



Presbytery of Arkansas

June 1, 2024

**Minutes of the One Hundred Fifty-Sixth Stated Meeting
of
The Presbytery of Arkansas
Central Presbyterian Church
Russellville, AR**

The 156th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was hosted by Central Presbyterian Church in Russellville, Arkansas on Saturday, June 1, 2024. The in-person meeting was also comprised of a livestreaming component where participants could only watch on YouTube, there was no electronic participation (voting).

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

The 156th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was called to order at 10:00 am by the tapping of the gavel and lighting the Christ candle, by Moderator MWS Emmett Powers, who said the opening prayer at Central Presbyterian Church in Russellville on Saturday, June 1, 2024.

Welcome

Moderator Powers welcomed everyone to the worship service and opening of the 155th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas. He introduced MWS Brian Brock, pastor of the host church who welcomed everyone in attendance and those watching the live stream. He offered a few housekeeping details for attendees. He thanked those who got the church ready for the meeting in less than 30 days—quick turnaround time and those members who were facilitating during the meeting. He announced the following

as the appointed tellers: RE Betsy Slaughter, Fairfield Bay, Kirk of the Hills; RE Mike McClure, Fort Smith, Central; CRE Claire Rhodes, Arkadelphia, West End; and RE Ronnie Prevost, Bella Vista.

Consent Agenda

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 106 in attendance, of whom 91 could vote. The attendance is included in the Appendix as Section I. Twelve commissioners were attending for the first time: Whitney Bordelon, Westover Hills, Little Rock; James Buck, First Presbyterian, Springdale; Kim Buck, First Presbyterian, Springdale; Steven Dunnagan, Second Presbyterian, Little Rock; Kate Franks, Second Presbyterian, Little Rock; Kyle Hall, Mt. Vernon Presbyterian, Pea Ridge; Kacky Mixon, First Presbyterian, Jonesboro; Stacy Rowlett, Central Presbyterian, Russellville; Ruth Shepherd, Second Presbyterian, Little Rock; Debbie Turner, First Presbyterian, Conway; Robert Verdoorn, Central Presbyterian, Russellville; and William (Bill) Worthley, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village.

Moderator Powers called on Stated Clerk Brinegar to present the Consent Agenda. The moderator explained all motions may be voted on as in total or anyone is welcome to remove any item for discussion. Moderator Powers asked if anyone wanted an item removed. No changes were made. Moderator Powers entertained a motion, one was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The consent agenda may be found in the Appendix, Section II.

Worship

The meeting was then moved to worship with preaching by candidate Elizabeth Cahoon. The title of her sermon was “Life is a Highway” with scripture from Isaiah 35: 1-10. The offering totaled \$935.40 to benefit the Youth Summer Trips Scholarship. After the worship service, the meeting began the business of the presbytery.

Business of the Presbytery

Stated Clerk Report

Stated Clerk MWS Blake Brinegar’s written report can be found in the Appendix, Section III. There were no action items.

Treasurer’s Report

RE Tom Verdery, Treasurer, gave a report to the presbytery regarding the financial performance so far in 2024. The April 30, 2024 financial reports may be found in the Appendix, Section IV. He also reported to the presbytery that the financial review for 2023 has been completed and the report may be found in the Appendix section IV. Landmark CPA performed the review and concluded that there were no discrepancies found and no modifications should be made to the financial statements. He recognized Administrator Kim Palmer for her timely work with the accountants. He concluded his report, asked any questions, including the financial statements which were asked and answered. Moderator Powers thanked him and said that his work was appreciated. The written Committee on Administration report may also be found in the Appendix, Section IV.

Financial Assets Task Force Report

MWS Carl McCormack, reported for the Financial Assets Task Force, the written report may be found in the Appendix, Section V. He described the abundance that the presbytery has been blessed with and he said that the task force has carefully and wisely tried to make decisions by the grace of God to help other churches thrive once again. He reminded everyone of the presentations made at the last presbytery meeting from Ferncliff, Vera Lloyd and Thriving in Ministry and their asking for funding. He also discussed the administrative commission (AC) that served the First Presbyterian Church in North Little Rock otherwise known as Argenta. When that AC completed its work, it had a suggestion for the use of funds from the Argenta property sale that included an ask for an organization called The Van; which is a program that was close to the hearts of the Argenta congregation that serves the unhoused population. He explained that the Coordinating Team had asked the task force to bring back to the body a plan on how to respond to the requests. The task force met and brought the following motions for consideration:

For Presbytery Action:

Motion 1: That the presbytery approve the financial requests as outlined in “Addendum Section C, Exhibits 1 and 2” from Vera Lloyd and Ferncliff, and make a gift to the Van ministry as suggested by the Administrative Commission of First Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock.

Motion 2: That the presbytery approve the financial request as outlined in Addendum Section C, Exhibits 1 and 2 from the Thriving in Ministry Program.

**“Addendum Section C, Exhibit 1
Funding Sources for Financial Requests”**

Argenta Property Sales Proceeds	934,743.62
Sales Price	1,000,000.00
Amount Cleared	975,123.62
Expenses incurred by AC	40,380.00
	=====
	934,743.62
Partial Proceeds from Brinkley Sale	65,256.38
Used partial proceeds from the Brinkley property sale to purchase a 3 months \$1,000,000 Certificate of Deposit in January 2024.	
Interest from Above Named Certificate of Deposit	13,735.64
Financial Assets -Westminster PC of Little Rock	414,017.33
	=====
Total Used to Fund Financial Requests	1,427,752.97

**“Addendum Section C, Exhibit 2
Payment Schedule for Financial Requests”**

Current Balance – Argenta, Westminster, Brinkley Proceeds		1,427,752.97
2024	Pay Vera Lloyd	(250,000.00)
	Pay “The Van”	(50,000.00)
		=====
Invest Balance in Texas Presbyterian Foundation		1,127,752.97
Funds will be invested in the Balanced Fund. These are mutual funds and the estimated rate of return used is 8% which is the average rate of return for the past 5 years.		
2025	Fund Accumulates (estimated 8%)	90,220.24
	Pay Ferncliff – Yr. 1	(190,000.00)
		=====
	Balance	1,027,973.21
2026	Fund Accumulates (estimated 8%)	82,237.86
	Pay Ferncliff – Yr. 2	(190,000.00)
	Pay Lilly Match – Yr.1	(100,000.00)
		=====
	Balance	820,211.07
2027	Fund Accumulates (estimated 8%)	65,616.89
	Pay Ferncliff – Yr. 3	(190,000.00)
	Pay Lilly Match – Yr.2	(100,000.00)
		=====
	Balance	595,827.96
2028	Fund Accumulates (estimated 8%)	47,666.24
	Pay Ferncliff – Yr. 4	(190,000.00)
	Pay Lilly Match – Yr.3	(100,000.00)
		=====
	Balance	353,494.20
2029	Fund Accumulates (estimated 8%)	28,279.54
	Pay Lilly Match – Yr. 4	(100,000.00)
		=====
		281,773.74
2030	Fund Accumulates (estimated 8%)	22,541.90
	Pay Lilly Match – Yr. 5	(100,000.00)
		=====
	Balance	204,315.64

Motion 3: That the presbytery create an advisory committee of at least 5 members that includes representation from the Committee on Ministry and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry that would work closely with the Thriving in Ministry program on shared goals and benchmarks for the program's ministry with the Presbytery of Arkansas. The Committee on Nominations would bring names for the presbytery to elect at the 157th meeting of presbytery in October.

Motion 1. was moved as written by MWS McCormack. A discussion was held where questions were asked and answered. With no other questions, the moderator asked for a vote and the **motion was carried without opposition.**

Motion 2. was moved as written by MWS McCormack. A discussion was held with the Thriving in Ministry grant director, MWS Phil Blackburn explaining the grant from the Lily Foundation and the need for a match to enable sustainability for the program. After questions were asked and answered, the moderator moved for a vote. **Motion carried with no opposition.**

Motion 3. was made as written and a discussion was held. A motion was made to amend motion 3 to read:

Motion 3: That the presbytery create an advisory committee of at least 5 members that includes representation from the Committee on Ministry and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry that would work closely with the Thriving in Ministry program on shared goals and benchmarks for the program's ministry with the Presbytery of Arkansas. At least half of all advisory board meetings will be held on the campus of the University of the Ozarks and each advisory board member will attend at least one Thriving in Ministry event. The Committee on Nominations would bring names for the presbytery to elect at the 157th meeting of presbytery in October.

Motion to amend motion 3 was made and seconded. A motion was made to approve the amendment was approved. No discussion was held, motion carried without opposition.

A motion was made to approve the amended motion 3. No discussion was held, motion carried with no opposition.

Mission of the Church Committee Report

MWS David Gill, gave the report for committee moderator CRE Peg Falls-Corbitt, who is traveling out of the country, on the Mission of the Church Committee. The next round of grants deadline is July 15 and the presbytery website has the grant application guidelines. In addition to the Mission Initiative grants, the Presbytery has funds from the Peacemaking Offering for initiatives that promote peacemaking. A copy of the grant guidelines can be found in the Appendix, Section VI.

Committee on Nominations Report

Committee Moderator MWS Robert Lowry reported that the deadline for submitting nominations for the new year is June 15. Forms are available online, forms may be submitted to his email, robertywilliamlowry@gmail.com or to the office email kim@presbyark.org. The nomination form may also be found in the Appendix, Section VII.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report

Committee Moderator MWS Elizabeth Brinegar reported that she did not have any motions to bring for the meeting but wanted to express joy she has over graduations and ones starting the CRE journey. Two recent persons Under Care of the presbytery that graduated from seminary in the past month are: Alex Pickell and Maggie Johnson. The two new persons on the CRE journey are: Mary Diehl of Holiday Island Presbyterian Church and James Davis of First Presbyterian Church of Newport.

General Presbyter's Report

General Presbyter MWS Stewart Smith reported on his work as ex-officio on both the Ferncliff and Vera Lloyd board of directors, the congregation at First Presbyterian North Little Rock and the AC, and work with Phil Blackburn and the Thriving in Ministry program. He said he felt privileged to work with all of the folks and celebrate what the presbytery has done to make the financial commitments today.

He also described upcoming items from church closures. An agreement has been entered into to sell the Lincoln church property to the local catholic church for \$90,000. The church property in Stuttgart is now under contract to be sold for \$100,000. The church property for Westminster, Little Rock has been listed with a realtor for \$375,000. The session at Eureka Springs church wants to gift their property to the city library, it has the same architectural style. There will be financial assets that will be coming to the presbytery from the Eureka Springs church..

He wanted to inform everyone on the state of insurance for churches in Arkansas. Billions have been paid out across the state due to wind and hail, tornadoes and other damage. This has caused many congregations insurance issues. The Presbytery of Arkansas office was notified a month before renewal was set that the insurance would not be renewed. Insurance Board is the presbytery office's new company with similar coverage to Church Mutual. The rate is lower however the deductible is a percentage of the amount of property coverage which is happening to a lot of congregations. A roof replacement may have to be paid for by a congregation instead of being able to use their insurance.

He expressed his gratitude for the staff at Central Presbyterian and all of their hard work. The Coordinating Team felt that the visioning work, everyone needed to be in the room for the work. The transitional general presbyter search committee has the Mission Discernment Profile ready to post looking for applicants.

