

General Council Report to the Presbytery of Arkansas

October, 2008

** MOVED TO CONSENT AGENDA

The General Council met at 10:00 am on August 23, 2008 at the Youth House at 2nd Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. A quorum was present with 8 of 15 voting members in attendance at the beginning of the meeting. The Council welcomed new member LaNoir Dawkins-Leeper and was informed of the resignations of members Ken Kalvesmaki and Kris Crawford.

The Council voted to approve the request from First Presbyterian Church of Searcy to host the 111th meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas on June 6, 2009. Permission was granted for time on the docket for Sylvia Wilson, General Assembly Staff Resource for Higher Education at the October 2008 meeting and for James Currie, General Assembly Staff for the October 2009 meeting.

The Council has been discussing its responsibility to serve as the presbytery's visioning agency, including an annual review of presbytery's mission statement and priorities. Members of the Council felt that during this Interim Period, the presbytery needs to examine its current structure and determine if changes might need to be made to the current model. You will see a motion below that would form a task force that will look at our vision and mission statements and our current structure and will make recommendations to the presbytery through the General Council.

The Council discussed the upcoming February 2009 meeting of Presbytery which will include voting on amendments from the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The Council is recommending that a pre-presbytery workshop provide background and information related to the amendments. The Council hopes that Sessions will discuss the amendments before the February meeting; "Assembly in Brief" booklets are available at the registration table. The Council continues to express concern about declining contributions from member churches to support the Presbytery's operating budget.

The Council presents the following motions for approval by the Presbytery:

Background: Based on a vote from the 108th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery (June 2008), the Council brings the following two motions:

****1. Council moves that a change be made to the *Manual of Operations, Part I, page 1* titled "Stated Meetings of Presbytery". The line to be changed currently reads: "The third meeting shall ordinarily be held on the second Thursday and Friday of October." The line will be replaced with the following: "Beginning in 2010, the third meeting shall ordinarily be on the second Friday and Saturday of October."**

****2. The Council moves that a change be made to the *Standing Rules, page 3, Article III, Meetings of the Presbytery, Section 3.3* which is titled "Attendance at Presbytery Meetings." The last line of A. currently reads, "As special meetings of the Presbytery may be called from time to time, only those ministers and elders who are within 75 miles of the place of meeting will be expected to attend." The change will add a phrase to read**

(additions are underlined): “As special meetings of the presbytery may be called from time to time, beginning in 2010 these shall be held on Saturdays. Only those ministers and elders who are within 75 miles of the place of meeting will be expected to again.”

3. The Council moves the deletion of Appendix B-3 “Arkansas Campus Ministry Board and By-Laws Covenant” from the *Manual of Operations*. The board “self-dissolved” and their duties are now under the Campus Ministry Sub-Committee of the Committee on Christian Education and Nurture.

4. The Council moves the approval of “A Covenant Between the Arkansas Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus and the Presbytery of Arkansas” and that the document be placed in the *Manual of Operations* as Appendix B-8. (See attachment A)

5. The Council moves an addition to the *Standing Rules*, to reflect the newly formed Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response. In Article V – Administrative Agencies of the Presbytery, page 4, under Section 5.2 – Names of Committees, Letter B – The Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response will be added to the list of standing committees that report through the General Council to the presbytery.

6. The Council moves addition of the new organization chart (see attachment B) after the cover page of the *Manual of Operations* to reflect the newly formed Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response.

7. The Council moves adoption of the document titled “Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response” (see attachment C) and its placement in the *Manual of Operations* in the section of “Standing Committees that Report through the General Council.”

8. The Council moves a change to the *Standing Rules* which would reflect current ways of functioning since Financial Administrator Pauline Rhodes now deals with receipts and disbursements. Article IV. “Officers and Presbytery Staff”, page 3, Section 4.4 “Presbytery Staff”, Section B. - The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, Number 3 currently reads, “The treasurer will handle the receipts and disbursements of presbytery’s General Mission Fund and Reserve Fund in keeping with the responsibilities and directives recommended by the Committee on Administration, adopted by the presbytery and attached to the *Manual of Operations*.” The change would read (changes underlined) “The treasurer will oversee the handling of the receipts and disbursement of presbytery’s General Mission Fund and Reserved Funds in keeping with the responsibilities and directives recommended by the Committee on Administration, adopted by the presbytery and attached to the *Manual of Operations*.”

9. The Council moves that a Task Force be elected, as appointed by Interim General Presbyter Sallie Watson in conjunction with Committee on Nominations, to work with the Interim General Presbyter to look at the presbytery vision and mission statements and the current structure and to report to presbytery through General Council.

