

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

**October 8-9, 2021**

## **Friday, October 8, 2021**

The 148<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was the fifth meeting conducted utilizing Zoom technology due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Introductions and Welcome**

At 6:30 pm RE Julie Gillaspay, Moderator of the Presbytery of Arkansas, welcomed all to the 148<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas and explained the technology of Zoom and explained the voting process.

MWS Stewart Smith, General Presbyter and Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Arkansas, welcomed Corresponding Members, first-time commissioners, and visitors. He introduced the presbytery staff: Carol Clark, Presbytery Builder; Julie Price, Presbytery Connector; Kim Palmer, Presbytery Administrator; and Brianne Christiansen, Director of Youth Ministries. He also welcomed the Presbytery volunteer staff: Moderator RE Julie Gillaspay; Vice Moderator MWS Susan Arnold; Treasurer RE Bob Boehmler and MWS Marion Humphrey, Coordinating Team Moderator. He also welcomed Corresponding Member MWS Joseph Moore, Presbyterian Foundation. The 12 first time commissioners included: RE Gloria Fallin of Arkadelphia, West End; RE April Counts of Benton, First; RE Bill Warren of Elkins Presbyterian Church; RE Rebecca Haden of Fayetteville, First United; RE Virginia Elmore of Fayetteville, Mt. Comfort; RE Neely Parker Carter of Forrest City, Graham; RE Christine Scott of Lincoln, First; RE Joseph Yancey of Little Rock, Second; RE Karin Westerlund of Rogers, First; RE Linda Harwell of Springdale, First; RE Barbara Francis of Bella Vista; and RE Kenneth Young of Springdale, First. He explained that all who registered would be granted privilege of the floor in the Consent Agenda.

### **Call to Order, Declaration of a Quorum, and Opening Prayer**

The 148<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was called to order by the gavel tapping, with opening prayer by MWS Rebecca Spooner and the lighting of the Christ candle at 6:45 pm on October 8, 2021, by Moderator RE Julie Gillaspay, who declared that there was a quorum. A quorum is at least 20 Ruling Elders and 20 Ministers of the Word and Sacrament with at least 20 congregations represented overall, as approved at the February 10, 2018 Stated Meeting. The attendance of those registered is included in the Appendix as Section I.

## Consent Agenda

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

1. **Motion to adopt the docket.**
2. **Motion to approve the minutes of the 147<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, June 5, 2021, held through Zoom technology, with worship led by Park Hill and Trinity Presbyterian Churches and with MWS Jason Tucker from Tower Hill Presbyterian Church in Red Bank, New Jersey delivering the sermon.**
3. **Motion to enroll corresponding members with voice but not vote.**
4. **Motion to grant privilege of the floor (voice) to those persons registered, but without vote.**
5. **Motion for the technology of Zoom Room to count votes, serving as what the Presbytery of Arkansas has historically termed the “Tellers.”**
6. **Motion for the Stated Clerk to record those absent and those present and include those names and numbers in the minutes, serving as what the Presbytery of Arkansas has historically termed the “Leaves of Absence Committee.”**

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

## Report of the Stated Clerk

The Report of the Stated Clerk can be found in Appendix Section II. Motion was made by Stated Clerk Smith to receive the minutes of the Administrative Commission to ordain MWS Jocelyn Wildhack to the validated ministry of Chaplain at Ferncliff on August 22, 2021 and to dismiss them with thanks. **The motion was seconded, and the motion was approved.**

He added his personal thanks to that Administrative Commission for sweating it out in 98 degree weather, two in the afternoon, outside at Ferncliff for the wonderful afternoon to ordain a very talented MWS.

He noted that Zoom has a new requirement starting November 1, 2021 that the program needs to be within one update to be able to use Zoom technology for future presbytery committee meetings. He reminded all to say “yes” to the updates. He mentioned that the statistical season is fast approaching and to fill out the annual statistical reports there will be a window from November to mid-February to enter the stats online.

He called on Rev. Joseph Moore, Presbyterian Foundation Ministry Relations Officer and introduced him to attendees. Rev. Moore works with congregations to create a culture of generosity, offers seminars, and workshops, develops gifts and fundraising plans for ministries, and provides coaching to finance, stewardship and endowment committees.

Here is his contact information: Telephone: 512-983-3329; email address:

[Joseph.moore@presbyterianfoundation.org](mailto:Joseph.moore@presbyterianfoundation.org) and some web links.

<https://stewardshipnavigator.com/>

<https://churchfla.com/>

<https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/onlinegiving/>

## **Report of the Treasurer**

The financial reports can be found in Appendix Section III. Treasurer RE Bob Boehmler reported that the packet contains the August Balance Sheet, Benevolences and Income Statement and a summary reported by Moderator of the Administration Committee, Tom Verdery, Treasurer Boehmler expressed gratitude for all of Tom Verdery's work. He thanked the churches for their continued faithful giving. The budget last year was based on 71% of income from churches and this year the budget is 72% based on the church's income, which is the majority of the presbytery's income. He expressed his thanks for the level of support the presbytery has received and that we are on track to have a reduced level of planned expenses due to Covid. The balanced funds show a 12.1% return. He was ready to entertain questions after his report and there were none.

## **Report from the Administrative Commission on First Presbyterian Church North Little Rock/Argenta**

Information from the report is located in the Appendix, Section IV. RE Ted Belden explained that the AC was formed in 2019 with MWS Carol Clark as moderator. A prior listening session was held on September 23, 2021 via Zoom technology. RE Belden stated that he had the privilege to serve on this AC and this property is located in North Little Rock, in a prime location to repurpose/redevelop instead of selling the property outright. He said that two developers have expressed interest in working with the presbytery for a partnership. The property had a restriction that decreased the value of the property and by removing that restriction, it has gained roughly a \$150,000 increase in value.

He said that the AC is at the point now to see where God is leading. There is a suggestion to remodel the existing church and develop the vacant land into apartments. The remodel of the building would be able to use historical tax credits. Belden stated that there are a lot of exciting things that could be done. It could still be sold but he would like to wrestle with the partnership to benefit the church, presbytery, support programs and the mission committee. He said it is not planned to support presbytery salaries.

General Presbytery Stewart Smith also spoke on the project that he wanted to have a discussion time with the presbytery, saying our pressure with the timeline is not as urgent and that is good news for us in a sense because we have a lot of groundwork to cover. General Presbytery Smith added that it has been exciting to discuss about what projects could benefit the presbytery in the years to come. He opened the floor for questions. All those present on

Zoom were given the chance to ask any questions regarding this matter and numerous questions were answered by either RE Belden or General Presbyter Smith until there were no more questions from the presbytery.

Belden said that after this meeting and everyone has had a chance to read the information and if questions come up, feel free to call him, Stewart Smith or Carol Clark with any questions. He also offered a prayer for the commission.

## Announcements

Rev. Lemuel García-Arroyo, the Mission Engagement Advisor – South Region of the Presbyterian Mission Agency/Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) greeted everyone and gave his contact information ( [Mobile]: 502-919-1835; E-mail: [Lemuel.Garcia@pcusa.org](mailto:Lemuel.Garcia@pcusa.org)). He expressed his appreciation for the presbytery's support of the mission work and special offerings and let everyone know that the next Matthew 25 initiative is scheduled online for October 20 at 2 pm (EDT). Register today and mark your calendars to attend. <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tj0qd-2hrj4vEtHjTqF2W8wg-nwSQax9mWRZ>

Rev. Brad Rito gave a Joy Announcement. He and his wife went into the adoption process, which took eight months, and are open to adopt now. He and his wife are very happy, and they want to share it with everyone.

Information was given on the Clabaugh speaker series, and the Tom Long talks. Everyone is invited to attend in person at FPC Bentonville, or to be with them virtually. To join the Sunday morning worship service (10/24, 10:15am) and the Public Talks (10/24 at 6:30pm, 10/25 at 7:00pm) virtually, tune in to the livestream at [fpcbentonville.org/speakerseries](http://fpcbentonville.org/speakerseries) or watch on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/fpc.bentonville/>. The Monday lunch will not be livestreamed, and is by reservation only (by contacting the church office).

## Worship

Worship was hosted by First United Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith with the Revs. Phillip and Tasha Blackburn leading the service, celebrating the Lord's Supper, and there was beautiful music throughout the service. The Arkansas Foodbank was designated as the offering recipient. The offering totaled \$331.10 as of November 5, 2021.

Rev. Tasha Blackburn offered the benediction and gave the prophet Micha's charge, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, walk humbly with your God?" And now may the Lord bless you and the Lord keep you and may the Lord's face shine upon you and give you peace this day and forever more. Amen. At this point in the meeting there were 89 participants in attendance.

## Recess

After the benediction by Rev. Tasha Blackburn, Moderator Gillaspay expressed her gratefulness to the Revs. Blackburn and the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith, for their

beautiful worship service. Being all of the business before the presbytery for the evening, Moderator Gillaspy recessed the meeting until the following morning, the gavel was tapped, and the Christ candle was extinguished.

## **Saturday, October 9, 2021**

### **Call Back to Order with Prayer and the Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Moderator RE Julie Gillaspy called the 148<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas back to order at 8:30 am with the lighting of the Christ candle and Moderator Gillaspy opened the meeting in prayer.

### **Opening Worship**

Candidate for Ministry LaWanda Harris led worship using Psalm 96 and her message from Haggai 1:15 to 2:9. Moderator Gillaspy thanked her for the message and said it was very much needed in today's world. There were 98 attendees at this point in the meeting.

### **Decisions of the Presbytery**

#### **Motions of the Committee on Ministry**

RE Don Eilbott, Moderator of the Committee on Ministry, brought the following motions before the presbytery:

#### **For Action:**

- 1. Motion to grant honorable retirement to MWS Leslie Belden, effective July 14, 2021 and to approve the dissolution of her role as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Arkansas and as Parish Associate at First United Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville.**
- 2. Motion to grant honorable retirement to MWS Steve Hancock effective October 17, 2021, and to also approve the dissolution of call of MWS Steve Hancock as Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock effective October 31, 2021, pending the congregation concurring with that dissolution in a duly called congregational meeting on October 17, 2021.**
- 3. Motion to grant honorable retirement to MWS Susan Gray effective June 30, 2021, and to also approve the dissolution of call of MWS Susan Gray as**

**pastor of Vaughn Presbyterian Church, Bentonville, AR concurring with the dissolution of call in a duly called congregational meeting on June 27, 2021.**

**RE Eilbott moved on behalf of the Committee on Ministry that the Presbytery of Arkansas items 1-3 from Section E of the main packet on page 16, granting honorably retired status to Leslie Belden, Steve Hancock and Susan Gray. With no questions, the motion passed unanimously per Moderator Gillaspy.**

Eilbott moved into the examination of candidate LaWanda Harris as a co-pastor of Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church. Her Statement of Faith is listed below, and she was given the chance to share her journey of faith that has led her to this point. There were 102 participants at this point.

- 4. Motion to examine Candidate LaWanda Harris for ordination to co-pastor of Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church and to enroll her as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas. LaWanda's Statement of Faith is included listed below, and she is under care of our presbytery.**

### **Statement of Faith LaWanda Harris**

I believe in the triune Godhead of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; all are part of the one true God. I believe in God the Father who is creator and ruler of the earth. The Father is faithful and merciful to humankind. The Father's love for the world is so great, that he sent his son, Jesus Christ, to redeem it.

I believe in the savior, Jesus Christ, who was born of the Virgin Mary. As Jesus of Nazareth, God's son became incarnate by taking on a body like ours. Fully human, he was crucified on the cross for the salvation of all humans. Yet, he was also fully divine. Although he suffered death, Jesus Christ was resurrected in three days! No longer was humanity subject to death, but through the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we have hope for our own resurrection, too.

I believe in the Holy Spirit. Although the incarnate Jesus Christ is not here on earth, the Holy Spirit surrounds us. I believe in the divinity and goodness of the Holy Spirit. God is still with us on earth through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

I believe in God's grace. I believe God's grace is so mighty that humans cannot completely grasp the power of it. Grace is at the heart of salvation. Humanity was given the gift of being made in the image of God. Even though humanity was given the perfect example of holy living through Jesus Christ, humanity still has a sinful nature. By the grace of Jesus Christ, there is salvation. God's grace has no limits. Salvation is extended to all nations and all races.

I believe in worship of the triune God. Through worship, we recount the deeds of God and listen for the Word of God speaking into our own hearts. I believe in the holy scriptures, which gives us authoritative testimonies of God's work.

I believe in the sacraments of baptism and communion. Baptism is a sign of the grace bestowed on us, even before we are born into the world. Through baptism, we affirm our adoption as children of God. Communion is also a sign of the grace received through Jesus' love for humanity. Communion is an act of remembering the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It is also a remembrance of our salvation, which we can joyfully proclaim. Christ has come, and he will come again!

