesh with Presbyterianism. She was very comfortable with the encouragement to ask questions and ability to be accepting. She doesn't always agree with Calvin, but she is becoming more able to live with ambiguity. The committee discussed educational requirements which she needs to complete ordination requirements. She has to complete Hebrew and Greek language requirement. The committee does not want to require any unnecessary classes, but some study in Reformed theology and polity would be helpful. She hopes to start her studies as soon as possible. The committee agreed that she needs to concentrate on what is needed to pass her ordination exams. There has been a question as to whether Stacey can officiate at the Sacrament of Communion under her current status. She has not been ordained as a Ruling Elder in the PC(USA) and therefore cannot officiate at the monthly Sunday Sacrament of Communion at Presbyterian Village under the *Book of Order* but that she can participate in a service led

by a minister of another denomination. Stacey was given information about her liaisons. Motion was approved to accept Stacey Hammons as an Inquirer. Kade offered prayer for this relationship.

David Mills

David indicated that he is still deciding on whether to work on a Masters or to go to seminary. He has toured several seminaries and is also considering studying in Northern Ireland. He is currently serving as Interim Director of Youth Ministries at Second in Little Rock. This position will allow him to save money for school during this year and to work through his options for the next year. David had discussed with his pastor Steve Hancock as to whether he should apply for Inquirer status or wait until he decides whether he is going to seminary. David shared some of his experience in growing up in a small church and how he vacillated in a leadership roll. He indicated that helping others has always been a part of his life. Motion was approved to accept David Mills as an Inquirer. Debbie offered prayer for this relationship. He was given information about his liaisons.

Max Hill

Max indicated that he had gone through a process of wanting to avoid organized religion to deciding that he would be attending seminary. He had been turned off by the narrow-minded view of Christianity he had grown up with and their lack of acceptance of him as a gay person. His family encouraged him to search out other religions which he did. He eventually became involved with UCM at the University of Arkansas and was accepted for who he was. He became very involved there, finally becoming president and student director. He will be starting at Princeton Seminary next week. He has received scholarships to Princeton and is currently involved in the "1001 Worshipping Communities" movement. Motion was approved to accept Max Hill as an Inquirer. Lynn offered prayer for this relationship. He was given information about his liaisons.

Katherine Norwood

Katherine has been an Inquirer for a while, but this is the first time she has met with the committee in person. She indicated that her studies at Louisville Seminary are going well. The seminary has a good mix of older and traditional students. She is starting her field studies next year at Central Presbyterian in Louisville, an urban church. It was agreed that a semester rather than quarterly report from her supervisor would be adequate. She has completed her Hebrew and Old Testament exegesis courses. She will be doing Greek and New Testament next year. Katherine was reminded that this committee requires a field internship that her seminary field study will satisfy. Katherine is looking at possibilities of campus ministry but is open to other possibilities. She will fill out the required paperwork. Kade is working on an outline of the Candidacy process to post on the Arkansas Presbytery website. Liaisons will work on planning the ordination exams with the candidates. Taking these exams can be spread out over the Candidacy stage. Katherine may apply to become a Candidate whenever she feels ready; she needs to ask the Session of her home church to approve her application so it can be presented to Presbytery for approval. Forms will be available on the Presbytery web site. Stewart Smith offered a prayer for this relationship.

Molly DeWitt

Molly has found an advocate at her seminary to see that she is able to have the courses she needs for ordination. She is now placed as a pastoral intern at a small church with an older membership, a change

from the youth emphasis she has had working in a camp situation. She is looking at a CPE internship as the next stage in her preparation. She is currently on a three-year program. She is having to be creative in planning for her language courses. She has not yet talked with her liaison about applying for candidacy and planning for her ordination exams. The camp where she is employed is actively working to build bridges to churches who disagree with the denomination. The process for becoming a Candidate was explained to Molly. She indicated that she is weak in Bible knowledge and will need to work very hard to pass the ordination exams. Molly may apply to become a Candidate whenever she feels ready; she needs to ask the Session of her home church to approve her application so it can be presented to Presbytery for approval. Forms will be available on the Presbytery web site. Debbie Freeman offered a prayer for this relationship.

