



149th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas

Utilizing Zoom Technology

<https://zoom.us/j/8271054504>

Passcode - trinity

Revised Docket

Friday, March 4, 2022

- 6:30 pm** **Call to Order/Opening Gavel**
Lighting of the Christ Candle and Opening Prayer
Preliminaries
Welcome – **Moderator RE Julie Gillaspy**
Explanation of Technology – **Moderator RE Julie Gillaspy**
Welcome to all in Attendance– **General Presbyter & Stated Clerk MWS Stewart Smith**
- 6:40 pm** **Consent Agenda**
Motion to approve the Consent Agenda - Stated Clerk Smith (requires a second) (Section A)
- 6:45 pm** **Report of the Stated Clerk (MWS Stewart Smith)** (Section B)
- 6:55 pm** **Report of the Treasurer (RE Tom Verdery)**
- 7:00 pm** **Report from Retired PCUSA Missionary Cindy Morgan, Ozark Center for Lifestyle Medicine**
- 7:35 pm** **Report from the Board of Pensions, Kevin Keaton** (Section C)
- 7:45 pm** **Announcements**
- 7:55 pm** **Comfort Break**
- 8:00 pm** **Worship – including the installation of Moderator MWS Susan Arnold** (Section D)
- 8:55 pm** **Adjournment**

- 8:30 am** **Opening Worship – Installation of the Vice Moderator RE Ray Woodruff**
(Please have communion elements available for worship)
- 8:50 am** **Committee Reports from the Presbytery**
- Committee on Mission (Moderator CRE Mary Shaw) (Section E)**
- Ferncliff (MWS Jocelyn Wildhack)**
- Report from Youth A Team (Staff Resource MWS Brianne Christiansen)**
- Disaster Preparedness & Response Subcommittee (Section F)**
- Committee on Ministry – Moderator MWS Leslie Belden (Section G)**
- Future of the Church – Moderator MWS Steven Kurtz**
- Committee on Administration – Moderator RE Carolyn Willis (Section H)**
- 10:00 am** **Order of the Day: Theological Discussion –**
Paul Grier and Joseph Moore from the Presbyterian Foundation
- 11:00 am** **Five Minute Comfort Break**
- 11:05 am** **Continue with Committee Reports**
- Report of the General Presbyter – MWS Stewart Smith**
- Announcements**
- 11:45 am** **Benediction and Adjournment**
Fellowship to follow with the chat function remaining on following adjournment.

Addendum Packet
Section A-1

FPC Harrison Congregational Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
February 13, 2022

The Congregational meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Harrison, Arkansas was held in the Sanctuary of the Church on Sunday, February 13, 2022.

Declaring a quorum present, Moderator Rev. Kade Curry, called the meeting to order, explained the purpose of the meeting and to explain the voting procedures. He then opened the meeting with prayer.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and vote on the sale of our church property to Boone County.

Fred Kirkpatrick began with a history of what had taken place leading to this decision. He explained that session had researched all offers and opportunities and had unanimously voted to accept Boone County's offer of \$4,000,000. Our church will retain ownership of the 2.6 acres of land at the south end of the property.

Gwen Hoffmann spoke on the need for change. Our mortgage balance is approximately \$1.65 million. The payment on that plus employee salaries, utilities, maintenance, etc. leaves nothing left to hire a full-time pastor or to expand our mission.

The motion to sell our church property came from session so a second to the motion was not necessary.

Rev. Curry then opened the meeting to questions. There followed a long discussion with many questions answered by various session members, and statements made for and against the motion.

Rev. Curry explained the voting procedures again, ballot slips were distributed and collected. Online votes through Facebook were monitored separately.

Motion: To approve the sale of First Presbyterian Church to Boone County for \$4,000,000.

Resolved: The Motion carried by a vote of 58 for and 5 against.

