



Presbytery of Arkansas

154th Stated Meeting
of the Presbytery of Arkansas
Friday-Saturday, October 6-7, 2023
Westover Hills Presbyterian Church
Little Rock, Arkansas



ADDENDUM PACKET



154th Stated Meeting

Zoom Conference Info:

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

iPhone one-tap +14086380968,82710504# or +164655,88656,8271054504#

Or Telephone:

Dial: +1 408 638 0968 (US Toll) or +1 646 558 8656 (US Toll)

Password

trinity

(all lowercase)

Presbytery Website: <https://www.presbyark.org>

Presbytery Facebook Group **PresbyArkConnect**: <https://tinyurl.com/4938rjb7>

Presbytery Database: <https://directory.in-c.net/arkansas/>

Passphrase: **presbyarkconnect**

Presbytery Online Resources: <https://presbyark.org/our-presbytery/helpful-resources-2/>

To Receive the "Update," the Presbytery's email newsletter, contact Presbytery Connector, Julie Price at julietannerprice@gmail.com.

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Presbytery of Arkansas

154th Stated Meeting

Revised Docket

Friday, October 6, 2023

- 6:30 pm** **Call to Order/Opening Gavel**
Lighting of the Christ Candle **Moderator RE Mike Szabo**
Opening Prayer
- Welcome to all in Attendance **General Presbyter - MWS Stewart Smith**
- Introduction of Presbytery Staff
- Electronic Participation **Stated Clerk MWS Blake Brinegar**
- Appointment of Tellers **Moderator – RE Mike Szabo**
- Welcome to Westover Hills Presbyterian **Pastor – MWS Robert Lowry**
- 6:45 pm** **Report of the General Presbyter**
- 7:00 pm** **Opening Worship—with Offering to benefit the Westover Hills Mission Project—**
Prison Literacy Program

Everyone is invited to attend a reception to be held immediately following the worship service.



154th Stated Meeting

Revised Docket

Saturday, October 7, 2023

8:00 am	Late Registration and Display Tables in Fellowship Hall/Gym	
8:30 am	Meeting reconvenes with the Business of the Presbytery	
	Consent Agenda	MWS Blake Brinegar
	Report of the Stated Clerk	MWS Blake Brinegar
8:40 am	Opening Worship Candidate Grant Wildwright, Preaching	
9:10 am	Report of the Committee on Ministry	MWS Stewart Smith
9:50 am	Presentations	
	Lindy Vogado, Narcan	
	Leigh Woodruff, Sub-Committee on Honduran Ministry	
	MWS Steve Shive, Interim/Bridge Synod Exec. Synod of the Sun	
	Vera Lloyd Centennial	
10:15 am	Order of the Day—Theological Discussion Dr. Lester Ruth	
11:30 am	Presentations Continue	
11:55 am	Lunch	
1:00 pm	Business of the Presbytery Continues with Short Announcements	
1:10 pm	Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry	MWS Elizabeth Brinegar
1:25 pm	Report of the Committee on Administration/Treasurer	RE Carolyn Willis
1:40 pm	Report of the Coordinating Team	MWS Susan Arnold
2:10 pm	Report of the Mission of the Church	CRE Peg Falls-Corbitt
2:20 pm	Report of Nomination Committee	MWS Robert Lowry
2:35 pm	Benediction and Adjournment	

Section A

Handout for Theological Discussion

A Great Story of Sunday Encounter

Worship begins with God. God takes the initiative and calls us into being. In the name of Christ we answer God's call and assemble as the community of faith. Our answer is most properly the adoration of God since adoration is the keynote of all true worship, of the creature before the Creator, of the redeemed before the Redeemer. The adoration of praise is the joyful response to the incomparable gifts of God in Jesus Christ.

After praising God—but before proceeding—it is necessary to acknowledge the darker side of who we are before God. And so, the people are called to confess the reality of sin in personal and common life. Claiming the promises of God sealed in our baptism, we humbly confess our sin. Having confessed our sin, we remember the promises of God's redemption, and the claims God has on all human life. The assurance of God's forgiving grace is declared in the name of Jesus Christ. We accept God's forgiveness, confident that in dying to sin, God raises us to new life. Sharing signs of reconciliation and peace among ourselves, we do not forget to praise God again for the gift of God's grace brings joy.

Joyfully humbled, we seek the illumination of the Holy Spirit as we call upon God to make us receptive to the life-giving Word. We proclaim and listen to the unity and completeness of God's revelation through our Scriptures. We trust that the God who speaks in scripture speaks to us now and that the God who acted in biblical history acts today. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ is present, offering grace and calling for obedience. We respond to Christ by affirming our faith in him and the God revealed in him.

