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## February 2011 Special Edition

# The Banner

### Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



#### University of the Ozarks Hosts 116th Stated Meeting of Presbytery

by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Assistant Stated Clerk

(Commissioners may use this information as their report to Session. A printable copy is available [here](#).)

#### Presbytery Gathers for Worship, Business and Votes on Amendments

The Presbytery of Arkansas convened Friday evening, February 18, 2011 in the Raymond Munger Memorial Chapel after three pre-presbytery workshops. Moderator Rev. Dr. Debra Carl Freeman called the meeting to order for the first business session at 6:30. Worship at 7:20 p.m. was led by Revs. Nancy Benson-Nicol, Tracy Julian, Stewart Smith, Brian Brock and Freeman who gave the sermon; Inquirer Cameron Highsmith; Elders Ryan Smith and Bill H. Walmsley and featured the installation of Moderator of Presbytery for 2011 Sam Highsmith. Musicians for the service were Dr. Sharon Gorman, organist, and UofO Chamber Singers. General Presbyter Bill Galbraith and Rev. Georgia Senor officiated at the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper which was served by intinction by elders from First at Ozark, Central at Russellville, First and Harmony at Clarksville, UofO, and First at Springdale.



Rev. Dr. Debra Carl Freeman



A total of 254 people (92 voting elders and 77 ministers) registered for the first meeting of the year and contributed \$1,807 to the Presbytery of Arkansas scholarship at the University of the Ozarks. Canned fruit, vegetables, pasta and sauce brought by commissioners were donated to Interfaith Service Network Food Pantry of Johnson County. Candidate for Ministry Joy Carrington preached on Saturday morning, and business continued until 2 p.m.

**PRESBYTERY VOTED TO:** approve sale of a house bequeathed to First, Stuttgart and sale of a vacant lot owned by First, Gurdon; elect Rev. Melissa McNair-King to serve on the Hispanic New Church Development Commission; Moderator Sam Highsmith receive the final report and dissolve the Administrative Commission for Belair, Pine Bluff; dissolve the geographical boundaries of Cluster VIII in the central section of the presbytery and record the movement of six congregations from Cluster VIII to the clusters they have chosen; enroll Rev. Rita Wilson as a new member of presbytery, approve her terms of call as pastor at First, Yellville and her installation and Administrative Commission for March 6; enroll Rev. Dr. William Christman as a member of presbytery and terms of his covenant as interim pastor at First, Mena; renew the interim pastoral covenant between Rev. Robert Lowry and First, Batesville; dissolve pastoral relationship between Rev. David Dyer and First, Jacksonville on July 31, when he retires; enroll Rev. Robert Williamson, Jr. as a member of presbytery; transfer the membership of Rev. Jim Chaffin, honorably retired to this presbytery in absentia; renew the part-time interim covenant of Rev. Jim Miller at First, Little Rock; sustain the exam of



Rev. Rita Wilson



Candidate Joy  
Carrington

Candidate Joy Carrington for ordination, enroll her as a member of presbytery, approve her terms of call and the Administrative Commission to ordain and install her as part-time pastor at Hopewell Presbyterian, Morrilton on March 13; continue the presbytery staffing plan until a need for change arises; approve terms of call for 2011 for General Presbyter Bill Galbraith; approve the Presbytery budget for 2011; and elect the governing board of the Presbyterian Women's Carpathian Basin, Ukraine Water/Solar Projects.

**PRESBYTERY VOTED ON PROPOSED  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS REFERRED FROM  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**



Rev. Dr. Bill Christman

The Polity Committee, composed of the presbytery's commissioners to last summer's General Assembly meeting, reported their recommendations on the changes to the *Book of Order*. Presbytery voted to endorse and approve all amendments except 10-C. The results were APPROVAL of the following:

10-A. Gifts and Requirements on Amending G-6.0106b (G =Form of Government in *Book of Order*) by written ballot (120 affirmative and 42 negative)

All other votes were either oral and by show of hands.

10-B. Removing Stated Clerk or Clerk of Session on Amending G-9.0203b

10-D. Nominating Committees on Amending G-9.0801a

10-E. Presbytery Rolls and Registers on Amending G-11.0407

10-F. Certified Christian Educators on Amending G-11.0407 and G-14.0730

10-G. Synod Function on Amending G-12.0100

10-H. Nominations Process on Amending G-13.0108, G-13.0111a, and

G-13.0202b

10-I Prayer Added to Ordination and Installation Services on Amending W-4.4003h, W-4.4004a(2) and W-4.4006b(2) (W = Directory for Worship)

10-J. Stay of Enforcement on Amending D-6.0103 (D= Rules of Discipline)

10-K. Preliminary Questions on Amending D-6.0306, D-8.0302, and D-13.0302

10-L. Reviewing Work of Investigating Committee on Amending D-10.0202

10-M. Time Limit on Amending D-10.0401

10-N. Appeal of "Not Guilty" Verdict on Amending D-13.0102 and D-13.0106

10-O. Decision of Permanent Judicial Commission on Amending D-13.0404



Polity Committee

DISAPPROVED by presbytery vote was the proposed amendment 10-C. Requiring Sexual Misconduct Policy (for all governing bodies: sessions, presbyteries and synods) on Amending G-9.0404. This decision was by a vote of 72 in the affirmative and 86 in the negative. Both youth and young adult delegates offered advisory votes on Amendments 10-A, 10-C and Youth delegates advised on 10-N while Young Adult delegates advised on 10-G. These amendments will continue to be voted on across the presbyteries in the following months and only those amendments which receive a majority of affirmative votes will be included in the *Book of Order*.