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and passed that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting closed with prayer by Moderator, Rev. Kade Curry.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Timbrook
Clerk of Session

Celia Allen
Corporation Secretary

Addendum Packet

Section A-2

FPC Harrison Congregational Letter

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

An inspirational phrase from Sister Stacy Shinkle's message a few weeks ago, "Operation Crossing Jordan", a turning point on the way to freedom, perfectly describes the next phase in the life of First Presbyterian Church in Harrison.

On February 13, 2022, our congregation voted for the unanimous recommendation of Session to accept the offer from Boone County to purchase our building and land for four million dollars with our church retaining the 2.63 acres we currently have for sale. Official details including Presbytery approval the first weekend in March and exact contract terms are still to be completed. After satisfying our mortgage FPCH will net approximately 2.4 million dollars. Session will begin discussion on the proper handling of these funds to include consultation with the Texas Presbyterian Foundation where we currently have our Sally Weil Scholarship Fund invested with excellent results.

Our church did not seek this proposal; Boone County came to us out of a need for County office and courtroom space. But once Session was presented with this opportunity it was prudent to do our due diligence to entertain this option. Two primary decision-making factors emerged: First, COVID, which has affected one and all, individually and collectively. Second, our debt service. The burden of our debt was repeatedly mentioned during the process of discernment and emerged as a common theme regarding the state of our church. Due to our current building debt service of nearly \$11,000.00 per month, with 14 years remaining on the loan, we have been unable to have a full-time staff for several years. In addition to lack of personnel we have limited funds for both Missions (\$3,000.00 in 2021) and maintenance of our facility, to include the need for upcoming replacement or repair of the roof, HVAC, and parking area. PC(USA) guidance states that proper stewardship of our funds should allow for no more than 15 percent going for building debt service. We far exceed that threshold.

This sale will give us the freedom to address our vision for the future and create a plan to fulfill those goals. Acquiring a full-time pastor and staff can finally be addressed, along with new mission initiatives while fully embracing our community. Being free of this debt creates a more fruitful and flexible means to actively pursue our core values. Soon we will develop a plan of action. Sister churches in our area have graciously offered their facilities for worship and activities on a temporary basis while we prayerfully give ourselves time to allow God's vision for FPCH to come clearly into focus. Once timelines and plans are established, they will be communicated to the entire congregation.

We believe God has blessed us with this opportunity. This is not the first time FPCH has addressed changes and challenges. Let us come together in our hearts and minds as we begin this new journey. Operation: Crossing Jordan!

Peace be with you.

Your Session

Addendum Packet Section B

Report of the Committee on Ministry

MWS Leslie Belden
Moderator

For Action

1. **Motion to approve enrolling MWS Brenda Holder as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and request that Missouri Union Presbytery dismiss her.** Her Statement of Faith is attached.
2. **Motion to approve enrolling MWS Howard Reed as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and request that New Covenant Presbytery dismiss him.** His Statement of Faith is attached.
3. **Motion to approve enrolling MWS Angela Williams as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and request that Providence Presbytery dismiss her.** Her Statement of Faith is attached.

For Information:

1. MWS Marci Ward was approved to serve as Part-Time Stated Supply Pastor of Barr Memorial Presbyterian Church of Norman with an effective date of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, with the following covenant and terms of call: \$250.00 per week (\$13,000 per year) plus the use of the manse, with utilities of gas, water, and garbage pickup paid by the church; reimbursed at the IRS allowable for mileage driven in execution of duties for the church, including Presbytery meetings and hospital visits; and \$200 per year for continuing education; including 2 weeks of paid vacation (including 2 Sundays) and 2 weeks of study leave (including 2 Sundays).