Announcements

Julie Price, Presbytery Connector said that she is sharing resources, helping people with needs and she has a workshop coming up called Shared Spaces, on June 20 in Searcy. She provided a QR code to sign up. She also mentioned another workshop set for September 26, from 4-6 on Zoom called Social Media 101, to help churches that need social media help.

Ted Belden-reminded everyone that the presbytery has funds available to help with CRE training expenses from money designated when the Walnut Grove church sold.

Joceyln Wildwright-thanked everyone for their support of Ferncliff campaign and that summer camp is beginning now.

Yvonne Thurmond of Yellville-has three Clergy robes to give away, contact her for more information.

Sarah Leer, Presbytery Youth and Young Adult Director-Reported about the Confirmation class she recently conducted with MWS Grant Wildwright at Ferncliff with 13 confirmands from five congregations which included two digital gatherings. She also talked about Mission Possible where the youth served in Mena.

John Arnold-reported on the tornadoes that the Rogers and Bentonville area experienced. 35 volunteers from Springdale collaborated to remove debris. He also stated that the Rogers church did sustain damage and the insurance deductible is \$117,000. He had two members of his church that had severe structural damage to their homes. He also spoke on the workshop he held called Persuasive Promotion for church leaders and he has good information to share.

Lunch Break

Business of the Presbytery Continues

Order of the Day-Ministry Architects Report

At 1:05 pm the presbytery meeting reconvened with Mark DeVries from Ministry Architects who gave a report on their continuing activities regarding the visioning process the presbytery is undertaking. He presented a draft version of the mission statement, values and goals. The floor was open for discussion on the draft. A copy of the Draft Vision Document is located on the next page.



DRAFT VISION DOCUMENTS

Draft: May 28, 2024

Mission Statement

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.

Values:

- **Faith:** We work, serve, and dream in response to the abundant love of God we have experienced in Jesus Christ.
- **Empathy:** We seek first to listen deeply, to understand, and to accompany each other as a supportive community that encourages growth, development, and acts of compassion.
- **Authenticity:** We embrace humble, genuine connection with God and one another, acknowledging that our vulnerabilities and imperfections are not barriers, but opportunities for growth and deeper relationships.
- **Courage:** We recognize systems of oppression in the church and culture, and we take risks faithfully to express God's love to the world.
- **Adaptability:** We remain nimble and willing to change our strategies and structures to address the needs of a changing world with imagination, innovation, and action.
- **Revitalization:** We celebrate and participate in the Holy Spirit's ongoing work of renewal in our communities, our congregations, and our own lives.

THREE-YEAR REVOLVING GOALS

ANNIVERSARY DATE: JUNE 30, 2027 / ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY DATE: JUNE 30, 2025

1. Receiving New Life

2027: At least five congregations have completed a revitalization process sponsored by the presbytery or one of its partners.

- **2025:** A revitalization process for interested churches in the Presbytery of Arkansas has been designed and approved for prototyping.

2. Deepening Financial Health

2027: The presbytery has a clear, written fundraising plan and has received at least \$100,000 in grant funding and other initiatives in the previous year.

- **2025:** A fundraising plan for the presbytery has been drafted and approved.
- **2025:** The presbytery has named a single missional priority for the 2025-2026 program year and has a plan for inviting members of the presbytery to contribute to this cause.

3. Repurposing Property

2027: In the previous year, three properties in the presbytery have been supported by the presbytery to creatively repurpose their properties in ways that increase the churches' mission and contribute to their ongoing financial health.

- **2025:** "Choice point" congregations throughout the presbytery have been identified and conversations have begun with those congregations about the future of their church property.
- **2025:** A first draft of a property opportunity assessment has been drafted and is ready for prototyping with interested churches.
- **2025:** A recommendation has been made about the repurposing or sale of the presbytery office.
- **2025:** A recommendation has been made about the best, next use of the Fayetteville, Crossover property.

4. Building Capacity

2027: Momentum has been built within the presbytery by tending to the creation of fundamental infrastructure needed to execute on the broad range of desired priorities, such that the presbytery will be ready to move into a rhythm of revolving three-year goals and one-year benchmarks.

- **2025:** The presbytery is positioned with the infrastructure necessary for the execution of future priorities, starting with the following results:

i. Small Churches

1. The presbytery and the Thriving in Ministry work of the University of the Ozarks have developed shared goals and benchmarks for the presbytery related to rural churches.
2. Representatives of every church in the presbytery with an average worship attendance under 20 has had at least four conversations in the previous year with a supportive, collaborative representative from the presbytery.

ii. Innovation

1. An incubation process for new expressions of ministry has been designed and approved for testing in the presbytery.
2. Structures for supporting the emergence of new worshipping communities have been implemented.
3. In alignments with the PCUSA 1001 new worshipping communities initiative, the next prospective worshipping communities for the presbytery have been identified.
4. Alternative metrics for ministry, informed by Gil Rendle's, [Doing the Math of Mission: Fruits, Faithfulness and Metrics](#), has been drafted for the presbytery.

5. Clear, written protocols for all available grant funds in the presbytery has been approved and this information is available on the presbytery website.
6. A game plan for launching a young adult leadership corps in the presbytery has been drafted and approved.

iii. Culture Building

1. The stories of all new worshiping communities in the presbytery since 2015 have been compiled, written, and shared with the Presbytery of Arkansas audience.
2. The presbytery has drafted and begun to implement a game plan for diversity and inclusion.
3. Every presbytery meeting in the previous year included the sharing of stories of marvelous work happening throughout the presbytery.
4. A game plan for the sharing of culture-shaping stories in the presbytery has been drafted.
5. A first draft of a presbytery policy for the utilization of the presbytery's endowment and other designated funds has been drafted.
6. A game plan for the presbytery providing supplemental support for churches in paying pension dues has been drafted.

iv. Leadership Cultivation

1. A survey of the variety of pastoral leadership models being utilized in the presbytery has been completed and a clear picture of how many churches are using which non-traditional models of leadership is now available.
2. A pipeline design for leadership development from high school through senior citizens has been drafted for the presbytery.
3. After listening sessions with pastors, ministry staff, and church officers, at least three initiatives have been identified for implementation in 2025 to deepen their spiritual and emotional health.

After there were no further questions or comments, a motion was made by the Coordinating Team and read by Stated Clerk MWS Blake Brinegar.

For Presbytery Action:

The Coordinating Team moves that the presbytery adopt the current draft of the proposed visioning documents, developed in collaboration with Ministry Architects, as a working framework for preliminary implementation between now and our October 2024 presbytery meeting. Between now and the October meeting of presbytery, the Strategic Planning Leadership Team will continue to receive feedback on these documents with the intent of bringing completed documents for approval to the October meeting.

No second was needed, no discussion was held, **motion carried with no opposition.**

Committee on Ministry Report

Committee Moderator MWS Leslie Roper gave the report for the Committee on Ministry. She first recognized Janet Benson, for continuing her relationship as CRE with Wynne Presbyterian; Mary Jane Fischer for her commission as CRE to the First Presbyterian in Jacksonville; and MWS LaWanda Harris for her validated ministry as chaplain to Arkansas Hospice. All were acknowledged with clapping and their congregations in attendance were also recognized. She noted that there will be groups going around the state to help churches/congregations with the changes at Board of Pensions regarding medical coverage. She made a reminder about the Boundary Training required by the *Book of Order*. Training must be completed by August 31, 2024 for all pastors and CREs. If it is not completed, their name goes on a list and by December 31, 2024 if the training is not completed, disciplinary action will be taken. Copy of the written report may be found in the Appendix, Section VIII. She made the following motions for Presbytery action:

1. **Motion to approve the call of MWS Doug Cartwright as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Harrison, effective June 3, 2024 and enroll him as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas following his transfer from The Presbytery of the Inland Northwest with the following terms of call:**

Salary and Housing Allowance.....	\$75,000.00
Board of Pensions.....	\$29,250.00
SECA Supplement (Up to 50%).....	\$5,737.00
Auto Allowance (Reimbursed) up to.....	\$4,500.00
Business/Professional Expenses (Reimbursed up to).....	\$2,000.00
Other Allowances (Reimbursed up to).....	\$1,700.00
Continuing Education (Reimbursed up to).....	\$1,500.00
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 to be taken in the 7th year with Presbytery approval	
Total Compensation Package.....	\$119,687.00

MWS Doug Cartwright’s Statement of Faith is included can be found in the Appendix, Section VIII, Exhibit 1.

Motion was made, no discussion was held, motion carried. Doug Cartwright and members representing the Harrison congregation were recognized after a brief introduction by Cartwright.

2. **Motion to enroll MWS Ron Gilmer as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas following his transfer from Trinity Presbytery.** MWS Ron Gilmer’s Statement of Faith is included in the Appendix, Section VIII, Exhibit 2.

Motion was made, no discussion was held, motion carried. Ron Gilmer had a video introduction and members representing the Holiday Island congregation were recognized.

- 3. Motion to enroll MWS Jesse Gonzales, Retired, as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas following his transfer from Grace Presbytery. MWS Jesse Gonzales’ statement of faith is included In the Appendix, Section VII, Exhibit 3.**

Motion was made, no discussion was held, motion carried. Jesse Gonzales was recognized by the presbytery.

- 4. Motion to enroll Rev. Randy Hyde (Cooperative Baptist) as a temporary member of The Presbytery of Arkansas.**

Motion was made, no discussion was held, motion carried. Randy Hyde was recognized by the presbytery.

- 5. Motion to approve the retirement of MWS Bill Bailey and approve the dissolution of his call to Kirk of the Pines Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs Village effective April 30, 2024.**

Motion was made, no questions were asked, motion carried.

- 6. Motion to approve the retirements of MWS Phil and Jan Butin and approve the dissolution of their calls to First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville effective June 30, 2024.**

Motion was made, no questions were asked, motion carried.

- 7. Motion to examine Candidate Elizabeth Cahoon for ordination to Associate Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock. Elizabeth Cahoon’s Statement of Faith is included in the Appendix, Section VIII, Section 4. Elizabeth is under care of Baltimore Presbytery.**

Elizabeth Cahoon shared her journey of faith with the presbytery. She had preached the portion of her examine earlier; it was moved that it was approved. She was examined by the presbytery with questions and gave answers relating to Bible-it was moved that this portion was approved; Theology-it was moved that this portion was approved; Worship & Sacraments-it was moved that it was approved; and Polity-it was moved that this portion was approved. After no more questions, Leslie Roper moved the exam as a whole be approved. Motion carried.

Elizabeth and her husband left the meeting for a brief moment while the vote took place. No discussion was held, motion carried with no opposition. She was invited back to the meeting into a round of applause welcoming her to the Presbytery of Arkansas.

- 8. Motion to approve the call of Elizabeth Cahoon and Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock effective August 17th and enroll her as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas with the following terms of call:**

Salary and Housing.....	\$65,000.00
Continuing Education (Reimbursed).....	\$1,500.00
Professional Expenses (Reimbursed).....	\$2,500.00
Board of Pensions.....	\$25,350.00
Vacation.....	4 weeks paid
Continuing Education.....	2 weeks paid

Family Medical Leave.....	12 weeks paid
Sabbatical Leave.....	10 weeks paid
(to be taken in the 7th year with Session and Presbytery approval)	

Total Compensation Package.....	\$94,350.00
--	--------------------

Motion to approve the following Administrative Commission for a service of ordination and installation for Candidate Elizabeth Cahoon on Sunday, August 17 at 2:00 pm at Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock.

