

Ministry General Information

Ministry Name Arkansas Presbytery	Presbytery	Synod
Email stewart@presbyark.org	Preferred Phone 501-663-2424	Website Address www.presbyark.org
Mailing Address 9221 N Rodney Parham Rd, Little Rock, AR 72227	Alternate Phone/Email	Community Type
Congregation or Organization Size	Curriculum	Average Worship Attendance
Church School Attendance		
Intercultural Composition		

Information about the Position

Position Requirements

Position Type(s) General Presbyter/Executive Presbyter/Presbytery Leader	Language Requirements English
Experience Required 5 to 10 Years	Statement of Faith required? Yes
Specify Title / PT Work Hours (if applicable) Transitional General Presbyter	Are you open to a clergy couple? Yes
Employment Status Full-time	MDP Application Deadline (if applicable) 2024-07-15
Training/Certificate Requirements Interim Ministry Training	

Ministry Requirements

Church Mission/Vision Statement

The Presbytery of Arkansas is currently in process of a visioning/strategic planning process led by Ministry Architects. The presbytery adopted the following mission statement as a "working framework" along with values that will guide our work and goals with one year and three year benchmarks. These will be formally adopted at the presbytery meeting in October.

The Presbytery of Arkansas inspires and connects congregations and their leaders, equips people of every generation to hear and respond to God's call in Jesus Christ, and fosters innovative expressions of ministry in response to the needs of a changing world.

Tasks, expectations, duties, supervision, assignments, and responsibilities for the position

The Transitional General Presbytery will work with the staff of Ministry Architects, the presbytery's Strategic Leadership Planning Team and the presbytery's Coordinating Team to continue to refine and implement the goals and resulting committee structure and staffing needs for the future.

In addition, the Transitional General Presbyter will supervise the existing staff and daily operations of the presbytery. The Transitional General Presbyter will work in collaboration with the Thriving in Rural Ministry Program (funded by the Lilly Foundation) which works with nurturing and developing leadership in our smaller and rural congregations. The Transitional General Presbyter will serve as a resource to communicate the resources and opportunities provided by the Synod of the Sun and the six agencies of the PCUSA. The Transitional General Presbyter will resource and assist in the work of several committees as outlined in question 5 below.

Compensation & Housing

Minimum Effective Salary

86500

Housing Type

Non-pastoral

MDP - Narratives

How would you describe the congregation's/organization's specific vision for ministry? How will this vision impact the community? Is the congregation part of a ministry vision or program?

Presbytery of Arkansas works to connect, support, and resource the congregations in the northern two-thirds of the Natural State. From spirited houses of worship in the Ozark highlands to small, yet earnest parishes in the Delta region, from early mission outposts of the Ouachita mountains to bustling college-town churches in northern Arkansas and our capital city, Little Rock, Presbyterians in Arkansas display the fruit of the Spirit with energy, authenticity and resilience.

Currently undergoing a visioning process which will redefine our future, Arkansas Presbytery is searching to find a Transitional General Presbyter candidate who will help inspire us to become the church God is calling us to be in the second quarter of the 21st century and beyond. The current iteration of our evolving Mission Statement reads as follows: *"The Presbytery of Arkansas inspires and connects congregations and their leaders, equips people of every generation to hear and respond to God's call in Jesus Christ, and fosters innovative expressions of ministry in response to the needs of a changing world."*

It is our prayer that this time of revisioning will help our presbytery become lighter on our feet, more responsive to the needs in our communities, and even more generous with the resources God has blessed us with. We are a Matthew

25 presbytery, embracing the goals of greater congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradication of systemic poverty.

What is the nature and context of the community in which your congregation lives out its mission/vision? How will you address the emerging needs that are impacting your community?

The Presbytery of Arkansas consists of 71 congregations located in the northern 2/3 of the state of Arkansas. 47 of our congregations do not have adequate resources to call a full-time pastor, so finding pastoral leaders is a challenge. We are blessed to have partner organizations including the University of the Ozarks which received a Lilly Foundation "Thriving in Ministry Grant". The grant funds programs and support for our smaller congregations and their leadership. We are blessed to have Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center within our bounds, which is thriving and is a leader in the region for mission and ministry. It hosts a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Center warehouse and is one of the host sites for CREDO conferences provided by the Board of Pensions. We are blessed to have resources invested in the Texas Presbyterian Foundation which provides over 25% of our operating budget by utilizing a modest spend rate. We are blessed to have a history of strong programming in youth ministry and several of our minister members were participants in presbytery programs during their youth.

