



# Presbytery of Arkansas

## **Approved Minutes of the One Hundred Fifty-Fourth Stated Meeting of The Presbytery of Arkansas Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock**

**October 6-7, 2023**

**Friday, October 6, 2023**

The 154<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was hosted by Westover Hills Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. The in-person meeting also was comprised of a livestreaming on Zoom component on Friday and a Zoom with participation component Saturday.

### **Call to Order and Opening Prayer**

The 154<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was called to order by the gavel tapping, by Moderator RE Mike Szabo who said the opening prayer at 6:30 p.m. on October 6, 2023 at Westover Hills Presbyterian Church in Little Rock.

### **Introductions, Welcome, and Declaration of a Quorum**

General Presbyter MWS Stewart Smith welcomed all attendees including corresponding members, first-time commissioners, and visitors. Commissioners who were attending for the first time were: Becky Webster, Park Hill Presbyterian Church; Vicki Erickson, Bella Vista Presbyterian Church; Celia Allen, First Presbyterian Church Harrison; Jerry Herbert, Grace Presbyterian Church, Little Rock; and Terri Kolocek, Spring River Presbyterian Church. Also attending for the first time were Rev. Steve Shive, Bridge Interim Synod Leader/Stated Clerk and Grant Wildwright, a candidate for ministry. He expressed gratitude for Westover Hills hosting the meeting. He introduced the

presbytery staff: Stated Clerk MWS Blake Brinegar; Presbytery Connector Julie Price, Presbytery Administrator Kimberly Palmer and the newest employee, Dr. Sarah Leer, the new transitional youth and young adult developer. She introduced herself by telling about her background and discussed a new fundraising idea the youth are going to undertake to hopefully help defray cost of youth trips.

Moderator Szabo called on Stated Clerk Brinegar who described the hybrid meeting and said that there will be no voting on Friday, just streaming. Voting will be held Saturday.

A quorum for the stated meeting 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. A quorum was present with a total of 124 in attendance, of whom 97 could vote. The attendance is included in the Appendix as Section I.

Moderator Szabo asked for two volunteers to be tellers for the meeting. He announced that the appointed tellers were: Carla Taylor and RE Ronna Precure of First Presbyterian Church in Huntsville.

Moderator Szabo introduced the host church pastor, MWS Robert Lowry, who welcomed the attendees to the meeting. He said that the church is launching their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the meeting kick-off and took care of housekeeping details.

## General Presbyter's Report

Moderator Szabo asked the General Presbyter to give his report to the presbytery. General Presbyter Smith reported that a season of church closings is coming. 2023 has been a challenging time in the church today. There are Administrative Commissions (ACs) overseeing the closing of several churches. Marianna has exhausted all of their options and the session has officially closed the church. A few weeks ago the property was vandalized and a claim has been filed with the insurance company, who may not accept the claim since the church was not occupied. Stuttgart has a lease to purchase contract with a tentative closing date in October. An appraisal is scheduled for Brinkley with a possible buyer. Eureka Springs is working to donate their building to the city library as their building is nearby and has similar architecture. Argenta is under contract with a buyer that has exercised a few 45 day extensions. He discussed that in Saturday's business, a proposal for visioning and restructuring that is a higher amount than the presbytery approved in June will be discussed. There is also funds in the 18 month proposal for implementation. The new amount is approximately \$55,000. There are requests coming for the presbytery to participate in capital campaigns. He said he is anticipating more resources will be coming in and also is anticipating a surplus budget at the end of the year. He said that the presbytery has the ability to pay for those things. It needs to be determined how to faithfully use the resources God has entrusted us with as we move forward in ministry, Smith said.

## **Worship**

The meeting was moved to worship. Worship leaders included: Rev. Susan Arnold, First Springdale; David Austin, Westover Hills; Rev. Dr. Peg Falls-Corbitt, First Morrilton; Rev. Michael Gallup, The Table Little Rock; Cliff Hutchinson, The Table Little Rock; Elder Julie Naylor, Westover Hills; Dr. Lester Ruth, Duke Divinity School and Elder Mike Szabo First Searcy. Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed. The offering totaled \$658 to benefit the ministries and programs in the Pulaski County jails including art, writing, and a new grief support program for mothers who have lost parental rights and a bible study for men. There were 93 in worship. Everyone was invited to gather in the Columbarium Plaza, outside the sanctuary doors, for a reception following worship. The meeting was adjourned until 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning.

## **Saturday, October 7, 2023**

### **Call Back to Order**

The 154<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas continued Saturday morning with Moderator Mike Szabo calling the 154<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas back to order at 8:31 am, and opened the meeting with prayer. Stated Clerk Brinegar explained the technology of Zoom and welcomed attendees on Zoom and explained the electronic voting process. Technical Moderator RE Julie Gillaspay was monitoring Zoom to help with questions and counting votes.

### **Consent Agenda and Stated Clerk's Report**

Moderator Szabo called on Stated Clerk Brinegar to present the Consent Agenda. The moderator explained that all motions may be voted on as in total or anyone is welcome to remove any item for discussion. Moderator Szabo asked if anyone wanted an item removed. No changes were made. Moderator Szabo entertained a motion, one was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The consent agenda may be found in the Appendix, Section II. Stated Clerk Brinegar said that there were two more additions to his written report that may be found in the Appendix, Section III. Stated Clerk Brinegar reminded all present that on January 1 all terms of call must include 12 weeks of paid family leave, as required since July. The 2024 Prayer List for Congregations may be found in the Appendix, Section III – Exhibit A. The meeting then moved into worship.

### **Sermon by Candidate Grant Wildwright**

Worship was led by Candidate Grant Wildwright as part of his examination for ordination.

## Business of the Presbytery

### Committee on Ministry Report

Moderator Szabo called on MWS Stewart Smith, acting moderator, to give the report for the Committee on Ministry. Smith referred attendees to the main packet for the first motion which does not need a second since it came from a committee.

1. **Motion to approve the call of MWS Rev. Ben Kane as Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, effective September 1, 2023 and enroll him as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas following his transfer from New Hope Presbytery with the following terms of call:**

Cash and Housing.....	\$135,000.00
Professional Expenses Reimbursed by voucher up to.....	\$ 9,500.00
Board of Pensions –Full Family.....	\$ 52,650.00
Moving Costs (One Time Expense).....	Paid by Church
Vacation.....	4 weeks paid
Continuing Education Time.....	2 weeks paid
Parental Leave.....	12 weeks paid
Sabbatical Leave.....	12 weeks paid

to be taken in the 7th year with Presbytery approval

**Total Compensation Package .....\$197,150.00.**

MWS Ben Kane’s Statement of Faith is included as Section IV - Exhibit A. There was a revision to the terms of call regarding the parental leave later in the meeting. The above terms are the complete amended package.

**Item was approved.** Ben introduced himself to the presbytery. He will be moving from North Carolina to Arkansas.

Smith referred everyone to the Addendum packet and the COM report item number one for the next motion. He made the next motion.

2. **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 Questions .....RE Mike Szabo, FPC Searcy**  
**Preach .....MWS 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, RE .....Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock**  
**Jon Stevenson, RE .....Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock**  
**MWS Lindy Vogado .....Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock**  
**MWS Stewart Smith.....General Presbyter, Presbytery of Arkansas**  
**MWS Alisa Secrest .....Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock**

**Motion approved.**

Smith referred everyone back to the main packet for the next motion to examine Candidate Grant Wildwright.

- 3. Motion to examine Candidate Grant Wildwright for ordination to pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Benton.** Grant Wildwright's Statement of Faith is included in the Appendix as Section IV – Exhibit B. Grant is under care of Wyoming Presbytery.

Questions were asked in areas of faith, preaching, Bible, theology, polity, worship, and sacraments which were all answered, and this part of the exam was sustained, with no dissenting votes. Grant was taken to a waiting room by his wife, Rev. Jocelyn Wildwright while the presbytery deliberated. Smith made the following motion to approve his Terms of Call:

- 4. Motion to approve the call (pending a successful examination) of Grant Wildwright and First Presbyterian Church of Benton effective September 1, 2023 and enroll him as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas with the following terms of call:**

Cash and Housing.....	\$ 37,000.00
Continuing Education (Reimbursed).....	\$ 1,200.00
Mileage Expense (Reimbursed).....	\$ 2,400.00
Professional Expenses (Reimbursed).....	\$ 1,200.00
Cell Phone Reimbursement.....	\$ 600.00
Board of Pensions.....	\$ 14,430.00
Vacation.....	4 weeks paid
Continuing Education.....	2 weeks paid
Parental Leave.....	12 weeks paid
Sabbatical Leave.....	3 months paid

(to be taken in the 7th year with Presbytery approval)

**Total Compensation Package.....\$ 56,830.00**

There was a revision to the terms of call regarding the parental leave later in the meeting. The above terms are the complete amended package.

A discussion was held regarding the 6 weeks of parental leave and that 12 weeks were approved effective January 1, 2023 by amendments to the Book of Order. A motion was made to amend the Terms of Call with 12 weeks of Parental Leave. **The motion was approved with no dissent.** He was invited back to the meeting with his wife and was welcomed into the presbytery with clapping and enrolled as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Smith made a motion regarding the second item in the Addendum packet on the COM report.

5. **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 Questions .....RE Mike Szabo, FPC Searcy**  
**Preach .....MWS Jocelyn Wildwright, Ferncliff**  
**Charge the Pastor .....MWS Stewart Smith, General Presbyter**  
**Charge the Congregation.....MWS Sara Anne Berger, Grace PC, Little Rock**  
**MWS Jeff Price .....Trinity Presbyterian Church, Little Rock**  
**Henry Griswold, RE .....First Presbyterian Church, Benton**  
**Somerset Sea, RE.....Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock**  
**Joel Gill, RE .....First Presbyterian, Argenta, North Little Rock**

**Motion carried.**

**A motion was made and seconded to reconsider Ben Kane's Terms of Call** in light of the Book of Order mandate, and change his Parental Leave to 12 weeks as well to be constitutionally consistent. **Approved without discussion.**

The written portion of the Committee on Ministry can be found in the Appendix, Section IV.