Brittany Fiscus-van Rossum

Brittany has completed four of her ordination exams and needs to pass Bible Content. She is entering her last year of seminary at Columbia and will be doing an internship in CPE. She should meet all requirements for ordination by the end of the school year. As soon as she passes Bible Content, she hopes to start looking for a church. There is a possibility of continuing at the church where she is doing supervised ministry which serves the homeless, but she would also like to explore other possibilities. It was noted that she does not have to appear before Presbytery when she is approved to receive a call. When she receives a call, she will be examined by the Presbytery where the call is issued. It was recommended that she begin work on her PIF so that she can seek a call as soon as she completes ordination requirements.

Krista Denne

Krista has completed two of her ordination exams. She will complete her required seminary classes in January but does plan to take additional classes the next semester. She has been working as an Intern at First Presbyterian in Clarksville and would consider staying there if possible. She would also consider going overseas. It was noted that she does not have to appear before Presbytery when she is approved to receive a call. When she receives a call, she will be examined by the Presbytery where the call is issued. It was recommended that she begin work on her PIF so that she can seek a call as soon as she completes ordination requirements.

He talked about the process in place for ruling elders to prepare for Commissioned Ruling Elders.

**For Action:**

1. That Jordan Akin (Second, LR) be enrolled as an Inquirer. Motion was approved.
2. That Stacey Hammons (Second, LR) be enrolled as an Inquirer. Motion was approved.
3. That David Mills (Second, LR) be enrolled as an Inquirer. Motion was approved.
4. That Max Hill (Second, LR) be enrolled as an Inquirer. Motion was approved.

Moderator offered a prayer for all four new inquirers.

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Moderator TE Elizabeth Gabbard gave the report.

**For Information:** The form to self-nominate or nominate someone from your congregation was in packet Section M (Forms and Registration Documents).

**For Action:**

1. **The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following persons for a two-year term, Class of 2018**
  - a. **Coordinating Team (at-large members):**
    - i. TE Ruskin Falls, Pulaski Heights, Little Rock
    - ii. TE Mike McCracken, Wynne Presbyterian
  - b. **Commissioner to Synod of the Sun:**
    - i. RE Emily Laurel, First, Benton
  - c. **Committee on Representation:**
    - i. RE Ledridge Davis, First, Malvern
    - ii. RE Jeannie Maples, First, Harrison
    - iii. RE Barry Matthews, First, Jacksonville
    - iv. Ms. Yuri Hernandez, Barr Memorial, Norman
  - d. **General Assembly Young Adult Advisory Delegate**
    - i. Ms. Emma Gillaspay, First, Conway/Lyon College

Nominations were invited from the floor, but there was none. **Motion was approved.**

2. **The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following persons for three-year terms, Class of 2019:**
  - a. **Stated Clerk:**
    - i. TE Robert Lowry, at-large
  - b. **Counselor-at-law:**
    - i. RE Ed McCorkle, First, Arkadelphia
  - c. **Committee on Administration:**
    - i. TE Catherine Allsbury, HR, Second, Little Rock
    - ii. TE David Dyer, HR, Westminster, Little Rock
  - d. **Committee on the Church and Its Ministries:**
    - i. TE Phil Butin, First United, Fayetteville
    - ii. RE Don Eilbott, Trinity, Little Rock
    - iii. RE Sue Johnston, First, Batesville
    - iv. RE Jim Pedersen, First, Rogers
  - e. **Committee on the Church and Its Mission:**