I believe God's heart is never full to capacity because God calls each of us to enter more fully into his heart. I believe in prayer, which communicates to God the desires of our heart. The Lord is so full of wonder and awe. The workings of the Lord are sometimes beyond the scope of our human minds. I believe we must have humility when speaking about God. I believe that God reigns for eternity and desires us to be with him forever. May we take heed of the goodness, love, grace, and splendor in the Lord.

**Eilbott moved that the Faith and Commitment portion of the exam be approved.** Moderator Gillaspay asked for questions and the candidate answered. Moderator Gillaspay called for a vote and the **motion was approved unanimously.**

**Eilbott moved that the Statement of Faith portion be approved.** Moderator Gillaspay asked for questions and the candidate answered. Moderator Gillaspay called for a vote and the **motion was approved unanimously.**

**Eilbott moved that the Preaching portion of the exam be approved.** Moderator Gillaspay asked for questions and there were none. Moderator Gillaspay called for a vote and the **motion was approved unanimously.**

**Eilbott moved that the Bible portion be approved.** Moderator Gillaspay asked for questions and the candidate answered. Moderator Gillaspay called for a vote and the **motion was approved unanimously.**

**Eilbott moved that the Reformed Theology portion of the exam be approved.** Moderator Gillaspay asked for questions and the candidate answered. Moderator Gillaspay called for a vote and the **motion was approved unanimously.**

**Eilbott moved that the Worship and Sacraments portion of the exam be approved.** Moderator Gillaspay asked for questions and the candidate answered. Moderator Gillaspay called for a vote and the **motion was approved unanimously.**

**Eilbott moved that the polity portion of the exam be approved.** Moderator Gillaspay asked for questions and the candidate answered. Moderator Gillaspay called for a vote and the **motion was approved unanimously.**

Eilbott concluded the examination, and the candidate was placed in a waiting room, and he **moved that the exam as a whole be approved.** Moderator Gillaspay asked for questions, there were none and then called for a vote and **the motion was approved unanimously.** There were 109 participants at this point in the meeting.

Eilbott made a **motion approving the call of LaWanda Harris as co-pastor of Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church** – with the corrected terms of call that are found in the addendum packet – Item #3.

**5. Motion to approve the call of LaWanda Harris as co-pastor of Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church effective July 1, 2021 with the following terms of call:**

Cash and Housing -----	\$27,210.00
Social Security Supplement.....	\$ 2,082.00
Continuing Education-----	\$ 1,000.00
Travel Reimbursable Exp-----	\$ 1,000.00
Board of Pensions - -----	\$10,068.00
Dental Insurance .....	\$372.00
<b>Total Compensation Package -----</b>	<b>\$41,732.00</b>

These are part-time co-pastoral positions requiring a minimum of twenty hours of ministerial work per week. The co-pastors are to share equally with one another all ministerial authority and all ministerial responsibility for the life and work of the congregation. The terms of call place no restrictions on ministerial time off taken for vacation, continuing education, or other purposes by the co-pastors. Rather it will be left to the co-pastors to work out between themselves all matters regarding ministerial time off.

**Moderator Gillaspy called for the vote and asked for questions, there were none and the motion was approved unanimously.** Candidate LaWanda Harris was brought back from the waiting room and was congratulated along with the congregation of Pulaski Heights who were acknowledged.

**Eilbott moved that Item 4 of the Addendum packet – to change the status of MWS Ruskin Falls as co-pastor of Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church, effective July 1 with the terms of call listed.**

**6. Motion to approve a change in the status of MWS Ruskin Falls to Co-Pastor at Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church effective July 1, 2021 with the following terms of call.**

Cash and Housing -----	\$27,210.00
Social Security Supplement.....	\$ 2,082.00
Continuing Education-----	\$ 1,000.00
Travel Reimbursable Exp-----	\$ 1,000.00
Board of Pensions .....	\$10,226.00
Dental Insurance .....	\$1,166.00
<b>Total Compensation Package -----</b>	<b>\$42,684 00</b>

**(Amount varies due to family coverage vs. single coverage on medical amounts).**



These are part-time co-pastoral positions requiring a minimum of twenty hours of ministerial work per week. The co-pastors are to share equally with one another all ministerial authority and all ministerial responsibility for the life and work of the congregation. The terms of call place no restrictions on ministerial time off taken for vacation, continuing education, or other purposes by the co-pastors. Rather it will be left to the co-pastors to work out between themselves all matters regarding ministerial time off.

**Moderator Gillaspy called for the vote after hearing from Rev. Ruskin Falls regarding the change. The motion was approved unanimously.** There were 107 participants at this point in the meeting.

**Eilbott moved that Item #6 from the main packet – to approve an Administrative Commission for a service of Ordination and Installation for LaWanda Harris.**

- 7. Motion to approve the following Administrative Commission for a service of ordination and installation for LaWanda Harris on October 17, 2021 at Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church in Little Rock at 3:00 pm. The offering recipient is the Committee on Preparation for Ministry Emergency Fund for candidates.**

**Moderate and ask Constitutional Questions .....RE Julie Gillaspy, FPC Conway  
 Preach .....MWS Marion Humphrey, Allison Memorial PC, Little Rock  
 Charge the Pastor .....MWS Alisa Secrest, Second Presbyterian, Little Rock  
 Charge the Congregation....RE, Stephen Moody, First Presbyterian, Little Rock  
 MWS Krista Denne .....First Presbyterian, Clarksville  
 Charles Gray, RE .....Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock  
 MWS Stacey Hammons .....Presbyterian Village, Little Rock**

**Moderator Gillaspy asked for discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.**

**Eilbott moved that item #7 – which is to approve the call of Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan as pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista – with the corrected terms of call in Item #2 of the addendum packet – and to enroll her as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas.**

- 8. Motion to approve the call of MWS Rev. Dr. Judith (Judi) McMillan as Pastor of The Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, effective October 1, 2021 with the following terms of call and to enroll her as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas:**

<b>Cash and Housing .....</b>	<b>\$ 66,400.00</b>
<b>Deferred Compensation .....</b>	<b>\$ 3,600.00</b>
<b>Social Security Supplement .....</b>	<b>\$ 5,320.00</b>
<b>Continuing Education .....</b>	<b>\$ 4,500.00</b>

Professional Reimbursable Expenses .....	\$ 2,000.00
Automobile Reimbursable Expenses .....	\$ 3,500.00
Board of Pensions –Full Family .....	\$ 25,900.00
Moving Costs (One Time Expense) .....	Up to \$ 10,000.00
Vacation .....	4 weeks paid
Continuing Education Time .....	2 weeks paid
Parental Leave .....	6 weeks paid
Sabbatical Leave .....	12 weeks paid
to be taken in the 7th year with Presbytery approval	
<b>Total Compensation Package .....</b>	<b>\$111,220.00.</b>

**Moderator Gillaspy asked for discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.** Eilbott welcomed Judi back to the Presbytery of Arkansas and recognized the members of the Bella Vista congregation that were present. She was also given the chance to introduce herself to the presbytery.

**Eilbott moved item #1 from the COM Addendum report – which is to approve an Administrative Commission for a service of installation for Judi McMillan on October 31 at 3:00 in Bella Vista.**

- 9. Motion to approve the following Administrative Commission for a service of installation for Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan on October 31,2021 at The Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista at 3:00 pm. The offering recipient is United Campus Ministry.**

**Moderate and ask Constitutional Questions ..... RE Julie Gillaspy, FPC  
 ConwayPreach ..... MWS Leslie Belden, HR  
 Charge the Pastor .....MWS John King, HR  
 Charge the Congregation.....MWS Stewart Smith, Presbytery Staff  
 RE Jean Nichols ..... Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista  
 MWS Joe Tropansky.....HR  
 RE Jane Webb.....First Presbyterian, Rogers**

**Moderator Gillaspy asked for discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.**

**Eilbott moved item #5 of the addendum report – which is to approve Rev. Jai Kwak as Temporary Supply Pastor at Central Presbyterian Church of Pine Bluff – and to enroll him as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, and requesting his dismissal from the Presbytery of San Francisco.**

- 10. Motion to approve Rev. Jai Kwak as Temporary Supply Pastor at Central Presbyterian Church in Pine Bluff and to enroll him as a member of the**

**Presbytery of Arkansas, requesting his dismissal from the Presbytery of San Francisco. Jai's statement of faith is included as Addendum Section A, Attachment I.**

## **Statement of Faith Rev. Jai 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 Propheisof 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.

**Moderator Gillaspay asked for discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.** Eilbott explained that Rev. Jai Kwak was conducting a funeral service and was not able to bring greetings to the meeting. He welcomed him back to the presbytery.

He reported that in the June meeting that CRE Michelle Hall was not asked to introduce herself but was unable to attend today's meeting.

**Eilbott requested a moment of silence for two of the presbytery minister members who have died since the last meeting. He remembered with thanksgiving the lives of Rev. Dr. Gordon Garlington and Rev. Dr. Clif Ford. After the moment, Eilbott told Moderator Gillaspay that this concluded his report.**

Additional items for information are in the Appendix, Section VII, under the report of the Committee on Ministry. Necrology is also attached.

Moderator Gillaspay thanked Don Eilbott and the members of the Committee on Ministry for all of their work.

Moderator Gillaspay called RE Marion Humphrey to bring the Coordinating Team motions regarding the changes to the Presbytery of Arkansas' Ministry Manual.

## **Motions of the Coordinating Team**

Moderator MWS Marion Humphrey, brought a **Motion to approve the proposed changes to the Presbytery of Arkansas' Ministry Manual:** In Part I: Organization and Structure, under 5) Ministry Areas and Standing Committees, D) Leadership and Ministry, 1) Permanent Committees, a) Committee on Preparation for Ministry, (1) Membership:

At least one member of the CPM shall be a **Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)**, Certified Christian Educator (**CCE**), or Certified Associate Christian Educator (**CACE**).

The above amendment requires a 3/5 majority vote of the Presbytery of Arkansas to be approved.

In Part IV: Policies and Procedures, Presbytery Meetings, under Meeting Preparation for Stated Meetings:

The members of the Planning Team are:

- ❖ The Moderator and Vice-Moderator of the presbytery
- ❖ The Moderator of the Coordinating Team
- ❖ The Stated Clerk
- ~~❖ A member of the presbytery (appointed for the calendar year)~~
- ~~❖ One member of the Coordinating Committee (convener)~~
- ~~❖ Two representatives of the hosting institution~~
- ❖ **The General Presbyter**
- ❖ **Other staff and representatives of the hosting institution as warranted**

The above amendment only requires a simple majority vote to be approved.

After explaining the rationale for the proposed changes to the Ministry Manual Moderator Gillaspay asked that the motion be divided into two so that the body could vote on the changes to the two parts of the ministry manual separately since Part I of the Ministry Manual requires a 3/5 majority to be amended while the Standing Rules require only a simple majority. Hearing no objection it was so ordered.

**Motion to approve the proposed changes to the Presbytery of Arkansas' Ministry Manual: Part I Organization and Structure. Approved unanimously.**

**Motion to approve the proposed changes to the Presbytery of Arkansas' Ministry Manual: Part III Standing Rules. Approved unanimously.**

MWS Humphrey encouraged those present to please review the actions of the Coordinating Team in their report in the packet (Appendix Section V) and concluded his report. There were 105 participants at this point in the meeting.