Moderate & ask Constitutional QuestionsMWS Emmett Powers (Or his designee)
Charge the PastorMWS Marie Mainard O’Connell, At-Large
Charge the Congregation..... MWS Robert Lowry, Westover Hills, Little Rock
MWS Jeff PriceTrinity Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
MWS Ruskin FallsPulaski Heights Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
RE Karen Herbert.....Grace Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
RE Liz BranchWestover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock
RE Marge Anna LuttrellSecond Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
Seated with the commission will be: Dorothy White (Ordained Episcopal Church of Minnesota) to preach.

The offering recipient will be the Youth Advisory Team Summer Trip Scholarship Fund.

Motions were made, no questions asked, motions carried with no opposition.

- 9. Motion from page 8 in the addendum packet to approve the following Administrative Commission for a service of installation for MWS Doug Cartwright on Sunday, June 23 at 3:00 pm at First Christian Church of Harrison (location where First Presbyterian of Harrison worships).**

Moderate and ask Constitutional QuestionsMWS Emmett Powers, Fairfield Bay
PreachMWS Kade Curry, Validated Ministry
Charge the PastorMWS Stewart Smith, General Presbyter
Charge the Congregation.....RE Jane Webb, First Presbyterian Church, Rogers RE
Claudia BrighamFirst Presbyterian Church, Yellville RE
Gwen HoffmanFirst Presbyterian Church, Harrison
RE Carla TaylorFirst Presbyterian Church, Huntsville

The offering recipient will be for NW Arkansas tornado relief for the Subcommittee on Disaster Preparedness and Response of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Motion was made, no questions were asked, motion carried.

At the conclusion of the Committee on Ministry report, words of gratitude were given to MWS Brian Brock and his sons, Win and Andy, who worked during the meeting to help with the audio/visual and live streaming. Moderator Powers thanked General Presbyter Smith, as this may be his last stated meeting as general presbyter, for his years of service to the presbytery. Stewart said that it has been his honor and joy to serve the presbytery.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

With no more business needing to be conducted before the presbytery, MWS Stewart Smith offered the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Written reports for the meeting may be found in the Appendix, starting with Section IX.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Palmer
Administrator

Blake Brinegar
Stated Clerk

Appendix

I.	Attendance	16
II.	Consent Agenda	19
III.	Report from the Stated Clerk	20
IV.	Report from Treasurer & Committee on Administration	21
	Balance Sheet, Income Statement, & Benevolence	22
	Landmark Independent Accountant’s Review Report for 2023	28
V.	Report from the Financial Assets Task Force	44
VI.	Report from the Mission of the Church	46
VII.	Report from the Committee on Nominations	48
VIII.	Report from the Committee on Ministry	50
IX.	Report from the Youth, Young Adult and College Ministry	56
X.	Report from the Future of the Church	58
XI.	Report from the Coordinating Team	59

Section I – Roster of Attendance/Enrollment

Voting as Ministers of Word and Sacrament

Ministers of Word and Sacrament – 34 in attendance

Arnold, John	Cartwright, Doug	Schaller, Patricia
Arnold, Susan	Davis, Fern	Seitz, Bill
Berger, Sara Anne	Falls, Ruskin	Smith, Stewart
Blackburn, Phillip	Harris, LaWanda	Thurmond, Yvonne
Blackburn, Tasha	Kwak, Jai	Timmons, Brian
Brinegar, Blake	Lowry, Robert	Ulasewich, Micael
Brinegar, Elizabeth	Price, Jeff	Vinson, Michael
Brock, Brian	Purcell, Becky	Wildwright, Grant
Butin, Jan	Qualls, Michael	Wildwright, Jocelyn
Butin, Phil	Roper, Leslie	Wilhelmi, Jeremy
Cahoon, Elizabeth	Schaller, David	Wooley, Dan

Retired Ministers of Word and Sacrament – 8 in attendance

Akin, Karen	Gill, David	Jones, Ron
Allsbury, Catherine	Gonzales, Jesse	McCormack, Carl
Clark, Carol	Hadley, Robert	Powers, Emmett

Excused Absences

Alsup, Maggie	Kane, Ben	Senor, Georgia
Anderson, Barry	McMillan, Judith	Spooner, Rebecca
Cummings, Katie	Reed, David	Tropansky, Joseph
Hatcher, Chip	Ritchie, Dennis	Whitworth-Reed, Linda
Henning, Bill	Secrest, Alisa	

Total of 42 voting as a Ministers of the Word and Sacrament were in attendance.

Voting as Ruling Elders

Ruling Elder Commissioners 41 in attendance representing congregations

Alma, First – Enke, Jan	Fort Smith, First – Chanthorn, Koonkeo
Bella Vista – Prevost, Peggy	Harrison, First – Hoffman, Gwen
Benton, First – Moore, James	Hot Springs, First – Cattaneo, Dawn
Bentonville, First – Dixon, Kim	Hot Springs, Westminster – Wetzler, Billie
Conway, First – Turner, Debbie	Hot Springs Village, Kirk –Hamilton, Ruth; Bill
Fairfield Bay, Kirk of the Hills – Slaughter,	Worthley
Wayne; Staton, Becky	Huntsville, First – Ellis, Shawn
Fayetteville, First – Gilbreath, James;	Jacksonville, First – Matthews, Barbara
Steinkraus, Jane	Jonesboro, First – Mixon, Kacky & Don
Fort Smith, Central – McClure, Mike	Little Rock, First – Fairchild, Greg

Little Rock, Grace – Herbert, Jerry
Little Rock, Pulaski Heights – Dyer, Marian
Little Rock, Second – Dunnagan, Steven;
Franks, Kate; Shepherd, Ruth
Little Rock, Trinity – Hartnuss, Wanda
Little Rock, Westover Hills – Bordelon, Whitney
Mena, First – Venable, Don
Morrilton, First – Cheek, Michelle
Norman, Barr Memorial – Lysobey, David

North Little Rock, Park Hill – Terrell, Liz
Paragould, First – Bennett, Lee
Pea Ridge, Mt. Vernon – Hall, Kyle
Pine Bluff, First – Harris, Don
Rogers, First – Larkin, Liz
Russellville, Central – Rowlett, Stacy; Verdoorn,
Robert
Springdale, First – Buck, Kim; Buck, James
Wynne – Bradshaw, Beth

Excused Absence

Atkins, Memorial—Murdoch, Mike
Little Rock, Allison – Morris, Susan

Absent Without Excuse – Congregations

Amity, Alpine	Cane Hill	McGehee, First
Beebe, First	Gurdon, First	Mountain Home, First
Bentonville, Vaughn	Helena, First	Pine Bluff, Faith
Bull Shoals		

Ruling Elder Voting Members of Presbytery Council – 4 in attendance

Belden, Ted – Administrative Commission	Prevost, Ronnie – Coordinating Team
Boggs, Tamara – Coordinating Team	Verdery, Tom – Treasurer

Excused Absence

Szabo, Mike – Coordinating Team

Commissioned Ruling Elders – 4 in attendance

Benson, Janet – Wynne	Fischer, Mary Jane – Jacksonville, First
Clark, David – Heber Springs, First	Rhodes, Claire – Arkadelphia, West End

Excused Absence

Olson, Chuck – Atkins Memorial
Wilkinson, Ed - Greenwood

Certified Christian Educators – 0 in attendance

A total of 49 voting as Ruling Elders in attendance with 33 congregations represented.

Total Voting of 91 in attendance.

Non-Voting Attendees

Members of the Presbytery Staff – 3 in attendance (non-voting)

Leer, Sarah

Palmer, Kimberly

Price, Julie

Visitors - 12 in attendance (non-voting)

Boehmler, Bob – Bentonville, First

Cahoon, Joel – Little Rock, Second

Daniel, Kerri – Vera Lloyd

Davis, Brian – Harrison, First

Davis, Melody – Harrison, First

Gill, Joel – Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

Hoffman, Scott

Ju Oh, Young – Hot Springs

Lysobey, Mary Beth – Norman, Barr-Memorial

Marasco, Mary - Hot Springs, Westminster

McCormack, Terry

Ricketts, Andrea – Mt. Vernon Presbyterian

Total Non-Voting of 15 in attendance.

Total Attendance

A total of 106 were in attendance, of whom 91 who could vote and 15 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 155th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, March 1-2, 2024, held at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville with outgoing moderator Mike Szabo preaching.**
3. **Motion to enroll corresponding members with voice but no vote.**
4. **Motion to grant privilege of the floor (voice) to those registered, but without vote.**
5. **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.”**

Section III - Report of the Stated Clerk

MWS Blake Brinegar

For Information:

1. Attended a seminar on the new Board of Pensions programs in April.
2. Held a clerk of session training for several clerks in the presbytery. Will be scheduling another one.
3. Submitted the Church Summary and Minister Summary for 2023 to the national office as a part of the presbytery's annual statistical report.
4. Wrote an article for the Presbyterian Outlook addressing how some of the overtures might affect small and rural congregations.

Section IV – Treasurer and Committee on Administration Report

RE Tom Verdery, Treasurer
MWS Carl McCormack, HR Moderator

The Committee on Administration met May 15, 2024, via ZOOM, with a quorum of five.

With sadness and sorrow, we recognized the death of one of our newest members, RE Mary Ellen Holder.

Reports:

The committee received a report from the presbytery administrator and the presbytery treasurer giving us a review of the April 2024 financials. Most notably the presbytery is under budget on expenses, and over budget on the spend rate from our investment account. Both items are good news.

The General Presbyter reported that two properties are under contract for sale: Stuttgart, First and Lincoln, First for a total of \$190,000. Little Rock, Westminster has been listed for sale, and Marianna, First should be listed by June 15. The gift of Eureka Springs, First to the Eureka Springs Library has met with some roadblocks at the city council level. The Brinkley, First and North Little Rock, First (Argenta) properties have closed with a total of \$1,100,000. He mentioned two congregations that have sold or are in the process of selling their property to get out from under the burden of expense on the property, and reminded the committee that the real assets of a church remain with the church as long as long as they are a functioning congregation.

Old Business:

The presbytery was dropped by Church Mutual Insurance, but Insurance Board, the insurance provider preferred by our denomination, has taken on our policy with an approximate cost of \$17,000 from April 7, 2024 to January 1, 2025. The deductible has risen sharply to 5% of the value of the covered property.