## **Presentations**

MWS Lindy Vogado, Second Presbyterian, introduced Monte Payne who gave a presentation about Narcan. He said that Narcan needs to be in every first aid and defibrillator kit. The church is working with the Wolf Street Foundation and the Clinton Foundation, who is providing education and doses of naloxone nasal spray which can reverse an opioid overdose in children and adults. Every church in attendance was encouraged to pick up free doses and a link will be in the Update to get Narcan mailed to churches for free.

## **Theological Discussion led by Dr. Lester Ruth**

MWS Carol Clark introduced the speaker for the Theological Discussion, Dr. Lester Ruth, Professor of Christian worship at Duke Divinity School. Dr. Ruth engaged everyone by talking through the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving in narrative form and explaining this prayer as an ancient outline for worship. He said that worship can be expressed in many different styles, including

different types of music and liturgies, but the elements of the Great Prayer provide a vehicle for ancient worship in a contemporary style. He, along with Annabel Stavey (musician at the contemporary worship service at First, Little Rock) illustrated powerfully how prayer could be woven into worship over the contemporary song, "Way Maker".

## **Presentations Continue**

Leigh Woodruff, Sub-Committee on Honduran Ministry, gave a presentation and a slideshow via Zoom for the upcoming Spring Break mission trip planned to Honduras. She had a handout and on the presbytery website a packet of information for the Spring Break trip to Honduras that is planned.

MWS Steve Shive, Bridge Interim Synod Leader/Stated Clerk, reported that the Synod is made up of 750 churches, 11 presbyteries and over 50,000 people in the following states: Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma. He discussed the season of liminality, an in-between time. He discussed the upcoming meetings and workshops the Synod has planned, the Synod Partner Disaster Response Team, scholarships, training, and the Synod meeting coming up on October 16-18 to be held at Ferncliff.

Vera Lloyd, represented by Donna Mahurin and Kerri Daniels, is celebrating their Centennial this year. They showed a slideshow and gave background on Vera Lloyd and discussed future plans.

## **Lunch Break**

### **Business of the Presbytery Continues**

The business of the presbytery continued after lunch with short announcements. Announcements were made from Julie Price who reminded about returning the lanyards, Honduras packets on the website, Advent resources available to check out and the resources that need a home at the presbytery office. Julie Gillaspie gave a refresher regarding voting on zoom. Joel Gill let everyone know about the eclipse totality even in April that is coming and Ferncliff has a solar eclipse event planned for details, visit their website [Ferncliff](#). Kristi Button, director at United Campus Ministries, reported what has been going on at UCM. Stewart Smith announced that there were extra lunches left in the refrigerator. He also announced a JOY that Rev. Krista Denne and her husband Doug celebrated the birth of their child, Martin Denne, seven pounds and 14 ounces. Moderator Mike Szabo called on committee moderators for their reports.

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

Moderator Szabo asked Committee Moderator MWS Elizabeth Brinegar for the report and she made a **motion from the committee to recommend Alex Pickell be changed from Inquirer to Candidate status under the care for the Presbytery of Arkansas**. Her statement of faith can



be found in the Appendix, Section V – Exhibit A. Brinegar reported on Pickell’s background and education. Questions were asked by the presbytery and answered by Alex Pickell. She was excused from the room and a vote was held. **Motion carried**, she was brought back and a prayer was held for her. The written report maybe be found in the Appendix, Section V.

## Committee on Administration Report

Committee Moderator Carolyn Willis was unable to attend the meeting, General Presbyter Stewart Smith reported that contributions from congregations continue to go down, it is the reality of the season of the church right now. Good news is that the investment spend rate is in good shape right now with approximately \$ 274,000 received so far this year. Expenses are under budget, due in part to the Connector position being open and at this point in 2023, the presbytery is in a good financial standings. The financial reports maybe be found in the Appendix, Section X.

## Coordinating Team Report

Committee Moderator MWS Susan Arnold gave the report for the Coordinating Team with one action item, the written report may be found in the Appendix, Section VI. A motion was made by the committee. **The Coordinating Team moves that the Presbytery of Arkansas approve the selection of Ministry Architects, led by Mark Devries, to lead the presbytery in a process of visioning and strategic planning. The cost to the presbytery will be approximately \$51,000.00.** The proposal may be found in the Appendix, Section VI – Exhibit A. A discussion was held regarding the proposal, questions were asked and answered. Moderator Mike Szabo asked if there were any more questions, none were asked. **Motion carried with no opposition.**

## Mission of the Church Committee Report

Committee Moderator CRE Peg Falls-Corbitt gave a report on the Mission of the Church grants. Nine churches were given \$13, 175. The next round of grants deadline is October 15 and the presbytery website has the grant application guidelines. A copy of the written report can be found in the Appendix, Section VII.

## Nomination Committee Report

Moderator Mike Szabo asked Committee Moderator MWS Robert Lowry for the Nominations Report and he said that the nominating committee met over the summer and brought the slate of nominees to the presbytery. He asked for nominations from the floor, then moved Item #1 from the report which can be found in the Appendix, Section VIII.

**Committee on Administration:** RE Mary Ellen Holder Westover Hills, LR Class of 2026; RE John Hall Second, LR Class of 2026; RE Dick Freer First, Jonesboro Class of 2026; and RE Hank Bashears First, Springdale Class of 2025.



**Coordinating Team (at-large members):** MWS Yvonne Thurmond First, Yellville Class of 2026; and RE Tamara Boggs Park Hill, NLR Class of 2026.

**Committee on the Future of the Church:** RE Greg Fairchild First Church, LR Class of 2026; MWS John Arnold First, Rogers Class of 2026; and Michaela Gallup The Table, LR Class of 2026.

**Committee on Ministry:** MWS Robert Lowry Westover Hills, LR Class of 2025; MWS Leslie Roper First, Hot Springs Class of 2026; CRE Ed Wilkinson First, Greenwood Class of 2026; RE Donn Mixon First, Jonesboro Class of 2026; CRE Janet Benson First, Wynne Class of 2026; and MWS Brian Brock Central, Russellville Class of 2026.

**Committee on the Mission of the Church:** CRE Peg Falls-Corbitt First, Morrilton Class of 2026; MWS Cindy Saul First, Mtn Home Class of 2026; and MWS LaWanda Harris Pulaski Heights, LR Class of 2026.

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry:** MWS Michael Gallup The Table, LR Class of 2026; MWS Jeff Price Trinity, LR Class of 2026; and MWS Elizabeth Brinegar First, Batesville Class of 2026.

All nominees for the Class of 2026 will begin service in January. All others will begin upon election.

There were no nominations from the floor or from Zoom. Motion passed unanimously.

Lowry moved to Item #2 Permanent Judicial Commission. The committed moved that **The Presbytery of Arkansas suspend the rules for terms of service on the Permanent Judicial Commission, declare the terms of the class of 2023 complete, and declare that the terms of nominees to the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbytery of Arkansas class of 2026 begin immediately.**

CRE David Clark	First, Heber Springs	Class of 2026
RE David Stricklin	Westover Hills, LR	Class of 2026
MWS Robert Lowry	Westover Hills, LR	Class of 2026

There were no nominations from the floor or from Zoom. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Lowry moved to Item #3, Nominations for Council of the Larger Church.

**Commissioner to 2024 General Assembly:** MWS Patricia Schaller Faith, Horseshoe Bend

**YAAD to 2024 General Assembly:** Christian Kasten Trinity, LR

**Alternate Commissioners to 2024 General Assembly:** MWS Maggie Alsup Lyon College,  
MWS Shea McGinnis At-large and RE Sahr Lebbe Westover Hills, LR

**Alternate YAAD to 2024 General Assembly:** Cade Johnson Second, LR

**Readers for Standard Ordination Exams 2024:** RE Charles Gray Pulaski Heights, LR and  
MWS David Schaller Faith, Horseshoe Bend

**Alternate Reader for Standard Ordination Exams 2024:** CRE Peg Falls-Corbitt First,  
Morrilton

There were no nominations from the floor or from Zoom. Motion carried.

Lowry moved to Item #4 Nominations to the Strategic Planning Leadership Team:

RE Gail Murdoch First, Atkins  
MWS Joycelyn Wildright Ferncliff  
RE Beth Bradshaw First, Wynne  
RE Ted Belden FUPC, Fayetteville  
MWS Alisa Seacrest Second, LR  
RE Jeff Roper First, Hot Springs  
MWS Michael Gallup The Table, LR

There was discussion on the nominees and there were no nominations from the floor or from Zoom.  
Motion carried.

Lowry made a motion to move Item #5: **The Presbytery of Arkansas instruct the Coordinating Team, in consultation with the Stated Clerk, to return to the March 2024 stated meeting of the presbytery with necessary revisions to the presbytery by-laws, standing rules, and other policies to reduce the size of the Committee on Representation from nine (9) members in three (3) equal classes to three (3) members in three (3) equal classes.**

**Motion was carried with no questions asked.**

Lowry moved to Item #5: **Vice-Moderator for 2024:** MWS Judi McMillan, Bella Vista.

There were no nominations from the floor or from Zoom. **Motion carried.**

**Lowry moved that the moderators for Presbytery Committees and Commissions 2024 would be:**

Future of the Church- RE Cindy Lanphear  
Ministry- MWS Leslie Roper  
Preparation for Ministry- MWS Elizabeth Brinegar  
Mission of the Church- CRE Peg Falls-Corbitt

**Motion carried.**

Lowry made a motion that **That the Presbytery of Arkansas direct the Coordinating Team, upon receipt of nominations, act on behalf of the presbytery to fill the following unfilled positions:**

Moderator-Committee on Administration

Moderator-Committee on Youth, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry

Alternate Ruling Elder Commissioner to General Assembly 2024

Classes of 2024, 2025, 2026 for the Committee on Youth, Young Adults and Campus Ministry

PJC Position 4 Class of 2026

Committee on Ministry empty position Class of 2026

There were no nominations from the floor or from Zoom. Motion carried.