Moderator Gillaspay called on CRE Chuck Olson, Moderator of the Committee on Nominations. He presented the slate of nominees to the presbytery. He pointed that there are still a few vacancies noted at the end of his report and asked that the presbytery give feedback and ideas for nominations. He then **moved to approve the slate of nominees:**

## **Report of the Committee on Nominations**

CRE Chuck Olson, Moderator

**1. The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following persons to the Class of 2022 to serve as Moderator/Vice Moderator; and Treasurer for the Class of 2024.**

**Moderator of Presbytery—MWS Susan Arnold, Wynne Presbyterian Church  
Vice Moderator of Presbytery—RE Ray Woodruff, Wynne Presbyterian Church  
Treasurer —RE Tom Verdery, First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville**

**2. The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following persons to serve as Moderators of Committees.**

**Coordinating Team – RE Julie Gillaspay, First Presbyterian, Conway  
Administration – RE Carolyn Willis, First Presbyterian, Springdale  
Representation—MWS Marie Mainard O'Connell, Park Hill PC, North Little Rock  
Preparation for Ministry – CRE David Clark, First Presbyterian, Heber Springs  
Ministry – MWS Leslie Belden, HR, Fayetteville**

**Mission of the Church – CRE Mary Shaw, Elkins  
Youth, Young Adults & Campus Ministry – MWS Maggie Alsup, Lyon College  
Future of the Church – MWS Steven Kurtz, Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith**

**3. The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following persons to serve on a Task Force looking at Staffing Options.**

**MWS Jeff Price, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Little Rock  
MWS Maggie Alsup, Lyon College  
RE David Webb, First Presbyterian Church, Rogers  
CCE Kristi Button, First United Presbyterian, Fayetteville  
MWS John Arnold, First Presbyterian, Walnut Ridge**

**4. The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following persons to serve as Alternate Commissioners to the General Assembly, 2022 and as commissioners if they are not needed in 2022 for 2024:**

**MWS Cindy Saul, At Large, Mountain Home  
MWS Jeff Price, Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock  
RE Cindy Lanphear, Harmony Presbyterian, Clarksville  
CRE Chuck Olson, Memorial Presbyterian, Atkins  
To be filled: Young Adult Advisory Delegate  
To be filled: Young Adult Advisory Delegate, Alternate**

**5. The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following persons to committees in the Class of 2024:**

**Administration Ministry Area**

**MWS David Reed, HR, Temporary Supply, Newport  
RE Tony Booth, Kirk in the Pines Presbyterian, Hot Springs Village**

**Committee on Ministry**

**MWS Leslie Belden, HR Fayetteville  
MWS Phil Butin, First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville  
RE Barbara Webb, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock  
MWS Sara Anne Berger, Grace Presbyterian Church, Little Rock  
MWS Marion Humphrey, Allison Memorial Presbyterian, Little Rock  
To be filled – one position in class of 2024  
To Be filled – Class of 2023 from resignation**

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

**CCE Theresa Spragins HR  
CRE Ronnie Prevost, Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, serving at Springdale RE**

**Kim Danehower, Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City**

**Coordinating Team (At Large Members) MWS Michael Vinson, At Large, Conway  
CRE Ronnie Prevost, Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, serving at Springdale  
MWS Cindy Saul, At Large, Mtn. Home (Filling a vacancy in the class of 2022)**

**Counselor At Law**

**RE Charlotte Scott, First Presbyterian, Fort Smith**

**Future of the Church Ministry Area**

**RE Amanda Jones, First Presbyterian Church, Pine Bluff**

**RE Andrea Galindo, Park Hill Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock**

**RE Sally Rhoden, First Presbyterian Church, Conway**

**Ministries with Youth, Young Adults and Campus Ministries**

**MWS Jen Evans, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock**

**RE Grace Blazer, First Presbyterian Church, Bentonville**

**Mission of the Church Ministry Area**

**To be filled – 3 positions in Class of 2024**

**Committee on Nominations**

**To be filled by Coordinating Team– 3 positions**

**Readers of Theological Exams**

**MWS Phil Butin, First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville**

**RE Ronnie Prevost, Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista**

**MWS Robert Williamson (Alt), Validated Ministry – Hendrix College**

**Representation**

**MWS Young Doo Kim, At Large, Fort Smith**

**To be filled – one position in Class of 2024**

**6. The Committee on Nominations moves the election of the following persons to the Class of 2027, Permanent Judicial Commission:**

**MWS Becky Purcell, Temporary Supply, Mt. Comfort Presbyterian, Fayetteville**

**RE Marty Shepherd, First Presbyterian Church, Dardanelle**

**RE Gail Murdoch, Memorial Presbyterian Church, Atkins**

**RE Barbara Lane, First Presbyterian Church, Lincoln**

**\*\*\*\*\* For Information:**

**As you can see in the report, the presbytery still needs to fill 8 positions in our committee structure. Please send names for the Nominations Committee to consider as we work to fill these slots. Send nominations to Chuck Olson, ([chuckaudreyolson@gmail.com](mailto:chuckaudreyolson@gmail.com)) or to Stated Clerk Stewart Smith ([stewart@presbyark.org](mailto:stewart@presbyark.org)).**

**This is a breakdown of the needed positions:**

**Mission of the Church - 3**

**Committee on Ministry - 2**

**Representation - 1**

**General Assembly Young Adult Advisory Delegate - 1**

**General Assembly Young Adult Advisory (Alternate) - 1**

Stated Clerk Stewart Smith asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. **Moderator Gillaspy asked for discussion, there was none and the motion was approved unanimously.** At this point in the meeting there were 105 participants at the meeting.

## **Good News Reports**

Rev. Becky Purcell announced that the Future of the Church 2022 grant applications will be out by the February meeting of the presbytery.

Rev. David Gill reported on good news from the Mission of the Church and a gift of \$10,000 using Peacemaking funds was used to fund a backpack project for the refugee crisis at the border that was being performed at Ferncliff. Assembled backpacks (1,200) will be given to refugee families who arrive with nothing. They will be shipped to 16 border, non-profit agencies. He was happy to report that to celebrate our presbytery for being chosen for this pilot program for this ministry. Volunteer groups were welcomed to the disaster assistance center to help with the project.

After a break, Moderator Gillaspy called the meeting back to order and Julie Price, Presbytery Connector, introduced Rev. Deborah Wright.

## **Order of the Day - Theological Discussion**

PC(USA) MSW Deborah Wright, who is one of the co-founders of Pneumatrix, led a discussion on adaptive change, a topic on which Pneumatrix has helped many congregations and presbyteries discuss over the last several years. Her presentation and a PowerPoint slide collection are available on the presbytery's web site:

<https://www.presbyark.org/resources/theological-discussion-148th-presbytery-meeting/> There were 99 participants as the business of the meeting resumed.



## Report from the Matthew 25 Task Force

### Appendix, Section VII

The Matthew 25 Task Force report is located in the appendix, Section VII. Rev. Steven Kurtz reported that members of the Matthew 25 Task Force met at a retreat at Ferncliff recently and discussed the situation. A letter was written, as seen in the appendix, and he asked that anyone who interested and is a member at a church in the Presbytery of Arkansas to electronically sign via Peg Falls-Corbitt at her email: [fallscorbitt@hendrix.edu](mailto:fallscorbitt@hendrix.edu). The signers listed on the copy of the letter in the appendix are the members of the task force.

## Report of the General Presbyter

MWS Stewart Smith said that in coming weeks look in the Update to see where the retiring servants are highlighted. He said that Rev. Dr. Leslie Belden has served as the Stated Clerk for over four years and in the tradition of the presbytery staff, a \$500 check will be mailed, even though it is not enough for her 5 years of service, outstanding work given by her. He reported that he found out firsthand exactly how much detail is required for the stated clerk preparing for this meeting. He reported that the ordination for Brianne Christiansen, Director of Youth Ministry, will be held in Montana on November 7, 2021.

The Coordinating Team has proposed that the next presbytery meeting be held in person at the University of the Ozarks in the first week of March 2022. He asked that everyone reserve the first Saturday in June for the presbytery meeting. Hopefully for the fall meeting we can meet at First United Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, like we have planned before COVID. He thanked the congregations for their faithfulness sending financial support to the presbytery. He expects that the revenue to come in on budget and the expenses continue to be lower due to reduced activities and travel. A budget very similar to the 2021 budget will be ready to approve at the March 2022 meeting.

Moderator Gillaspay asked for questions at the conclusion of the report, there were none.

## Good News Reports

Rev. Becky Purcell reported on work of the Future of the Church committee regarding congregational vitality and Matthew 25. She spoke on determining a church's need for a grant. She showed a video from the two Arkadelphia churches and their use of their recent grant money.

MWS Phillip Blackburn reported on the Thriving in Ministry Program. He said that the University of the Ozarks received a million dollar Lilly Grant. The grant was established to help support pastors and the congregations they serve, stating that the first cohort will meet in early 2022.

## Expression of Thanks

With no more reports or business before the presbytery, Moderator Gillaspay offered a big thank you to all of the committees, the moderators, and to all who participated in the meeting

today. She gave a warm welcome to Rev. LaWanda Harris to the presbytery. Thank yous went to the staff Stewart Smith, Carol Clark, Julie Price, Kim Palmer, and Jared Brown. She said that this is her last time to close a presbytery meeting and will welcome Vice Moderator Susan Arnold as the new moderator in March.

## **Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

Moderator Gillaspy asked for MWS Susan Arnold to conclude the meeting with prayer. Moderator Gillaspy then extinguished the Christ candle and adjourned the meeting. The chat function and Zoom meeting were left on following adjournment so that fellowship could continue until signoff.

Written reports of committees from the Main Packet are included in the Appendix as Section VII.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kimberly Palmer  
Administrator

Stewart Smith  
Stated Clerk

## Appendix

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## Section I – Roster of Attendance/Enrollment

### Voting as Ministers of Word and Sacrament

#### Ministers of Word and Sacrament – 42 in attendance (voting)

(There were 49 in attendance on June 5, 2021; 52 on March 5-6, 2021; 47 on October, 23-24, 2020; 60 on June 6, 2020; 39 on March 6-7, 2020; 45 on October 4-5, 2019; and 43 on June 8, 2019)

Arnold, John	Cummings, Katie	Price, Jeff
Arnold, Susan	Davis, Fern	Purcell, Becky
Bacon-Latina, Courtney	Evans, Jen	Rudolph, Ward
Bailey, William	Falls, Ruskin	Saul, Cinthia
Bell, Valerie	Gill, David	Secrest, Alisa
Berger, Sara Anne	Hadley, Robert	Seitz, Bill
Blackburn, Phillip	Hammons, Stacey	Senor, Georgia
Brinegar, Blake	Hancock, Steve	Smith, Stewart
Brock, Brian	Highsmith, Cameron	Spooner, Rebecca
Bussell, Matt	Hook, Emily	Ulasewich, Michael
Butin, Jan	Humphrey, Marion	Vinson, Michael
Butin, Philip	Jones, Ron	Vogado, Lindy
Carrington, Joy	Kurtz, Steven	Wildhack, Jocelyn
Clark, Mark	Mainard O'Connell, Marie	Wooley, Dan

#### Excused Absences

Alsup, Maggie	Campbell, Don	Roper, Leslie
Brinegar, Elizabeth	Ritchie, Dennis	

#### Honorably Retired Ministers of Word and Sacrament – 9 in attendance (voting)

(There were 12 on June 5, 2021; 16 on March 5-6, 2021; 13 on October 23-24, 2020; 22 on June 6, 2020; 7 on March 6-7, 2020; 9 on October 4-5, 2019; and 8 on June 8, 2019)

Akin, Karen	Clark, Carol	Lizárraga, Elizabeth
Belden, Leslie	Gray, Susan	Tropansky, Joseph
Branch, Bill	King, John E.	

#### Temporary Members of the Presbytery – 1 in attendance (voting)

Ratliff, Jim – Hardy, Spring River

#### Total of 52 voting as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament

#### Voting as Ruling Elders

#### Ruling Elder Commissioners – 40 in attendance (voting) representing congregations

(There were 47 in attendance on June 5, 2021; 43 in March 5-6, 2021; 48 on October 23-24, 2020; 52 on June 6, 2020; 40 on March 6-7, 2020; 44 on October 4-5, 2019; and 48 on June 8, 2019.)

Arkadelphia, West End – Fallin, Gloria  
 Atkins, Memorial – Murdoch, Mark  
 Bella Vista – Francis, Barbara; Jones, Elaine  
 Benton, First – Counts, April  
 Bentonville, First – Dixon, Kim; Huber, Kathy; James, Harry  
 Clarksville, First – Castleman, Linda  
 Conway, First – Hanson, Emily  
 Elkins – Warren, Bill  
 Eureka Springs, First – Bullock, Margie  
 Fayetteville, First United – Haden, Rebecca; Morton, Bo  
 Fayetteville, Mt Comfort – Elmore, Virginia  
 Forrest City, Graham – Parker Carter, Neely  
 Greenwood – Middleton, Kathy  
 Heber Springs, First – Reed, Allison  
 Hot Springs, Westminster – Grubb, Lawrence  
 Jacksonville, First – Matthews, Barbara

Jonesboro, First – Clayton, Mary  
 Lincoln, First – Scott, Christine  
 Little Rock, First – Ingram, Libby  
 Little Rock, Grace – Choate, Andrea  
 Little Rock, Pulaski Heights – Spikes, Jane Anne  
 Little Rock, Second – Yancey, Joseph  
 Little Rock, Westover Hills – Branch, Liz; Stricklin, David  
 Malvern, First – Walters, Kathy  
 Mena, First – Hays, Annette  
 Morrilton, First – Mobley, Leeann  
 Morrilton, Hopewell – Morris, Susan  
 Norman, Barr Memorial – Lysobey, Mary Beth  
 Pea Ridge, Mt Vernon – David, Ronnie  
 Rogers, First – Westerlund, Karin  
 Springdale, First – Harwell, Linda; Young, Kenneth  
 Wynne, Bradshaw, Stan  
 Yellville, First – Brigham, Claudia; Sharp, Julia

**Excused Absences**

Batesville, First

**Absent Without Excuse – 30 Congregations**

Alma, First	Helena, First	McGehee, First
Amity, Alpine	Holiday Island	Mountain Home, First
Arkadelphia, First	Holly Grove	Mountainburg
Beebe, First	Horseshoe Bend, Faith	Newport, First
Brinkley, First	Hot Springs Village, Kirk	Paragould, First
Cane Hill	in the Pines	Pine Bluff, Central
Clarksville, Harmony	Hot Springs, First	Pine Bluff, Faith
Dardanelle, First	Huntsville, First	Searcy, First
Fort Smith, Central	Little Rock, Westminster	Van Buren, First
Gurdon, First	Marianna, First	Walnut Ridge, First

**Ruling Elder Voting Members of Presbytery – 8 in attendance (voting)**

(There were 7 on June 5, 2021; 7 on March 5-6, 2021; 10 on October 23-24, 2020; 9 on June 6, 2020; 10 on March 6-7, 2020; 7 on October 4-5, 2019; and 11 on June 8, 2019.)