- i. TE Paul Fulks, First, Heber Springs
- ii. RE Kelly Pearson, First, Dardanelle
- iii. RE Marty Shepherd, First, Dardanelle
- f. Committee on Leadership Development:
  - i. TE Kade Curry, First, Searcy
  - ii. RE Mike Easley, Graham Memorial, Forrest City
  - iii. TE Debra Carl Freeman, First, Jacksonville
- g. Committee on the Future of the Church:
  - i. TE Phil Blackburn, First, Fort Smith
  - ii. TE Brian Brock, Central, Russellville
  - iii. TE Steven Frazier, First, Morrilton
  - iv. TE Marie Mainard O'Connell, at-large
- h. Committee on Youth, Campus, and Young Adults:
  - i. RE Justin Clark, First, North Little Rock
  - ii. Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Wynne Presbyterian
  - iii. Ms. Carolyn Ward, First, Batesville/Lyon College
- i. Subcommittee on Disaster Preparedness
  - i. TE Ira "Ike" Brighton, HR, at-large
  - ii. RE Betty Powell, Park Hill, North Little Rock
  - iii. TE David Schaller, Faith, Horseshoe Bend
- j. Readers of Theological Exams:
  - i. TE Steve Hancock, Second, Little Rock
  - ii. RE Sherry Miller, First, Hot Springs
  - iii. RE Wendell Phillips, Park Hill, North Little Rock
  - iv. TE Ward Rudolph, at-large
- k. Alternate Reader of Theological Exams:
  - i. TE Katie Cummings, First, Bentonville

Nominations were invited from the floor, but none was offered. Motion was approved.

3. The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following for one-year terms in Class of 2017:
- a. RE Jan Enke, First, Van Buren, moderator, Committee on Administration
  - b. TE Dari Rowen, First, Benton, moderator, Committee on Church and Its Ministries
  - c. RE Kelly Pearson, First, Dardanelle, moderator, Committee on Church and Its Mission
  - d. TE Kade Curry, First, Searcy, moderator, Committee on Leadership Development
  - e. RE Ledridge Davis, First, Malvern, moderator, Committee on Representation

- f. RE Leah Shell, Second, Little Rock, moderator, Committee on the Future of the Church
- g. RE Krista Denne', First, Clarksville, moderator, Committee on Youth, Campus and Young Adult
- h. TE Lacy Sellars, First, Hot Springs, moderator, Coordinating Team
- i. TE Ira (Ike) Brighton, HR, at-large, moderator, Disaster Preparedness Subcommittee
- j. RE Ruth Hamilton, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village, moderator, Presbytery of Arkansas

Nominations were asked from the floor, but none was offered. **Motion was approved.**

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

Moderator RE Leah Shell gave the report. She shared the brochure on the Crossover property in Fayetteville which is listed for sale. The committee works with property but hopes to concentrate on technology and the presbytery website. Committee member TE Brian Brock is working with congregations on "brick and mortar" needs. The committee supports 4-5 congregations with partial funding and will check with them in two weeks.

#### **For Information:**

The Future of the Church committee met twice since the last Presbytery meeting. The first meeting was on June 9, 2016 while the second meeting occurred on August 11, 2016. A summary of both meetings is noted below.

- Peg Falls-Corbitt and Ted Belden serve on the Coordinating Team as representatives for the Future of the Church. Ted Belden will serve for two years on this committee while Peg Falls-Corbitt will roll off the Coordinating Team at the end of 2016.
- During the August meeting a discussion of current and anticipated budget constraints was led by Stewart Smith. A motion was made and seconded to reduce portion of the 2017 FOTC budget by \$15,000. The committee will work on allocation of the anticipated budget during a retreat on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of November in Russellville, AR.
- **Property:** Melanie Gibson, the listing agent for the Chenal Property reports interest from a developer for the possible use as a site for senior living community. A formal offer has not been submitted. Ted Belden is arranging to have some preliminary engineering work done to aid with marketing efforts. An Administrative Commission was formed during the June Presbytery meeting for the purpose of marketing and selling the Crossover Property. Ted Belden and Leah Shell are the representatives

from FOTC for this Commission. The Commission has met via two conference calls and an appraisal of the Crossover Property was ordered and prepared. The Commission is in the process of listing this property.