YADs (Youth Advisory Delegates) and YADAs (Young Adult Advisory Delegates) pose before casting their advisory votes. Youth were led by Heather Kilpatrick.

### **PRESBYTERY VOTED THESE CHANGES TO ITS *MANUAL OF OPERATIONS*:**

- To change the General Council pages by adding the vision statement, grouping existing responsibilities under new headings, giving the moderator of General Council privilege of vote and reducing the number of meetings from six to four a year.
- To delete all references to the region known as Cluster VIII in election rotation, purpose statement and on the cluster map since it has been dissolved.

### **PRESBYTERY HEARD REPORTS OF:**

Receipt of a letter of appreciation from General Assembly Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons for "full support of the

2010 per capita apportionment," upcoming elder training that Parsons will lead during the June 4th presbytery meeting; the Elders Conference at The Big Tent event in Indianapolis June 30-July 2; annual work of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center including highlights of last summer's camp, upcoming summer season and finances; Youth at Presbytery representatives and the variety of ways they serve in their local churches; the annual State of the Presbytery featuring vignettes of the challenges and triumphs that are part of the 89 congregations' lives as presented by General Presbyter Bill Galbraith; a dialogue discussion of the proposed new Form of Government by Revs. Robert Lowry and David Dyer which will be voted on at the June presbytery meeting and progress on revisions being made to the Background Check Policy that will be presented for vote at the June meeting.

### **PRESBYTERY READ THE REPORTS OF:**

The Vision Task Force taking a time of pause and discernment; a Task Force of General Council looking at re-structuring presbytery meetings which is now gathering data and asking questions; General Council approving communion at Senior High YouthQuake and forming and tasking an Administrative Commission for First, Berryville, electing Administrative Commission members and approving sale of their manse; ministers permitted to labor outside of the bounds of the presbytery and validated ministries for Revs. Rebecca Spooner and Al Henager; renewal of interim pastor covenants for Dari Rowen and Terry Hart; approval of Rev. David Schaller's covenant as designated pastor at Faith, Horseshoe Bend and Rev. David King as stated supply for First, Brinkley and renewal of covenants of Commissioned Lay Pastors Ted Mealor at First, Marianna and William Brown at West Fork; approval of Rev. Leslie Belden as parish associate at First United, Fayetteville; renewal of covenant of Rev. Donn Walters as stated supply for Westminster, Little Rock; dismissal of Rev. Kris Crawford to Presbytery of the Pines; approval of lay academy graduates Hartley Jones and Carolyn Beane as pulpit supplies at Barr Memorial, Norman with Rev. Gary Jones as moderator; closing service at Highland, Hot Springs; Committee on Preparation for Ministry assigning members to produce a packet for new inquirers, assigning others to produce a document detailing CPM's responsibilities in ordination, approving a process for presenting to Presbytery any candidates not under care of this presbytery for exam without recommendation and receiving updates on current inquirers and candidates; the annual work of Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals including their work with pastoral care of professionals, the annual retreat they sponsor, contract with the Laurence Schmidt Center, honoring professionals on their five-year anniversaries, sending cards to honorably retired ministers, Arkansas Retired Clergy organization, Medical Resource Support Network and gifts on retirement; the annual work of the Black Caucus; the annual work of the Committee on Congregational Care and Development in new church planning, training, Small Church Retreat, grants to small churches, and in church transformation; and an update from Committee on Mission.

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## [Presbytery Calendar](#)

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### PRESBYTERY STAFF:

General Presbyter [BILL GALBRAITH](#)

Stated Clerk [CATHY ULRICH](#)

Resourcing Director & Assistant Stated Clerk [NIANN THOMPSON](#)

Presbytery & Financial Administrator [PAULINE RHODES](#)

Communications Director [BRIAN PERRY](#)

Presbytery Evangelist [JESSE GONZALEZ](#)

Staff Resource for Youth Council [WHITNEY BORDELON](#)

Staff Resource for Congregational Care & Development [MICHAEL VINSON](#)

Treasurer [BILLY STONE](#)

Moderator of Presbytery [SAM HIGHSMITH](#)

Vice Moderator of Presbytery [DAVID DYER](#)

Moderator of General Council [DEBRA CARL FREEMAN](#)

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The Presbytery of Arkansas is a governing body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which is part of the Reformed family of churches within the universal Church of Jesus Christ. Our vision is ***to make visible the body of Christ*** (Acts II).

We are composed of almost 15,000 Presbyterians gathered in 89 congregations, two new church developments and two fellowships located in various towns and cities in the northern two-thirds of the State of Arkansas.

Phone 501.663.2424 Fax 501.224.2429 <http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org>

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Presbytery of Arkansas | 9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd. | Little Rock | AR | 72227