The written report may be found in the Appendix, Section VIII.

## **Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

General Presbyter Smith thanked everyone including Julie Gillaspay for being the technical moderator, Robert Lowry and Westover Hills Presbyterian for being gracious hosts and Mike Szabo for moderating the meeting.

Moderator Szabo called on CRE Stephen Moody, pastor of First Little Rock, to offer the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Written reports of committees from the Main Packet are included in the Appendix, Section IX.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Palmer  
Administrator

Blake Brinegar  
Stated Clerk

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## **Section I – Roster of Attendance/Enrollment**

### **Voting as Ministers of Word and Sacrament**

#### **Ministers of Word and Sacrament – 32 in attendance (voting)**

Arnold, Susan	Gallup, Michael	
Bacon-Latina, Courtney	Harris, LaWanda	Secrest, Alisa
Bailey, William	Kane, Ben	Senor, Georgia
Berger, Sara Anne	Kurtz, Steven	Smith, Stewart
Blackburn, Tasha	Kwak, Jai	Spooner, Rebecca
Brinegar, Blake	Lowry, Robert	Thurmond, Yvonne
Brinegar, Elizabeth	Price, Jeff	Ulasewich, Michael
Brock, Brian	Purcell, Becky	Vinson, Michael
Cummings, Katie	Roper, Leslie	Vogado, Lindy
Davis, Fern	Schaller, David	Wildwright, Grant
Falls, Ruskin	Schaller, Patricia	Wildwright, Jocelyn

#### **Ministers of Word and Sacrament – 6 on Zoom (voting)**

Arnold, John	Butin, Phil	McMillan, Judi
Butin, Jan	Clark, Mark	Saul, Cinthia

#### **Excused Absences**

Alsup, Maggie	Holder, Brenda	Wooley, Dan
Blackburn, Philip	Mainard-O'Connell, Marie	
Denne, Krista	Jeremy, Wilhelmi	

#### **Honorably Retired Ministers of Word and Sacrament – 6 in attendance (voting)**

Akin, Karen	Clark, Carol	Reed, David
Branch, Bill	McCormack, Carl	Whitworth-Reed, Linda

#### **Honorably Retired Ministers of Word and Sacrament – 3 on Zoom (voting)**

Gray, Susan	Hadley, Robert	Powers, Emmett
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#### **Excused Absences**

Tropansky, Joseph

#### **Temporary Members of the Presbytery – 1 on Zoom (voting)**

Ratliff, Jim – Hardy, Spring River

#### **Total of 48 voting as a Ministers of the Word and Sacrament**

## Voting as Ruling Elders

### **Ruling Elder Commissioners – 20 in attendance (voting) representing congregations**

Benton, First – Beard, Barry; Griswold, Henry  
Bentonville, First – Cummings, Philip  
Horseshoe Bend, First – Smith, Dawn  
Hot Springs, Westminster – Wetzler, Billie  
Huntsville, First – Precure, Ronna  
Jacksonville, First – Price, Jeannie  
Jonesboro, First – Mixon, Donn  
Little Rock, Pulaski Heights – Dyer, Marian  
Little Rock, First – Ingram, Libby

Little Rock, Second – Keck, George; Sea, Somerset; Villines, Justin; Young, Carol  
Little Rock, Westover Hills – Pflug, Tammy  
Morrilton, Hopewell – Morris, Susan  
North Little Rock, Park Hill – Webster, Becky  
Pine Bluff, First – Harris Jr, Don  
Searcy, First – Szabo, Marcia  
Wynne – Bradshaw, Beth

### **Ruling Elder Commissioners – 17 on Zoom (voting) representing congregations**

Arkadelphia, West End – Wright, Patricia  
Bella Vista – Erickson, Vicki  
Bentonville, First – Dixon, Kim  
Clarksville, First – Castleman, Linda  
Fayetteville, First United – King, Sally;  
Morton, Bo  
Forrest City, Graham Memorial – Danehower, Kim  
Fort Smith, Central – Rose, Cissy  
Hardy, Spring River – Kolocek, Terri

Harrison, First – Allen, Celia  
Heber Springs, First – Holloway, Lisa  
Little Rock, Grace – Herbert, Jerry  
Morrilton, First – Jackson, Katie  
Pea Ridge, Mt Vernon – Mullikin, Ron  
Rogers, First – Webb, Jane  
Springdale, First – Lisle, Karen  
Yellville, First – Sharp, Lisa

### **Excused Absence**

Alma, First—Enke, Jan  
Atkins, Memorial—Murdoch, Mike  
Hardy, Spring River—Ratliff, Jim  
Huntsville—Wooly, Dan

### **Absent Without Excuse – 12 Congregations**

Amity, Alpine  
Beebe, First  
Bentonville, Vaughn  
Bull Shoals  
Cane Hill

Gurdon, First  
Helena, First  
Hot Springs Village, Kirk  
in the Pines  
Little Rock, Westminster

McGehee, First  
Mountain Home, First  
Pine Bluff, Faith

**Ruling Elder Voting Members of Presbytery Council – 2 in attendance (voting)**

Belden, Ted – Coordinating Team  
Szabo, Mike – Presbytery Moderator

**Excused Absences**

Verdery, Tom – Treasurer  
Willis, Carolyn – Administration Moderator

**Commissioned Ruling Elders – 4 in attendance (voting)**

Clark, David – Heber Springs, First	Falls-Corbett, Peg – Morrilton, First
Benson, Janet - Wynne	Moody, Stephen – Little Rock, First

**Commissioned Ruling Elders – 5 on Zoom (voting)**

Hall, Michele – Lincoln, First & Prairie Grove  
Olson, Chuck – Atkins Memorial  
Rhodes, Claire – Arkadelphia, West End  
Rhodes, Kenneth – Arkadelphia, West End  
Wilkerson, Ed – Greenwood, Good Shepherd

**Excused Absence**

Chanthorn, Koonkeo—Fort Smith, Laotian      Shaw, Mary — Elkins

**Certified Christian Educators – 1 on Zoom (voting)**

Button, Kristi

**Excused Absence**

Jeannie Ford

**A total of 49 voting as Ruling Elders in attendance.**

**Total Voting of 97 in attendance.**

## **Non-Voting Attendees**

**Corresponding Members – 1 in attendance (non-voting)**

Shive, Steve	Grace Presbytery
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**Corresponding Members – 1 on Zoom (non-voting)**

Qualls, Michael	Cumberland Presbytery
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**Inquirer/Candidate – 4 in attendance (non-voting)**

Cahoon, Elizabeth	Little Rock, Second
McDonald, Amanda	Fayetteville, First United
Moody, Stephen	Little Rock, First



Pickell, Alex

Little Rock, Second

**Inquirer/Candidate – 1 on Zoom (non-voting)**

Flood, Katie

Bentonville, First

**Members of the Presbytery Staff – 4 in attendance (non-voting)**

Gillaspy, Julie

Palmer, Kimberly

Leer, Sarah

Price, Julie

**Visitors -16 in attendance (non-voting)**

Bragg, Yvette – Arkadelphia, West End

Branch, Liz – Little Rock, Westover Hills

Daniels, Kerri – Vera Lloyd, Little Rock

Fairchild, Greg – First Church LR

Gill, Joel – Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

Henries, Heather – Benton, First

Holder, Mary Ellen – Little Rock, Westover Hills

Laurel, Emily – Benton, First

Lewis, Becky – Little Rock, Pulaski Heights

Mahurin, Donna – Vera Lloyd, Little Rock

Mixon, Kacky – Jonesboro, First

Prevost, Ronnie – Bella Vista, Presbyterian

Smith, Larry – Horseshoe Bend, Faith Presbyterian

Swingle, Cailin – Little Rock, Trinity

Swingle, David – Little Rock, Trinity

Taylor, Carla – Huntsville, First

**Total Non-Voting of 27 in attendance**

**Total Attendance**

**A total of 124 were in attendance, of whom 97 could vote. There were 95 who could vote and 27 who could not vote (64 in person and 33 on zoom who could vote and 25 in person who could not vote and 2 on Zoom who could not vote).**

## **Section II - Consent Agenda**

MWS Blake Brinegar  
Stated Clerk

### **For Action:**

- 1. Motion to adopt the docket.**
- 2. Motion to approve the minutes of the 153rd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, June 3, 2023, held through Zoom technology, with worship led by the Reverend Phil Blackburn.**
- 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 Technology 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.”**
- 7. Motion to receive the minutes of the Administrative Commission to Install MWS John Arnold at First Presbyterian Church, Rogers, on June 25, 2023, at 3 pm and to dismiss them with thanks.**
- 8. Motion to receive the minutes of the Administrative Commission to commission CRE Janet Benson to Wynne Presbyterian Church, Wynne, AR, on July 16<sup>th</sup>, at 3pm, and to dismiss them with thanks.**

## Section III - Report of the Stated Clerk

MWS Blake Brinegar  
Stated Clerk

### For Information

1. The 2022 minutes of the Presbytery of Arkansas were approved without exception.
2. Worked on drafting templates for the new Book of Order mandated policies.
3. Working on the Anti-Racism Policy Template.
4. Attended the Synod COM/CLC training event in Dallas, TX.
5. Will be attending the Polity, Benefits, Mission Conference in St. Louis October 9-12, 2023.
6. The 2024 Prayer List for Congregations is included in the packet following this report as Section III – Exhibit A. The Prayer List is available any time at the presbytery’s website, [presbyark.org/Resources/Presbytery Documents](https://presbyark.org/Resources/Presbytery_Documents) under the Stated Clerk section.