- Committee is working on a celebration of life of the Gravette Church (Oct. 30).
- **Technology:** Stewart Smith has encouraged committee to look outside the Presbytery for answers to some of the technology needs. A discussion of virtual meeting platforms was shared.
- **Community Resourcing:** Brian Brock continues to work with the Van Buren Church to look for ways to fund the needed repairs to their building. He has reached out to others within this committee for aid. Committee is continuing to work on developing new policies for grant request and procedures for awarding funds to congregations.
- **Visioning and Vitality:** A motion was made and seconded to fund a portion of the Food with Family Program at the Argenta Church. A motion was made and seconded to fund 12 weeks at \$125 per week plus the salary for the intern. The total voted to be paid from Small Church Miscellaneous – Account 7500-28-1-000 is \$2460. Committee continues to reach out to the churches that the FOTC helps support yearly to find out if the level of support is needed and what the funds will be used for in the future.
- **New Worshipping Communities:** Marie Mainard O'Connell gave a report on the Mercy Church, a congregation whose focus is the homeless population in downtown Little Rock. She also gave a report on the Walnut Grove Church. The former intern from United Campus Ministries is now attending Seminary and is no longer involved with this congregation. A motion was made and seconded to approve UCM's adding liability-only insurance for Walnut Grove to the UCM policy, to be paid for through UCM's grant funding. Motion was seconded and passed.
- **Visioning:** The First Presbyterian Church in Beebe has approach the FOTC. They desire some help with some steps their congregation can make. Mike Vinson, who serves as the Staff Liaison from the Presbytery for the FOTC, expressed a desire to work on visioning projects within the Presbytery.
- Members of the Future of the Church continue serving on several Administrative Commissions. These include Lonoke, Rogers and Ozark.

- The FOTC has scheduled a retreat on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of November in Russellville Arkansas. They welcome commissioners' input.

### REPORT OF THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH AREA

Moderator CRE Kelly Pearson gave the report. He pointed out the display at meeting by TE David Schaller on Journey into Hope, two mission trips to McGehee, budget cuts of 17% without gutting the church's mission, two sets of grants available (evangelism incentives and unified mission grants to the most vulnerable), great committee members, and thanksgiving for international mission trips.

For Information:

- A letter from Journey into Hope

*To: Committee on Mission Presbytery of Arkansas*

*Dear Colleagues in Ministry,*

*Members and a friend of Faith Presbyterian Church, Horseshoe Bend, Arkansas, have recently completed our third mission trip to the Dominican Republic in July and August of 2016, to work with Journey into Hope.*

*Journey into Hope is a mission that works with Haitians in the town of Sabaneta de Yasica, Dominican Republic. Haitians in the DR are the "poorest of the poor" in our hemisphere. The mission includes community nutrition support through a soup kitchen (serving up to 60 children per day), spiritual support through the New Life Christian Church, basic medical service through an on-site clinic (when medical staff are available), housing support through several residences, job training, education support through scholarship and uniform assistance for kindergarten through medical & nursing school students, assistance in securing passports and work documents, and general encouragement and support.*

*Journey into Hope, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) private charitable foundation, dedicated to serving the desperately poor in Latin America and the Caribbean. Richard Taylor, the foundation's director, is a professional luthier (guitar builder). Several years ago he accompanied a medical mission team to Sabaneta, DR as a translator, where he was introduced to a small community of Haitians. That meeting turned into a calling.*

*Haiti and the Dominican Republic share the Caribbean island of Hispanola. But since Haiti was formed in 1804 following a slave revolt, the relationship between the two sides of the island have been rocky. Haitian agricultural workers have been brought into the DR since the early 20th century. Many Haitians in the DR today are descendants of those early sugar cane workers. But according to new laws in the DR, they do not qualify for citizenship, either in the Dominican or Haiti.*

*Journey into Hope has worked closely with a private elementary school in the neighborhood for several years. In 2014 JIH constructed a building for the school on their compound. Intentionally bi-racial and bi-cultural, the school is heavily subsidized by scholarships, in an effort to raise a generation of Haitian and Dominican children who can live and work comfortably together.*

*Faith Presbyterian, along with several other congregations of various denominations around the country,*