Belden, Ted – Coordinating Team	Hollingsworth, Cyril – Coordinating Team
Boehmler, Bob - Treasurer	Verdery, Tom – Administration
Eilbott, Don – COM Moderator	Moderator
Gillaspy, Julie - Moderator	Willis, Carolyn – Coordinating Team
Hamilton, Ruth – Coordinating Team	

**Commissioned Ruling Elders – 10 in attendance (voting)**

(There were 7 on June 5, 2021; 7 on March 5-6, 2021; 8 on October 23-24, 2020; 8 on June 6, 2020; 6 on March 6-7, 2020; 6 on October 4-5, 2019; and 5 on June 8, 2019 .)

Beane, Carolyn – Norman, Barr Memorial	Olson, Chuck – Atkins, Memorial
Clark, David – Heber Springs, First	Prevost, Ronnie – Springdale, First
Hall, Michelle – Lincoln & Prairie Grove, First	Rhodes, Claire – Arkadelphia, West End
Jones Jr, Hartley – Norman, Barr Memorial	Rhodes, Kenneth – Arkadelphia, West End
	Shaw, Mary – Elkins, Federated
	Wilkinson, Ed – Greenwood, Good Shepherd

**Certified Christian Educators – 0 in attendance, 0 voting**

(There were 2 on June 5, 2021 on March 5-6, 2021; 2 on June 2, 2020; 3 on March 6-7, 2020; 3 on October 4-5, 2019; and 3 on June 8, 2019 )

**Excused Absences**

Ford, Jeannie

**A total of 58 voting as Ruling Elders in attendance.**

**Non-Voting Attendees**

**Corresponding Members – 4 in attendance (non-voting)**

Garcia-Arroyo, Lemuel	Presbyterian Mission Agency
McMillan, Judi	Presbytery of Detroit
Moore, Joseph	Presbyterian Foundation
Wright, Deborah	Presbytery of San Francisco

**Lay Preacher/Commissioned Pastor– 1 in attendance (non-voting)**

Huddleston, Allan – Bentonville, Vaughn

**Inquirer/Candidate – 7 in attendance (non-voting)**

Christiansen, Brianne	Presbytery of AR Staff
Corbitt, Jeanie	At Large
Flood, Katie	Bentonville, First
Harris, LaWanda	Little Rock, Pulaski Heights
Larkin, Liz	Rogers, First
Moody, Stephen	Little Rock, First
Thompson, Laura	Rogers, First

**Attendees/Visitors – 20 in attendance (non-voting)**

Alexander, Adam	Springdale, First
Benson, Janet	Forrest City, Graham Memorial
Bragg, Yvette	Arkadelphia, West End
Branch, Elizabeth (Liz)	Little Rock
Bryant-Williams, Wynona	Little Rock, Allison Memorial

Clark, Bud	Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista
Falls-Corbitt, Peg	First, Conway
Jones, Amanda	Pine Bluff, First
Nichols, Jean	Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista
Palmer, Kimberly	Presbytery of Arkansas Staff
Predl, Richard	Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista
Prevost, Peggy	Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista
Price, Julie	Presbytery of Arkansas Staff
Riter, David	At Large
Spann, Jan	Conway, First
Stephens, Ray	Little Rock, Westover Hills
Verdery, Barbara	Fayetteville, First United
Webb, Jane	First, Rogers
Woodruff, Ray	Wynne Presbyterian
Wright, Patricia	Arkadelphia, West End

**Total Non-Voting – 31 in attendance**

**Total Attendance**

**A total of 141 registered or were in attendance at some point in the meeting, of whom 110 could vote.**

156 total on June 5, 2021, of whom 123 could vote; 163 total on March 5-6, 2021, of whom 127 could vote; 152 total on October 23-24, 2020, of whom 127 could vote; 215 total on June 6, 2020, of whom 154 could vote; 144 total on March 7, 2020, of whom 105 could vote; 165 total on October 4-5, 2019, of whom 115 could vote; and 158 on June 8, 2019, of whom 117 could vote.

## **Section II**

### **Report of the Stated Clerk**

MWS Stewart Smith  
Stated Clerk

1. Motion to receive the minutes of the Administrative Commission to ordain MWS Jocelyn Wildhack to the validated ministry of Chaplain at Ferncliff on August 22, 2021 and to dismiss them with thanks.
2. Statistical season is fast approaching. Please begin collecting the data (membership information, financial information, etc.) you will need in order to accurately fill out your annual statistical reports. If there has been a change in your clerk of session, please make sure we have updated contact information. You will have a short window of time to enter the statistical information in the early part of 2022.
3. Attached is the Presbytery Prayer List for 2022.



# Prayer List for Congregations, Presbytery of Arkansas – 2022

Jan.	2	First, Clarksville	Park Hill, North Little Rock
Jan.	9	Mt. Vernon, Pea Ridge	First, Huntsville
Jan.	16	First, Benton	Active Ruling Elders
Jan.	23	University of the Ozarks, Clarksville	Faith, Horseshoe Bend
Jan.	30	First, McGehee	Inquirers and Candidates for Ministry
Feb.	6	First, Lincoln	First, Heber Springs
Feb.	13	Synod of the Sun	Church Musicians
Feb.	20	First, Jacksonville	Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Feb.	27	Church Secretaries and Treasurers	Holiday Island Presbyterian
Mar.	6	Second, Little Rock	First, Yellville
Mar.	13	Directors of Children's Programs	First, Mena
Mar.	20	First United, Fayetteville	Lyon College, Batesville
Mar.	27	First, Harrison	First, North Little Rock AC
Apr.	3	Mt. Comfort, Fayetteville	First, Dardanelle
Apr.	10	Good Shepherd, Greenwood	Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista
Apr.	17	Central, Fort Smith	Active Deacons
Apr.	24	Alpine Church, Amity	Church Groundskeepers
May	1	PC(USA) Seminaries	Vaughn, Bentonville
May	8	First, Hot Springs	Ministries to Hispanic Persons in Arkansas
May	15	Westover Hills, Little Rock	Allison Memorial, Little Rock
May	22	Holly Grove Church, Holly Grove	First, Alma
May	29	Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village	First, Searcy
June	5	Mission Trip Participants	First, Fort Smith
June	12	Pulaski Heights, Little Rock	Harmony Church, Clarksville
June	19	New Worshipping Communities	First, Pine Bluff
June	16	Graham Memorial, Forrest City	Elkins Church, Elkins
July	3	Grace, Little Rock	First, Malvern
July	10	Barr Memorial, Norman	Hopewell Church, Morrilton
July	17	First, Mountain Home	First, Newport
July	24	First, Little Rock	Presbytery Staff
July	31	Trinity, Little Rock	Spring River, Hardy
Aug.	7	First, Bentonville	Westminster, Little Rock
Aug.	14	First, Conway	First, Prairie Grove
Aug.	21	First, Morrilton	First, Springdale
Aug.	28	Wynne Church, Wynne	Commissioned Ruling Elders
Sept.	4	Faith, Pine Bluff	First, Beebe
Sept.	11	Central, Pine Bluff	Church Camp Ministries
Sept.	18	First, Brinkley	First, Jonesboro
Sept.	25	First, Gurdon	Churches in the Presbytery of Honduras
Oct.	2	Cane Hill Church, Cane Hill	Active and Retired Christian Educators and Youth Directors
Oct.	9	First, Van Buren	First, Batesville
Oct.	16	First, Eureka Springs	Central, Russellville
Oct.	23	First, Helena	West End, Arkadelphia
Oct.	30	Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals	First, Arkadelphia
Nov.	6	Campus Ministries	Hospital Chaplains and Counselors
Nov.	13	Church Nursery Workers	First, Rogers
Nov.	20	First, Marianna	Westminster, Hot Springs
Nov.	27	First, Paragould	Church Custodians
Dec.	4	Mountainburg Church, Mountainburg	Active and Retired Ministers
Dec.	11	Laotian Ministry, Fort Smith	The Office of the General Assembly of the PC(USA)
Dec.	18	Memorial Church, Atkins	First, Walnut Ridge
Dec.	25	Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay	Church Pre-Schools

## Section III

### Report of the Committee on Administration

#### October 8-9, 2021 Presbytery Meeting

##### For Information:

1. 2021 (Year-To-Date) has been on track financially for our Presbytery, as our income was better than anticipated due to a strong performance in our balanced funds at Texas Presbyterian Foundation through August (+12.1%) and total expenses down versus budget (-6.7%), due to reduced programming and travel caused by the continuing pandemic. Mission Acceptance (Church Benevolence) to our Presbytery is tracking slightly up versus 2020 (YTD +\$9,883, up 4.7%), thanks to the continued support of our congregations. While 2021 (Year-To-Date) benevolences appear behind our 2021 budget (38.3% of budget), this is due to several congregations giving semi-annually or annually at the end of year. Your Committee on Administration continues to be grateful to all the financial contributions from our congregations in the Presbytery of Arkansas.
2. As Arkansas begins to open and increase on-campus church activities, we expect expenses will increase to become more in line with pre-pandemic budgets from our Presbytery ministries and committees.
3. Key activities of your Committee on Administration in last half of 2021 include:
  - Annual personnel review policy created for all Presbytery staff and will begin in December 2021.
  - Continued emergency financial support for church professionals throughout the Presbytery.
  - Approved interim roles to support staff changes mid-year with the openings of the Clerk and youth positions.
  - Expanded our Presbytery insurance coverage (property & liability) and plans as we begin to acquire additional church property due to small church closures.
  - Developed updated policies and procedures for our Presbytery Risk Management and Insurance coverage.
  - Replace our damaged Presbytery office roof, funded mostly from property insurance.
4. Our 2022 Presbytery Budget is still being prepared but is expected to be similar with our current 2021 budget. Our final 2022 budget will be presented for approval at our March 2022 Presbytery Meeting.

# THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS

Balance Sheet  
August 31, 2021

## ASSETS

### Current Assets

Cash TPF - undesignated	109,491.14
TPF Investment Cash - designated	833,412.41
TPF Investments	4,469,340.30
TPF Mark to Market 52190	2,331,711.90

**Total Current Assets** **7,743,955.75**

### Property and Equipment

Furniture & Fixtures	62,857.89
Land	213,237.00
Buildings	771,516.12

1,047,611.01

Accumulated Depreciation (429,551.87)

**Net Property and Equipment** **8,362,014.89**

**TOTAL ASSETS** **\$ 8,362,014.89**

## LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

### Current Liabilities

Payroll & Other Withholdings	0.00
Accrued expenses	\$ (13,716.92)

**Total Current Liabilities** **(13,716.92)**

### Fund Balance

Equity Beginning Balance	4,488,088.31
Fund Balance	2,072,209.04
Unrealized Gains/Losses	1,911,436.36
Net Income	(96,001.90)

**Total Fund Balance** **8,375,731.81**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL** **\$ 8,362,014.89**

Unaudited - For Management Purposes Only

**Benevolences as of  
August 31, 2021**

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>2019 Benevolence</b>	<b>2020 Benevolence</b>	<b>2021 Benevolence</b>
Alma	-	-	-
Amity	-	-	-
Arkadelphia, First	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Arkadelphia, West End	1,106.00	1,106.00	-
Atkins	-	-	-
Batesville	10,000.00	10,000.00	7,500.00
Beebe	900.00	600.00	900.00
Bella Vista	30,000.00	24,999.96	13,333.28
Benton	9,600.00	8,600.00	3,800.00
Bentonville, First	29,500.00	32,000.00	16,750.00
Bentonville, Vaughn	-	2,000.00	-
Brinkley	-	-	-
Bull Shoals	-	-	50.00
Cane Hill	-	-	-
Clarksville, First	-	-	-
Clarksville, Harmony	-	-	-
Conway	8,125.00	7,700.00	4,375.00
Dardanelle	6,000.00	6,000.00	3,000.00
Elkins	1,000.00	1,000.00	500.00
Eureka Springs	3,000.00	2,550.00	2,000.00
Fairfield Bay	700.00	350.00	350.00
Fayetteville, First United	41,000.00	41,000.00	23,912.00
Fayetteville, Mt. Comfort	1,660.00	1,660.00	830.00
Forrest City	8,250.00	9,000.00	6,000.00
Ft. Smith, Central	16,000.00	16,000.00	8,000.00
Ft. Smith, First	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Greenwood	2,000.00	-	-
Gurdon	1,200.00	300.00	-
Hardy	250.60	297.00	-
Harrison	-	-	-
Heber Springs	800.00	525.00	-
Helena	500.00	500.00	-
Holiday Island	6,200.00	6,200.00	3,100.00
Holly Grove	500.00	500.00	500.00
Horseshoe Bend	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,500.00
HSV, Kirk	27,270.00	27,270.00	15,907.50
H. Springs, First	20,000.00	20,000.00	10,013.00
H. Springs, Westminster	8,013.04	10,012.04	5,341.36
Huntsville	2,400.00	2,200.00	1,600.00
Jacksonville	2,655.00	2,800.00	2,000.00
Jonesboro	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Lincoln	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
LR, Allison	657.05	-	-
LR, First	-	-	-
LR, Grace	5,625.00	7,900.00	6,025.00
LR, Pulaski Heights	3,228.00	3,636.00	2,000.00
Little Rock, Second	200,000.00	200,000.00	-
LR, Trinity	7,333.33	8,000.00	5,333.36
LR, Westminster	300.00	400.00	200.00
LR, Westover Hills	10,500.00	10,500.00	4,000.00
Malvern	5,241.72	5,241.71	2,620.86
Marianna	-	-	-
McGehee	2,520.00	2,520.00	1,470.00
Mena	5,000.00	5,000.00	2,500.00
Morrilton, First	-	1,200.00	800.00