2. The renewal of the covenant of MWS Dan Wooley as the Part-Time Stated Supply of First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville was approved, effective January 31, 2022 through January 31, 2023, with the following terms of call:

Salary	\$1.00
Housing	\$20,999
Professional Expenses, including Continuing Education	\$4,000
Supplemental Life Insurance	\$2,808
Medical Insurance (25% of \$44,000)	\$11,000
Pension/death/disability (12% of salary/housing)	\$2,525
Total	\$41,328

Paid vacation leave of 4 Sundays annually, and paid continuing education leave of 2 weeks annually

Part time = 20 hours per week

3. All congregations with their pastoral leadership are assigned liaisons by the Committee on Ministry. The purpose of having a liaison is to have a connection with the Presbytery who can meet with you as needed, answer questions or point the session in the right direction, and be someone who already has a relationship with the congregation in times of transition or when additional assistance is needed. A congregation in search of a called pastor is assigned an additional liaison. The list of congregations and their liaisons is attached to this report. If a Moderator or Clerk of Session reads through the list and has a question about how to connect with their liaison they are encouraged to contact MWS Leslie Belden, Moderator of the Committee on Ministry, at lesliebeld@aol.com or 479.466.1061.

COM Liaison Assignments 2022

<u>Church</u>	<u>Pastor/CRE/or Moderator</u>	<u>Liaison</u>
Alma, First	Pulpit Supply	Charlotte Scott
Amity, Alpine	John McAnally, Baptist	Don Harris
Arkadelphia, First	Jason Smith, First Alli. Baptist	Chip Hatcher
Arkadelphia, West End	Ken and Claire Rhodes	Marion Humphrey
Atkins, Memorial	Chuck Olson	Charlotte Scott
Batesville, First	Leslie Bethell Roper	Blake Brinegar
Beebe, First	Ty Hendrix, Pulpit Supply	Linda Whitworth-Reed
Bella Vista, Presbyterian Church	Judi McMillan	Jane Webb
Benton, First	Emmett Powers, Transitional	Carol Clark and Linda Whitworth-Reed
Bentonville, First	Katie Cummings & Georgia Senor	Kade Curry
Bentonville, Vaughn	Allan Huddleston, CRE	Joyce Daniel
Brinkley, First	Fern Davis, Moderator	Barbara Webb
Bull Shoals, Presbyterian Church	Jami Scott, Pulpit Supply	Leslie Belden
Cane Hill, Cane Hill	Rita Manske, CRE	Kelly Pearson
Clarksville, First	Krista Denne'	Charlotte Scott
Clarksville, Harmony	Ron Jones, Moderator	Charlotte Scott
Conway, First	Mike Ulasewich	Sara Anne Berger
Dardanelle, First	Lance Jones, Moderator	Chip Hatcher
Elkins, Federated	Mary Shaw, CRE	Kelly Pearson
Eureka Springs, First	Leslie Belden, Moderator	Jean Nichols
Fairfield Bay, Kirk of the Hills	Robert Hadley, Transitional	Sue Johnston and Linda Whitworth-Reed
Fayetteville, First United	Jan and Phil Butin	Kelly Pearson
Fayetteville, Mount Comfort	Libby Lizarraga, Moderator	Barbara Verdery
Forrest City, Graham Memorial	Michael Qualls, Cumberland	Fern Davis and Barbara Webb
Fort Smith, Central	Steven Kurtz	Charlotte Scott
Fort Smith, First	Philip and Tasha Blackburn	Phil Butin
Greenwood, Good Shepherd	Ed Wilkinson, CRE	Charlotte Scott
Gurdon, First	Bill Branch, Moderator	Chip Hatcher
Hardy, Spring River	Jim Ratliff, Cumberland	Sue Johnston
Harrison, First	Kade Curry, Moderator	Jane Webb
Heber Springs, First	David Clark, CRE	Sue Johnston
Helena, First	Pulpit Supply	Barbara Webb
Holiday Island, Holiday Island	Bradley Rito	Joyce Daniel
Holly Grove, Presbyterian Church	Fern Davis	Don Harris
Horseshoe Bend, Faith	David Schaller	Blake Brinegar
Hot Springs, First	Brad Thornton, Disciples of Christ	Bill Bailey and Carol Clark
Hot Springs, Westminster	Chip Hatcher	Marion Humphrey