*has been instrumental in the construction of residences, a soup kitchen, the church, clinic and school, both through the donation of funds, and on-site work over the past several years. In 2016 this small congregation in north central Arkansas raised over \$7000 toward an addition to the elementary school building. Along with a \$2000 contribution from the Presbytery of Arkansas, this was enough to construct the addition, as well as security walls around the compound. Our team of five had the privilege of putting the finishing touches on the school addition, allowing an expansion to 150 students.*

*Please visit [www.journeyintoahope.org](http://www.journeyintoahope.org) or Journey into Hope on Facebook for a more close-up and personal view of the work of this ministry.*

*In Christ,  
Faith Presbyterian Church  
David Schaller, Pastor Horseshoe Bend, AR  
870.750.0028*

- Since the presbytery meeting in June, the Church and Its Mission ministry-area has met twice to allocate missional funds and provide educational opportunities.
- The P.L.A.C.E. educational event was held on August 6<sup>th</sup>, making this the third consecutive annual venue in this presbytery. Gracious thanks are given to committee member/Christian Educator Kristi Button of FUPC-Fayetteville, who was this year's coordinator. A task-force has been established to ascertain options on how to provide an *en masse* venue(s) for Christian education, spiritual development, and/or evangelistic skills/tools in 2017.
- The mission of the presbytery has included the Disaster and Response Permanent Subcommittee sponsoring two mission work-weeks in McGehee to repair homes damaged from spring flooding. One trip was in August and the other the first full week of October. The presbytery made a grant for the initial trip of \$2,500 to assist in buying materials.
- Other grant recipients have or will include: Stop Hunger Now--\$2,000; The Food-pantry/meal ministry of FPC-Van Buren--\$1,000; Arkansas Interfaith--\$5,600(\$2,000 for 2015); Journey into Hope (Dominican Republic), mission-trip sponsored by Faith PC-Horseshoe Bend--\$2,000; the Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage--\$1,800 for two 4-day retreats; Vera Lloyd Family Services--\$2,520; Solar Under the Sun--\$2,500; Evergreen Ministries Flood-damage repairs--\$1,000; FPC-McGehee's backpack ministry--\$1,500.
- The ministry-area made the decision in July to trim its 2017 budget request by 17%, to then approve the budget-lines in its September meeting to equal the \$70,000 figure. Believing that most ministry-areas will face major cuts, the Church and Its Mission ministry-area anticipates a significant reduction in outgoing grants even for this year.

- Though committed to reducing expenditures, monies remain for which committee encourages interested congregations to apply, especially for these two purposes:
  - Because expenditures for evangelism have not been made this year, grant-requests will be considered for up to \$500 each to help five churches needing assistance with an evangelism-endeavor, such as: improving signage, updating or creating a website, running newspaper or other media advertisements; and,
  - The notice again is being announced for grant-requests from congregations having or wanting to do ministries for the vulnerable, *“especially among the very young and very old.”*
  - A grant request, along with ministry explanations/purpose, participant numbers, and/or specific planned use(s) of the grant money, may be sent to the email of Moderator Kelly Pearson: [ktpearson@suddenlink.net](mailto:ktpearson@suddenlink.net).
- It is anticipated that at presbytery meetings next year there shall be reports from officials of Arkansas Interfaith and Vera Lloyd, that all may stay current on these ministries in the state which the presbytery supports.
- Trusting that the oversight of donations given by the presbytery’s churches and allocated for the purposes of Christian Education and Mission of the Church are being administered with diligent stewardship, committee solicits not only the continuation of faithful financial giving but prayers. We give thanks to God for those who volunteer to be traveling agents of God’s love to places like McGehee, Honduras, south Louisiana, and the Dominican Republic. As well, we give thanks for the witness of Christ through the entities and partnerships hereto unnoted: the Arkansas Black Presbyterian Caucus, Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center, and the Presbyterian Women.

#### **REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

Co-Moderator TE “Ike” Brighton, HR gave the report. Thanks is given that there have been no new disasters in the last six weeks. McGehee work trips were mentioned.