**Benevolences as of  
August 31, 2021**

Morrilton, Hopewell	-	-	-
Mountain Home	1,000.00	1,000.00	250.00
Mountainburg	-	-	-
Newport	4,800.00	3,225.00	1,800.00
Norman	-	2,000.00	-
NLR, First	-	-	-
NLR, Park Hill	16,000.00	16,000.00	11,125.00
Paragould, First	-	-	-
Pea Ridge	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,750.00
Pine Bluff, Central	-	-	-
Pine Bluff, Faith	500.00	-	-
Pine Bluff, First	4,999.92	4,999.92	3,749.94
Prairie Grove	7,700.00	7,150.00	4,640.00
Rogers	7,000.00	6,999.96	4,666.64
Russellville	-	-	-
Searcy	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
Springdale	30,000.00	30,000.00	20,000.00
Van Buren	4,000.00	-	-
Walnut Ridge	-	6,400.00	-
Wynne	7,500.00	7,500.00	3,750.00
Yellville	6,000.00	6,000.00	4,500.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total</b>	<b>588,601.33</b>	<b>589,342.59</b>	<b>221,942.94</b>

THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS								
Operating Income Statement								
For the Eight Months Ending August 31, 2021								
		Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Over/(Under) Budget		Year to Date Actual	2021 Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
6000-01	Mission Acceptance	\$ 24,504.49	31,666.67	(7,162.18)		\$ 221,942.94	580,000.00	(358,057.06)
Misc. (Acct. 6015)	Investment Spend Rate	17,278.04	16,970.47	307.57		136,831.51	203,645.64	(66,814.13)
6000-01-1-101	Previous Years Pledges	0.00	0.00	0.00		4,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
6001-00-1-000	Miscellaneous Revenue	950.00	1,333.33	(383.33)		9,875.00	16,000.00	(6,125.00)
	Total Revenues	42,732.53	49,970.47	(7,237.94)		372,649.45	801,645.64	(428,996.19)
	Expenses							
7000-01-1-000	Coordinating Team--Meeting Exp, Meals, Worship	0.00	100.00	(100.00)		1,382.00	1,200.00	182.00
7000-06-1-000	Coordinating Team--Gifts	0.00	4.17	(4.17)		0.00	50.00	(50.00)
7000-09-1-000	Coordinating Team--Moderator's Expense	0.00	37.50	(37.50)		0.00	450.00	(450.00)
7000-10-1-000	Coordinating Team--Vice moderator's Expense	0.00	91.67	(91.67)		0.00	1,100.00	(1,100.00)
7000-20-1-000	Coordinating Team--Presbytery Workshop/Speaker	0.00	33.33	(33.33)		750.00	400.00	350.00
7000-31-1-000	Coordinating Team--Background Checks	21.45	25.00	(3.55)		21.45	300.00	(278.55)
		21.45	291.67	(270.22)		2,153.45	3,500.00	(1,346.55)
7100-01-1-000	Administration--Meeting Expense, Financial Review	0.00	583.33	(583.33)		912.71	7,000.00	(6,087.29)
7100-04-1-000	Administration--Debt Reduction Contingency (e.g. land appraisal)	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
7100-05-1-000	Administration--Ferncliff General Site Support	0.00	2,333.33	(2,333.33)		14,000.00	28,000.00	(14,000.00)
8400-46-1-000	Repay CCD -- Building mortgage	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00		16,000.00	24,000.00	(8,000.00)
		2,000.00	4,916.66	(2,916.66)		30,912.71	59,000.00	(28,087.29)
7200-01-1-000	Min. of the Church--Cmte on Prep. for Ministry--Travel, food, lodging, suppl	0.00	41.25	(41.25)		0.00	495.00	(495.00)
7200-02-1-000	Min. of the Church--Cmte on Prep. for Ministry--ConEd--Emergency Fund, Etc.	0.00	83.33	(83.33)		0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)
7700-01-1-000	Committee on Ministry--travel,food,mtg. support	0.00	416.67	(416.67)		0.00	5,000.00	(5,000.00)
8000-01-1-000	Min. of the Church--Cmte on Prep. for Ministry--Mtg. Expenses, etc.	0.00	42.08	(42.08)		0.00	505.00	(505.00)
8000-09-1-000	Min. of the Church--Cmte on Prep. for Ministry--Eval, Retreat, Support, Bkg Checks	1,450.00	250.00	1,200.00		1,450.00	3,000.00	(1,550.00)
8400-08-1-000	Min. of the Church--Wellspring Contract	0.00	644.58	(644.58)		8,330.00	7,735.00	595.00
		1,450.00	1,477.91	(27.91)		9,780.00	17,735.00	(7,955.00)
7300-29-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--Campus Ministry/Program Support	2,356.66	2,500.00	(143.34)		16,496.62	30,000.00	(13,503.38)
7300-71-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--Planning Retreats & Materials	0.00	83.33	(83.33)		110.75	1,000.00	(889.25)
7300-73-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT Scholarships	0.00	41.67	(41.67)		0.00	500.00	(500.00)
7300-74-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT Denomination Trips	0.00	166.67	(166.67)		0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)
7300-75-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT-Youth @ Presbytery	0.00	41.67	(41.67)		430.74	500.00	(69.26)
7300-76-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT YouthQuake	0.00	416.67	(416.67)		4,663.93	5,000.00	(336.07)
7300-78-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT Montreat	2,857.33	208.33	2,649.00		4,352.49	2,500.00	1,852.49

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		Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Over/(Under) Budget		Year to Date Actual	2021 Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
7300-79-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--JrHi Jubilee	0.00	208.33	(208.33)		8.45	2,500.00	(2,491.55)
7300-80-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--Matthew 25 Account	0.00	208.33	(208.33)		0.00	2,500.00	(2,500.00)
7300-84-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--Young Adult Ministries	0.00	208.33	(208.33)		0.00	2,500.00	(2,500.00)
7300-86-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--Student Leadership Development	0.00	41.67	(41.67)		325.71	500.00	(174.29)
7300-99-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--Campus Ministry-Special Event Support	0.00	1,250.00	(1,250.00)		623.25	15,000.00	(14,376.75)
		5,213.99	5,375.00	(161.01)		27,011.94	64,500.00	(37,488.06)
7500-01-1-000	Future of the Church--CCD--Admin., Listening	1,090.00	83.33	1,006.67		1,090.00	1,000.00	90.00
7500-06-1-000	Future of the Church--CCD--Black Caucus--Al Branch	0.00	64.33	(64.33)		0.00	772.00	(772.00)
7500-21-1-000	Future of the Church--CCD--West End Operation Support	0.00	1,125.00	(1,125.00)		6,750.00	13,500.00	(6,750.00)
7500-25-1-000	Presbytery Technology Needs	0.00	625.00	(625.00)		3,500.00	7,500.00	(4,000.00)
7500-51-1-000	Future of the Church--CCD--New Ministries' Development	0.00	2,208.33	(2,208.33)		34,856.66	26,500.00	8,356.66
7500-53-1-000	Future of the Church--Laotian Ministry support	0.00	300.00	(300.00)		1,800.00	3,600.00	(1,800.00)
7500-98-1-000	Future of the Church--Faith Presbyterian Operation Support	0.00	594.00	(594.00)		3,564.00	7,128.00	(3,564.00)
		1,090.00	4,999.99	(3,909.99)		51,560.66	60,000.00	(8,439.34)
7300-01-1-000	Christian Education--Meeting Expenses	0.00	37.50	(37.50)		0.00	450.00	(450.00)
7300-10-1-000	Christian Education--Special train. Events/presb	0.00	166.67	(166.67)		0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)
7300-21-1-000	Christian Education--Ferncliff Prog/Supt. Summer Camp	12,000.00	2,000.00	10,000.00		24,000.00	24,000.00	0.00
7300-24-1-000	Mission of the Church--Ferncliff--Block Grant	0.00	416.67	(416.67)		0.00	5,000.00	(5,000.00)
7300-30-1-000	Christian Education--Presbyterian Pilgrimage	0.00	166.67	(166.67)		0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)
7300-41-1-000	Christian Education--Diversity--Scholarship	0.00	31.25	(31.25)		0.00	375.00	(375.00)
7300-90-1-000	Christian Education--Resource Center Resources	200.00	166.67	33.33		333.98	2,000.00	(1,666.02)
7300-91-1-000	Christian Education--Resource Cntr. Admin.	280.00	91.67	188.33		280.00	1,100.00	(820.00)
7600-03-1-000	Mission of the Church--Scholarship for Mission Trip	0.00	83.33	(83.33)		0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)
7600-05-1-000	Mission of the Church--International Mission Emphasis	0.00	166.67	(166.67)		0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)
7600-26-1-000	Mission of the Church--Arkansas Interfaith Conference	0.00	291.67	(291.67)		1,750.00	3,500.00	(1,750.00)
7600-44-1-000	Mission of the Church--Lyon College	0.00	83.33	(83.33)		500.00	1,000.00	(500.00)
7600-45-1-000	Mission of the Church--Presby. Village Support	0.00	41.67	(41.67)		250.00	500.00	(250.00)
7600-49-1-000	Mission of the Church--Univ. of Ozarks	0.00	83.33	(83.33)		500.00	1,000.00	(500.00)
7600-51-1-000	Mission of the Church--Vera Lloyd Mission	0.00	208.33	(208.33)		1,250.00	2,500.00	(1,250.00)
7600-62-1-000	Mission of the Church--Unified Mission Emphasis	0.00	1,172.92	(1,172.92)		4,400.00	14,075.00	(9,675.00)
7600-96-1-000	Mission of the Church--Solar Under the Sun	0.00	83.33	(83.33)		500.00	1,000.00	(500.00)
8300-01-1-000	Mission of the Church--PW Exp., travel, postage, etc.	0.00	41.67	(41.67)		0.00	500.00	(500.00)
8300-07-1-000	Mission of the Church--PW--Spring & Fall Retreats, Synod Gathering	0.00	291.67	(291.67)		0.00	3,500.00	(3,500.00)
9400-01-1-000	Mission of the Church--Disaster Preparedness	0.00	41.67	(41.67)		50.00	500.00	(450.00)
		12,480.00	5,666.69	6,813.31		33,813.98	68,000.00	(34,186.02)
PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS								