## Section III – Exhibit A

### Prayer List for Congregations, Presbytery of Arkansas – 2024

Jan.	7	First, Clarksville	Park Hill, North Little Rock
Jan.	14	Mt. Vernon, Pea Ridge	First, Huntsville
Jan.	21	Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center	Active Ruling Elders
Jan.	28	University of the Ozarks, Clarksville	Faith, Horseshoe Bend
Feb.	4	First, McGehee	Inquirers and Candidates for Ministry
Feb.	11	First, Lincoln	First, Heber Springs
Feb.	18	Synod of the Sun	Church Musicians
Feb.	25	First, Jacksonville	Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Mar.	3	Church Secretaries and Treasurers	Holiday Island Presbyterian
Mar.	10	Second, Little Rock	First, Yellville
Mar.	17	Directors of Children's Programs	First, Mena
Mar.	24	First United, Fayetteville	Lyon College, Batesville
Mar.	31	Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay	Church Pre-Schools
Apr.	7	Mt. Comfort, Fayetteville	First, Dardanelle
Apr.	14	Good Shepherd, Greenwood	Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista
Apr.	21	Central, Fort Smith	Active Deacons
Apr.	28	Alpine Church, Amity	Church Groundskeepers
May	5	Presbyterian Village	Vaughn, Bentonville
May	12	First, Hot Springs	Ministries to Hispanic Persons in Arkansas
May	19	Westover Hills, Little Rock	Allison Memorial, Little Rock
May	26	Holly Grove Church, Holly Grove	First, Alma
June	2	Mission Trip Participants	First, Fort Smith
June	9	Presbyterian Women Ministry	Harmony Church, Clarksville
June	16	New Worshipping Communities	First, Pine Bluff
June	23	Graham Memorial, Forrest City	Elkins Church, Elkins
June	30	Pulaski Heights, Little Rock	Presbytery Committees
July	7	Grace, Little Rock	First, Malvern
July	14	Barr Memorial, Norman	Hopewell Church, Morrilton
July	21	First, Mountain Home	First, Newport
July	28	First, Little Rock	Presbytery Staff
Aug.	4	Trinity, Little Rock	Spring River, Hardy
Aug.	11	First, Bentonville	Westminster, Little Rock
Aug.	18	First, Conway	First, Prairie Grove
Aug.	25	First, Morrilton	First, Springdale
Sept.	1	Faith, Pine Bluff	First, Beebe
Sept.	8	Central, Pine Bluff	Church Camp Ministries
Sept.	15	First, Brinkley	First, Jonesboro
Sept.	22	First, Gurdon	Churches in Presbyteries in Honduras
Sept.	29	Wynne Church, Wynne	Commissioned Ruling Elders
Oct.	6	Cane Hill Church, Cane Hill	Active and Retired Christian Educators
Oct.	13	First, Van Buren	First, Batesville
Oct.	20	First, Benton	Central, Russellville
Oct.	27	First, Helena	West End, Arkadelphia
Nov.	3	Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals	First, Arkadelphia
Nov.	10	Campus Ministries	Hospital Chaplains and Counselors
Nov.	17	Church Nursery Workers	First, Rogers
Nov.	24	First, Harrison	Westminster, Hot Springs
Dec.	1	Mountainburg Church, Mountainburg	Active and Retired Ministers
Dec.	8	Laotian Ministry, Fort Smith	Youth and Young Adults and Directors
Dec.	15	Memorial Church, Atkins	First, Walnut Ridge
Dec.	22	First, Paragould	Church Custodians
Dec.	29	Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village	First, Searcy

**Section IV**  
**Written Report of the Committee on Ministry**  
MWS Stewart Smith, Acting Moderator

**For Information: COM Approved at stated meeting.**

- 1. The Committee on Ministry approved the covenant between MWS Dennis Ritchie and the Holiday Island Presbyterian Church with the following compensation:  
  
Sundays – preaching only .....250.00 plus mileage reimbursement  
Sundays – preaching plus meetings.....300.00 plus mileage reimbursement  
The pastor’s pay for funeral services will be negotiated with the family of the deceased. Special worship services such as Christmas Eve and Holy Week will be negotiated with the session.
  
- 2. The Committee on Ministry approved the “re-commissioning” of RE Bruce Schegel (First United - Fayetteville) to Cane Hill Presbyterian Church with the compensation listed below and authorized RE Kelly Pearson to conduct the commissioning service which was held on June 18, 2023.  
Salary.....\$175.00 weekly  
Mileage.....\$ 25.00 weekly  
4 weeks paid vacation per year
  
- 3. The Committee on Ministry granted permission to RE Nancy Deen, First Van Buren, to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism pending successful completion of a Baptism training course offered by MWS Phil Butin on August 24,2023. RE Don Harris, First Pine Bluff also participated in the training.

## **Section IV—Exhibit A**

### **MWS Ben Kane Statement of Faith**

I believe in the one and only Triune God made manifest in three persons: Father/Mother, Son, and Holy Spirit and understood as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

I believe in the mystery of the Trinity, acknowledging that we know God best in and through the stories of the Bible—made up of the Old and New Testaments. God is the Creator who ordered everything out of chaos, called forth a nation of people known as Israel, loving, and reprimanding and dispensing unconditional grace upon them through God's fidelity to God's covenants. When the Triune God deemed it necessary, Jesus, born of Mary and the Holy Spirit, came to earth and the Word became flesh. Jesus taught, healed, preached, and listened to, ate with, and called all of humanity to witness that God loved them and that was in their midst. In his death and resurrection, Jesus' secured our salvation by overcoming the power of sin and death. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was unleashed upon the earth calling forth all people to carry the Good News of the Gospels to the ends of the earth.

I believe the Bible—made up of the Old and New Testaments—is the unique and authoritative Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit and written by humans. I believe the church is called to proclaim the Word and administer the two sacraments: Baptism and The Lord's Supper. The sacraments as signs and symbols of the covenant God created with us and make God's grace manifest in the lives of God's people, reminding us that God claims us and never lets us go.

I affirm the reality of sin and its debilitating effects on our individual and communal lives. Sadly, I affirm humanity's propensity to routinely choose to sin and transgress against God and one another. Joyously, I affirm God's sovereignty in all things and proclaim that we are saved by grace through faith—we don't earn our salvation or do anything to secure it because Christ's life, death on a cross, and resurrection fulfilled this for us.

For Christians, the church is a local place whereby our faith is lived most fully, most notably in weekly worship when we gather as an imperfect community of faith to worship and glorify a perfect God through the proclamation of the Word, the singing of songs and hymns, confessing of sins, receiving of forgiveness and grace, praying of prayers, extending of hospitality and welcome, and the celebration of the sacraments.

The Triune God is the God of all—therefore we are called to care for all. I believe in the need to care for our bodies, our relationships, and the perseverance of all creation. I affirm the call from each member of the Triune God to act with justice and mercy, to extend grace to all, welcome anyone in need, and work to heal the wounds inflicted upon others. We are God's people; therefore, we are called to engage with the world around us to see where the Kingdom of God is not being lived or proclaimed and embrace those spaces with love, hope, and grace.

## **Section IV—Exhibit B**

### **Grant Wildwright Statement of Faith**

I believe the whole universe and everything in it was fashioned by God the Creator. This creation was made good and includes human beings that bear the likeness of God in their imagination, will, and capability to love. But we humans let darkness into the world. Through this, both we and our world became broken--separated from our Creator. God cares for this broken world. God is unbroken, perfect... and God's perfection is our broken world's only hope.

So God showed us signs and wonders, to give us understanding of our Creator. The mouths of prophets were opened by the Holy Spirit to teach humanity the ways of God: justice, mercy, and faithfulness. The definitive revelation of God's character was made two thousand years ago when a child was born who was both fully God and fully human, named Jesus and called the Christ.

Jesus lived as we ought to live: teaching about God's justice, healing the sick, caring for the brokenhearted, rebuking injustice, and celebrating the diversity of humanity. Jesus insisted on ordering the world according to the laws of love, charity, and kindness. Jesus rejected all the laws we erect to oppress and control. By those very laws we sought to oppress and control Jesus, and when he refused to submit, we killed him.

Jesus' death was not the end. Through God's power, Jesus rose again and was seen by many, teaching that love is stronger than death, compassion more powerful than the grave. Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, we have been reconciled to God.

Jesus called a group of witnesses to his life, death and resurrection, commanding them to tell all the world of God's abundant love. The Spirit of God who spoke through the prophets was with them as they spread across the world.

This group, the Church, accepts converts through the seal of Baptism, and is spiritually fed through the Eucharist. For the last two millennia, the Church has struggled to guard the creation of the Creator, understand the teaching of the Christ, and obey the commands of the Spirit. Composed of broken creatures, it has often failed to live up to its high ideals. But the Church is constantly under the guiding influence of the Spirit, and we are continually being reformed by the power of God.

Our creeds and the writing of our theologians bear witness to God's continuing provision for the Church. In all things, we are informed of God's nature through the story of faith told in Holy Scripture.

Our right response to God's unconditional love toward us is to graciously serve God and one another. Both as communities and individuals, we have a part to play in God's plan. God has chosen each of us for a particular purpose, calling us to work together to further the healing of our broken world.



## **Section IV Continued**

### **Amendment 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. A copy can be found in the Appendix, Section IV – Exhibit C.
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.

## **Section IV – Exhibit C**

### **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

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

## **Section V**

### **Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry MWS Elizabeth Brinegar**

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, CPM undertook the following actions:

1. To move Isaac Thomas to the purview of COM for the purpose of being commissioned as a CRE.
2. To certify Maggie Johnson ready to receive a call.
3. To certify Katie Flood ready to receive a call.

## **Section V – Exhibit A**

### **Alex Pickell Statement of Faith 2023**

God created all things, from the magnificent cosmos to the smallest ladybug. Without God, nothing would exist. God is always creating, and God's essence can be found in every corner of God's creation. Too complex for us to singularly define or fully understand, God is the greatest mystery that ever existed. As humans, we understand God according to our unique contexts and experiences.

Humankind was created in God's image. Since God cannot be defined in one way, neither can people. Every person is complex and wonderfully made by God, whose goodness lives within us all. Furthermore, we are called to reflect God's goodness outward into the world. Diversity is one of God's greatest blessings, in that it allows us to witness the infinite possibilities of God's beauty in our neighbors. All people are beloved and chosen by God to share the gospel of justice and love in their own time and place.