Church

Hot Springs Vil., Kirk in the Pines
Huntsville, First
Jacksonville, First

Jonesboro, First
Lincoln, First
Little Rock, Allison Memorial
Little Rock, First
Little Rock, Grace
Little Rock, Pulaski Heights
Little Rock, Second

Little Rock, Trinity
Little Rock, Westminster
Little Rock, Westover Hills
Malvern, First
Marianna, First
McGehee, First
Mena, First
Morrilton, First

Morrilton, Hopewell
Mountain Home, First
Mountainburg, Mountainburg
Newport, First
Norman, Barr Memorial
North Little Rock, First/Argenta
North Little Rock, Park Hill

Paragould, First
Pea Ridge, Mount Vernon
Pine Bluff, Central
Pine Bluff, Faith
Pine Bluff, First
Prairie Grove, First
Rogers, First
Russellville, Central
Searcy, First
Springdale, First

Van Buren, First
Walnut Ridge, First
Wynne, Wynne
Yellville, First

Pastor/CRE/Moderator

Bill Bailey
Dan Wooley
Elizabeth Gabbard

Matt Bussell
Michelle Hall, CRE
Marion Humphrey
Stephen Moody
Sara Anne Berger
Ruskin Falls and Wanda Harris
Jody Welker, Transitional,
Lindy Vogado, and Alisa Secrest
Jeff Price

Robert Lowry
Courtney Bacon-Latina

Janet Wilson, Baptist
Bill Seitz, Stated Supply
Bill Branch, Transitional

Mike Clark, Lutheran
David Schirer, American Baptist
David Reed and Sylvia Tate
Marci Ward, Stated Supply
Carol Clark
Marie Mainard O'Connell

Barry Anderson, Cumberland
Brian Timmons, United Methodist
Tim Reeves, Moderator
Harlis Wright, CRE

Michelle Hall, CRE
Val Bell
Brian Brock
Blake Brinegar
Ronnie Prevost, Transitional CRE

Paul Fulks
John Arnold
Susan Arnold
Dick Shinkle, Moderator

Liaison

Chip Hatcher
Barbara Verdery
Linda Whitworth-
Reed
Leslie Roper
Barbara Verdery
Don Eilbott
Cyril Hollingsworth
Alisa Secrest
Don Eilbott
Don Eilbott and
Leslie Belden
Sara Anne Berger
Sara Anne Berger
Alisa Secrest
Alisa Secrest
Barbara Webb
Don Eilbott
Charlotte Scott
Leslie Roper and
Leslie Belden
Marion Humphrey
Leslie Belden
Charles Harwell
Sandy Puryear
Chip Hatcher
Carol Clark
Linda Whitworth-
Reed
Sue Johnston
Jane Webb
Don Harris
Marion Humphrey
Ruth Hamilton
Jane Webb
Joyce Daniel
Leslie Belden
Leslie Roper
Kelly Pearson and
Joyce Daniel
Charlotte Scott
Sue Johnston
Don Harris
Barbara Verdery and Jean Nichols

MWS Brenda Holder
Statement of Faith

I believe that God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit are one triune God. It is because of God's loving grace that God desires a relationship with each of us. I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and it is because of God's boundless grace that Christ came to earth to teach us how to live, and by Christ's perfect sacrifice he—once for all time—paid for the sins of all people including my own sin. God's unending grace allows us, Jesus' adopted siblings, to begin our eternal life even now.

As a result of the Holy Spirit's work, we repent of our sins and recognize Jesus as our Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit strengthens us, teaches us, reminds us of the things of God, gives us direction and guidance, comforts us and emboldens us to do things beyond what we could accomplish on our own. I believe that God has a plan for each of our lives, that we each have good works to do that God has planned for us, that we do these willingly out of love and gratitude for God. Our love for God should manifest itself in ways that reflect God's love—we should be kind, compassionate, forgiving, generous, hospitable, and "others-centered." We are led to share the love of Christ with others around us and to the ends of the earth.