New Business:

The Transitional General Presbyter Search Committee had asked for a minimum and maximum effective salary amount to be communicated with Church Leadership Connection of the PCUSA. In light of current salary expense levels, **a motion was made, seconded, and approved to give the Search Committee the amounts of \$80,000 - \$95,000 for the position.**

At the recommendation of the General Presbyter and discussion of the committee, **a motion was made, seconded, and approved to give the committees on the Mission of the Church and the Future of the Church access to monies outside their budgeted expenses in the amount of \$20,000 from the Church Development/Redevelopment Fund to be used for additional grant requests from our churches.**

There is no motion to be brought before the Presbytery at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Carl McCormack, HR
Committee on Administration, Moderator

THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSASBalance Sheet
April 30, 2024**ASSETS****Current Assets**

Cash TPF - undesignated	599,688.37	
Sold Property CD	1,013,735.64	
TPF Investment Cash - designated	682,765.45	
TPF Investments	5,151,974.81	
N/R Ministers	7,666.76	
N/R Churches	25,000.00	
TPF Mark to Market 52190	1,237,699.43	
	<hr/>	
Total Current Assets		8,718,530.46

Property and Equipment

Furniture & Fixtures	68,609.89	
Land	383,571.00	
Buildings	911,516.12	
	<hr/>	
	1,363,697.01	
Accumulated Depreciation	(331,498.31)	
	<hr/>	
Net Property and Equipment		9,750,729.16

TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 9,750,729.16
---------------------	--	------------------------

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL**Current Liabilities**

Payroll & Other Withholdings	0.00	
	<hr/>	
Total Current Liabilities		0.00

Fund Balance

Equity Beginning Balance	\$ 4,343,422.31	
Fund Balance	3,519,261.29	
Unrealized Gains/Losses	822,557.89	
Net Income	1,065,487.67	
	<hr/>	
Total Fund Balance		9,750,729.16

TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL		\$ 9,750,729.16
--	--	------------------------

Unaudited - For Management Purposes Only

Draft Minutes June 1, 2024

THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS							
Operating Income Statement							
For the Four Months Ending April 30, 2024							
		Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	Year to Date Actual	2024 Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
6000-01	Mission Acceptance	25,892.02	22,083.33	3,808.69	75,744.80	455,000.00	(379,255.20)
Misc (Acct. 6015)	Investment Spend Rate	23,370.49	20,148.87	3,221.62	92,774.12	241,786.41	(149,012.29)
6000-01-1-101	Previous Years Pledges	-		-	3,150.00	-	3,150.00
6001-00-1-000	Miscellaneous Revenue	1,400.00	1,350.00	50.00	5,202.28	16,200.00	(10,997.72)
	Total Revenues	50,662.51	43,582.20	7,080.31	176,871.20	712,986.41	(536,115.21)
	Expenses						
7000-01-1-000	Coordinating Team--Meeting Exp, Meals, Worship	-	100.00	(100.00)	8.56	1,200.00	(1,191.44)
7000-06-1-000	Coordinating Team--Gifts	-	4.17	(4.17)	-	50.00	(50.00)
7000-09-1-000	Coordinating Team--Moderator's Expense	-	37.50	(37.50)	-	450.00	(450.00)
7000-10-1-000	Coordinating Team--Vice moderator's Expense	-	95.83	(95.83)	-	1,150.00	(1,150.00)
7000-20-1-000	Coordinating Team--Presbytery Workshop/Speaker	-	125.00	(125.00)	-	1,500.00	(1,500.00)
7000-31-1-000	Coordinating Team--Background Checks	40.00	41.67	(1.67)	80.00	500.00	(420.00)
		40.00	404.17	(364.17)	88.56	4,850.00	(4,761.44)
7100-01-1-000	Administration--Meeting Expense, Financial Review	2,164.15	623.33	1,540.82	7,164.15	7,480.00	(315.85)
7100-05-1-000	Administration--Ferncliff General Site Support	-	2,166.67	(2,166.67)	-	26,000.00	(26,000.00)
7500-21-1-000	West End Operation Support	-	1,125.00	(1,125.00)	3,375.00	13,500.00	(10,125.00)
7500-53-1-000	Laotian Ministry support	-	300.00	(300.00)	900.00	3,600.00	(2,700.00)
7500-98-1-000	Faith Presbyterian Operation Support	-	594.00	(594.00)	1,782.00	7,128.00	(5,346.00)
		2,164.15	4,809.00	(2,644.85)	13,221.15	57,708.00	(44,486.85)
7700-01-1-000	Committee on Ministry--travel,food,meeting support	-	166.67	(166.67)	-	2,000.00	(2,000.00)
8000-01-1-000	Committee on Preparation for Ministry--Meeting Expenses, etc.	-	41.67	(41.67)	-	500.00	(500.00)
8000-09-1-000	Committee on Preparation for Ministry--Eval, Retreat, Support, Bkg Checks	-	125.00	(125.00)	-	1,500.00	(1,500.00)
8400-08-1-000	Committee on Ministry--Wellspring Contract	-	1,050.00	(1,050.00)	12,600.00	12,600.00	-
		-	1,383.34	(1,383.34)	12,600.00	16,600.00	(4,000.00)
7300-29-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--Campus Ministry/Program Support	2,356.66	2,500.00	(143.34)	9,426.64	30,000.00	(20,573.36)
7300-71-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--Planning Retreats & Materials	-	83.33	(83.33)	172.73	1,000.00	(827.27)
7300-73-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT Scholarships	-	41.67	(41.67)	-	500.00	(500.00)
7300-74-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT Denomination Trips	-	166.67	(166.67)	-	2,000.00	(2,000.00)
7300-75-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT-Youth @ Presbytery	333.75	41.67	292.08	516.31	500.00	16.31
7300-76-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT YouthQuake	-	750.00	(750.00)	-	9,000.00	(9,000.00)
7300-78-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT Montreat	1,750.36	291.67	1,458.69	1,670.43	3,500.00	(1,829.57)
7300-79-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--JR High Summer Trip	4,013.80	208.33	3,805.47	2,151.63	2,500.00	(348.37)
7300-80-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--Matthew 25 Account	(1,284.23)	41.67	(1,325.90)	(1,406.73)	500.00	(1,906.73)
7300-84-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--Young Adult Ministries	-	125.00	(125.00)	-	1,500.00	(1,500.00)

THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS							
Operating Income Statement							
For the Four Months Ending April 30, 2024							
		Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	Year to Date Actual	2024 Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
7300-86-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--YAT--Student Leadership Development	-	41.67	(41.67)	-	500.00	(500.00)
7300-99-1-000	Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adults--Campus Ministry-Special Event Support	-	916.67	(916.67)	-	11,000.00	(11,000.00)
		7,170.34	5,208.35	1,961.99	12,531.01	62,500.00	(49,968.99)
7500-01-1-000	Future of the Church--Admin., Listening	-	83.33	(83.33)	-	1,000.00	(1,000.00)
7500-25-1-000	Future of the Church--Presbytery Technology Needs	-	625.00	(625.00)	-	7,500.00	(7,500.00)
7500-51-1-000	Future of the Church--New Ministries' Development	-	2,208.33	(2,208.33)	-	26,500.00	(26,500.00)
		-	2,916.66	(2,916.66)	-	35,000.00	(35,000.00)
7300-01-1-000	Christian Education--Education Events	-	200.00	(200.00)	-	2,400.00	(2,400.00)
7300-21-1-000	Christian Education--Ferncliff. Prog/Supt. Summer Camp	-	1,916.67	(1,916.67)	-	23,000.00	(23,000.00)
7300-24-1-000	Mission of the Church--Ferncliff--Block Grant	-	416.67	(416.67)	-	5,000.00	(5,000.00)
7300-30-1-000	Christian Education--Presbyterian Pilgrimage	-	166.67	(166.67)	-	2,000.00	(2,000.00)
7300-91-1-000	Christian Education--Ministry Resourcing		250.00	(250.00)	9.34	3,000.00	(2,990.66)
7600-03-1-000	Mission of the Church--Scholarship for Mission Trip	-	83.33	(83.33)	-	1,000.00	(1,000.00)
7600-05-1-000	Mission of the Church--International Mission Initiative		166.67	(166.67)	1,000.00	2,000.00	(1,000.00)
7600-26-1-000	Mission of the Church--Arkansas Interfaith Conference	-	125.00	(125.00)	500.00	1,500.00	(1,000.00)
7600-42-1-000	Mission of the Church--Stewpot	-	62.50	(62.50)	187.50	750.00	(562.50)
7600-44-1-000	Mission of the Church--Lyon College	-	83.33	(83.33)	250.00	1,000.00	(750.00)
7600-45-1-000	Mission of the Church--Presbyterian Village Support	-	41.67	(41.67)	125.00	500.00	(375.00)
7600-49-1-000	Mission of the Church--University of Ozarks	-	83.33	(83.33)	250.00	1,000.00	(750.00)
7600-51-1-000	Mission of the Church--Vera Lloyd Mission	-	208.33	(208.33)	625.00	2,500.00	(1,875.00)
7600-62-1-000	Mission of the Church--Mission Initiative Grants	-	1,214.58	(1,214.58)	-	14,575.00	(14,575.00)
7600-96-1-000	Mission of the Church--Solar Under the Sun	-	83.33	(83.33)	250.00	1,000.00	(750.00)
8300-01-1-000	Mission of the Church--PW Exp., travel, postage, etc.	-	33.33	(33.33)	-	400.00	(400.00)
8300-07-1-000	Mission of the Church--PW--Spring & Fall Retreats, Synod Gathering	-	291.67	(291.67)	-	3,500.00	(3,500.00)
9400-01-1-000	Mission of the Church--Disaster Preparedness	-	8.33	(8.33)	-	100.00	(100.00)
		-	5,435.41	(5,435.41)	3,196.84	65,225.00	(62,028.16)
7800-01-1-000	Nominations--travel, food	-	8.33	(8.33)	-	100.00	(100.00)

8100-01-1-000	Representation--Meeting Expenses	-	4.17	(4.17)	-	50.00	(50.00)
THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS							
Operating Income Statement							
For the Four Months Ending April 30, 2024							
		Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	Year to Date Actual	2024 Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
8400-01-1-000	POA/Supplies & Office Exp.	-	125.00	(125.00)	365.65	1,500.00	(1,134.35)
8400-02-1-000	Utilities/Telephone	886.17	833.33	52.84	3,353.71	10,000.00	(6,646.29)
8400-03-1-000	Copy Machine	53.43	50.00	3.43	129.47	600.00	(470.53)
8400-05-1-000	Technology	698.99	1,291.67	(592.68)	7,398.85	15,500.00	(8,101.15)
8400-09-1-000	Insurance	-	2,166.67	(2,166.67)	(1,760.00)	26,000.00	(27,760.00)
8400-10-1-000	Miscellaneous Expenses	-	25.00	(25.00)	-	300.00	(300.00)
8400-12-1-000	Maintenance(Grounds, Building Upkeep)	597.44	791.67	(194.23)	2,101.93	9,500.00	(7,398.07)
		2,236.03	5,283.34	(3,047.31)	11,589.61	63,400.00	(51,810.39)
8400-13-1-000	Stated Clerk Professional Exp	91.79	-	-	214.93	3,000.00	(2,785.07)
8400-22-1-000	K. Palmer/Professional Exp	76.11	64.58	11.53	379.19	775.00	(395.81)
8400-25-1-000	S. Smith/Professional Exp	2,449.43	1,250.00	1,199.43	5,177.61	15,000.00	(9,822.39)
8400-29-1-000	Salaries	16,262.36	16,262.36	-	65,049.44	195,148.28	(130,098.84)
8400-30-1-000	Pension/Major Medical	1,623.10	1,623.10	-	6,492.40	19,477.20	(12,984.80)
8400-31-1-000	S. Smith/Continuing Ed.	-	125.00	(125.00)	-	1,500.00	(1,500.00)
8400-33-1-000	Payroll Taxes	741.10	741.09	0.01	2,964.42	8,893.13	(5,928.71)
8400-34-1-000	Housing	2,725.00	2,725.00	-	10,900.00	32,700.00	(21,800.00)
8400-40-1-000	S. Smith/FICA	550.00	550.00	-	2,190.58	6,600.00	(4,409.42)
8400-41-1-000	Connector Professional Expenses	-	416.67	(416.67)	296.39	5,000.00	(4,703.61)
8400-49-1-000	Youth Developer Professional Expenses	-	250.00	(250.00)	451.58	3,000.00	(2,548.42)
		24,518.89	24,007.80	419.30	94,116.54	291,093.61	(196,977.07)
8600-01-1-000	General Assembly	871.60	1,895.83	(1,024.23)	4,185.72	22,750.00	(18,564.28)
8700-01-1-000	GA Per Capita	6,329.98	6,329.98	-	25,319.92	75,959.80	(50,639.88)
8800-01-1-000	Synod Mission	871.60	1,479.17	(607.57)	4,185.72	17,750.00	(13,564.28)
		8,073.18	9,704.98	(1,631.80)	33,691.36	116,459.80	(82,768.44)
	Total Expenses	44,202.59	59,165.55	(15,054.75)	181,035.07	712,986.41	(531,951.34)
	Net Income	\$ 6,459.92	\$ (15,583.35)	\$ 22,135.06	\$ (4,163.87)	\$ -	\$ (4,163.87)

