

Minutes of the Called Meeting of The Presbytery of Arkansas

September 24, 2022

Call to Order/Opening Prayer

The Called Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, which was called by the Coordinating Team for the purpose of electing a Stated Clerk, was called to order with prayer by Moderator MWS Susan Arnold through Zoom Technology at 9:01 a.m.

Roll Call/Declaration of a Quorum

Stated Clerk MWS Stewart Smith went over the rules from the Ministry Manual for a quorum for a called meeting.

“A quorum for Called or Adjourned meetings of the Presbytery of Arkansas shall be ten (10) Ruling Elders, and ten (10) Ministers of the Word and Sacrament with at least ten (10) congregations represented overall. Only those ministers and elder commissioners within a 75 mile radius of the place of the meeting shall be expected to attend.” (Presbytery Ministry Manual, Part I: Organization and Structure, III. D.)

Smith stated that due to the “online” nature of the Zoom meeting, the restriction for only those “ministers and elder commissioners within a 75-mile radius of the place of meeting shall be expected to attend” did not apply. The quorum for the stated meetings 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. (Presbytery Ministry Manual, Part I: Organization and Structure, III. D.) Smith stated that he was going to rule that a quorum would be the higher total since the 75 mile exemption was not a factor. Smith stated that we had more than 20 Ministers of the Word and Sacrament in attendance. He then asked for a “roll call” of ruling elders. Ruling elders were asked to “raise their electronic hand” on Zoom and introduce themselves. After the roll call and discussion, it was declared that we had a quorum, exceeding the requirements for a stated meeting. The record of total attendance is included in the Appendix, on page 6.

Moderator Susan Arnold recognized MWS Steve Hancock, moderator for the Stated Clerk Search Committee, for his report. MWS Hancock said that the members of the search committee in addition to him were MWS Georgia Senor, Clerk; RE Pat Wright; RE Richard Freer; Ruth Amensen and staff support was General Presbyter Stewart Smith. He explained that the committee advertised the position, received applications, reviewed the applications, conducted interviews, checked references, prayed, talked, discussed and discerned the decision. The committee came to a unanimous decision.

MWS Hancock made a motion on behalf of the Stated Clerk Search Committee, to move for the election of Blake Brinegar as Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Arkansas. Motion was seconded.

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MWS Blake and Elizabeth Brinegar were moved into a waiting room. Moderator Arnold asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There was none. She asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. Moderator Arnold called for a vote. The vote was unanimous, with everyone voting yes. The Brinegars' were welcomed back into the meeting. Newly elected Stated Clerk Blake Brinegar expressed his thanks of the presbytery's trust and willingness for him to fill this position.

Moderator Arnold said that this concluded the business of the called meeting. General Presbyter Smith reminded everyone about the upcoming stated meeting on October 28-29, 2022 at First Presbyterian of Bentonville. He said that they are hoping the meeting will be a hybrid meeting but they are still investigating the equipment needs. He said more information will be released shortly regarding the meeting.

Moderator Arnold asked Stated Clerk Brinegar to close the meeting in prayer.

General Presbyter Smith expressed his word of thanks for everyone getting up early on a Saturday and thanked them for their patience as we worked to satisfy the requirements for a quorum.

Moderator Arnold adjourned the meeting at 9:27 a.m.

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Special Called Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas

Utilizing Zoom Technology

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

Passcode – trinity

Called Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas

The Coordinating Team of the Presbytery of Arkansas called a special meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas to be held via Zoom Technology on Saturday, September 24, 2022 at 9:00 am.

Agenda

Saturday, September 24, 2022

8:45 am	Zoom Account Open https://zoom.us/j/8271054504 Password – trinity	
9:00 am	Call to Order & Opening Prayer	Moderator Susan Arnold
9:05 am	Roll Call to Determine Quorum	Stated Clerk Stewart Smith
9:30 am	Report of Stated Clerk Search Committee Attachment A	MWS Steve Hancock
9:35 am	Election of Stated Clerk	Moderator Susan Arnold
9:45 am	Introduction of Newly Elected Stated Clerk	Outgoing Stated Clerk
9:50 am	Announcements Regarding Fall Meeting	General Presbyter
9:55 am	Closing Prayer and Adjourn	Moderator Susan Arnold

Attachment A



The Stated Clerk Search Committee is pleased to recommend Rev. Blake Brinegar to serve as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Blake has been a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas since 2017 when he came to serve as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Yellville. In January of 2022, Blake began serving at First Presbyterian Church of Searcy.