Through the Church we use our gifts to minister, support, strengthen, encourage, and hold each other accountable. Together we are able to do works we are unable to do individually, as in recognizing and confronting systemic injustice in our world. Through the Church we worship and pray together, confess our sins, and celebrate the sacraments in community with one another. The Lord's Supper is where we feast with the saints and baptism is where we welcome others into the family of God, committing ourselves to one another as members of the family of God. These holy sacraments, done in community, celebrate our relationship not only with God but with one another as the Body of Christ.

I believe that Scripture is the inspired word of God and it is given as a help to us as we navigate our way in this world. Scripture teaches us, encourages us, directs, convicts, and challenges us. Studying our Bible is one vital way we worship God, learn about God, hear God's voice and follow God's leading.

There is much I do not know. I have experienced tragedy and trauma; I have had times of doubt in God and in God's plan. Yet I cling to the Word of God, to the promises of old, and to the hope that God gives. In the depths of despair, I have praised God in spite of my feelings, and God has always proven faithful.

MWS Howard Reed
Statement of Faith

I believe in and belong to God. I seek to glorify and enjoy God forever. The mercy of Jesus Christ, God's Word made flesh gives me second life. He died and was raised according to the scriptures. He was seen alive by more than five hundred witnesses. I believe in the Holy Spirit, comforter, guide and friend, who is one with Father and Son, enlivens scripture, and inspires believers to witness to the Lordship of Jesus. By the Spirit we receive the promise of God's grace, reconciling us to God through faith. By the Spirit we are called to costly discipleship.

I trust the Bible, the only rule of faith and life, as God's Word by the gift of the Spirit.

By the death and resurrection of Jesus, individuals and the church are saved from sin and death. God's victory gives joy, hope, and peace to all who hunger for them. Our world was created good by God, but is wounded by ignorance, greed, need, suffering, deception, vanity, cruelty and evil. Yet "In Christ shall all be made alive" though we "have this treasure in easily broken clay jars, to show that this extraordinary power belongs to God, and does not come from us." We may be afflicted but not lost. God is fully self-revealed in Jesus Christ. The resurrection of Christ is the center of my faith.

Sacraments are visible signs of God's invisible grace. Jesus instituted two: baptism and communion. In baptism, received by believers or their children once, people are welcomed into the covenant community, cleansed of sin, claimed as God's children and promised God's eternal love. In communion received frequently we recall God's love and mighty acts of creation and redemption, fully shown in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. At the table we give thanks, break and eat bread, and pour and drink wine as a foretaste of heaven. Communion unites all believers in every time and place. It manifests the atoning death of Jesus till he comes again. It is a sign of hope and mercy to all the baptized. The sacraments are administered in unity with the Word proclaimed and always with gathered believers.

The mission and ministry of the one holy catholic and apostolic church proclaim the gospel in gracious words and deeds. Well-led by Reformed teachings, I am a confessional/connectional Christian. I have known God's blessing and nurture in the Reformed family, yet I rejoice in hope of a time to come when unity in Christ is complete just as I anticipate the life of the world to come when Christ comes again in judgment.

Worshipping, giving, studying, teaching, preaching, presiding at the sacraments, consoling, praying, singing, visiting, governing, and moderating are all forms of service peculiar to my call as a Minister, but my vocation includes many other aspects of life, just as everyone's vocation involves their life fully.

"My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant."

MWS Angela Williams
Statement of Faith

I believe in a creative God who longs to be in relationship with all of creation and fully loves each and every piece of creation.

I believe in a Triune God. They, the Holy One and Holy Three, engage in the dance of life, with all of creation in all of space for all of time.