Jesus Christ, a Palestinian Jew living through imperial occupation, is the human incarnation of God. A person who lived on the fringes of society all his life, Jesus' ministry was largely concerned with serving the outcast and forgotten. He spoke boldly and subversively, preaching that a new age of justice and reconciliation was at hand. When Jesus broke bread and said, "This is my body, broken for you," he invited the world into his ministry. While Jesus' crucifixion was the result of systemic injustice at the hands of the empire, it also stands as God's ultimate act of solidarity with all oppressed people. Jesus' resurrection defeated the forces of death that attempted to separate us from God. A new, revolutionary sense of hope is the good news that Christ brings to the world, and as Christians we are tasked with embodying that hope in all that we do.

Completing the trinity is the often overlooked Holy Spirit, who is the breath of God and the wind of change. The Holy Spirit moves in unfathomable ways, changing hearts and igniting movements. Faith itself is a direct product of the work of the Spirit, which touches each person differently in order to show them God's grace. The Spirit works in all of us, through big and small actions, to extend the love of Christ with everyone we meet. The Church needs the work of the Spirit in all it does to bring hope and direction to its mission. The Holy Spirit is also a source of wondrous creativity, inspiring people to make art and, indeed, sacred writings.

The Bible is a body of holy scripture, authored by humankind and inspired by God. Each book of the Bible contains numerous voices, responses to trauma, praise, poetry, and different images of God. Because of its variety, scripture should be handled with care. Additionally, the history of its composition and the Jewish culture that it came from should never be taken for granted. Everyone comes to scripture with their own experiences and values, so what someone might then interpret from scripture will also be unique. There is beauty and power in the fact that the God who cannot be singularly defined would create a Word that cannot be understood in one way.

In its infancy, the Church's mission was to share the good news to Jews and Greeks alike. That mission is still alive today, albeit in new ways. Indeed, the Church is Christ's broken body, spread out and diverse. Despite its diversity, the Church has a common cause: to prepare the way for God's kingdom on earth.

The Church has many important roles, including worship, public witness, Christian formation, caring for those who need comfort, evangelism, and the sacraments. Through the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, we remember Jesus' life and acknowledge God's faithfulness. The sacraments are meant to be practiced in community, and shared with all who want to know God. People can know God through practices besides the sacraments, too. At its core, the Church is made of complex and beautiful people. It is because of this fact that the Church has not always succeeded in sharing God's love with others. Indeed, it is imperfect and flawed. Yet, with the help of the Holy Spirit, the Church is constantly being transformed and revitalized. In the Reformed tradition, the Church is to always be reforming, adapting, and challenging itself to see how God is working in new ways.

## **Section VI**

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

#### **October 7, 2023**

The following actions were taken at meetings of the Coordinating Team held in July and September.

1. Accepted the invitation from Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, to host the 154<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas on October 6-7, 2023.
2. Approved the Prison Literacy Program at Westover Hills Presbyterian Church as the offering recipient for the October Presbytery meeting.
3. Approved the request from the Resource Center Board to significantly reduce the holdings in the presbytery's resource center. Usage has significantly decreased over the last decade. A limited number of physical resources will be kept and the Resource Center Board will continue to promote online resources. Resources no longer needed will be made available for congregations.
4. Approved a fundraising request from Sarah Leer, Youth and Young Adult Developer. Sarah plans to share the stories of people that have been impacted by the Presbytery of Arkansas Youth Ministry over the years and invite them and others to contribute to a fund that will supplement the Youth A-Team budget and reduce the cost of A-Team events.
5. Received the report from Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church to begin a period of "re-branding" that seeks to increase visibility and outreach in the community. Included will be a name change to "The Church on the Hill". Signage will also reflect "A congregation of the PC(USA)" as the congregation is firmly committed to its Reformed Faith relationship in the PC(USA).
6. Approved the following dates for 2024 Presbytery Meetings

March 1,2 2024	University of the Ozarks	In-person+electronic
June 1, 2024	Tentatively by Zoom. Our visioning process, if approved, could necessitate an overnight "in-person" meeting. an in-person presence and overnight meeting.	
October ??	Place and date to be determined. Before the pandemic, the Coordinating Team designated Ferncliff as the default location for the fall meeting if there were no invitations from congregations to host the meeting.	
7. Approved a task force consisting of the Presbytery Leadership Team, Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Moderator of Coordinating Team, Stated Clerk, General Presbyter, along with member Susan Morris to bring 4 names back to the Coordinating Team for the Presbytery Nominating Committee. The Coordinating Team will elect them at a meeting before the end of the year.



8. Approved the request from Central Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith to sell a portion of its property, Lot A, Block 12 on Sweet Avenue for \$52,000.00. The property has not been used for years and is vacant except for a garage. The congregation approved the sale at a duly called congregational meeting on July 9, 2023.

Approved the request from First Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs to sell property located at 301 Walter Street in Hot Springs. This property was once used by Trinity Presbyterian Church and was most recently used by Quapaw House. The Presbytery of Arkansas, which formerly owned the property, had given ownership to First Presbyterian Church of Hot Springs while the property was used by Quapaw House. Quapaw House stopped using the property without letting the church know, and it has remained vacant for several years. The Session of First Presbyterian decided that the best use of the property would be to put it up for sale. The congregation approved the sale at a duly called congregational meeting on June 11, 2023.

## Section VI—Exhibit A

*Healthy Systems. Innovative Change.  
For the Future of the Church.*



MINISTRY  
ARCHITECTS

**PROPOSAL FOR**

**Presbytery of  
Arkansas  
Little Rock, AR**

*This proposal is valid for 60 days from today's date.*

**September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

# A Proven Process

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
DEEP LISTENING ASSESSMENT	CUSTOMIZED BLUEPRINT	STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION
First we listen to get a full picture of the unique needs and aspirations of your ministry.	Based on what we learn of your ministry, we design a plan focused on sustainability, health, and results.	We work with each of our clients not just to design plans but to implement them in alignment with each ministry's unique DNA.

Each Ministry Architects project combines three essential elements.

More and more ministry leaders are discovering the profound benefit of having a coach, a consultant, or project manager to help lead their organizations through smothering complexity to the actual execution of clarified vision.

Ministry Architects helps you build healthy systems that create space for deliberate, often disruptive, innovation.

# Needs Overview

The Presbytery of Arkansas includes approximately 75 churches in the northern two-thirds of the state, with 14 of those churches situated in the larger metro area of Little Rock. General Presbyter, the Rev. Stewart Smith, has served in his role for almost 8 years, during which time the presbytery has demonstrated a commitment to adapt and thrive in the ever-evolving landscape of the church.

Recognizing the need for the presbytery to adjust to the new realities of the post-pandemic and post-Christendom world, Rev Smith recently reached out to Ministry Architects to explore consulting possibilities for the presbytery. With less than half the presbytery's congregations able to afford a full-time, installed pastor, it has become imperative to reassess the presbytery's structure, strategy, and resources for ensuring effective ministry.

Another factor driving the need for a strategic reassessment of the presbytery's work is Stewart's desire to transition out of his position in 2024. This impending transition presents an opportunity for the presbytery to engage in a strategic planning process and intentionally discern the future direction, structure, and priorities of the presbytery. The goal is to establish a clear vision and structure that aligns with the current landscape and sets the stage for the presbytery's continued growth and impact.

Approximately six months ago, a pipe burst in the presbytery offices, leaving the entire staff still working remotely, offering the opportunity to reimagine the presbytery's physical space needs. This is also a season of repurposing church property assets, as a few churches downsize to new buildings and sell or close their facilities. A portion of the \$7,000,000 invested for the presbytery at the Texas Presbyterian Foundation is earmarked for new church developments (NCD's). With the last two NCD's not going well, there is a need to reimagine what NCD's ought to look like in this new season in the church.

With an annual budget of around \$800,000, one quarter of which comes from endowment proceeds, the presbytery is seeking guidance on more sustainable and strategic investment of its resources. With two staff positions in transition (the presbytery builder and the director of youth ministries), along with a desire to reengage and revitalize youth and young adult ministry, leadership views this as an ideal time for the presbytery to reimagine its staffing model.

This multi-layered season of transition for the presbytery presents an ideal time to redefine its identity, purpose, and structure in the changing landscape of the post-pandemic church. The following proposal offers support in the development of a strategic plan, with a particular focus on an updated staffing model, ensuring the continued health of the presbytery's work with youth and young adults, property repurposing, and strategies for long-term financial sustainability to support the thriving of churches under the presbytery's care.

# Needs Overview (cont.)

## DESIRED OUTCOMES

- **A Long-Term Vision** that defines its mission, values, and goals of the presbytery in a way that aligns and inspires all those contributing to and reliant on the presbytery, whether staff, clergy, or congregations
- **A Strategic Staffing Plan** for the presbytery that aligns its staffing with agreed-upon priorities and within the limits of the financial realities of the presbytery
- **Implementation Support** to guide the work of the general presbyter and key stakeholders through the assessment, visioning, and staffing processes
- **Laying the Framework for Succession** by conducting a job analysis, creating development plans, and developing a transition plan to ensure continuity of leadership, maintain organizational stability, and support the presbytery's long-term vision and mission

Ministry Architects can work alongside the Presbytery of Arkansas to accomplish these outcomes. To that end, this proposal offers three options of support, all of which could begin as early November 2023. All totals include travel expenses.