Operating Income Statement  
For the Eight Months Ending August 31, 2021

		Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Over/(Under) Budget		Year to Date Actual	2021 Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
7800-01-1-000	Nominations--travel, food	0.00	25.00	(25.00)		0.00	300.00	(300.00)
8100-01-1-000	Representation--Meeting Expenses	0.00	3.75	(3.75)		0.00	45.00	(45.00)
8400-01-1-000	POA/Supplies & Office Exp.	53.99	291.67	(237.68)		1,534.50	3,500.00	(1,965.50)
8400-02-1-000	Utilities/Telephone	654.81	625.00	29.81		4,337.99	7,500.00	(3,162.01)
8400-03-1-000	Copy Machine	485.67	500.00	(14.33)		4,096.48	6,000.00	(1,903.52)
8400-05-1-000	Technology	922.49	1,233.33	(310.84)		10,671.05	14,800.00	(4,128.95)
8400-07-1-000	Replace Equipment	0.00	83.33	(83.33)		0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)
8400-09-1-000	Insurance	4,689.00	683.33	4,005.67		16,238.00	8,200.00	8,038.00
8400-10-1-000	Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	41.67	(41.67)		130.00	500.00	(370.00)
8400-12-1-000	Maintenance(Grounds,Bldg Upkeep)	684.45	833.33	(148.88)		6,458.75	10,000.00	(3,541.25)
		7,490.41	4,291.66	3,198.75		43,466.77	51,500.00	(8,033.23)
8400-22-1-000	K. Palmer/Travel	0.00	41.67	(41.67)		0.00	500.00	(500.00)
8400-25-1-000	S. Smith/Professional Ex	0.00	1,250.00	(1,250.00)		3,419.15	15,000.00	(11,580.85)
8400-29-1-000	Salaries	14,933.35	18,500.00	(3,566.65)		144,850.16	222,000.00	(77,149.84)
8400-30-1-000	Pension/Major Medical	1,458.00	1,598.83	(140.83)		11,664.00	19,185.96	(7,521.96)
8400-31-1-000	S. Smith/Continuing Ed.	0.00	125.00	(125.00)		0.00	1,500.00	(1,500.00)
8400-33-1-000	Payroll Taxes	849.78	1,122.64	(272.86)		8,740.13	13,471.68	(4,731.55)
8400-34-1-000	Housing	2,975.00	2,975.00	0.00		23,800.00	35,700.00	(11,900.00)
8400-40-1-000	S. Smith/FICA	526.66	583.33	(56.67)		4,213.28	7,000.00	(2,786.72)
8400-41-1-000	Builder/Connector Professional Expenses	0.00	833.33	(833.33)		3,927.47	10,000.00	(6,072.53)
8400-49-1-000	B. Christiansen Professional Expenses	0.00	125.00	(125.00)		1,163.00	1,500.00	(337.00)
8400-53-1-000	TPF Bookkeeping Fees	111.69	916.67	(804.98)		4,817.95	11,000.00	(6,182.05)
		20,854.48	32,363.13	(4,018.24)		206,595.14	336,857.64	(138,295.73)
8600-01-1-000	General Assembly	2,425.00	2,425.00	0.00		19,391.67	29,100.00	(9,708.33)
8700-01-1-000	GA Per Capita	7,250.67	7,250.67	0.00		58,005.36	87,008.00	(29,002.64)
8800-01-1-000	Synod Mission	2,008.33	2,008.33	0.00		16,058.31	24,100.00	(8,041.69)
		11,684.00	11,684.00	0.00		93,455.34	140,208.00	(46,752.66)
	Total Expenses	62,284.33	66,803.80	(4,519.47)		498,749.99	801,645.64	(302,895.65)
	Net Income	(\$ 19,551.80)	(\$ 16,833.33)	(\$ 2,718.47)		(\$ 126,100.54)	\$ 0.00	(\$ 126,100.54)



## Section IV

# North Little Rock Argenta Q&A

The Administrative Commission (AC) would like to receive feedback from the Presbytery of Arkansas about the direction that the AC is moving. This information is to assist the conversation planned for a zoom meeting on September 23, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

### Some Background:

First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock, was founded in 1895 by Rev. S.G. Miller and 13 members of First Presbyterian Church, Little Rock. Alternately called Argenta Presbyterian as well as First Presbyterian, the church grew, and in 1950 hired Architect John Parks Almand to design a new sanctuary. As the area changed in the 1990's, the members of the church decided to stay and continue their presence in North Little Rock. Ministry continued but the membership and financial resources declined.



Rev. Anne Russ served as Temporary then Stated Supply from October 2009 until December 2018. Prior to her leaving, Rev. Russ contacted the COM to connect with the session about the way forward. The liaisons, with the help of Rev. Michael Vinson, led the session in a time of evaluation of membership, finances, building needs, and conducted listening sessions with members.

In April of 2019, Rev. Michael Vinson came on board as a part-time interim pastor. Through a process of discernment and discussion, the session later voted to invite the Presbytery to form an Administrative Commission, who would in time come to serve as the session of the church. At the November 2019 meeting of the Coordinating Team, the AC commission was officially approved and charged. The members of the commission and its charge include:

#### 1. Members:

- MWS Carol Clark, HR
- MWS Mike Ulasewich, First Conway; Future of the Church representative
- RE Leah Shell, Second Little Rock
- RE Ted Belden, First United Fayetteville; Future of the Church representative
- RE Melanie Gibson, Grace Little Rock
- RE Karene Jones, Park Hill North Little Rock
- RE Joel Gill, First North Little Rock (Argenta)
- MWS Leslie Belden, Stated Clerk (ex-officio)
- MWS Stewart Smith, General Presbyter (ex-officio)
- RE Sarah Keith-Bolden, First Little Rock (legal counsel, ex-officio)

#### 2. Charged with the authority to:

- Determine the financial situation of First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock/Argenta;
- Counsel the Session of First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock, in the Session's discernment of the financial needs of the church;
- Counsel the Session and membership of First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock, in the Session's and congregation's deliberations and actions toward the "selling of real property" (G-1.0503d) or redevelopment of the property;
- Serve as the presence of the Presbytery of Arkansas in determining what the needs of the property are and taking steps to address those needs;

- Serve as the presence of the Presbytery of Arkansas in the development of any covenants or partnerships;
- Sell or encumber any real property;
- Assume original jurisdiction of the church, if necessary.
- Dissolve the congregation if requested, taking the necessary steps on behalf of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

The congregation met on January 12, 2020 for a congregational meeting and authorized the transfer of all real property to the Presbytery of Arkansas.

## Subsequent significant actions by the Administrative Commission follow:

- Hired a contractor to monitor the building and grounds, including security issues, cleaning, mowing, and working with the remaining renters or others interested in using the property for outside events.
- Met with community groups/leaders regarding the continuing use of the building and grounds, including the use of the kitchen and community garden.
- Investigated the title commitment, had the quit claim deed transferred to the Presbytery of Arkansas, changed the bank account to different signers, changed signatories to the Gault Fund, worked through the issues with the electric bill and with the lease on the copier, moved the insurance of the church to the Presbytery's policy, approved the use of the building as the site of a possible new church development and to have a fellowship group meet there, (later put on hold as the building redevelopment was explored,) had estimates regarding replacing the roof which ranged from \$23,000 for the shingled roof and \$85,000 for the tile and shingled roof, conducted monthly worship services (until COVID hit) and offered a Lenten study and movie night.
- Continued the distribution of the "Gault Fund" (\$6082.18) which was specified as a fund left to the church to be distributed for use to the poor and needy in the area.
- Had the building and grounds appraised at \$350,000.
- Negotiated with and paid the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program \$20,235 for the abandonment of the property easement. Previously the church had secured the easement for this amount of money in order to repair the stained-glass windows. This action will likely increase the property value to an estimated \$500,000.
- Voted to hire Fennel/Purifoy Architects for \$3,000, to explore how the property could be redeveloped. The sketched plans include a 14-21 unit apartment complex as well as renovation of the building for event spaces and continued commercial space in the building for rental use.
- Met with the Director of the Innovation Hub in North Little Rock to see if there is a way for their services to interface with the activities of the building, including housing some of their activities and the Hub taking on the management of the facility.

Plans and discussions are still ongoing as the AC continues to gather information. The four options currently being considered are:

1. Partner with a developer, or different developers, for the two different "sides" of the property – the built half to be redeveloped, as well as the vacant lot that could be developed with apartments/condos. The Presbytery's contribution would be the land and the buildings.
2. Develop either or both sides of the property – the built half to be redeveloped as well as the vacant lot that could be developed with apartments/condos - with a long-term land lease (30-50 years).
3. Pledging land for an equity position in the apartment/condo development.
4. Sell the entire property (as is).

## Questions and Answers:

1. What is the current overall scope of the project?

At present, the Administrative Commission is talking about breaking the property into two completely different phases/projects aimed at different aspects of developing the property. The first phase/project would focus on renovating the existing sanctuary and fellowship hall as office and event space. The second phase/project would be constructing 14-21 new apartments/condos on the existing vacant lot.

2. Who might be the development partner with the Presbytery?

We have identified two developers who are interested in partnering with the Presbytery, Nabholz Properties Inc. and Newmark Moses Tucker Partners. Both have extensive knowledge and history in developments in North Little Rock. We think Nabholz is the best choice for us to work with on the existing structure, and are in conversation with Greg Nabholz to discern whether partnering on this project is the direction God is calling the Presbytery. We will have future conversations with Newmark Moses Tucker about possibly working with us on developing the vacant lot as apartments/condos.

3. Why would Nabholz be a good partner for the redevelopment of the existing building?

Nabholz has offered to invest \$787,500 for a 50% ownership in a new partnership. This is considerably more than the 500,000 estimated appraised value. They have a reputation of historically developing well thought of projects in North Little Rock.

4. What is the overall scope of this initial phase/project?

The AC has engaged the architectural firm of Fennel Purifoy to develop a master plan. The entire existing structure would be brought up to current building codes. A new roof would be installed on the fellowship hall, new bathrooms would be added, and the kitchen would be relocated to open up the existing fellowship hall to the courtyard. The architectural plans are only in the preliminary phase, and as such plans could change.

5. If a partnership is formed, who would manage the redeveloped property?

If a partnership is formed with Nabholz for the redevelopment of the existing building complex, with ownership owned jointly between the Presbytery of Arkansas and Nabholz, Nabholz would become the managing member of the property. The Presbytery of Arkansas would not be involved in the day-to-day operations.

6. Has a marketing study been done to determine the feasibility of the project?

No, but the Administrative Commission talked with Errin Stanger from the Innovation Hub, a local organization helping entrepreneurs get started. Both developers' excitement in the proposed projects have encouraged us. The area of Argenta where the church is located is seeing redevelopment. Since talking with the Innovation Hub the AC has secured new leases for the fellowship hall and a new worshipping community is meeting in the sanctuary. The Argenta Downtown Development group, who is active in the area, has also indicated they are needing small office space and event space for restaurants that have or are planning to locate in Argenta.

7. Is there sufficient parking?

The developers have assured the AC that sufficient parking can be made available for the project. An on-site parking lot combined with available street parking can accommodate office space. With respect to an event center, parking options include street parking and utilization of existing parking lots that are not used in the evening. If the apartment/condo phase of the project moves forward, about 50% of the on-site parking lot will need to be designated for the apartments.

8. What type of businesses will be allowed to lease space?

The Administrative Commission will work with our partner to establish a partnership agreement on limitations and restrictions on who could lease the space. The goal of the AC would be to offer discounts to non-profit groups and make sure the tenants are suitable for a church. We imagine a community of non-profits, artists and entrepreneurs leasing the space. But the project must be financially sustainable, so the partnership will necessarily work within what the market price is for space.

9. What additional demands will such a venture place on the Presbytery staff?

We don't anticipate this project adding much if any work to the Presbytery staff. Nabholz would be the developer and would be paid to manage the project and minimize the demands on the Presbytery staff.

10. Since this is a for-profit business venture, which will likely subject the Presbytery of Arkansas to Unrelated Business Income, what additional accounting, tax filing, and audits will be required?

The Administrative Commission is currently working with legal counsel to determine how a project can be structured, ensure that the Presbytery of Arkansas' non-profit status is protected, and address accounting and tax requirements. The AC has also met with Paul Grier of the Presbyterian Foundation for information about how other entities have approached this type of project.

11. What is the anticipated income from this venture?

Nabholz has given the Administrative Commission a pro-forma that shows the project generating a positive annual cash flow of around \$100,000 initially, and growing to \$150,000. The Presbytery would receive 50% of any profits distributed. The income of \$50,000 annually could begin in 2024, growing soon to \$75,000 annually. If the Presbytery of Arkansas sold the Property for \$500,000 (above the current \$350,000 appraised value) the Presbytery could realize an estimated 7% return or \$35,000 annually.

12. What financial incentives might be available for this project?

Money used to renovate the sanctuary and associated buildings will generate historic tax credits that will be sold and used to further help with the renovation costs.

13. Will the Presbytery need to guarantee any debt?

Yes, after the Presbytery contributes the land, the developer contributes \$787,500, and the historic tax credits are utilized it is anticipated that the total remaining cost for redevelopment will be \$655,000, shared equally between the Presbytery (\$327,500) and Nabholz (\$327,500). This debt is factored into the pro-forma of the project.

14. In a worst case scenario, what action can the Presbytery of Arkansas take?

The AC will structure any deal to ensure that the presbytery has a clear exit strategy if one becomes necessary. At this time the AC feels that the location of the church warrants investigating the possibility of a partnership with a developer, which would provide an investment in the property, and mean that the Presbytery of Arkansas would have a continued presence in North Little Rock, as well as provide a cash flow for ministry to the Presbytery.

15. How will funds generated from this project be used by the Presbytery?

The Administrative Commission is considering recommending establishing a separate account with the Presbytery designating how the funds will be used. We do not want the funds to be used to fund general operations but to be used to support the local community and other churches.