I believe in the Incarnate One, Jesus of Nazareth, who was fully human and fully divine. He gathered a diverse group of misfits to be his friends, and he taught them how to love, to ask questions, and to live in a world where they did not have much power. He gathered people around bread broken and wine poured, joining his practice with generations who have communed with each other and God at Table. His radical way of life that invited people of all backgrounds to come together in community threatened the status quo in Roman-occupied Palestine. For this reason, this Jewish teacher was executed by the state.

I believe in a resurrecting God who would not allow worldly power or death to have the last word. I believe in a God who always creates new life out of death, even as we must live with the death, brokenness, suffering, and lament.

I believe in an active God who is omnipresent through the Holy Spirit. She moves through the world transforming everyone and everything she touches. She holds us in our sorrow, causes us to lie down or rise up, and rejoices with us in our delight. She is the *ruah*, breath that gives us life, wind that moves over the chaos, and spirit that we encounter in the silence.

I believe in the sacredness of the Bible. This library of stories, poetry, parables, and prophecies has guided generations of communities before us and still has wisdom to share with us today and for many tomorrows.

I believe in a parenting God who cares immeasurably for humanity. I believe in the freedom that comes when we acknowledge that all of us are beautifully and wonderfully made and still we cannot help but sin. I believe in a God who calls us into relationship to transform the world together.

I believe in a heartbroken God, who despises sin and evil in the world. I believe this God hurts when any part of creation hurts. This God is big enough to hold all of that hurt and still loves every part of a broken creation pieced together to be whole.

I believe in a versatile church that responds to God's call for love, justice, and peace in the world by siding with the oppressed. Jesus modeled that for us, and the Spirit nudges us toward that mission. I believe the church is a community of the faithful who are called to love their neighbors as themselves and to love their enemies. We show this love by welcoming God's children to the Font where the community joins God in committing to love, nurture, and care for the whole body of Christ.

I believe in Christian hope that the reign of God is ever poking through to reveal itself to us. This hope drives all of my faith and trust. God is ever shifting the world as it is closer to the world as it should be, bringing heaven to earth.

Addendum Packet Section C

Coordinating Team Task Force on Future Presbytery Meetings Regarding In-person vs Remote Means of Gathering

Task Force members: Julie Gillaspy; Peg Falls-Corbitt; Jeannie Ford; Ruskin Falls; Georgia Senor; with Stewart Smith as staff resource

The Task Force was set up by the Coordinating Team in the Fall of 2020, and assigned to research, discuss, and recommend back to the Coordinating Team, the philosophical and technological aspects of the options for in-person **or** remote/virtual **or** a hybrid model of Presbytery meetings going forward.

The Task Force meets at least once (more if necessary) between Presbytery meetings for the purpose of evaluation and discussion of changing technology, evolving expectations and needs, pros and cons of various options, gains to be protected and losses to be minimized, as the context for major business of the Presbytery is planned in the ever-changing pandemic landscape as well as beyond the pandemic.

Our guiding question is: What structures and platforms best serve the health and function of the whole body of the Presbytery? For each consideration, we further ask: Who is included and who is excluded by the various options? What is gained or lost when adaptations are made? We examine data, best practices, and theological considerations with regard to technology, environmental impact, space for debate of important topics, transparency, hospitality and inclusivity. We also consider the effects of each option on such things as the sustaining of fellowship and building up of community across the Presbytery, the mentoring of new leaders, creative problem solving, and the nurturance of reconciliation and healing when topics are divisive. In these assessments, we utilize evaluations from previous Presbytery meetings as well as research from business, academia, and church life.

The work of this Task Force addresses Presbytery meetings specifically, though the considerations we process are often applicable to committee meetings and congregational life as well. The Task Force does not set policy, but is advisory only.

The continuum of options is ever before us. We continue to recommend that each upcoming Presbytery meeting be considered individually and held up to the continuum as to what is best for that particular meeting, rather than set one model for all meetings to follow.

To that end, we welcome input (by email) from all members of the Presbytery, and all participants at Presbytery meetings.

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