In light of the abundance of grace and God's ongoing activity, we pray for the world, acknowledging God's presence in the world and daily life, doing so with prayers as wide as God's love and as specific as God's tender compassion for the least ones among us.

In this worship, God presents us with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ. We are claimed by Christ and set free. In response to God's love in Jesus Christ we offer God our lives, our gifts, our abilities, and our materials goods for God's service. Then, in the simplest of foods, the promises of God in Christ are made visible and concrete. Faced by this food, the church blesses God for all that God has done, is doing, and promises to do, and offers itself in obedient service to God's reign. The people of God are sustained by the promised presence of Christ, and are assured of participation in Christ's self-offering. Christ's love is received, the covenant is renewed, and the power of Christ's reign for the renewing of the earth is proclaimed. Being made one with Christ, we are made one with all who belong to Christ, united with the church in every time and place. We also participate at this moment in God's future as well in a glad resurrection feast. The church anticipates the great banquet of the new age in God's eternal kingdom.

As the service concludes, a charge to the people renews God's call to us to be engaged in obedient and grateful ministry as God's agents to heal life's brokenness. God calls the church to join the mission of Christ in service to the world.

Hand-out for Saturday morning with Dr. Lester Ruth

Section B

Report of the Committee on Ministry

MWS Stewart Smith
Acting Moderator

For Information:

- 1. The Committee on Ministry approved the covenant between MWS Becky Purcell and First Presbyterian Church, Jonesboro effective September 1, 2023 for a period of twelve months. See Section C- Attachment A.

- 2. The Committee on Ministry approved the renewal of part-time covenant between MWS Libby Lizarraga and Mt. Comfort Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, effective for 12 months beginning October 1, 2023. Duties are:
 - a. Preach and lead worship one Sunday per month.
 - b. Administer the Sacraments
 - c. Oversee planning for worship on holy days as directed by the session.
 - d. Provide pastoral care for the congregation.
 - e. Conduct Funeral/Memorial Services and Weddings as needed.
 - f. Assist pulpit supply pastors as requested.

Compensation for Rev. Lizarraga is \$85.00 per month. Additional compensation and travel are subject to session approval.

For Presbytery Action:

- 1. **Motion to approve the following Administrative Commission for a service of installation for MWS Ben Kane on October 8, 2023 at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock at 3:00 pm. The offering recipient is Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center.**

Invited to sit with the commission are MWS Jeff Kane, Ben’s Father and pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Columbia, TN; Rev. Andy James, Stated Clerk, Greater Atlanta Presbytery; and RE Jennifer Rigsby, Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock.

Moderate and ask Constitutional QuestionsRE Mike Szabo, FPC Searcy

PreachMWS Jeff Kane, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Columbia, TN
Charge the Pastor ...MWS Andy James, Stated Clerk, Greater Atlanta Presbytery
Charge the Congregation.....MWS, Robert Lowry, Westover Hills, Little Rock
Liz Branch, REWestover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock
Jon Stevenson, RESecond Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
MWS Lindy VogadoSecond Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
MWS Stewart Smith.....General Presbyter, Presbytery of Arkansas
MWS Alisa SecrestSecond Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

2. **Motion to approve the following Administrative Commission (pending a successful examination) for a service of ordination and installation for Grant Wildwright on Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 2:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church of Benton. The offering recipient is Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center. Invited to sit with the commission is MWS Jocelyn Wildwright.**

Moderate and ask Constitutional QuestionsRE Mike Szabo, FPC Searcy
PreachMWS Jocelyn Wildwright, Ferncliff
Charge the PastorMWS Stewart Smith, General Presbyter
Charge the Congregation.....MWS Sara Anne Berger, Grace PC, Little Rock
MWS Jeff PriceTrinity Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
Henry Griswold, REFirst Presbyterian Church, Benton
Somerset Sea, RE.....Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
Joel Gill, REFirst Presbyterian, Argenta, North Little Rock

Section B, Attachment A

Transitional Minister Covenant and Contract Rebecca Purcell and First Presbyterian Church

This Covenant and Contract for transitional pastoral leadership is between First Presbyterian Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas, and the Reverend Rebecca Purcell (Transitional Minister). Reverend Purcell's beginning date is September 1, 2023, and she will preach for worship services on September 3.

This Covenant shall be for a period of twelve (12) months, beginning September 1, 2023, after which another Covenant can be entered as needed and appropriate. It is agreed that this Covenant may be terminated upon thirty (30) days written notice by either the Transitional Minister or by the Session.

Goals of the Transitional Minister:

1. Help the church discern and articulate its identity and purpose, drawing on and furthering the Session's Project Regeneration initiative;
2. Help engage Church members to affirm our history and renew our enthusiasm after a pastoral change;
3. Support and encourage engagement in the continuing mission and ministry of the Church;
4. Help the Church align teamwork structure and resources consistent with these goals;
5. Help prepare for the arrival of the new pastor with hope, grace, and celebration.