16. What are the next steps?

The Administrative Commission needs the input of the Presbytery in discerning God's desires for the future of the property associated with First Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock. If feedback is supportive of going forth in some form of partnership the AC will move forward with more detailed conversations with Nabholz. This will give Nabholz time to evaluate the financial feasibility of the project, and the AC will have time to set up a structure that will work for the Presbytery. The Administrative Commission will want to bring specific motions to the Presbytery for approval prior to incurring any debt. This would come before the Presbytery at a special called meeting of the Presbytery, or if the time-frame allows, at the March 2022 meeting.

17. Why shouldn't the Presbytery just sell the property and invest the funds to support the ministries?

It could be that would be how God is leading. The Administrative Commission is considering that. At present the Administrative Commission believes that the Presbytery of Arkansas has adequate invested funds gaining interest with the Texas Presbyterian Foundation and believes that God has offered an opportunity to do ministry in an existing location in a new way. Also, according to the projections, this partnership will create more revenue to support the mission and ministries of this Presbytery than simply selling. Plus, the Presbytery of Arkansas will still have a physical presence in the downtown North Little Rock/historic Argenta neighborhood. The Presbytery will still be part-owners of the property. If the property is sold the Presbytery will be cashing in and won't have options or opportunities with this property in the future.

18. What are the primary reasons that the AC is recommending the proposed venture?

To Provide a Sustainable Investment for Mission and Ministry- Proceeds from the event space, office area or residential development would go directly to supporting congregations, missions, and ministries of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

To Provide a Chapel and Event Space- The Presbytery of Arkansas would continue to have a space for worship, special services, workshops, concerts, art shows, etc. in downtown North Little Rock. The sanctuary was designed by notable architect John Parks Almand, who was also the architect for Little Rock Central High School, and our renovation would keep the integrity of the original design while enhancing and updating it.

To Provide Office Space - The partnership would work to attract individuals and organizations as tenants who are making a positive difference in the community. The ideal would be to create a working community of non-profits, entrepreneurs, and artists and artisans.

To Maintain a Presbytery Presence in the Neighborhood– Partnering in a project with a developer keeps the Presbytery of Arkansas active in the Argenta area but also lets the space become what the community needs and wants. In the future we could plant a new worshipping community or a church here, should that be appropriate.

To Be Open to God’s Holy Spirit and Try a “New Thing”- The Administrative Commission encourages those around the Presbytery to think creatively about how to use the resources of the Presbytery of Arkansas in a new way. This could be a model for this presbytery, or other presbyteries, with other properties around the country. The Administrative Commission believes that prayerfully discerning how best to utilize our existing physical resources is a way to honor the legacy of a congregation and church site, while at the same time considering creating a space that could be utilized by the community to provide a sustainable source of income to fund the missions and ministry of this presbytery. Through this prayerful discovering the Administrative Commission will certainly learn a great deal to share with the Presbytery and possibly use in the future.

A Center for the Community Is What the Session of First Presbyterian Wanted- In a letter to the Administrative Commission the session of First Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock stated that they wanted the space to be used for the betterment of the community. Their biggest fear was that the site would be left fallow and become an eyesore. The type of mixed use and creative partnership that we are leaning toward is completely in line with what they wanted to happen. This includes using any revenue created through the property or this project going to support non-profits and ministries that they supported. We know they did not want the property to sit idle.

#### 19. What is the Risk?

The feasibility of the project is being further explored, including the risks and liability associated with this type of partnership. There would probably need to be a for profit entity created that answers to the Presbytery of Arkansas to resolve issues associated with revenues. This entity would be the partner in LLCs associated with the property. Continued ownership of the property and letting the property deteriorate keeps it in our folder of future properties to redevelop, but further brings about risk of injury and loss of the value of the asset. Selling the property outright is the easiest solution, and probably holds the least amount of risk, but would remove the possibility of utilizing the property as a Presbytery presence in the future. Partnering with a developer appears to offer the opportunity for a continued presence in the community, an upgraded facility for the community, and a sustained income for congregational mission and ministry for the Presbytery of Arkansas. The AC will structure any deal to ensure that the Presbytery has a clear exit strategy if one becomes necessary.

## In Conclusion:

There can be some fear and trepidation surrounding doing something new. But there can also be excitement, energy and growth. The Administrative Commission is prayerfully discerning how to best recommend utilizing the existing property of First Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock in Argenta. The AC believes that the Presbytery of Arkansas has a unique asset and a unique opportunity with this property. It is possible that through partnerships with developers the Presbytery could maintain the historic legacy of the church and congregation. The Presbytery could also continue to play a part in the community of Argenta, which is growing. Instead of an eyesore, whether we sell the property outright, lease the property, or partner with a developer to redevelop the property, the project can provide an opportunity to non-profits, artists and entrepreneurs. People can live, work, worship and play in this renovated space, and the proposed accompanying apartments/condos, that will be provided to the community of Argenta.

The AC is hopeful that God would want the Presbytery to use this resource and create something more with that which has been provided to the Presbytery of Arkansas by the generations of faithful followers of God who have been members of First Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock in Argenta. The AC believes that however the property is redeveloped it should be a place that serves the community and supports mission and ministry, a place that maintains the beautiful sanctuary for weddings and worship, and a place that welcomes more people to engage with and care for one another.

The redevelopment of the existing facilities of First Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock can be done by leveraging the value of the location of the building and the facility itself, with an additional investment on our behalf. This could be a model for a new path forward for many presbyteries that have aging properties with declining membership in up-and-coming urban areas. This could be a way to keep a presence, contribute to the community and provide income to support the mission and ministry of the church.

## **Section V**

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

MWS Marion Humphrey  
Moderator

#### **For Action**

**Motion to approve the proposed changes to the Presbytery of Arkansas' Ministry Manual: Part I Organization and Structure, which requires a 3/5 vote of Presbytery, and Standing Rules, which requires a simple majority vote of Presbytery. (See Section D – Attachment I.)**

#### **For Information**

The Coordinating Team took the following actions at their June 16, July 7, and September 2, 2021 meetings.

Accepted with regret the retirement request for Stated Clerk MWS Leslie Belden. The Coordinating Team unanimously thanked Leslie for her wonderful service to the presbytery.

Approved the creation of a group from within the presbytery to address dismantling systemic racism. Discussion was held about a group similar to the current network on this issue with the Synod of the Sun. (It was later learned that the Future of the Church committee was working on a similar group – and discussion was held with Future of the Church for that group to serve in this role.)

Appointed MWS Stewart Smith as the Stated Clerk on a temporary basis and that the appropriate tasks of Stated Clerk be distributed among staff members as Stewart deems appropriate.

Approved that the previously named task force to study the Youth, College and Young Adults position due to staff member Brienne Christiansen's pending move, be asked to consider the needs of the Stated Clerk position in addition to their named duties.

Approved a request from the First Presbyterian Church in Benton to convey a piece of property to the Margie Stewart Trust, so that the trust can sell the property on behalf of the church.

Approved Deborah Wright, co-founder of Pneumatrix, to lead our theological discussion on the topic of church vitality. Julie Price had arranged for Rev. Wright to lead a series of workshops on small church vitality – and would be willing to lead our theological discussion for the reduced cost of \$75.00 since we are a client. Cost was approved from the Coordinating Team budget.

Approved the staff of First Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith to lead worship at the October 2021 presbytery meeting.

Approved the Mission Committee's recommendation of the Arkansas Foodbank as the recipient of the offering.

Approved MWS Becky Purcell and MWS Steven Kurtz to celebrate the Lord's Supper during the Future of the Church retreat at Ferncliff.

## Section V – Attachment 1

### Proposed Changes to the Presbytery of Arkansas' Ministry Manual:

Words to be deleted have a ~~line drawn through them~~ and words to be added are in red.

In Part I: Organization and Structure, under 5) Ministry Areas and Standing Committees, D) Leadership and Ministry, 1) Permanent Committees, a) Committee on Preparation for Ministry, (1) Membership:

At least one member of the CPM shall be a **Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)**, Certified Christian Educator (**CCE**), or Certified Associate Christian Educator (**CACE**).

The above amendment requires a 3/5 majority vote of the Presbytery of Arkansas to be approved.

In Part IV: Policies and Procedures, Presbytery Meetings, under Meeting Preparation for Stated Meetings:

The members of the Planning Team are:

- ❖ The Moderator and Vice-Moderator of the presbytery
- ❖ The Moderator of the Coordinating Team
- ❖ The Stated Clerk
- ~~❖ A member of the presbytery (appointed for the calendar year)~~
- ~~❖ One member of the Coordinating Committee (convener)~~
- ~~❖ Two representatives of the hosting institution~~
- ❖ **The General Presbyter**
- ❖ **Other staff and representatives of the hosting institution as warranted**

The above amendment only requires a simple majority vote to be approved.

## Section VI

# Matthew 25 Task Force Report



The Matthew 25 Task Force was brought together by combined efforts of the Future of the Church Committee and the Coordinating Team with the intent to have a small group that could work nimbly to help our congregations and Presbytery imagine new ways to live into all three prongs of the Matthew 25 Initiative. At its first meeting, while discussing a breadth of issues related to the part calling us to seek an end to racism, the Taskforce discussed a recent policing incident that happened to one of the African American young adults of AR Presbytery, Marion Andrew Humphrey, Jr. Marion, a law student at the

University of Arkansas, was pulled over on August 2, 2020 in Russellville, Arkansas for changing his mind on which exit to take from Interstate 40 in Russellville. Based on the video of the traffic stop (full dash-cam video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cT5FL9-LhAA>), Taskforce members believe the traffic stop and manner of the search that followed exemplify the implicit bias that people of color are subjected to on a daily basis, whether intentionally or unintentionally. The Taskforce agreed that a concrete action that members of our Presbytery can take now towards dismantling racism is to make our objections known to the Governor of Arkansas and the Director of Arkansas State Police Colonel Bill Bryant.

All members of the Matthew 25 Task Force have signed the letter below to Governor Hutchinson and Colonel Bryant. We invite other ministers, ruling elders, and members of congregations of Arkansas Presbytery to add their names.

**If you would like to be among the signers, please email Peg Falls-Corbitt (RE) at [fallscorbitt@hendrix.edu](mailto:fallscorbitt@hendrix.edu) before Thanksgiving with:**

**Your full legal name**

**Church title (member, ruling elder, CRE, MWS)**

**Church**





## PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS

9221 North Rodney Parham Road  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72227  
501.663.2424  
www.presbyark.org

September 23, 2021

Dear Governor Asa Hutchinson and Colonel Bill Bryant,

Concerned citizens from the seventy-six Presbyterian Church (USA) congregations in the Presbytery of Arkansas write to confess our own complicity and express our desire for changes to occur to address the issues of systemic racism and implicit biases in our state and nation.

A recent traffic stop of one of our young African-American Presbyterian members highlighted for us the need to address these issues. Marion Andrew Humphrey, Jr., a law student at the University of Arkansas, was pulled over on August 2, 2020 in Russellville, Arkansas for changing his mind on which exit to take from Interstate 40 in Russellville. An officer stopped him when he didn't exit when his turn signal was on. After watching the video of the traffic stop, we believe this is an example of the implicit bias that people of color are subjected to on a daily basis. Marion was moving his belongings in a U-Haul truck from Fayetteville to Little Rock since the law school was meeting electronically for the semester. Marion was subjected to a lengthy interrogation and was subsequently handcuffed and detained in the back of a police car for well over an hour. Other police officers with a canine unit were called and Marion's rented U-Haul vehicle was searched for drugs. No drugs were found and Marion was released. We believe that this incident would have been handled differently if Andrew had been white.

The unfair treatment of Mr. Humphrey provides an opportunity for this predominantly white group of Christians to make a statement in support of Marion Humphrey, Jr. We believe that Marion represents other black and brown persons who suffer at the hands of law enforcement personnel. Our group is calling on our state government and all law enforcement agencies to provide more education and training to remove intentional and unintentional biases and work towards dismantling systemic racism in our communities and in our state.

Systemic racism works on all of us to form intentional and unintentional biases that affect our suspicions and opinions of people. Our institutional systems have created unlevel playing fields for a state that is called "The Land of Opportunity". We recognize these unlevel playing fields and call upon all government agencies to better understand the issues and work towards creating a state where we grow closer in achieving equality for all people regardless of color, gender, sexual identity and orientation. People of color in particular, suffer the consequences of this in how they are treated in various places in society.

As a result of this incident and others in the state of Arkansas as well as other "high profile" incidents around our country, this group of Christians has been in a period of asking ourselves hard questions about our own systems. We pray that you, Governor Hutchinson and Colonel Bryant will be instrumental in examining our **society's** complicity in the unfair and unjust systems in our communities and in our society and commit your offices ever more thoroughly to the work of eradicating racially biased practices. We ask others to join us as we long and pray for a society that truly practices equality for all of God's people.

We in the church, we as Arkansans, and we as Americans need to strive to be better.