The Presbytery of Arkansas Benevolence as of April 30, 2024

LOCATION	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	Benevolence	Benevolence	Benevolence	Benevolence	Benevolence
Alma	-	-	-	-	-
Amity	-	-	-	-	-
Arkadelphia, First	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.01
Arkadelphia, West End	1,106.00	1,110.00	1,110.00	1,110.00	-
Atkins	-	-	-	150.00	-
Batesville	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	5,000.00
Beebe	600.00	1,200.00	900.00	900.00	300.00
Bella Vista	24,999.96	20,000.00	20,000.44	11,250.00	142.10
Benton	8,600.00	8,600.00	9,000.00	6,300.00	1,500.00
Bentonville, First	32,000.00	33,500.00	32,000.00	10,000.00	-
Bentonville, Vaughn	2,000.00	-	-	-	-
Bull Shoals	-	50.00	116.74	116.74	-
Cane Hill	-	-	-	-	-
Clarksville, First	-	-	-	-	-
Clarksville, Harmony	-	-	-	-	-
Conway	7,700.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	2,500.00
Dardanelle	6,000.00	5,500.00	3,500.00	3,000.00	-
Elkins	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	500.00	-
Fairfield Bay	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00
Fayetteville, First United	41,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00	13,664.00
Fayetteville, Mt. Comfort	1,660.00	1,660.00	900.00	2,000.00	1,000.00
Forrest City	9,000.00	9,000.00	8,250.00	9,625.00	2,250.00
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	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	6,200.00	1,550.00
Holly Grove	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Horseshoe Bend	3,000.00	2,290.00	2,300.00	1,600.00	400.00
HSV, Kirk	27,270.00	27,270.00	27,270.00	22,000.44	5,499.85
H. Springs, First	20,000.00	20,013.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	5,000.00
H. Springs, Westminster	10,012.04	8,012.04	8,012.04	8,212.04	2,670.68
Huntsville	2,200.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,200.00	800.00
Jacksonville	2,800.00	3,250.00	3,000.00	3,224.95	870.00
Jonesboro	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00
LR, Allison	-	-	-	-	-
LR, First	-	-	-	-	-

The Presbytery of Arkansas Benevolence as of April 30, 2024

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
LOCATION	Benevolence	Benevolence	Benevolence	Benevolence	Benevolence
LR, Grace	7,900.00	7,900.00	7,900.00	3,900.00	1,750.00
LR, Pulaski Heights	3,636.00	3,636.00	3,618.00	3,606.00	1,000.00
Little Rock, Second	200,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	190,000.00	-
LR, Trinity	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	2,666.68
LR, Westover Hills	10,500.00	7,500.00	2,500.00	3,000.00	-
Malvern	5,241.71	5,241.72	5,241.60	-	-
McGehee	2,520.00	2,520.00	2,520.00	2,520.00	630.00
Mena	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,500.00	1,375.00
Morrilton, First	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,100.00	1,300.00	300.00
Morrilton, Hopewell	-	-	-	-	-
Mountain Home	1,000.00	750.00	500.00	-	884.16
Mountainburg	-	-	-	-	-
Newport	3,225.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	900.00
Norman	2,000.00	-	-	-	-
NLR, Park Hill	16,000.00	16,000.00	13,000.00	8,000.00	-
Paragould, First	-	-	-	-	-
Pea Ridge	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00
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	6,022.00	1,159.00
Rogers	6,999.96	6,999.96	7,000.01	7,611.96	2,333.32
Russellville	-	-	-	-	-
Searcy	2,000.00	-	-	2,000.00	-
Springdale	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	7,500.00
Van Buren	-	-	-	-	-
Walnut Ridge	6,400.00	-	-	7,350.48	-
Wynne	7,500.00	7,500.00	9,999.96	5,000.00	1,250.00
Yellville	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	3,000.00	1,500.00
<hr/>					
TOTAL	589,342.59	566,495.98	555,380.59	477,949.61	75,744.80
				480,949.61	
				Prior Year Adj	
				3,150.00	



Presbytery of Arkansas

**Financial Statements
and
Supplementary Schedule
For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022
(With Independent Accountant's Review Report Thereon)**

Presbytery of Arkansas

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT’S REVIEW REPORT	1
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets – Modified Cash Basis	4
Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets – Modified Cash Basis	5
Notes to Financial Statements	6
SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULE	
Schedule of Designated Revenues and Expenses – Modified Cash Basis – 2023	13
Schedule of Designated Revenues and Expenses – Modified Cash Basis – 2022	14



INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REVIEW REPORT

Committee on Administration
Presbytery of Arkansas
Little Rock, Arkansas

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of **Presbytery of Arkansas** (the Presbytery), which comprise the statements of assets, liabilities, and net assets – modified cash basis as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net assets – modified cash basis for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of company management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting; this includes determining that the modified cash basis of accounting the company uses is an acceptable basis for the preparation of financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

Accountant's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to conduct the review engagement in accordance with *Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services* promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether we are aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting. We believe that the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our conclusion.

We are required to be independent of the Presbytery and to meet our ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our reviews.

Accountant's Conclusion

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting.

Committee on Administration
Presbytery of Arkansas

Supplementary Information

We have reviewed the financial statements of the Presbytery for the year ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, and have issued our report thereon dated March 21, 2024. The review was made primarily for the purpose of expressing a conclusion about whether any material modifications should be made to the financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The accompanying Schedule of Designated Revenues and Expenses – Modified Cash Basis is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from, and relates directly to, the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The supplementary information has been subjected to the review procedures applied in our review of the basic financial statements. We are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the supplementary information. We have not audited the supplementary information and do not express an opinion on such information.

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our conclusion is not modified with respect to this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Landmark PLC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Little Rock, Arkansas

March 21, 2024

Financial Statements

Presbytery of Arkansas

Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets – Modified Cash Basis December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted	\$ 279,849	\$ 205,114
Cash and cash equivalents - designated	734,524	761,289
Investments - unrestricted	3,900,430	3,302,969
Investments - designated	2,214,295	2,126,109
Notes receivable	1,008,624	36,000
Property held for sale	410,000	555,000
Property and equipment, net	767,956	798,907
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 9,315,678	\$ 7,785,388
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 9,033,505	\$ 7,507,432
With Donor Restrictions	282,173	277,956
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 9,315,678	\$ 7,785,388

See Independent Accountant's Review Report.

Presbytery of Arkansas

Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets – Modified Cash Basis Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023			2022		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
SUPPORT, REVENUES, AND GAINS AND LOSSES						
Undesignated contributions	\$ 479,185	\$ -	\$ 479,185	\$ 534,479	\$ -	\$ 534,479
Designated contributions	102,945	-	102,945	84,749	-	84,749
Donated property	155,000	-	155,000	300,000	-	300,000
Miscellaneous income	672,664	-	672,664	15,915	-	15,915
Investment return (loss)	<u>973,876</u>	<u>4,217</u>	<u>978,093</u>	<u>(1,178,601)</u>	<u>3,727</u>	<u>(1,174,874)</u>
Total Support, Revenues and Gains and Losses	<u>2,383,670</u>	<u>4,217</u>	<u>2,387,887</u>	<u>(243,458)</u>	<u>3,727</u>	<u>(239,731)</u>
PROGRAM EXPENSES						
Administration	33,279	-	33,279	34,996	-	34,996
Christian education	80,920	-	80,920	72,620	-	72,620
Congregational care and development	69,428	-	69,428	68,424	-	68,424
Designated payments	123,228	-	123,228	201,049	-	201,049
General council	2,183	-	2,183	2,824	-	2,824
Mission	161,479	-	161,479	159,516	-	159,516
Presbyterian women	3,122	-	3,122	2,802	-	2,802
Other ministry	2,842	-	2,842	7,874	-	7,874
Presbytery office	<u>381,116</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>381,116</u>	<u>382,483</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>382,483</u>
Total Expenses	<u>857,597</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>857,597</u>	<u>932,588</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>932,588</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	<u>1,526,073</u>	<u>4,217</u>	<u>1,530,290</u>	<u>(1,176,046)</u>	<u>3,727</u>	<u>(1,172,319)</u>
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>7,507,432</u>	<u>277,956</u>	<u>7,785,388</u>	<u>8,683,478</u>	<u>274,229</u>	<u>8,957,707</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 9,033,505</u>	<u>\$ 282,173</u>	<u>\$ 9,315,678</u>	<u>\$ 7,507,432</u>	<u>\$ 277,956</u>	<u>\$ 7,785,388</u>

See Independent Accountant's Review Report.

Presbytery of Arkansas

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Organization and Operations

The Presbytery of Arkansas (the Presbytery) exists as a religious entity under the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). As such, their mission is to inspire, challenge and help the congregation, agencies, ministers, and leaders to fulfill the call to service as faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

The Presbytery is made up of 76 Presbyterian churches located throughout Arkansas. The membership of the Presbytery includes all Ministers of member churches and ruling elders elected by member congregations. The Committee on Administration oversees the budget and financial operations of the Presbytery and may designate certain assets to be used first as support for certain programs and activities and, if not needed, then for general operations. Principal revenues of the Presbytery are primarily from benevolence received from the member churches. All of the Presbytery's expenditures are for the programs which benefit these churches and members.

Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

The financial statements are prepared using the modified cash basis of accounting. Under this basis, certain revenues and related assets are recognized when cash is received rather than when earned and certain expenses are recognized when they are paid rather than when the obligation is incurred. This basis differs from generally accepted accounting principles primarily because these financial statements do not include promises to give from church members or amounts due to vendors and employees for goods and services received prior to year-end for which payment had not been made as of year-end.

Basis of Presentation

The Presbytery presents information regarding financial position and activities according to the following two classes of net assets:

Net Assets without Donor Restrictions—Net assets that are not subject to or are no longer subject to donor-imposed stipulations.

Net Assets with Donor Restrictions—Net assets whose use is limited by donor-imposed time and/ or purpose restrictions.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of demand deposit accounts maintained with financial institutions and cash and highly liquid investments with maturities of three months or less held by the Texas Presbyterian Foundation (TPF).

Investments

The Presbytery's investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly fashion between market participants at the measurement date. Investment return includes realized and unrealized gains and losses and interest income received. Investment income and gains restricted by donors are reported as increases in net assets without donor restrictions if the restrictions are met (either a stipulated time period ends or a purpose restriction is accomplished) during the reporting period in which the income and gains are

Presbytery of Arkansas

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Investments (Continued)

recognized and are appropriated for expenditure. Otherwise, income and gains are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions.