Blake grew up in Western Oregon, before attending Boise State University and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He has a degree in Communication and a minor in Gerontology. Blake has served churches in Texas, Pennsylvania, and now in Arkansas. He has also served on Presbytery Committees in each presbytery of which he has been a member. In the Presbytery of Arkansas, Blake has served on an Administrative Commission for the Gamaliel One-O-One congregation, on the Future of the Church Committee, and the Committee on Ministry. Until recently, he was also the Clerk of the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission. Blake has experience working in ministry in a variety of ministry contexts, including Hospital, Military, Police, and Long-term Care settings.

Blake is married to the Reverend Elizabeth Brinegar, who is the Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, and is also the Director of Operations for Solar under the Sun, a ministry of the Synod of the Sun. Blake looks forward to working with the Presbytery of Arkansas as its Stated Clerk, and working with the congregations in transition, conflict, or in need of general help, or questions answered.

The election will be for a 3 year term with a start date of October 1, 2022. The terms of call will be a salary of 23,000 annually with 3,000 of reimbursable professional expenses. This is a reduction from Leslie Belden's salary due to administrative duties that were shifted from the position that are being performed by Presbytery Administrator Kim Palmer.

Motion: On behalf of the Stated Clerk Search Committee, he moved for the election of Blake Brinegar as Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Roster of Attendance

Voting as Ministers of Word and Sacrament

Ministers of Word and Sacrament – 23 in attendance (voting)

Arnold, John	Cummings, Katie	Saul, Cinthia
Arnold, Susan	Davis, Fern	Schaller, David
Berger, Sara Anne	Falls, Ruskin	Secrest, Alisa
Brinegar, Blake	Harris, LaWanda	Senor, Georgia
Brinegar, Elizabeth	King, John	Smith, Stewart
Bussell, Matt	Kurtz, Steven	Spooner, Rebecca
Butin, Jan	McMillan, Judi	Wildhack, Jocelyn
Butin, Phil	Price, Jeff	

Honorably Retired Ministers of Word and Sacrament –10 in attendance (voting)

Akin, Karen	Daniel, Joyce	Ritchie, Dennis
Branch, Bill	Gray, Susan	Whitworth-Reed, Linda
Clark, Carol	Hancock, Steve	
Daniel, Danny	Reed, David	

Total of 33 voting as a Ministers of the Word and Sacrament

Excused Absence – Lowry, Robert

Voting as Ruling Elders

Ruling Elder Commissioners –25 in attendance (voting)

Arkadelphia, West End – Wright, Pat	Little Rock, First – Ingram, Libby
Batesville, First – Moser, Shelly	Little Rock, Grace – Choat, Andrea
Bentonville, First – Cummings, Phil	Little Rock, Pulaski Heights – Harper, David
Conway, First – Hanson, Emily	Little Rock, Trinity – Price, Julie
Fayetteville, First United – Adair, Steve;	Little Rock, Westover Hills – Stephens, Ray
Johnson, Don	Malvern, First – Walters, Kathy
Heber Springs, First – Reed, Allison	Morrilton, First – Davies, David
Jacksonville, First – Matthews, Barbara	Springdale, First – Kutz, Alice
Jonesboro, First – Kendig, Sarah	Yellville, First – Kelly, Kay

Commissioned Ruling Elders

Clark, David – Heber Springs, First	Wilkinson, Ed – Greenwood, Good Shepherd
Corbitt Falls, Peg – Morrilton, First	
Olson, Chuck – Atkins, Memorial	
Prevost, Ronnie – Springdale, First	
Rhodes, Claire – Arkadelphia, West End	
Rhodes, Kenneth – Arkadelphia, West End	

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Excused Absence – Carolyn Willis

A total of 25 voting as Ruling Elders in attendance.

A total of 33 Ministers of Word and Sacrament.

A total of 27 Congregations represented

Total Voting of 58 in attendance.

Non-Voting Attendees

Attendees/Visitors – 1 in attendance (non-voting)

Palmer, Kimberly Presbytery of Arkansas Staff

Total Non-Voting of 1 in attendance

Total Attendance 59

A total of 59 were present at the roll call or were in attendance at some point in the meeting, of whom 58 could vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Palmer
Administrator

Stewart Smith
Stated Clerk