#### **For Information:**

March 10, 2016, McGehee, AR received over 15 ½” rain in a very short time. As you may know, there is nothing but flat land in McGehee, AR; and the rain drenched the first floor of a lot of houses. Very few people in the flooded area had flood insurance.

About 32 houses came to the attention of the McGehee Disaster Recovery Committee (a committee appointed by the mayor of McGehee). With United Methodist Church

layperson Gen. Wesley Jacobs in charge, the committee has used a case management process to determine needs not met by insurance or other personal resources. The committee is using volunteer work teams to meet needs that the homeowners themselves cannot meet: restoring flooring, insulation, dry wall, and paint in the houses.

The Presbytery of AR, led by Susie Wright, organized two mission trips, Aug. 8-12 and Oct. 3-7, to help with repairs. The first week, 24 people from 6 different churches collaborated to restore 4 houses and to offer emotional and spiritual care to the homeowners. Oct. 3-7, 16 people from 3 different churches worked on 3 more houses in McGehee. Thanks to donations from AR churches, the DPRS was able to contribute \$5,000 toward a materials fund. According to Gen. Jacobs, community recovery could be finished by winter.

On August 6, 2016, at the P.L.A.C.E., the DPRS brought Heath Whorton, the Director of Emergency Management at AR Tech University, to lead two workshops on dealing with an active shooter situation. About 40 people attended.

The committee is working on a committee protocol for response to low-impact events within the presbytery and on a disaster response protocol for congregations.

The DPRS has provided \$1,500 in support of Katie McGee, the PDA Young Adult Volunteer at Ferncliff for 2016-17, and \$1,500 to help Ferncliff purchase 10 emergency radios for use on campus. The radios have already proven to be valuable.

On Oct. 26, in a PDA-led training at Ferncliff, three Presbyterian women from the Presbytery of AR will be trained as congregational preparedness trainers. The DPRS wants to know that each congregation is prepared for the worst. Please inform the subcommittee who your disaster contact will be.

Thank you for your support of disaster preparedness and response in AR.

#### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Moderator Jeanne Lloyd gave the report. In July 14 women attended the Synod PW Gathering in Fort Worth. August 11-12 are dates for retreat for interfaith concerns, with four fall gatherings held in August and September of this year.

#### **ORDER OF THE DAY – THEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION ON MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES**

At 10:55 a.m. TE DC Adams introduced TE Rebecca Spooner of Wellspring Renewal Center who made a presentation on causes, signs, prevention and support after suicide. Many people then spoke from their own experiences. She pointed out that veterans and elderly men are especially

vulnerable. Her presentation was added to the presbytery website and linked to The Banner monthly newsletter.

#### **PRESBYTERY AT RECESS FOR LUNCH**

TE Adams asked God's blessings of the meal served in Fellowship Hall at 11:45 a.m.

#### **BUSINESS RESUMED AFTER LUNCH AT 12:35 p.m.**

#### **MINUTE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Numerous announcements were shared. Final worship service at First, Gravette on Oct. 30 at 4 p.m. was announced; pulpit swap between First, Prairie Grove and Hot Springs explained and recommended (newsletters, lunch with members after the worship, prayer); Nov. 6 celebration of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of sanctuary noted; AR Presbyterian Pilgrimage weekend announced for April; and Refugee resettlement in NW AR request for prayer.

#### **YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS**

Video was shown of the three Young Adult Volunteers based at Ferncliff camp, working in garden, ecology and disaster assistance, as well as their leader TE Marie Mainard O'Connell.

#### **ORDER OF THE DAY – REPORT OF THE POLITY COMMITTEE**

Commissioners to General Assembly TEs Elizabeth Gabbard and Leslie Bethell Roper and RE Gail Murdoch gave the report on their experience last summer in Portland with slides and verbally. Fourth commissioner Jessie Rancifer was absent. Sam Anderson, young adult delegate, was praised. Report covered time in plenary and committee work. Stated Clerk Lowry explained how items from GA are handled in this presbytery.

Polity Committee recommended approval of all the amendments that were discussed.