Notes Receivable

Notes receivables consist of unsecured emergency loans to churches and pastors within the region governed by the Presbytery. The receivables at December 31, 2023 include a receivable of approximately \$975,000 due from the buyer of one of the properties held for sale. Notes receivable bear zero percent interest and are generally due within one to three years. Management has determined that all amounts are fully collectible and no allowance for credit losses is necessary.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are stated at historical cost or, if donated, at the approximate fair value at the date of donation. Major renewals and betterments in excess of \$1,000 are capitalized, while normal repairs and maintenance are expensed in the period incurred. Depreciation of these assets is calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets, ranging from five to forty years. Property donated and held for sale is not depreciated.

Revenue Recognition

Contributions received are recorded as with donor restrictions or without donor restrictions depending on the existence and nature of the donor-imposed stipulations.

Contributions that are restricted by the donor are reported as increases in net assets without donor restrictions if the restriction expires in the reporting period in which the support is received. All other donor-restricted contributions are recorded as increases in donor restricted net assets. When a restriction expires (that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished), net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net assets as net assets released from restrictions.

Donated Services and In-Kind Contributions

Donated services are recognized as contributions only if the services (a) create or enhance non- financial assets or (b) require specialized skills, are performed by people with those skills, and would otherwise be purchased by the Presbytery. Although a substantial number of uncompensated volunteers have donated significant amounts of their time to the Presbytery, the value of such donated services has not been recognized as contributions in the financial statements as the recognition criteria was not met.

Functional Expenses

The Presbytery considers all disbursements to be related to its programs and therefore does not allocate disbursements between program, general and administration and fundraising for financial statement presentation.

Presbytery of Arkansas

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Income Taxes

The Presbytery is exempt from income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code (the Code). The Presbytery has been classified as a publicly supported organization which is not a private foundation under Section 509(a) of the Code.

Accounting standards require the Presbytery to evaluate tax positions and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the Presbytery has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the Internal Revenue Service. The Presbytery has analyzed the tax positions taken and has concluded that as of December 31, 2023, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require the recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the modified cash basis financial statements. The Presbytery may be subject to audit by the Internal Revenue Service; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

NOTE 2: DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

Cash and Cash Equivalents

At December 31, cash and cash equivalents consist of the following:

	2023	2022
Demand deposit accounts at financial institutions	\$ 244,044	\$ 187,200
Cash and cash equivalents held by TPF	770,329	779,203
	\$ 1,014,373	\$ 966,403

The Presbytery maintains cash balances in accounts with several financial institutions. The balances in these accounts may exceed applicable insured limits. Management believes that such accounts are maintained with reputable financial institutions and the Presbytery has not experienced any losses in these accounts to date. Cash balances held by TPF are not insured, however, the Presbytery does not believe that it is subject to any unusual risk beyond the normal credit risk associated with other commercial banking relationships. Also, it is the opinion of management that solvency of the TPF is not of particular concern at this time.

Investments

The Presbytery invests its funds in the Balanced Pooled Fund administered by the TPF. The TPF manages the assets and maintains separate accounts for each participating entity. The Fund is a balanced fund and assets may be invested in equities, fixed income and cash equivalent securities. Investments are available to be withdrawn upon written notice to TPF and may be restricted to withdrawal on the first business day of the calendar month following ten days written notice.

Presbytery of Arkansas

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE 2: DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)

Investments (Continued)

Investments held at TPF have been valued based on the Presbytery's interest in the pooled funds managed by the TPF, which are evidenced by a unit. The value of a unit is calculated based on the fair value of the underlying assets, adjusted for the effects of such transactions as administrative fees and investment income that has not been reinvested in the underlying assets, as reported by TPF, because there is no ready market for the assets. Valuation based on net asset value used as a practical expedient is permitted and the pooled investments held at TPF are not required to be reported under the investment classification hierarchy.

NOTE 3: PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET

Property and equipment, net consists of the following at December 31:

	2023	2022
Land and Improvements	\$ 128,571	\$ 128,571
Buildings and improvements	911,516	961,516
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	59,367	51,522
	1,099,454	1,141,609
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(331,498)	(342,702)
	\$ 767,956	\$ 798,907

Depreciation expense totaled approximately \$26,000 during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, and is included in Presbytery office expense.

The Presbytery had property held for sale totaling approximately \$255,000 and \$555,000, as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

NOTE 4: RETIREMENT ARRANGEMENT WITH STAFF EMPLOYEES

The full-time employees of the Presbytery participate in the benefit plans of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Contributions are based on percentage of salary and totaled approximately \$7,300 during each of the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Presbytery of Arkansas

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE 5: NET ASSETS

Net assets with donor restrictions consist of the Irene W. Meredith Trust contributions received by the Presbytery. Donor restricted contributions and income earned on these contributions are available to be used for specific program activities. At December 31, net assets with donor restrictions are as follows:

		2023		2022
Irene W. Meredith Trust	\$	135,351	\$	131,134

NOTE 6: FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES BY NATURAL CLASSIFICATION

The Presbytery's functional expenses by natural classification for program activities are as follows for the years ended December 31:

		2023		2022
Committees	\$	3,487	\$	2,802
Congregational care		54,228		55,179
Education		82,588		77,440
Facilities		92,212		95,233
Missions		161,479		159,516
Professional fees		8,447		7,641
Other programs		9,462		9,820
Pass through gifts		123,228		201,049
Salaries and benefits		313,629		314,784
Travel		8,837		9,124
		<u>\$ 857,597</u>		<u>\$ 932,588</u>

NOTE 7: COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The Presbytery is a guarantor of a loan totaling \$350,000 from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to a church. The loan is secured by a first mortgage on the real estate owned by the church. This guarantee would require the Presbytery to make the required loan payments in the event the church is unable to do so. Upon default, the real estate would revert to the Presbytery, who could sell the property to pay off the outstanding loan balance. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the total outstanding balance was approximately \$60,000 and \$77,000, respectively. The church was current with the required payments at December 31, 2023.

Presbytery of Arkansas

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE 8: LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL ASSETS

The Presbytery monitors its liquidity so that it is able to meet its operating needs and other contractual commitments while maximizing the investment of its excess operating cash. The Presbytery has unrestricted cash and cash equivalents and investments of approximately \$4,200,000 and \$3,500,000 at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, that could readily be made available within one year of the statement of assets, liabilities and net assets – modified cash basis to fund expenses without limitations.

NOTE 9: SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Presbytery has evaluated events that occurred after December 31, 2023, but prior to March 21, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Supplementary Schedules

Presbytery of Arkansas

Schedule of Designated Revenues and Expenses – Modified Cash Basis Year Ended December 31, 2023

		<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Special Designated			
One Great Hour	\$	21,665	\$ 21,428
Joy Offering		18,043	9,803
Theological Education		7,558	17,683
Witness		6,614	6,556
Peacemaking		7,260	7,431
Disaster Relief		34,450	401
Two Cents a Meal		522	-
Other		<u>6,833</u>	<u>59,926</u>
		102,945	123,228
 Other Designated			
Irene W. Meredith Trust		<u>4,217</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>\$ 107,162</u>	<u>\$ 123,228</u>

Presbytery of Arkansas

Schedule of Designated Revenues and Expenses – Modified Cash Basis Year Ended December 31, 2022

	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Special Designated		
One Great Hour	\$ 22,800	\$ 23,944
Joy Offering	9,630	18,752
Theological Education	18,171	20,196
Witness	5,387	11,063
Peacemaking	3,442	4,991
Disaster Relief	16,448	475
Two Cents a Meal	383	-
Other	<u>8,488</u>	<u>121,628</u>
	84,749	201,049
 Other Designated		
Irene W. Meredith Trust	<u>3,727</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 88,476</u>	<u>\$ 201,049</u>

Section V - Report of the Financial Task Force

The Presbytery of Arkansas approved the formation of a task force at the 155th Stated Meeting of Presbytery held on March 2, 2024 at the University of the Ozarks to study the three requests for funding from presentations made at the 155th meeting and the recommendations made from the First Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock (Argenta) Administrative Commission for possible uses from the proceeds of the property sale. The presbytery approved that the task force be comprised of the General Presbyter, the Stated Clerk, the Presbytery Treasurer, one member from each of the following committees: Committee on Administration, Future of the Church Committee, Mission of the Church Committee, and one “at-large” member from the presbytery elected by the Committee on Nominations. The following members comprised the task force.

General Presbyter – MWS Stewart Smith

Stated Clerk – MWS Blake Brinegar

Presbytery Treasurer – RE Tom Verdery

Committee on Administration – MWS Carl McCormack

Mission of the Church – MWS Cindy Saul

Future of the Church – RE Cindy Lanphear

At Large from Presbytery – MWS Brian Brock

The Task Force received an overview of the Presbytery’s financial assets and received updates on recent sales of property from closed churches and learned of other church property in the process of being sold. The Task Force looked at the suggestions from the First Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock (Argenta) Administrative Commission for possible uses of proceeds from the Dec. 29, 2023 sale of property. Task Force members were oriented on the mission of “The Van” a ministry to the homeless community of downtown Little Rock and North Little Rock.

The task force invited Phil Blackburn, Director of the Thriving in Ministry Program to meet with the task force. Phil gave an overview of the work that has been done and shared plans and possibilities for the program in the future and how the program will benefit leaders and congregations within the presbytery.

The four requests total \$1,560,000 (The Van - \$50,000.00, Vera Lloyd - \$250,000.00, Thriving in Ministry – 500,000.00, Ferncliff Capital Campaign - \$760,000.00.) With the recent addition of funds from the assets of closed churches, the Task Force is recommending that the Presbytery of Arkansas fund all 4 requests with funding from recent church closings and property sales outlined in Addendum Section C, Exhibit 1 and a payment schedule outlined in Addendum Section C, Exhibit 2. All of these

assets were received since the last presbytery meeting of 2023 (October 6-7). The task force is also recommending that the presbytery create an advisory group that includes representation from the Committee on Ministry and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry that would work closely with the Thriving in Ministry program to ensure both communication and collaboration with the presbytery.

The Coordinating Team requested the Financial Requests Task Force to separate the motions regarding funding for capital projects from the financial investment being asked of the presbytery for the Thriving in Ministry Program. The task force brought three motions before the presbytery.

Section VI-Mission of the Church Committee

Mission Initiative Grants



GUIDELINES FOR FUNDING FROM MISSION INITIATIVE GRANTS BUDGET

THE PURPOSE of funding for the Mission Initiative Grant portion of the Mission of the Church Committee's budget is to assist congregations and ministries of the Presbytery of Arkansas in proclaiming the love of Christ beyond their walls; efforts that extend the power of congregations and ministries to serve the most vulnerable in our society are particularly welcome.

Application Process

1. The Mission of the Church Committee receives and acts on grant proposals three times a year. The three submission deadlines are as follows: April 15, July 15, and October 15.
2. A request to the Mission of the Church Ministry Area should include a written proposal, no longer than two pages detailing:
 - a. the amount of funding requested;
 - b. the need or needs the Session or Ministry wants to address with that funding;
 - c. a brief description of specific goals of the project and how the funds requested will be used;
 - d. a copy of the budget for the project;
 - e. total estimated costs and other sources of funding that are committed or have been applied for;
 - f. the date the Session *or* Ministry approved the request,
 - g. Session's *or* Ministry's designated contact for the project, including name, address, telephone number and email address;
 - h. name of Treasurer or other administrative official to whose attention the check should be sent.

The proposal should be sent as an attachment emailed to Peg Falls-Corbitt (fallscorbitt@hendrix.edu), Moderator of Mission Committee, AR Presbytery.