We are currently involved in a visioning and strategic planning process with consultants from Ministry Architects. We are prayerfully discerning how we can become a more effective presbytery in addressing the challenging needs of a changing church.

How will this call help complement the responsibilities of other staff/volunteer positions, and the life of the congregation/organization, so that you may accomplish your short and long-term goals for ministry?

We seek a colleague in ministry who will support and encourage Presbytery staff members and volunteers who power so much of the Presbytery's work. We have enjoyed a long history of effective committee functioning without the need of micromanagement by Presbytery staff, including the General Presbyter. Committee and task force members, both MWS and RE have worked respectfully and well. However, in recent years, ease of recruitment and morale of volunteers have taken a downturn because of declining membership. The resultant decrease in the volunteer pool and some sense of fatigue among the "work horses" who seem to be called upon repeatedly have made it challenging to fill committee slots. The outgoing General Presbyter has done an excellent job of tending to the care and nurture of all these people. We need someone to pick up that work and apply insights and ideas being gained through the work with Ministry Architects to help get us to the next phase of the Presbytery's life in Arkansas. Current Presbytery staff members are talented and dedicated. The General Presbyter does not have to spend time redoing staff work. But staff members, along with everybody associated with the Presbytery, find themselves looking toward this special period for signs of what's next. The Transitional General Presbyter can be of great service in fostering hope and inspiring energy as we move into what we pray is a bright future.

Provide a description of the skills, gifts and training the person you hope will become a part of your ministry must have, to lead the congregation towards the vision and mission established.

We seek a transitional GP with skills that are relevant to our current re-visioning process, as well as to day-to-day leadership and guidance:

PREFERRED GIFTS/SKILLS

Visionary Leadership: The ability to cast a compelling vision for the future while effectively mobilizing and inspiring congregations and leaders to work towards its realization.

Collaborative Leadership: A commitment to fostering a culture of collaboration, trust, and transparency among diverse congregations, committees, stakeholders.

Pastoral Sensitivity: A heart for pastoral care; a compassionate presence, capable of providing support and guidance to pastors, church leaders, and congregants during times of transition and challenge.

Financial Stewardship: Demonstrated experience in financial management and stewardship, working alongside Committee on Administration members to ensure the Presbytery's financial stability and sustainability.

PREFERRED EXPERIENCE/TRAINING

Transitional Ministry: Experience/training in transitional ministry, including interim executive leadership roles within Presbyteries. Prefer some training specifically geared towards interim roles within Presbyteries.

Strategic Planning & Organizational Development: A track record of guiding presbyteries through periods of transition and transformation is preferred, including strategic planning, organizational development, and change management.

Conflict Resolution: Experience in conflict resolution that works to promote the health of the Presbytery.

What areas of ministry do you expect the person called to be responsible for? Share specific tasks, assignments, and programs.

The Transitional General Presbyter (TGP) will facilitate the ongoing visioning and strategic planning work with Ministry Architects (MA), working closely with MA staff and the presbytery's Strategic Planning Leadership Team. The TGP will oversee the daily operations of the presbytery including assisting the Presbytery Administrator with budget oversight and in the processing of checks and deposits (twice monthly). The TGP will resource several committees of the presbytery including the Coordinating Team, Committee on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Committee on Administration and the Future of the Church Committee. The TGP will be available to congregations for interpretation of the presbytery's mission, offering guidance and presence in times of need. The TGP will work with the Committee on Ministry assisting pastors and congregations in crisis and assist in mediating conflicts. The TGP will help articulate the work of the wider church. The TGP will report to each meeting of the presbytery and the Coordinating Team. The TGP will ensure that reference checks are completed for all pastors coming in and out of the presbytery. The TGP will serve as "head of staff" for the 4 part-time paid staff positions. The TGP will resource and assist the Administrative Commission which oversees the disposition of church properties. The TGP will regularly communicate with the presbytery by utilizing the platforms managed by the Presbytery Connector.

Optional Links

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

Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center - - <https://ferncliff.org>

Synod of the Sun - - <https://synodsun.org>

References

Reference #1

Stewart Smith
 Current General Presbyter
 479-466-0195
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Reference #2

Georgia Senor
 Pastor in Presbytery
 479-273-5450
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Reference #3

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