**Motions were presented, in the interest of fairness and time, to follow these rules for debate:**

- 1. That each speaker be limited to 2 minutes. Motion, seconded, and approved.**
- 2. That debate alternate between speakers in favor of and opposed to the motion. Motion, seconded, and approved.**

Members of the Polity Committee rotated in moving approval of each amendment and speaking for each:

- 3. 16-A. Child and Youth Protection Policy On Amending G-3.0106. Discussion followed (Falls against.) Motion passed.**
- 4. 16-B. Parity in Committees On Amending G-3.0109. Discussion followed (Clark against). (Noting the absence of tellers Hudson and Rowen, moderator appointed RE HK Stewart and TE Adams to join TE Patty Schaller and TE Falls as tellers). 35 in favor, 29 opposed. Motion passed.**
- 5. Motion in the interest of time and because the subject matter is the same, the following additional rules for debate on items 16-C.1 through 16-C.8 (items 3-10 in the packet)**

**That the body debate the question whether the title Minister of Word and Sacrament shall replace the title Teaching Elder in the Book of Order and that once debate is closed, each of the 8 items be voted on individually without further debate. Motion passed.**

Roper explained polity committee recommendation's based on practicality and more importantly pastoral issues of authority, especially for females in the South. (Against Fulks, Belden, in favor Gabbard, Ward, against Adams, in favor elder Huntsville, against Purcell, in favor McCracken, against Lowry, in favor Falls-Corbitt). **Motion to call the question was approved. Motion to approve this rule for debate affecting amendments 16-C.1 through 16-C.8 passed.**

6. **16-C.1. Ministers of the Word and Sacrament On Amending F-3.0202. Motion passed (47 in favor and 16 opposed per show of hands and tellers' count).**
7. **16-C.2. Ministers of the Word and Sacrament On Amending G-2.0102. Motion passed.**
8. **16-C.3. Ministers of Word and Sacrament On Amending G-2.0301. Motion passed.**
9. **16-C.4. Ministers of the Word and Sacrament On Amending G.2.05 and G.2.0501. Motion passed.**
10. **16-C.5. Ministers of the Word and Sacrament On Amending G-2.0701. Motion passed.**
11. **16-C.6. Ministers of the Word and Commissioned Pastors On Amending G-3.0307. Motion passed.**
12. **16-C.7. Minister of the Word and Sacrament and Commissioned Pastor On Amending the Directory for Worship and the Rules of Discipline. Motion passed.**
13. **16-C.8. Minister of the Word and Sacrament On Amending W-4.4001a. Motion passed.**
14. **16-D.1. On Amending G-2.0509 (Item 06-10, Recommendation 1). (Ritchie question, Falls question, Purcell question, Clark question, Falls spoke for, Belden spoke for.) Motion passed.**
15. **16-D.2. On Amending D-10.0401 (no questions). Motion passed.**
16. **16-E. Certified Service Requirements On Amending G-2.1101. Motion passed.**
17. **16-F. The Ministry of Members On Amending G-1.0304. Discussion: (Falls against) Motion passed with comment. (will include Stated Clerk Robert Lowry's letter, appendix).**

#### **REPORT FROM YOUTH TRIENNIUM**

Britton Varn and Hartley Allen reported. 34 youth, plus adults and young adult corps made trip to Youth Triennium at Purdue University in July with 5,000 other youth. Varn and Youth Advisory Team thanked the presbytery for their support. Watch the presbytery website and The Banner for information.

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

Stated Clerk Lowry gave the report from the Leaves of Absence Committee (who signed in): 45 TEs, 3 corresponding members, 38 RE commissioners from congregations, 2 young adult delegate advisors, 7 at-large commissioners, 3 other RE commissioners, 23 visitors, for a total of 121 in attendance.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Moderator Sellars gave the closing prayer, listing the joys and concerns of the commissioners.  
Adjournment came at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*NiAnn Thompson*

NiAnn Thompson, Recording Clerk

Draft 5

*Robert W. Lowry*

Robert Wm. Lowry, Stated Clerk

NT

*Lacy S. Sellars, Jr.*  
*Moderator*      *NT*