Please include the church or ministry name in the title of the attachment and subject line of email. For example: [church name].Mission Initiative Grant 2024

Other Details:

3. The Committee's budget is limited, and **requests of more than \$1,500 are generally not approved**. However, there may be occasions when a larger amount could be granted:
 - a. if the applicant can make a case for it, and
 - b. if they have made a good-faith effort to secure other funds but are still short of their goal.

4. The Mission of the Church Committee will give priority to requests where:
 - a. the applicant is addressing this need with their own gift or gifts;
 - b. other sources of funding have been secured or are being sought.

5. Please note that part of the mission of the Future of the Church Committee is to “*Assist churches to re-develop their mission and ministry*” and to “*Assist congregations seeking funding or grants*” to help in that process. The mission of that Committee and this one are somewhat similar but are not the same, and it may be that a request to that ministry area would be more appropriate.

The Committee reviews and acts on applications within 30 days of each deadline.

Revised 2/1/24
Revised 1/2023
Revised 11/2021
11/2018

Section VII-2024 Nominations Form

The cornerstone of Presbyterian church governance is that we are a community of faith led by men and women who are called by God to service in the local, regional, and global church. One way that service is realized is through the work of the Presbytery of Arkansas committees and ministries.

The Committee on Nominations welcomes your prayerful input on selecting nominees for various presbytery positions for the coming year. To fill this form out online click [here](#). Below you will find the positions that are open for nomination as well as a few key characteristics for members of those ministries. Some positions require that the nominee be in ordered ministry as either a Minister of Word and Sacrament/Teaching Elder (MWS) or Ruling Elder (RE). Those requirements are noted where necessary. You may nominate as many people as you feel called to nominate. You may also nominate yourself if you feel called to service.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Rev. Robert Lowry (robertwilliamlowry@gmail.com), chair of the committee, or to any committee members. Contact information for the committee members can be found in the presbytery directory. The committee is grateful for your input and prayers as we work to faithfully carry out our work. our

Your Name: _____ Phone or email: _____

Your Congregation and City/Town: _____

Positions Open for Nomination

Administration Ministry Area:

Positions: 2 Class of 2027

Skills: finance, HR, accounting

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM):

Positions: 1 RE Class of 2025

1 MWS Class of 2027

2 RE Class of 2027

Skills: pastoral sensitivity, education, polity

Committee on Ministry (COM):

Positions: 1 MWS Class of 2025

3 RE Class of 2027

3 MWS Class of 2027

Skills: confidentiality, conflict-resolution, polity, adaptive change, polity, congregational leadership

Future of the Church Ministry Area:

Positions: 3 Class of 2027

Skills: congregational leadership, creativity, adaptive change, strategic planning, new church development

Mission of the Church Ministry Area:

Positions: 3 Class of 2027

Skills: creative thinking, passion for service, experience in mission, congregational leadership

Coordinating Team:

Positions: 1 RE Class of 2027

2 MWS Class of 2027

Skills: adaptive change, strategic planning, organizational and congregational leadership, polity

Youth, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry:

Positions: 2 Class of 2025, 2 Class of 2026, 2 Class of 2027

Skills: experience with youth/YA, campus ministry, education, intergenerational leadership, creative thinking, adaptive change

2026 General Assembly:

Position: 1 RE (alternate)

Skills: congregational leadership, presbytery experience, multitasking, availability to attend GA (1 week normally in early July)

Please provide information on nominees. Use additional pages as necessary.

Information on Nominees

Name and Contact Information

Name: _____ Congregation: _____

Phone: _____ Alt Phone: _____ Email: _____

Demographic Information

MWS: Yes ___ No ___ RE: Yes ___ No ___ Age: 18-29: ___ 30-45: ___ 46-60: ___ 60+: ___

Gender Identity: _____ Race/Ethnicity: _____

Committees/Ministries for Consideration: _____

Comments: _____

Name and Contact Information

Name: _____ Congregation: _____

Phone: _____ Alt Phone: _____ Email: _____

Demographic Information

MWS: Yes ___ No ___ RE: Yes ___ No ___ Age: 18-29: ___ 30-45: ___ 46-60: ___ 60+: ___

Gender Identity: _____ Race/Ethnicity: _____

Committees/Ministries for Consideration: _____

Comments: _____

Name and Contact Information

Name: _____ Congregation: _____

Phone: _____ Alt Phone: _____ Email: _____

Demographic Information

MWS: Yes ___ No ___ RE: Yes ___ No ___ Age: 18-29: ___ 30-45: ___ 46-60: ___ 60+: ___

Gender Identity: _____ Race/Ethnicity: _____

Committees/Ministries for Consideration: _____

Comments: _____

Section VIII-Report on the Committee on Ministry

MWS Leslie Roper, Moderator

For Information: COM Approved at stated meetings.

1. The Committee on Ministry approved the part-time Temporary Pastoral Relationship between MWS Ron Gilmer and the Holiday Island Presbyterian Church and approved the contract, renewable on an annual basis, with the following compensation:

Salary and Housing Allowance	\$38,000.00
Flexible Spending Account	\$2,000.00
Professional Expenses (Reimbursable up to)	\$1,200.00
Continuing Education (Reimbursable up to)	\$1,200.00
Total Compensation	\$42,400.00
Vacation	4 weeks
Continuing Education	2 weeks
Family/Medical Leave (Paid)	12 weeks
Moving Costs (Reimbursed up to).....	\$10,000.00

2. The Committee on Ministry concurred with the Wynne Presbyterian Church’s session and congregational request to disband the Pastor Nominating Committee and continue the relationship with CRE Janet Benson. There is no change in compensation from the previously approved covenant.

3. The Committee on Ministry approved the part-time Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Randy Hyde (Ordained - Cooperative Baptist) and the Kirk of the Pines Presbyterian Church in Hot Springs Village and approved the 12 month contract with the following compensation:

Salary and Housing Allowance	\$65,000.00
Auto Allowance (Reimbursable up to)	\$2,000.00
Continuing Education (Reimbursable up to)	\$1,000.00
Total Compensation	\$68,000.00
Vacation and Study Leave	4 Weeks

4. The Committee on Ministry approved the commissioning of RE Mary Jane Fisher for pastoral service at the First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville. Per Mary Jane’s request the terms of call are as follows:

Professional Expenses (Reimbursed up to)	\$1,500.00
Cell Phone (Reimbursed up to) 40.00 monthly	\$480.00
Auto Allowance (Reimbursed up to 60.00 monthly)	\$600.00
Continuing Education (Reimbursed up to)	\$3,000.00

Total Annual Compensation	\$5,580.00
In addition the Session will provide the CRE with a laptop computer.	
Vacation	4 Weeks
Continuing Education	2 Weeks

A service of commissioning was held on Sunday, May 19 at 3:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville. The following Administrative Commission conducted the service.

PreachMWS Elizabeth Brinegar, First Batesville
 Charge the PastorMWS Blake Brinegar, First Searcy & Presbytery Staff
 Charge the CongregationRE Ted Belden, First United, Fayetteville
 Propound the Constitutional QuestionsMWS Stewart Smith, Presbytery Staff
 Karen FinneyRE First, Jacksonville
 Sara Anne BergerMWS, Member at Large

5. The Committee on Ministry approved groups to visit congregations and pastors that will be most adversely affected by upcoming changes to the Board of Pensions medical coverage. Pastors with family coverage are the ones most negatively impacted.

6. The Committee on Ministry approved plans to contact pastors who have not completed mandatory *Book of Order* Boundary Training requirements. Notifications will begin on August 31 and on December 31 any pastors that are non-compliant will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the PCUSA constitution.
7. The Committee on Ministry approved the following to moderate sessions:
 - RE Ruth Hamilton at Kirk of the Pines Presbyterian Church during MWS Bill Bailey’s medical leave
 - RE Stephen Moody at First Presbyterian Church of Little Rock
 - MWS Catherine Allsbury at Grace Presbyterian Church of Little Rock
 - MWS Maggie Alsup at First Presbyterian Church of Batesville
 - MWS Sara Anne Berger at First Presbyterian of Morrilton while CRE Peg Falls-Corbitt is away.
8. 1. The Committee on Ministry approved the validated ministry with MWS LaWanda Harris as chaplain related to her nursing work with Arkansas Hospice.
9. 2. Approved the sabbatical plan for MWS Lindy Vogado (Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock).

Section VIII, Exhibit 1

MWS P. Douglas Cartwright, Statement of Faith

I believe in the Triune God, one God in three distinct Persons.

God

I believe in God the Creator, who formed the Universe out of pure and perfect love and imprinted upon humanity God's own image. Unfortunately, this was not enough for God's children. We chose to go our own way, attempted to become like God and diverted from what the Creator intended. This event brought about great pain and even death, infecting creation with sin and suffering. However, God would not allow sin to have the final word. Therefore, the Creator did what we could not do on our own by forming a covenant and fulfilling it despite our inability to do so. Throughout time, God led us through the wilderness and deserts of life, shepherding us through times of peace and even through our darkest hours.

Jesus

I believe in God the Son, who entered this world in order that He might become our hope and salvation. As the Scriptures attest, Jesus ushered in a New Reality and proclaimed that the Kingdom of Heaven had indeed come near. He extended love and grace to the lost, the broken, the lonely, and those that society considered as the least among them. He dined with sinners and associated with outcasts, all the while turning conventional wisdom on its head. While He extended grace freely, His actions came at a price. Although costly, Jesus paid the ultimate price in order to fulfill the Creator's plan. Suffering on the cross, Jesus bore our sins upon Himself, absorbing our offenses and obliterating the powers of sin and death. Rising from the grave, Jesus brought forth light and life, joy and peace, eternal freedom, and redemption.

Holy Spirit

I believe in God the Holy Spirit, the promised Counselor, sent by Christ. The Spirit reveals to us that we are children of the Most High, redeemed by grace, and in need of God's mercy. The Spirit is present with us as we await Christ's final return, empowering the Church to carry out His mission. Gathering us by grace, the Spirit grafts us to Christ by the waters of our baptism, sustains us with Christ's presence at Table in the bread and cup made holy, and assures us that, "In life and in death, we belong to God." The Spirit opens our hearts and minds to the Word proclaimed and exposes our need for transformation so that we might indeed be transformed.

Scriptures

I believe that the Holy Scriptures are inspired by God and hold authority in our lives. I believe that the Scriptures must be studied, interpreted, and preached with great care and an openness to what God is saying to us even today. I believe that, as beloved children, we are free to love, free to live, free to serve, and free to hope in accordance with Scripture as we await Christ's return...all the while, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Spirit

Section VIII, Exhibit 2

MWS Ron Gilmer, Statement of Faith

Of all the faith statements in the PC(USA)'s Book of Confessions, I quote "A Brief Statement of Faith" most often. It starts with an allusion to the Heidelberg Catechism's first question and answer after changing an "I" statement into a "we" statement, which reminds us that we were created to connect and are called to love and serve one another: "In life and in death we belong to God."

A Trinitarian blessing, which flows from Christ, follows before attention turns to what each person of the Trinity does. For example, "A Brief Statement of Faith" calls attention to how Jesus proclaims God's reign, preaches good news to the poor, releases captives, teaches by word and deed, blesses children, heals the sick, binds up the broken hearted, eats with outcasts, forgives sinners and calls all to repent and believe the gospel.

The theology of "A Brief Statement of Faith" is both poetic and practical. The sentence in this statement of faith that I have quoted most often in worship is: "Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still."