COVENANT
between
The Arkansas Chapter of National Black Presbyterian Caucus
and
The Presbytery of Arkansas
(May, 2008)

The Arkansas Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, hereinafter called ABPC, hereby covenants with The Presbytery of Arkansas to work toward the overall enhancement of the Black Presbyterian congregations within the Presbytery (and State of Arkansas) through revitalization/redevelopment programming. With a cooperative effort of both parties, resources of people and funding, these churches will require less financial assistance from Presbytery, experience numerical and spiritual growth, become equipped to do more effective ministry, become a financial and resource asset to the Presbytery, develop lay and clergy leadership, and become more involved in the Presbytery's mission and ministry. In order to make this Covenant effective, both parties commit to the following:

ABPC Commits To:

1. Encourage each participating church to agree to and participate in ABPC revitalization/redevelopment, leader training development programs. Also to fulfill their overall commitments to Presbytery by becoming less dependent on financial assistance from Presbytery and more involved in the mission and ministry of Presbytery.
2. Encourage each participating church to follow through on all assignments made by the former Revitalization/Redevelopment Consultant.
3. Work with Presbytery in participating in events sponsored by PC(USA) governing bodies that promote leader training and development.
4. Report at a Stated Presbytery Meeting the status of ABPC.
5. Provide Presbytery and the appropriate Committee of Presbytery a schedule of events, seminars, etc. of ABPC.
6. Forward Minutes and Financial Reports to the Presbytery and appropriate committee of Presbytery.

The Presbytery of Arkansas Commits To:

1. Provide appropriate resources of people, materials, and funding within its budget to assist in the revitalization/redevelopment of ABPC churches within the Presbytery.
2. Appoint a representative to attend ABPC meetings to better understand and support its ministry and mission.
3. Provide for dialogue between ABPC representatives and appropriate Presbytery staff.
4. Provide opportunity for an ABPC representative to make a progress report during a Stated Presbytery Meeting and set up a display of ABPC activities as needed.
5. Encourage all ABPC pastors and churches to take an active role in implementing their commitment to Presbytery.
6. Recognize and affirm ABPC as a vital entity of The Presbytery of Arkansas and include their scheduled events on the Presbytery Calendar.

Both parties covenant to review this relationship yearly on or about the anniversary of its approval.

Revised May, 2008

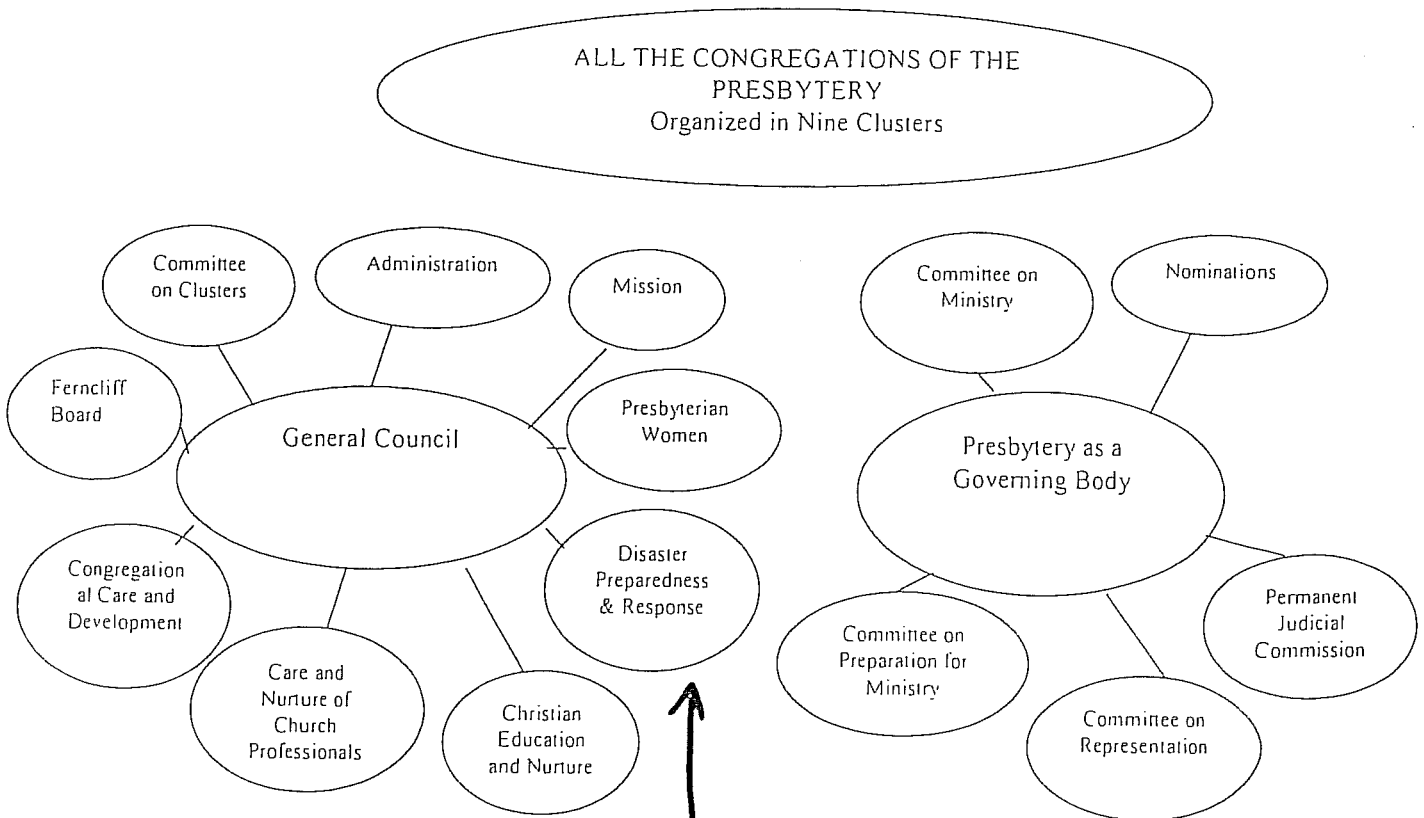
PRESBYTERY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
(revised Aug. 2008)