# Ideal Investment Option

Through April 2025

Ministry Architects can provide the following results to the Presbytery of Arkansas:

1. **A three-day onsite assessment** with two Ministry Architects consultants to provide an analysis of the presbytery's current situation, including its congregations, staffing, resources, and financial status, resulting in specific recommendations and action steps to address challenges and leverage opportunities, utilizing the following methods:
  1. *A digital survey to be made available to all constituencies of the presbytery*
  2. *Focus groups with key stakeholders throughout the presbytery*
  3. *Individual or smaller-group conversations with the general presbyter, the stated clerk, the director of youth ministries, the administrator, the presbytery connector, the moderator and vice-moderator of the presbytery, the moderator of the coordinating team, and the treasurer*
2. **An onsite 2-day Vision Summit** with Mark DeVries resulting in a mission statement, core values, and three-year goals with one-year benchmarks appropriate to the post-pandemic and post-Christendom landscape faced by the church
3. **A strategic plan for the presbytery**, collaboratively developed with key stakeholders to guide the presbytery through the transition and launch of its new leadership structure, to include:
  - **A strategic staffing review and plan** for the presbytery's staffing structure and roles, considering the need for presbytery leadership, youth and young adult ministry, administrative support, and other key positions and providing recommendations for optimizing staffing resources to effectively meet the presbytery's needs
  - **A succession plan** for the general presbyter to ensure ongoing sustainability of the long-term vision of the presbytery
  - **A building transition plan** that assists the presbytery in determining its own space requirements and helps evaluate options for utilizing existing space for the presbytery itself as well as assessing opportunities for the transition and/or repurposing of church facilities within the presbytery

## Endorsements

“ Ministry Architects is really good at making the theoretical practical, and making the emotional manageable. Churches have a tendency to stay in the theoretical a lot. We tend to let the practical things happen organically. Ministry Architects gives churches tools to have a road map rather than wandering. It's not unfaithful to take a mechanistic view of ministry or to have a pastoral care plan. In fact it is faithful to try to structure a system so that it can fulfill a particular mission. I feel confident going in to a new pastoral role because it's not about me. I'm a leader of a set of systems. The only way my talents are worth anything is if there are train tracks for those talents to be driven on. Ministry Architects has given me those tracks. ”

DREW  
COLBY

Senior Pastor  
Grace United Methodist Church Manassas,  
VA

“ Our ministry was going fine, but I knew it could be better, so we hired Ministry Architects to help us see our flaws, gaps, and areas of potential growth. They helped us refine our goals and set a plan in place to move forward. Sometimes we all need fresh eyes and Ministry Architects helped us see what we weren't seeing so we could grow in new ways. ”

SCOTT  
MCDERMID

Senior Pastor  
Six Points Church Sheridan,  
IN

“ Ministry Architects has been a life-saver for our children's ministry. They came on during a time of turmoil and distress and walked alongside us to help us lay a strong and healthy foundation for our future. Ministry Architects guided us as we got back on our feet and learned how to move forward. One of the most beneficial outcomes was that we came out on the other side being strong and stable enough to make our own decisions and goals for the future. ”

COURTNEY  
WESTFALL

Nursery and Preschool Director First  
United Methodist Church Tulsa, OK

“ As I think about the impact of working with Ministry Architects this past year in a new ministry context, I can truly say that they were a God-send! Although I've been serving in ministry to youth and families for over 25 years, having the expertise and structure and coaching from outside resources really helped me focus on priority items, instead of being overwhelmed by trying to accomplish everything on my own in a new season in a new place. Not only were they extremely personable and affirming of our ministry, they led our team into a process of refining vision and direction in a way that created such positive momentum for us. Folks might try to do all the work of evaluating and listening and dreaming about taking their ministry to the next level on their own, but I'm certainly grateful that our congregation made the investment of having these great partners at Ministry Architects to help lead and guide the way! ”

CHRIS LYONS

Pastor of Children, Youth and Families  
Bethany Community Church – Green Lake  
Seattle, WA—



# Ideal Investment Option

## Through January 2025

- **A plan for financial sustainability** of the presbytery's current resources, including the endowment, investments, and property holdings, while developing strategies for maximizing the use of these resources in a faithful and sustainable manner, ensuring financial stability and supporting the presbytery's mission and initiatives
  - **An iterative design for cultivating new worshipping communities** that leaves room for innovative approaches to new church development
4. **Implementation support for the general presbyter with Mark DeVries** following the vision summit as he coordinates the worked outlined by those events and works toward the goals outlined in the strategic staffing plan

In the option above, Ministry Architects takes responsibility for leading the assessment and vision summit, the creation of the presbytery's strategic plan, and implementation support for the General presbyter throughout the process.

*Please note that the assessment process can result in the discover of additional needs that have either gone unnoticed, undiscovered, or currently unknown. These will be included and identified in the assessment report along with recommendations to address them even though they may not be included in the contract.*

18-month Investment: \$50,650\*

First month's payment: \$8,150

Remaining monthly payment (for 17 months): \$2,500

*\*All travel expenses included*

## **Section VII**

### **Report of the Committee on the Mission of the Church**

CRE Peg Falls-Corbitt Moderator

October 2023

**NEXT ROUND OF MISSION INITIATIVE GRANTS!**

**DEADLINE: October 15th**

**CLICK [THIS LINK](#) TO SEE APPLICATION GUIDELINES!**

#### **REPORT ON RECENT ACTIVITY:**

At its meeting August 3, 2023 the Mission of the Church reviewed grant applications received by the July 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. The following congregations received Mission Initiative Grants:

**First Presbyterian, Beebe (\$1,175)**

To build a tool shed and tools for their Community Garden that is already established.

**Central Presbyterian, Russellville (\$1,500)**

To support supplies and/or equipment for an already established food pantry.

Total spending thus far this year for Mission Initiative Grants is \$13,175 spread across nine (9) congregations.

## Section VIII

### Report of the Nominating Committee

#### MWS Robert Lowry

#### October 2023 Report to Presbytery

The Nominating Committee met over the summer and brings the following items to the presbytery for their approval:

1. Nominations for Presbytery Committees and Commissions:
  - a. Committee on Administration
    - i. RE Mary Ellen Holder Westover Hills, LR Class of 2026
    - ii. RE John Hall Second, LR Class of 2026
    - iii. RE Dick Freer First, Jonesboro Class of 2026
    - iv. RE Hank Bashears First, Springdale Class of 2025
  - b. Coordinating Team (at-large members)
    - i. MWS Yvonne Thurmond First, Yellville Class of 2026
    - ii. RE Tamara Boggs Park Hill, NLR Class of 2026
  - c. Committee on the Future of the Church
    - i. RE Greg Fairchild First, LR Class of 2026
    - ii. MWS John Arnold First, Rogers Class of 2026
    - iii. Michaela Gallup The Table, LR Class of 2026
  - d. Committee on Ministry
    - i. MWS Robert Lowry Westover Hills, LR Class of 2025
    - ii. MWS Leslie Roper First, Hot Springs Class of 2026
    - iii. CRE Ed Wilkinson First, Greenwood Class of 2026
    - iv. RE Doug Corbitt Pulaski Heights, LR Class of 2026
    - v. RE Donn Mixon First, Jonesboro Class of 2026
    - vi. CRE Janet Benson First, Wynne Class of 2026
    - vii. MWS Brian Brock Central, Russellville Class of 2026
  - e. Committee on the Mission of the Church
    - i. CRE Peg Falls-Corbitt First, Morrilton Class of 2026
    - ii. MWS Cindy Saul First, Mtn Home Class of 2026
    - iii. MWS LaWanda Harris Pulaski Heights, LR Class of 2026
  - f. Committee on Preparation for Ministry
    - i. MWS Michael Gallup The Table, LR Class of 2026
    - ii. MWS Jeff Price Trinity, LR Class of 2026
    - iii. MWS Elizabeth Brinegar First, Batesville Class of 2026
  - g. NB: All nominees for the Class of 2026 will begin service in January. All others will begin upon election.
2. Permanent Judicial Commission
  - a. The Committee on Nominations recommends that: **The Presbytery of Arkansas suspend the rules for terms of service on the Permanent Judicial Commission, declare the terms of the class of 2023 complete, and declare that the terms of nominees to the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbytery of Arkansas class of 2026 begin on October 8, 2023.**

- b. Rationale: There is currently an Investigating Committee at work in the Presbytery of Arkansas. On the advice of the Office of the General Assembly and to ensure continuity of process in the event a PJC trial is necessary, the above recommendation is made.
- c. Permanent Judicial Commission
  - i. MWS David Clark     First, Heber Springs     Class of 2026
  - ii. RE David Stricklin     Westover Hills, LR     Class of 2026
  - iii. MWS Robert Lowry     Westover Hills, LR     Class of 2026
- 3. Nominations for Councils of the Larger Church
  - a. Commissioner to 2024 General Assembly
    - i. MWS Patricia Schaller Faith, Horseshoe Bend
    - ii. FOR INFORMATION: MWS John Arnold, RE Willie Morris, and RE Mary Shaw were previously elected.
  - b. YAAD to 2024 General Assembly
    - i. Christian Kasten     Trinity, LR
  - c. Alternate Commissioner to 2024 General Assembly
    - i. MWS Maggie Alsup     Lyon College
    - ii. MWS Shea McGinnis At-large
    - iii. RE Sahr Lebbe     Westover Hills, LR
    - iv. FOR INFORMATION: A second RE alternate has not yet been confirmed.
  - d. Alternate YAAD to 2024 General Assembly
    - i. Cade Johnson     Second, LR
  - e. Readers for Standard Ordination Exams 2024
    - i. RE Charles Gray     Pulaski Heights, LR
    - ii. TE David Schaller     Faith, Horseshoe Bend
  - f. Alternate Reader for Standard Ordination Exams 2024
    - i. CRE Peg Falls-Corbitt First, Morrilton
- 4. Nominations for a Strategic Planning Leadership Team (Pending approval of hiring a consultant.)
  - a. RE Gail Murdoch     First, Atkins
  - b. MWS Joycelyn Wildright     Ferncliff
  - c. RE Beth Bradshaw     First, Wynne
  - d. RE Ted Belden     FUPC, Fayetteville
  - e. MWS Alisa Seacrest     Second, LR
  - f. RE Jeff Roper     First, Hot Springs
  - g. MWS Michael Gallup     The Table, LR
- 5. Recommendation on referral of Committee on Representation composition to Coordinating Team.
  - a. The Committee on Nominations, after consulting with the Moderator of the Committee on Representation, moves: **That the Presbytery of Arkansas instruct the Coordinating Team, in consultation with the Stated Clerk, to return to the March 2024 stated meeting of the presbytery with necessary revisions to the presbytery by-laws, standing rules, and other policies to reduce the size of the Committee on Representation from nine (9) members in three (3) equal classes to three (3) members in three (3) equal classes.**
  - b. FOR INFORMATION: The classes of 2024 and 2025 constitute a quorum for the committee in the intervening months.
- 6. Officers of the Presbytery of Arkansas
  - a. Vice-Moderator 2024- MWS Judi McMillen First, Bella Vista
  - b. FOR INFORMATION: The Moderator for 2023 will serve as moderator of Coordinating Team and the Vice-Moderator for 2023 will serve as moderator in 2024.
- 7. Moderators for Presbytery Committees and Commissions 2024