I quote this faith statement as often as I do, because it so beautifully reminds me of who I am and who we are. I believe in the Holy Trinity. I trust God's providence and give thanks for God's grace in Jesus Christ, who instituted the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, both of which the church, as the body of Christ, celebrates together.

The faith that I have been given begins and ends with Christ, in whose resurrection is the promise of ours. In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. The Holy Spirit abides with us now and gives us courage "to pray without ceasing." Prayer is but one of a set of spiritual practices that I hold dear -- and holding them, I remember that we are held dear by the One who said, "Let there be light," in the beginning. In Christ, the One who gives us light and life becomes flesh and dwells among us, and thanks be to God, the darkness never overcomes it.

Section VIII, Exhibit 3

MWS Jesse Gonzales, Statement of Faith

I do believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and I confess him as my Lord and Savior.

I do believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of everything existing in the terrestrial and cosmic environments. I do believe in God's providence for the entire creation. I do affirm the greatness of God the originator of all ethnic groups; all animal, vegetal and mineral species; and the elements of nature.

I do believe in the comforting presence and action of the Holy Spirit who is empowering and guiding the Universal Church in which the Presbyterian Church USA and the Reformed tradition are included.

I do believe that the Holy Scriptures spanned through the Old & New Testaments contain the will of God and the good news of Jesus Christ for the benefit of the entire creation. In the revelation of God's covenants with humanity resides the authority of the Scriptures and I submit myself to such authority by the grace received from God called faith.

I do declare that I am an imperfect being serving a perfect Lord. I do declare that in the midst of the cosmic powers fighting in my body and mind I submit myself to the Sovereignty of God and to the Apostolic authority of the Church; and to both I am accountable.

I do declare my commitment to the Call of Jesus Christ to be his servant as Teaching Elder for both believers and non-believers regardless of social or immigration status, and physical conditions. I do believe that in Jesus Christ I was predestined to proclaim the Kingdom of God that is established in the Hope that the Lord is coming again to do justice to the living and to the dead in terminating all corruption and suffering.

Section VIII, Exhibit 4

Elizabeth Cahoon, Statement of Faith

I believe in God, the Almighty, revealed to us in the form of three persons: God, the Creator; Jesus Christ, the Redeemer; and the Holy Spirit, the Sustainer. I believe it is through God we are molded into God's image. I believe it is through the life and death of Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God, we witness the great sacrificial love of God. I believe it is through the Holy Spirit we are able to share that love with all of God's children. I believe all three were at work in the creation of the universe and continue to have an active role in sustaining grace.

God's providence unfolds into three forms of benevolent intervention: the protection of all creation, the accompaniment of humanity, and in directing the story of God's children. God reveals this to us through the life of Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. I believe in the traditions of the Reformed Faith – that by grace alone, faith alone, and scripture alone – we are empowered to live a life of faith.

I believe in a confessional and confessing faith. Like an anchor for a ship, a confession of faith centers Christians to the Gospel, while also allowing us to explore doubts without fear of losing our beliefs.

I believe the Son of God, Jesus Christ, was born of Mary and lived among enemies and friends, experiencing despair and hope, temptation and peace, anger and joy, hate and love. God sent Jesus to earth, so that we might learn how to live as one community; but gave us Jesus' atoning life, death, and resurrection so that those who believe might be saved as one, eternally in the kingdom of God.

I believe that all people sin and fall short of the glory of God, but it is by the grace of God we are forgiven. I believe in God's beloved community, that people of every race, gender, sexual orientation, identity, and age are welcome in the kingdom of heaven.

The Bible is the living Word of God. As an extension of God, it is prevalent for Christians from different generations of time, therefore it was not written from one monolithic voice, but used different voices. We read the Bible through the Holy Spirit to not only understand God's divine will, but also to experience the expansive love and grace of Jesus Christ.

As followers of Christ, the Church is called to serve with a heart filled with loving-kindness for all of God's creation: humankind, the earth, and all creatures that live among us. I believe as Christians we are also called to reflect the life of Jesus Christ by feeding the hungry, providing water to the thirsty, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, visiting the imprisoned and welcoming the stranger. In doing so we answer Christ's Great Commission: to go and make disciples of all nations.

I believe that in Baptism we are claimed by God, washed clean of sin, called to a new way of life as Jesus' disciples, and united in God's eternal kingdom with the holy communion of saints. At Communion, with God as our host, we testify the offered bread and cup, as signs of Jesus Christ's body and blood broken for us, so that we may live without fear of death.

I believe in the spirit of Advent, that Jesus Christ will come again as he promised, to unite all believers: past, present, and those to come. In Christ's return there will be an end to all sufferings of this world and we will live as one eternally in the kingdom of God.

Section IX

Report from Youth, Young Adult, and College Ministry

Dr. Sarah Leer
Interim Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

At a time when we celebrate the end of the school year, we want to reflect and share the fantastic year in Youth + Young Adult Ministries in the Presbytery of Arkansas. For those who were not able to attend the March Presbytery meeting, our Youth Co-Moderator, Lizzy, recapped the year. Below are some highlights from the past school year, and some summer events we are looking forward to.

Youth Ministry highlights:

- **June 18-23, 2023:** Junior High youth attended a summer of camp + extra activities at Presby+ event at Ferncliff
- **July 9-15, 2023:** our senior high youth attended Montreat Youth Conference
- The **Youth Advisory Team (the A-Team) met in August** at the Ferncliff Retreat House to plan and lead events for the Presbytery
- **September 15-17, 2023:** Junior and Senior youth and adult leaders attended Youthquake, an annual youth retreat, at Ferncliff
- In **January we had another A-Team meeting** to continue planning and event leadership for 2024 and beyond
- **March 1-2, 2024:** Senior High youth attended the Presbytery meeting and learned about polity and the inner workings of a Presbytery meeting
- **March 8-10, 2024:** 13 youth from five different congregations around the Presbytery attended Presbytery Confirmation Camp, led by Rev. Grant Wildwright and Dr. Sarah Leer, where they spent an entire weekend immersed in confirmation curriculum, followed by digital classes to round out their Confirmation journeys
- **April 19-21, 2024:** Mission: Possible is a weekend trip focused on service; a group of junior high youth and adults served in Mena and were hosted by churches in Hot Springs
- This summer, **we will be taking 50 youth and adults** to youth conferences — Montreat Youth Conference in Black Mountain, NC and Montreat Middle School Conference in Maryville, TN.

Young Adult Ministry highlights:

- We had a great showing at Montreat College Conference in January — we had 20 people from around the presbytery traveled together to attend the conference
- University of the Ozarks Spiritual Life led a civil rights tour with 20 students throughout the Deep South during their fall break. They had our first Halloween Chapel service this past fall where our colleague Rev. Marie Mainard O’Connell preached on how Halloween may be the

most Christian holiday of all, and they held a study on Sex and the Bible that was written by Arkansas Presbytery's own Rev. Maggie Alsup.

- UCM (U of A ecumenical ministry in Fayetteville):
 - Held an open house in our building on April 14, from 3 to 5pm. Their annual Bike a thon fundraiser was on April 27.
 - They exceeded our Giving Tuesday campaign goal of \$25000 by nearly \$2000.
 - UCM will celebrate 60 Years of our building, now in the National Historic Registry, this fall.
- Lyon College campus ministry -
 - The SOS Pantry (Serve Our Students) is up and running and has a steady flow of students. They see about 40 students a week.

Lyon received the Teaching the Bible grant from the PCUSA and are working on our pilot program Sabbath Scholars. It is a group that meets weekly to discuss various meditation and spiritual activities to address mental health, particularly anxiety and depression.

Section X

Future of the Church (FOTC) Committee Report

June 2024

RE Cindy Lanphear, Moderator

Every year since 2018, the Future of the Church Committee has awarded grants (up to \$5,000 each) to congregations who are engaged in initiatives that are aimed at strengthening or changing directions in the life of the church. The FOTC grants are not for general property improvements ***BUT*** they are for specific kinds of programs, events or projects that engage our churches with the community, encourage connections within the community and share the good news of Jesus Christ in creative and innovative ways.

This committee worked diligently on receiving grants and met many times to review and discuss all the proposals. It was a difficult task that required multiple revisits to the chartered mission of the FOTC committee to ensure the proper allocation of these funds. As a result, for this past year the FOTC committee received 10 grants and due to the extremely varied nature of the grant proposals this year, the committee is still in the process of considering those to be funded. Final decisions will be made and publicized by June 30 so that all funded grant projects can begin on time for the August 1 fiscal year. Also, there were two grant applications outside of the typical congregational grants. These were to support two 1001 worshipping communities, awarding \$15,000 each.

While the grant cycle is over for this year, the FOTC committee would like to encourage congregations to be thinking and planning for next year's cycle for ways that the Presbytery can assist in building and supporting all the great work that is already happening as well as new initiatives that can be created. You can find the application on the Presbytery's website or email/text Cindy Lanphear, (cjlanphear@ca-mfg.com; 479-979-7160).

Please feel free to contact any of us if you have questions or comments about the grant process or any other way you think we may be able to help you and your congregation. We are eager to help! And, we are always open to suggestions if you have a new idea. The members of our committee are:

Committee Members: Greg Fairchild, Amanda Jones, Cindy Lanphear, Sally Roden, Dawn Cattaneo, Patricia Donlow-Wright, Brenda Holder, John Arnold, and Michala Gallup

Respectfully submitted,
RE Cindy Lanphear, Moderator

Section XI

Report of the Coordinating Team

RE Mike Szabo, Moderator

The following actions were taken at meetings of the Coordinating Team in April and May, 2024.

1. Accepted the names presented by the Committee on Nominations for the Transitional General Presbyter Search Committee and elected the following to serve on the Committee: Katie Flood, Candidate for Ministry, First – Bentonville, Chip Hatcher, MWS, Westminster – Hot Springs, Julie Gillaspay, RE, First – Conway, and David Stricklin, RE, Westover Hills – Little Rock
2. Accepted the name presented by the Committee on Nominations for the Financial Requests Task Force and elected Brian Brock, MWS, Central – Russellville to serve on the Task Force.
3. Accepted the name presented by the Committee on Nominations and elected Robert Lowry, MWS, Westover Hills – Little Rock, to fill the open slot on the Committee on Ministry for the class of 2026.
4. Request was made for the staff of Ministry Architects to offer a second session for input in the visioning/strategic planning work for those who were unable to attend the Visioning Retreat at Ferncliff on April 15. A second session was held on Zoom on April 29.
5. Approved a change in format for the 156th meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas due to the importance of work related to the Strategic Planning and Visioning Process with Ministry Architects. The Coordinating Team approved an “in-person” meeting that would be “live streamed” but without electronic voting and participation. Note: The Coordinating Team revisited this at the following meeting in light of concerns shared, and reaffirmed the decision of the “in-person” meeting.
6. Accepted the invitation from Central Presbyterian Church of Russellville to host the 156th meeting of presbytery. The start time was set at 10:00 am to avoid commissioners needing to have an overnight stay.
7. Concurred with the request of the Mountainburg Presbyterian Church and approved the sale of the church’s manse for a list price of \$179,000.00.
8. Elected RE Ron David, RE Pea Ridge, Mount Vernon to the class of 2024 and Lynn Condra, Fort Smith, First, to the class of 2026 on the Committee on Nominations.
9. Approved In-gathering items of Hygiene kits for NW Arkansas tornado/wind damage.