Sincerely,

Concerned Presbyterians from  
the Presbytery of Arkansas

Rev. Steven Kurtz  
Minister of Word & Sacrament  
Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith, AR

Andrea Galindo  
Member  
Parkhill Presbyterian Church  
Little Rock, AR

Kenneth Rhodes  
Claire Rhodes  
Co-Commissioned Lay Pastors  
West End Church, Arkadelphia, AR

Margaret Falls-Corbitt  
Ruling Elder  
First Presbyterian, Conway, AR

Rev. Marie Mainard O'Connell  
Minister of Word and Sacrament  
Parkhill Presbyterian Church  
Little Rock, AR

David Webb  
Ruling Elder  
First Presbyterian, Rogers, AR

## Section VII

### Written Reports of Committees from Main Packet

#### Report of the Committee on Ministry

RE Don Eilbott  
Moderator

Action items were recorded in the minutes, starting on page 6, original documents are in the main packet and in the addendum packet.

#### **For Information:**

1. The Committee on Ministry approved the commissioning service of ruling elder Michelle Hall for service to the Lincoln and Prairie Grove congregations. Services were held at both congregations on July 11, 2021.
2. The Committee on Ministry approved the transfer of MWS Ainsley Herrick to the Presbytery of the Cascades. Ainsley was called to be supply pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Phoenix, Oregon and as the Executive Director of the First Phoenix Community Center.
3. Approve proposed Targeted Transitional Pastor Covenant between Mt. Comfort Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, and Rev. Becky Purcell. Terms for this 4-month, 15 hours/week are as follows:  
  
    \$1,500/month  
    One week of vacation during the period  
    2 days of continuing education during the period
4. Approved a covenant renewal for MWS Libby Lizarraga to serve as Moderator and part-time supply pastor at Mt. Comfort Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville.
5. Approved an amended covenant for MWS Jeff Parker to serve as part-time supply pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Harrison.
6. Approved a covenant between the session of the Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista and Rev. CJ Malone for part-time transitional coverage and pulpit supply.

## **Necrology**

### **MWS Rev. Dr. Gordon Garlington January 25, 1946 - July 9, 2021**

Rev. Dr. Gordon Garlington died on Friday evening, July 9, 2021 at his home in North Little Rock, AR.

Gordon has been a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas since June of 1980 when he came to serve as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Bentonville. Gordon served at Bentonville for 23 years until he moved to serve as pastor of Park Hill Presbyterian Church in North Little Rock from 2003 until his retirement in 2016.

Gordon was ordained by National Capital Presbytery in 1972 after graduating from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA. Gordon served as pastor of Hartwood Presbyterian Church in Hartwood, VA from 1972-1977. He moved to Midland, TX where he served as pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church from 1977-1979 and then served as the organizing pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church from 1979-1980 when the congregations of Covenant Presbyterian and Christ Presbyterian voted to combine into one congregation. During his time at Hartwood, Gordon received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Union Theological Seminary.

Gordon served on almost every committee of this presbytery. On more than one occasion he served on a task force to consider presbytery restructures. He served as commissioner to the General Assembly in 1987 and served as Presbytery Moderator in 1995. Gordon had six year stints on the Church Development Committee, Committee on Ministry and most recently on the Mission of the Church committee serving as Moderator and on the Coordinating Team from 2019-2020.

Gordon is survived by his wife of 53 years, Shirley, his children, J.J. Garlington, wife Amanda, their children, Gianna and Jerico, his daughter, Alicia Garlington Jones and her children Cory, Kameron, and Charlie Jones, and "adopted" son, Jaylon Paro, and AFS son Alejandro Castaneda, now of Bogota, Colombia. Gordon is also survived by his brother, John Garlington and his wife Pat and their children, Jennifer, Christopher and their families.

## **Necrology**

### **MWS Rev. Dr. Clifton (Clif) Ford September 17, 1957 – August 13, 2021**

Rev. Dr. Clif Ford died on Friday, August 13, 2021 in Conway after suffering a heart attack. Clif was a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas for 37 years. Clif was born on September 17, 1957 in Texarkana, TX and was one of several PCUSA ministers that came from the First Presbyterian Church in Texarkana, AR.

Clif went to college at Centenary College of Louisiana in Shreveport, LA and graduated with a B.A. in Religion. Clif received his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA, graduating in 1984. During his time at Union, Clif served as an intern at Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church in Fishersville, VA.

After seminary, Clif returned to Arkansas and was ordained on June 24, 1984 as an Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith. Clif served there for six years and then moved to become pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Conway, a position he served for fifteen years. In recent years, Clif served as stated supply at First Presbyterian Church in Alma.

Clif served as a commissioner to the 204th General Assembly in 1992 at Milwaukee. During his early years in the presbytery Clif served as chair of the Camps and Conference Sub-committee, chair of the adult Christian Education subcommittee and as chair of the Education Committee. He also served on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and the Polity Committee.

Clif is survived by his wife Martha, who grew up in the Presbyterian Church in Alma where Clif was serving. He is also survived by his son Daniel and daughter-in-law Rachel, and Daniel's mother Jeannie Ford who is the Church Educator at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock.

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

COPM Report To Presbytery Of Arkansas, October 8-9, 2021

## **For Information:**

Jeannie Corbitt has been certified ready to receive a call and to circulate her PIF.

Kim Danehower will be reimbursed for tuition in the Certificate of Ministry program at Austin Theological Seminary for the Winter and Spring quarters, 2021. She is in the CRE program.

Allan Huddleston has completed the requirements of the CRE program and is ready to receive a commission.

The budget request for 2022 will be the same as the one for 2021.

Motion was passed to give \$100 gifts to the current candidates for ministry as a token of appreciation and encouragement.

The Committee endorses the Mission Committee's consideration of zoom workshops in preaching for all who are interested.

The Committee will be more intentional in asking questions of candidates, to prepare them for the ordination examination on the floor of Presbytery.

Rev. Matt Bussell will be the Moderator for the year 2022.

## **Interview with Stephen Moody**

Stephen was formerly ordained in the General Baptist denomination but is now a ruling elder in the PC (USA). He had originally considered becoming a CRE but has since become a candidate for ordination in the PC (USA). He has fulfilled the language requirements, and only needs to complete the ordination exams. He had been encouraged to put those on hold when he began to fill the pulpit at First Presbyterian, Little Rock. He has worked extremely hard at First for the past four years, while facing several problems. The Committee thanked him for his service to the Church and prays a blessing on his journey. We now encourage Stephen to take the ordination exams and complete the process.

**COPM INQUIRERS AND CANDIDATES, 2021**  
**Presbytery of Arkansas**

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### **APPLICANTS FOR CRE PROGRAM**

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## **FUTURE OF THE CHURCH ministry Presbytery of Arkansas, October 2021 report**

**When we met:** Monday, August 16, 2021; 5:30 p.m. pm; ZOOM mtg  
**Who We Are:** Class of 2021- Ruth Amensen\*, Richard Freer, Becky Purcell (moderator), Andrea Galindo; Class of 2022- Cameron Highsmith, Steven Kurtz, Michael Ulasewich, Marci Ward, David Webb; Class of 2023- Valerie Bell, Ty Hendricks\*,

John Gibson; Presbytery: Stewart Smith, MWS, General Presbyter; Carol Clark, MWS, Presbytery Builder

**What we did:** With only 5 of 11 members, we did not have a quorum so the following action was approved via an email vote the week of (after) the meeting:

**FOTC Budget Request for 2022 was unanimously agreed upon** by those voting. The request generally retains the 2021 Budget with one notable exception- the New Ministries (Grants) line item is increased from

\$26, 500\* to \$125,000. **Rationale:** (1) Covid-19 has made it clear that all churches in the Arkansas have critical needs. (2) The FOTC has shown the capacity to manage a grant review and award nearly \$100K in an efficient and equitable process which reflects stated priorities on congregational growth and spiritual vitality and/or extending ministries to new populations or communities. Many of the awards granted to churches in 2021 will submit proposals for continuation, expansion, or new projects in 2022. (3) The GRC21 is developing plans to increase the participation of minority and small churches in 2022.

(\*Note an additional \$75000 was approved for expenditure in 2021 resulting a total line item of \$101,500)

**\*FOTC Grants:** All checks sent & presumably received. Thank you messages were shared. Evaluations will be solicited. Mid-Year Report format and timeframe will be developed at the September 17-18 retreat.

**\*Retreat, Sept 17-18:** 17 of 21 members of FOTC + the Grants Review 2021 subcommittee + the Matthew 25 Task Force attended in person at Ferncliff. It was exhausting, engaging and promises to bear much fruit.

**\*Coordinating Team liaison from FOTC** will be Steven Kurtz for the remainder of 2021.

**FOTC meetings for the remainder of the year are** October 18 and December 20 (? , maybe earlier in the month).

\*\*\*

The **Matthew 25 Taskforce** has been formed and has begun our work. As an independent Task Force, reporting to the Future of the Church committee and the Coordinating team, we began by discussing our purpose and goals. Our discussions ranged from large picture issues, such as the discomfort some congregations have about some of the Matthew 25 language, to up-close issues such as the challenge of responding effectively by well-meaning churches that do not have relationships with minority communities. As our discussions progressed, specifically on the topic of "dismantling structural racism" we reviewed the recent incident in which Marion Andrew Humphry, Jr was pulled over and detained by police as he was returning from law school. We concluded that one concrete, specific action we could take, that could be seen as an example of addressing racially motivated policing, was to send a letter to the Governor and to Colonel Bill Bryant, expressing our concern about the role racism may have played in his detention and treatment. We believe that sending such a letter and making it available for all of our church members to co-sign if they wish, would be an important step to take. The letter, signed by members of the taskforce, will be in the October Presbytery packet with information on how others can electronically add their signature up until Thanksgiving. It will

also be publicized through the Presbytery newsletter. We have much work to do to try to understand how we can help our congregations live into the challenge of the Matthew 25 Initiative, but we believe we have begun that process. We will be meeting in November to discuss next steps. Our members are Steven Kurtz (MWS, Central, Ft Smith), Peg Falls-Corbitt (RE, First, Conway), Andrea Galindo (RE, Park Hills Presbyterian, LR), David Webb (RE, First, Rogers), Dick Freer (RE, First, Jonesboro), Claire & Kenneth Rhodes (CREs, West End, Arkadelphia), and Marie Mainard-O'Connell (MWS, Park Hills Presbyterian, LR).

## Report from Youth, Young Adult, and College Ministry

MWS Margaret Alsup  
Moderator of Committee

The fall always brings excitement as trips, retreats, and social gatherings pick up. And this year, we value them more! We are grateful that we are able to host events and trips for our youth, young adults, and college aged persons of the presbytery. Your Youth, Young Adult, and College Ministry committee has been hard at work preparing for events and trips.

The month of September was a busy one for our committee as we hosted not one, but TWO retreats! And we hosted the two events back-to-back (what were we thinking!?!).

The first retreat was our *Grounded in God: Exploring Spirituality Amidst Uncertainty*. This retreat was for our young adults and college aged students. It was a time to gather together for rest, fellowship, study, and fun. It was the first event of its kind for our committee and these age groups of the presbytery. We had 15 young adults and college students join us for this retreat. It was a success and so much fun, especially the escape room on Saturday night!

Our second retreat was for the youth of the presbytery. The theme for Youthquake was *Peace-ing Together*. After having to reimagine Youthquake during Covid, we were beyond thrilled to be in person and at Ferncliff. We had a great time of learning, fun, energizers, and even had a tacky prom!

After our committee survived these two awesome retreats, we had a brief pause before we began planning for the Montreat College Conference. The theme for the College Conference is *What's Next* and will be held January 2-5, 2022. For more information, check out the Banner.

We are also working on plans for young adult gatherings to take place in central Arkansas and Northwest Arkansas. These plans are still in the development phase, but we want to share the idea so that if you are interested in joining in on these gatherings or know a young adult who might be interested, you can keep it on your radar. We will make sure to advertise these gathering on social media and in the Banner.

As always, we continue to seek ways to be a resource for the presbytery and to support our youth, young adults, and college aged students. If you ever have questions, ideas for programming, or need to connect with the committee, please do not hesitate to reach out to Maggie Alsup ([margaret.alsup@lyon.edu](mailto:margaret.alsup@lyon.edu)).

## Report from Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team

### Report from PWPCT Retreat

Maryann Sweeny and Vicki Erickson, past co-moderators

The Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Arkansas Coordinating Team held a fall retreat on August 21, 2021 at Mt. Sequoyah Center in Fayetteville AR. 52 women attended from 10 churches throughout the AR Presbytery. The Horizon's Bible Study 2021-2022 *What My Grandmother Taught Me* overview was prepared by Mary Shaw and presented by Maryann Sweeney. Our Mission speaker was Dawn Dvoracek from the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville AR who gave a PowerPoint presentation of the U of O Food For Thought Garden and Food Pantry. Music was provided by Mary Beth Lysobey and Marci Ward. An interactive Worship Service by Rev. Becky Purcell titled *Weaving From the Margins* closed the retreat.

At the annual business meeting, the following officers were elected and then installed by Rev. Becky Purcell.

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