The Transitional Minister will be responsible to the Session. Pastoral services include:

- To act as head of staff; to coordinate, support and supervise the work of the staff
- To be the staff resource person to the Session committees and church work groups
- To lead Sunday morning worship, special services, weddings, funerals, etc. Serve as the primary preacher for the congregation
- To encourage the congregation to be responsive to the needs of the community and of the world
- To coach and support the Session in the completion of a congregational assessment coupled with the Project Regeneration plans and implementation
- To provide leadership to the annual Stewardship Campaign
- To evaluate and develop lay leadership
- To ensure fiscally sound operations
- To maintain timely and effective communication with all staff and congregation
- To support the process for obtaining a new Head of Staff.
- To prepare the congregation and staff for a change in leadership
- To counsel in crisis situations and referrals
- To provide pastoral Care (hospital visitation and others as needed.)
- To plan and moderate meetings of the Session
- To provide leadership and training for members regarding mission studies, future planning, church diversity and growth, and transitional tasks for the church.
- To provide administrative oversight for the daily affairs of the church, including being head of staff, supervising staff in the exercise of their responsibilities and ministries for which they are held accountable to the Session/Congregation.
- To address issues that are identified by the Session that might include: staffing, structure, stewardship, finance, conflict, and communication.
- To be held accountable to the Presbytery and participate in the Presbytery.
- To participate on behalf of this church in ecumenical and interfaith activities in the community.

The congregation through its Session will support and cooperate with the Transitional Minister in every way and will assume responsibility for

- Engagement with the Transitional Minister to accomplish the goals above;
- Regular attendance at worship and meetings;
- Continued financial support for the church and its mission and ministries;
- Support of the transitional pastor in the ministry of this church and the community;
- Sustained lay leadership and shared ministry;
- Provision of administrative and support services, office equipment, computers, technology, etc. as necessary for the work;
- Access to financial resources needed for ministry and pastoral care;
- Keeping the transitional pastor informed of the timing of transitional leadership including any visits by potential candidates and move toward a call;
- Participate in regular (perhaps quarterly) discussion and mutual review of the total ministry of the congregation, to:
 - Provide the transitional pastor and the Session assessments of how well each is fulfilling responsibilities to each other and the ministries they share.
 - Evaluate progress on Project Regeneration and other Session priorities and establish and adjust goals for the work of the Session and Congregation during the transitional time.
 - Isolate any goals, areas of conflict, or other matters that have not received adequate attention and may be adversely affecting mutual ministry.
 - Plan healthy closure for transitional ministry by having an exit interview and preparing for the coming of the next pastor.

Shared Expectations

The personal and professional leadership provided by Reverend Becky Purcell will amount to full time or approximately 40 hours per week. She is expected to preserve two days a week solely for personal and family use and will let the Session and Congregation know which days are “off.” The Transitional Minister will not be a candidate for the called minister position at First Presbyterian Church.

The Transitional Minister is expected to take the time to develop and maintain a healthy physical, mental, and spiritual life and honoring time for vacation and continuing education.

The Compensation for this service on an annual basis is as follows:

Basic Compensation

Effective Salary	\$ 35,000
Salary	
Housing Allowance	\$ 35,000
Board of Pensions 403(b)	

Board of Pensions Contribution	\$ 27,300
Supplemental Medical Costs	\$ 1,500
Self-employment tax reimbursement	\$ 2,700
Four Weeks Vacation	
Two Weeks Study/Continuing Education	
Six Weeks Family Leave, if needed	

Reimbursable Expenses

Car Allowance (for travel outside Jonesboro at the IRS rate of \$.65 per mile)	\$ 1,200
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Continuing Education	\$ 1,200
Professional Expenses	\$ 1,500 (FPC will provide currently updated computer)
Moving Expenses	in full, cap of \$5,000

The following salary continuation contingency terms are subject to any future negotiation otherwise with the Session. If the Session gives notice of termination prior to the termination of this agreement, then the basic compensation shall continue for 60 days from the last day of service and compensation shall be paid for any unused Vacation time. If not terminated prior to August 31, 2024, the basic compensation shall continue for 30 days from the termination date. Payments after termination will end at the start of the Transitional Minister's next full-time service and be adjusted in the case of part time work. If the Transitional Minister departs at her initiation, salary and related terms of call will discontinue on the last day of service to the church unless otherwise negotiated with the Session.

Signatures:

Clerk of Session _____ Date _____
Vikki R. Harrison

Transitional Minister _____ Date _____
Rebecca Purcell