The Presbytery of Arkansas is a governing body of the Presbyterian Church (USA), which is part of the Reformed family of churches within the universal Church of Jesus Christ. As such our mission is to:

inspire, challenge and help
our congregations, agencies, ministers and leaders
to fulfill their call to service
as faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

The present goals of the presbytery are:

- To help congregations learn faithful and effective ways of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with younger generations and with people of all racial and socioeconomic groups.
- To help vitalize existing congregations and to develop new congregations.
- To provide Christian education resources, opportunities for spiritual growth, and leadership development.
- To facilitate people to recognize God's call in their life; to assist in the process of calling pastoral leadership; to provide oversight and pastoral care for church professionals.
- To help develop ministries of justice and compassion locally and globally and to coordinate regional and ecumenical efforts.
- To deepen and develop our connectional and covenantal relationships as Presbyterians.
- To maintain divine worship
- To do all that we do with faithful stewardship of God's gifts to us.



New

COMMITTEE ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

PURPOSE

The Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee (DPRC) shall provide the presbytery with planning and coordination in preparation for and response to natural or human-induced disasters within the bounds of Arkansas Presbytery, and response to such disasters outside of the presbytery.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Committee shall:

1. Recommend to the presbytery means by which the presbytery and its congregations can best prepare for natural or human-induced disasters
2. Prepare and disseminate a disaster response plan for presbytery
3. Review and revise this plan as needed
4. Coordinate a rapid response to local and national disasters
5. Form and activate communication protocols as needed
6. Ensure that pastors affected by disasters receive pastoral care
7. Disseminate assessment and response information to affected churches and responding churches, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), and other organizations including local inter-faith networks and Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)
8. Plan training for DPRC members and field volunteers
9. Liaison with inter-faith and civic disaster response agencies, and provide representatives as requested
10. Develop and maintain master phone lists of DPRC members and field volunteers as well as resources available for prompt disaster response
11. Recommend creation of financial accounts to receive and disburse relief funds
12. Develop and maintain a Memorandum of Understanding with PDA
13. Provide an annual report to Presbytery.
14. Recommend a budget for its ministry to the Committee on Administration.

MEMBERSHIP

This committee shall be composed of nine members elected for three-year terms, with three persons in each of three classes. The General Presbyter shall designate the staff resource person. All members shall have vote. The members of the committee shall be recommended by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the presbytery.

ORGANIZATION

The moderator of the committee shall be elected by the presbytery for one year.

The committee shall elect a vice moderator for one year and a clerk for one year to record the actions of the committee.

MEETINGS

The committee shall meet as needed. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee will be accountable to the Presbytery through the General Council and shall submit a written report to the presbytery office to be distributed to General Council members ten days before each meeting of the General Council.

Celebration and Recognition of Ordination Anniversaries of Active Minister Members of the Presbytery of Arkansas

Continuing a practice begun in 2004, the Presbytery will recognize at the **109th Stated Meeting** on October 9-10, 2008 the active minister members of the Presbytery who this year celebrate anniversaries in five-year increments. This list is based on the information compiled in the office. Please check to make sure the information is correct and complete and notify the Presbytery Office of any changes (501.663.2424 or brian@presbyteryofarkansas.org).

5 YEARS

Rev. Ashley Griffith

Rev. Kendal Land

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

Rev. Anne Russ

Rev. Patricia Schaller

Rev. Debbie Spangler

10 YEARS

Rev. Jeff Cranton

Rev. Ruskin Falls

Rev. Michael Vinson

15 YEARS

Rev. John Arnold

20 YEARS

Rev. Catherine Allsbury

Rev. Debra Carl Freeman

Rev. Libby Lizarraga

25 YEARS

Rev. Catherine Ulrich

30 YEARS

Rev. Arthur Fogartie

Rev. Alan Ford

35 YEARS

Rev. Thomas Carter, Honorably Retired

Rev. Darwin Wolfe, Honorably Retired

40 YEARS

Rev. Emmett Powers

45 YEARS

Rev. William Branch, Honorably Retired

Rev. Joseph Tropansky, Honorably Retired

50 YEARS

Rev. James Fleming, Honorably Retired

Rev. Vernon Forsberg, Honorably Retired

Rev. David Laverty, Honorably Retired

55 YEARS

Rev. Don Campbell, Honorably Retired

Rev. David Davies, Honorably Retired

Rev. Heinrich Eiler, Honorably Retired

Rev. Maurice Roberts, Honorably Retired