- a. Future of the Church- RE Cindy Lanphear
  - b. Ministry- MWS Leslie Roper
  - c. Preparation for Ministry- MWS Elizabeth Brinegar
  - d. Mission of the Church- CRE Peg Falls-Corbitt
8. Concerning still unfilled positions
- a. The Committee on Nominations moves: **That the Presbytery of Arkansas direct the Coordinating Team, upon receipt of nominations, act on behalf of the presbytery to fill the following unfilled positions:**
    - i. **Moderator-Committee on Administration**
    - ii. **Moderator-Committee on Youth, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry**
    - iii. **Alternate Ruling Elder Commissioner to General Assembly 2024** (NB: This action is necessitated by the deadlines set by General Assembly for submission of commissioner names.)
    - iv. **Classes of 2024, 2025, 2026 for the Committee on Youth, Young Adults and Campus Ministry.** (NB: Due to the timing of the hiring of a new staff person for this ministry area, the Committee on Nominations was not able to consult with staff and confirm nominations for this ministry in time for the October meeting.)
    - v. **PJC Position 4 Class of 2026**
9. Statistical report for Representation
- a. Geographical Distribution
    - i. Northwest- 16%
    - ii. North Central/Northeast- 29%
    - iii. Central- 50%
    - iv. South- 5%
  - b. Ordered Ministry
    - i. Ruling Elder- 48%
    - ii. Minister of the Word and Sacrament- 50%
    - iii. No Ordered Ministry- 2%
  - c. Gender
    - i. Male- 53%
    - ii. Female- 45%
    - iii. Non-binary/Transgender/Queer-2%
  - d. Race
    - i. White- 94%
    - ii. BIPOC- 6%

Respectfully submitted,  
MWS Robert Lowry, Moderator

## **Section IX**

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

MWS Margaret Alsup  
Moderator of Committee

We are excited to announce, even if it is already official, that we have a new presbytery leader in the role for youth and young adult ministry. Dr. Sarah Leer was hired this summer to serve as the Transitional Leader for Youth and Young Adult Ministry. She has hit the ground running and hasn't slowed down since. We are grateful for her and her leadership in this season. We look forward to what the future holds for the youth and young adults in our presbytery under her leadership.

Youth Quake was held September 15-17, 2023 at Ferncliff. It is the second year that we combined senior high and junior high youth for the event. We had 67 youth and numerous adult leaders for the event. We want to extend a huge "Thank YOU!" to these adults who drove the youth to Ferncliff, who led small groups, who lead activities, and so much more throughout Youth Quake. With the help of Ferncliff, we had fun activities such as the Neon Cowboy Silent Disco and a scavenger hunt, Fern Clue. The leadership team was outstanding as we engaged with the theme, "A Seat at the Table." For more information about all the fun, fellowship, and learning that took place, check out the Update and other media posts from the presbytery.

Our committee is working on ways to connect our college ministry students in the presbytery. We have the Montreat College Conference coming up in January, but we are also exploring ways to do a joint spring break service-learning trip. Stay tuned for information on that trip and future collaborations. And if you'd like to join the conversation/ planning reach out to the committee.

While the fall is off to a great start, we are working on plans for spring and summer activities and trips. Keep an eye out in the Update and Youth A-team social media for updates on these activities.

## Section X

### THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS Balance Sheet August 31, 2023

#### ASSETS

<b>Current Assets</b>	69,880.41	
Cash TPF - undesignated		
TPF Investment Cash - designated	692,267.46	
TPF Investments	4,982,329.77	
N/R Ministers	9,333.40	
N/R Churches	25,000.00	
TPF Mark to Market 52190	<u>991,204.89</u>	
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>6,770,015.93</b>
 <b>Property and Equipment</b>		
Furniture & Fixtures	51,521.89	
Land	128,571.00	
Buildings	<u>1,516,516.12</u>	
	1,696,609.01	
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(359,721.39)</u>	
<b>Net Property and Equipment</b>		<b>8,106,903.55</b>
 <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>\$ 8,106,903.55</b>

#### LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

<b>Current Liabilities</b>	<u>124.00</u>	
Payroll & Other Withholdings		
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>124.00</b>
 <b>Fund Balance</b>		
Equity Beginning Balance	4,343,422.31	
Fund Balance	4,882,421.88	
Unrealized Gains/Losses	(991,363.95)	
Net Income	<u>(127,700.69)</u>	
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>		<b>8,106,779.55</b>
 <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; CAPITAL</b>		<b>\$ 8,106,903.55</b>

Unaudited - For Management Purposes Only



Section J--Exhibit I							
THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS							
Operating Income Statement							
For the Eight Months Ending August 31, 2023							
		Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	Year to Date Actual	2023 Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
6000-01	Mission Acceptance	\$ 24,926.49	28,333.33	(3,406.84)	\$ 184,578.20	520,000.00	(335,421.80)
Misc (Acct. 6015)	Investment Spend Rate	23,049.87	18,562.51	4,487.36	182,070.00	222,750.15	(40,680.15)
6000-01-1-101	Previous Years Pledges	0.00	6,157.33	0.00	6,157.33	6,157.33	0.00
6001-00-1-000	Miscellaneous Revenue	1,350.00	1,350.00	0.00	10,800.92	16,200.00	(5,399.08)
	Total Revenues	49,326.36	54,403.17	1,080.52	383,606.45	765,107.48	(381,501.03)
	Expenses						
7000-01-1-000	Coordinating Team--Meeting Exp, Meals, Worship	1,200.00	8.33	1,191.67	1,200.00	100.00	1,100.00
7000-06-1-000	Coordinating Team--Gifts	0.00	4.17	(4.17)	50.00	50.00	0.00
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	125.00	(125.00)	75.00	1,500.00	(1,425.00)
7000-31-1-000	Coordinating Team--Background Checks	20.00	25.00	(5.00)	211.50	300.00	(88.50)
		1,220.00	291.67	928.33	1,536.50	3,500.00	(1,963.50)
7100-01-1-000	Administration--Meeting Expense, Financial Review	0.00	516.67	(516.67)	7,278.70	6,200.00	1,078.70
7100-05-1-000	Administration--Ferncliff General Site Support	0.00	2,166.67	(2,166.67)	13,000.00	26,000.00	(13,000.00)
7500-21-1-000	West End Operation Support	0.00	1,125.00	(1,125.00)	6,750.00	13,500.00	(6,750.00)
7500-53-1-000	Laotian Ministry support	0.00	300.00	(300.00)	1,800.00	3,600.00	(1,800.00)
7500-98-1-000	Faith Presbyterian Operation Support	0.00	594.00	(594.00)	3,564.00	7,128.00	(3,564.00)
		0.00	4,702.34	(4,702.34)	32,392.70	56,428.00	(24,035.30)
7200-01-1-000	Min. of the Church--Cmte on Prep. for Ministry--Travel, food, lodging, supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7200-02-1-000	Min. of the Church--Cmte on Prep. for Ministry--ConEd--Emergency Fund, Etc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7700-01-1-000	Committee on Ministry--travel, food, meeting support	0.00	166.67	(166.67)	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)
8000-01-1-000	Min. of the Church--Cmte on Prep. for Ministry--Meeting Expenses, etc.	0.00	41.67	(41.67)	0.00	500.00	(500.00)
8000-09-1-000	Min. of the Church--Cmte on Prep. for Ministry--Eval, Retreat, Support, Bkg Checks	0.00	166.67	(166.67)	850.00	2,000.00	(1,150.00)
8400-08-1-000	Min. of the Church--Wellspring Contract	0.00	850.00	(850.00)	10,200.00	10,200.00	0.00
		0.00	1,225.01	(1,225.01)	11,050.00	14,700.00	(3,650.00)
7300-29-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--Campus Ministry/Program Support	2,356.66	2,500.00	(143.34)	18,853.28	30,000.00	(11,146.72)
7300-71-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--Planning Retreats & Materials	(796.50)	83.33	(879.83)	909.59	1,000.00	(90.41)
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)	382.65	500.00	(117.35)
7300-76-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT YouthQuake	84.44	750.00	(665.56)	6,066.71	9,000.00	(2,933.29)



THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS							
Operating Income Statement							
For the Eight Months Ending August 31, 2023							
		Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	Year to Date Actual	2023 Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
7300-78-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT Montreat	(2,611.71)	291.67	(2,903.38)	(2,262.41)	3,500.00	(5,762.41)
7300-79-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--JR High Summer Trip	(205.89)	208.33	(414.22)	2,611.63	2,500.00	111.63
7300-80-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--Matthew 25 Account	0.00	41.67	(41.67)	373.76	500.00	(126.24)
7300-84-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--Young Adult Ministries	0.00	125.00	(125.00)	0.00	1,500.00	(1,500.00)
7300-86-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--Student Leadership Development	(145.50)	41.67	(187.17)	(145.50)	500.00	(645.50)
7300-99-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--Campus Ministry-Special Event Support	0.00	916.67	(916.67)	3,028.88	11,000.00	(7,971.12)
		(1,318.50)	5,208.35	(6,526.85)	29,818.59	62,500.00	(32,681.41)
7500-01-1-000	Future of the Church--Admin., Listening	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)
7500-25-1-000	Future of the Church--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--New Ministries' Development	0.00	2,208.33	(2,208.33)	26,500.00	26,500.00	0.00
		0.00	2,916.66	(2,916.66)	30,000.00	35,000.00	(5,000.00)
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	0.00	1,916.67	(1,916.67)	11,500.00	23,000.00	(11,500.00)
7300-24-1-000	Mission of the Church--Ferncliff--Block Grant	0.00	416.67	(416.67)	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
7300-30-1-000	Christian Education--Presbyterian Pilgrimage	0.00	166.67	(166.67)	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)
7300-90-1-000	Christian Education--Resource Center Resources	125.00	166.67	(41.67)	125.00	2,000.00	(1,875.00)
7300-91-1-000	Christian Education--Resource Center. Admin.	0.00	91.67	(91.67)	0.00	1,100.00	(1,100.00)
7600-03-1-000	Mission of the Church--Scholarship for Mission Trip	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
7600-05-1-000	Mission of the Church--International Mission Initiative	0.00	166.67	(166.67)	1,500.00	2,000.00	(500.00)
7600-26-1-000	Mission of the Church--Arkansas Interfaith Conference	0.00	208.33	(208.33)	1,750.00	2,500.00	(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--Presbyterian Village Support	0.00	41.67	(41.67)	250.00	500.00	(250.00)
7600-49-1-000	Mission of the Church--University 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--Mission Initiative Grants	2,675.00	1,172.92	1,502.08	13,175.00	14,075.00	(900.00)
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)	427.31	500.00	(72.69)
8300-07-1-000	Mission of the Church--PW--Spring & Fall Retreats, Synod Gathering	0.00	291.67	(291.67)	372.40	3,500.00	(3,127.60)
9400-01-1-000	Mission of the Church--Disaster Preparedness	0.00	8.33	(8.33)	50.00	100.00	(50.00)
		2,800.00	5,435.43	(2,635.43)	37,899.71	65,225.00	(27,325.29)
7800-01-1-000	Nominations--travel, food	0.00	8.33	(8.33)	0.00	100.00	(100.00)
8100-01-1-000	Representation--Meeting Expenses	0.00	4.17	(4.17)	0.00	50.00	(50.00)

THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS							
Operating Income Statement							
For the Eight Months Ending August 31, 2023							
		Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	Year to Date Actual	2023 Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
8400-01-1-000	POA/Supplies & Office Exp.	945.49	125.00	820.49	2,383.24	1,500.00	883.24
8400-02-1-000	Utilities/Telephone	1,238.02	833.33	404.69	8,580.82	10,000.00	(1,419.18)
8400-03-1-000	Copy Machine	5,577.90	500.00	5,077.90	9,142.82	6,000.00	3,142.82
8400-05-1-000	Technology	691.99	1,291.67	(599.68)	9,977.96	15,500.00	(5,522.04)
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	6,950.98	1,583.33	5,367.65	15,857.50	19,000.00	(3,142.50)
8400-10-1-000	Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	41.67	(41.67)	300.00	500.00	(200.00)
8400-12-1-000	Maintenance(Grounds, Building Upkeep)	2,855.27	791.67	2,063.60	4,163.83	9,500.00	(5,336.17)
		18,259.65	5,250.00	13,009.65	50,406.17	63,000.00	(12,593.83)
8400-13-1-000	Stated Clerk Professional Exp	1,024.96	0.00	0.00	1,368.72	3,000.00	(1,631.28)
8400-22-1-000	K. Palmer/Professional Exp	190.47	64.58	125.89	477.43	775.00	(297.57)
8400-25-1-000	S. Smith/Professional Exp	3,443.47	1,250.00	2,193.47	10,970.43	15,000.00	(4,029.57)
8400-29-1-000	Salaries	16,022.73	18,490.28	(2,467.55)	134,931.76	221,883.33	(86,951.57)
8400-30-1-000	Pension/Major Medical	1,467.18	1,401.88	65.30	11,737.44	16,822.56	(5,085.12)
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	727.17	883.78	(156.61)	6,333.71	10,605.34	(4,271.63)
8400-34-1-000	Housing	2,725.00	2,725.00	0.00	21,800.00	32,700.00	(10,900.00)
8400-40-1-000	S. Smith/FICA	546.86	560.40	(13.54)	4,374.88	6,724.75	(2,349.87)
8400-41-1-000	Builder/Connector Professional Expenses	0.00	833.33	(833.33)	2,569.55	10,000.00	(7,430.45)
8400-49-1-000	B. Christiansen Professional Expenses	0.00	83.33	(83.33)	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)
8400-53-1-000	TPF Bookkeeping Fees	76.23	765.81	(689.58)	4,106.73	9,189.75	(5,083.02)
		26,224.07	27,183.39	(1,984.28)	198,670.65	329,200.73	(130,530.08)
8600-01-1-000	General Assembly	1,186.56	2,166.67	(980.11)	7,982.59	26,000.00	(18,017.41)
8700-01-1-000	GA Per Capita	7,366.98	7,366.98	0.00	58,935.84	88,403.75	(29,467.91)
8800-01-1-000	Synod Mission	1,186.56	1,750.00	(563.44)	7,982.59	21,000.00	(13,017.41)
		9,740.10	11,283.65	(1,543.55)	74,901.02	135,403.75	(60,502.73)
	Total Expenses	56,925.32	63,509.00	(7,608.64)	466,675.34	765,107.48	(298,432.14)
	Net Income	(\$ 7,598.96)	(\$ 9,105.83)	\$ 8,689.16	(\$ 83,068.89)	\$ 0.00	(\$ 83,068.89)

**Section J--Exhibit II**  
**The Presbytery of Arkansas**  
**Benevolence as of August 31, 2023**

LOCATION	2020 Benevolence	2021 Benevolence	2022 Benevolence	2023 Benevolence
Alma	-	-	-	-
Amity	-	-	-	-
Arkadelphia, First	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Arkadelphia, West End	1,106.00	1,110.00	1,110.00	-
Atkins	-	-	-	-
Batesville	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	5,000.00
Beebe	600.00	1,200.00	900.00	300.00
Bella Vista	24,999.96	20,000.00	20,000.44	10,000.00
Benton	8,600.00	8,600.00	9,000.00	4,200.00
Bentonville, First	32,000.00	33,500.00	32,000.00	10,000.00
Bentonville, Vaughn	2,000.00	-	-	-
Brinkley	-	-	-	-
Bull Shoals	-	50.00	116.74	116.74
Cane Hill	-	-	-	-
Clarksville, First	-	-	-	-
Clarksville, Harmony	-	-	-	-
Conway	7,700.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	5,000.00
Dardanelle	6,000.00	5,500.00	3,500.00	-
Elkins	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
Eureka Springs	2,550.00	2,750.00	2,250.00	1,250.00
Fairfield Bay	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00
Fayetteville, First United	41,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00	27,058.00
Fayetteville, Mt. Comfort	1,660.00	1,660.00	900.00	1,000.00
Forrest City	9,000.00	9,000.00	8,250.00	6,000.00
Ft. Smith, Central	16,000.00	16,000.00	16,000.00	-
Ft. Smith, First	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Greenwood	-	-	1,000.00	-
Gurdon	300.00	-	-	-
Hardy	297.00	-	-	-
Harrison	-	-	-	-
Heber Springs	525.00	950.00	-	450.00
Helena	500.00	-	-	-
Holiday Island	6,200.00	6,200.00	6,200.00	3,100.00
Holly Grove	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Horseshoe Bend	3,000.00	2,290.00	2,300.00	800.00
HSV, Kirk	27,270.00	27,270.00	27,270.00	12,833.59
H. Springs, First	20,000.00	20,013.00	20,000.00	10,000.00
H. Springs, Westminster	10,012.04	8,012.04	8,012.04	5,341.36
Huntsville	2,200.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	1,600.00

## The Presbytery of Arkansas Benevolence as of August 31, 2023

LOCATION	2020 Benevolence	2021 Benevolence	2022 Benevolence	2023 Benevolence
Jacksonville	2,800.00	3,250.00	3,000.00	1,872.70
Jonesboro	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,000.00
Lincoln	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
LR, Allison	-	-	-	-
LR, First	-	-	-	-
LR, Grace	7,900.00	7,900.00	7,900.00	3,025.00
LR, Pulaski Heights	3,636.00	3,636.00	3,618.00	2,000.00
Little Rock, Second	200,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	-
LR, Trinity	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,666.67	4,666.69
LR, Westminster	400.00	400.00	400.00	-
LR, Westover Hills	10,500.00	7,500.00	2,500.00	-
Malvern	5,241.71	5,241.72	5,241.60	-
McGehee	2,520.00	2,520.00	2,520.00	1,260.00
Mena	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	2,750.00
Morrilton, First	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,100.00	900.00
Morrilton, Hopewell	-	-	-	-
Mountain Home	1,000.00	750.00	500.00	-
Mountainburg	-	-	-	-
Newport	3,225.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	1,800.00
Norman	2,000.00	-	-	-
NLR, First	-	-	-	-
NLR, Park Hill	16,000.00	16,000.00	13,000.00	4,000.00
Paragould, First	-	-	-	-
Pea Ridge	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,750.00
Pine Bluff, Central	-	-	115.80	-
Pine Bluff, Faith	-	-	-	-
Pine Bluff, First	4,999.92	4,583.26	6,996.00	5,000.00
Prairie Grove	7,150.00	6,960.00	4,730.00	4,025.00
Rogers	6,999.96	6,999.96	7,000.01	5,278.64
Russellville	-	-	-	-
Searcy	2,000.00	-	-	-
Springdale	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	20,000.00
Van Buren	-	-	-	-
Walnut Ridge	6,400.00	-	-	7,350.48
Wynne	7,500.00	7,500.00	9,999.96	2,500.00
Yellville	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	3,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>589,342.59</b>	<b>566,495.98</b>	<b>556,047.26</b>	<b>184,578.20</b>