

PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
Report to the 109th Stated Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, Harrison, Arkansas
October 9-10, 2008

[Report on business from the July, August, and September meetings.]

For Information Only

- The following were given permission to labor outside the bounds:
 - MWS Tracy Evans to labor within Indians Nations Presbytery as she seeks a call (she has moved to Oklahoma City).
 - MWS Joe Tropansky to celebrate two birthdays of churches in Nebraska and to fill the pulpit.
 - MWS Bill Bailey to officiate a wedding in Denver.
 - MWS Paul Andresen, Saturday, September 13, 2008, to celebrate the wedding of his nephew, Stephen Andresen, in Missouri Union Presbytery.
 - MWS Carl McCormack to officiate a niece's wedding in Austin, Texas, on August 3, 2008.
- MWS David A. Schneider was approved as the Interim Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in Russellville effective August 15, 2008.
- MWS J.Q. Williams was approved as the part-time Temporary Supply Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Mena from September 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008, at an annual salary of \$18,000, and vacation of four weeks, for twenty hours of work per week.
- MWS John Conley was dismissed to John Calvin Presbytery.
- MWS Bill Branch was approved as the Interim Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Outreach at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock.
- MWS Gail Perkins has been received by Greater Atlanta Presbytery, and the Committee on Ministry approved dismissing her.
- MWS Woody Brown's ministry as a part-time chaplain with Tyson was approved as a Validated Ministry.
- The Pulpit Supply list was updated and is available on the Presbytery of Arkansas's website.
- The Committee on Ministry approved the dissolution of call between the NWA NCD Administrative Commission and Presbytery Evangelist/ Organizing Pastor MWS Roger Patton.
- The Interim covenant between Central Presbyterian Church in Pine Bluff and MWS Jim Freeman was approved to be extended through December 31, 2008.
- The Interim covenant between Wynne Presbyterian Church and MWS Anne Hagler was approved to be extended through December 31, 2008.

Motions before the Presbytery

1. Motion to change the status of MWS David King, MWS Jim Miller, MWS Darwin Wolfe and MWS Richard Miller to Honorably Retired, and to move them to that roll.

Moment of Praise to God for service rendered!!!

- a. MWS David King, effective August 1, 2008 (MWS David Dyer to speak)
 - b. MWS Jim Miller, effective June 30, 2008 (MWS Steve Hancock to speak)
 - c. MWS Darwin Wolfe, effective August 31, 2008 (MWS Sallie Watson to speak)
 - d. MWS Richard Miller, effective October 1, 2008 (Elder Walls McCrary to speak)
2. Motion to receive MWS David A. Schneider as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and request the transfer of his membership from Cimarron Presbytery.
 3. Motions concerning call of MWS Dennis Ritchie as Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista:
 - a. Motion to receive MWS Dennis Ritchie as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and request the transfer of his membership from Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery.
 - b. Motion to approve the call, and the associated terms of call, of MWS Dennis Ritchie as Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista.

c. Terms of call:

Cash Salary	\$27,500
403(b) Retirement Plan Contribution	\$15,000
Housing (manse and/or amount of housing allowance)	\$27,500
Utilities allowance	Included in salary
Supplement for Social Security Tax	\$ 5,355
Full medical, pension, disability, and death coverage under Board of Pensions	\$22,050

Other benefits:

Paid vacation leave of 5 weeks annually (may be carried over with approval of the Administrative Committee of church)

Paternity Leave of 2 weeks

Paid continuing education leave of 2 weeks annually (may be accumulated up to 6 weeks)

Disability: 90 days at effective salary with pension dues paid (must be certified as being warranted by a licensed physician)

Sabbatical: 3 months after 6 years of service (may not be combined with vacation time unless approved by Session)

Moving expenses of household goods and personal effects
Reimbursement

It is understood that the following expenses of ministry will be reimbursed through an accountable plan:

Travel expense at the IRS allowable rate per mile (with a minimum of \$3,000)
 Continuing education and educational materials reimbursement allowance
 \$4,500

d. Motion to approve:

- i. the effective date of the call of August 24, 2008.
- ii. the date of installation of October 12, 2008 at 4:00 pm.
- iii. That the offering be designated to Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, and
- iv. that the following be elected to serve on the Administrative Commission to install:

MWS Stewart Smith to Moderate
 MWS Leslie Belden
 MWS Clare Kelley
 MWS Arthur Fogartie
 Elder Martha Wettersten, Bella Vista Presbyterian Church
 Elder Keith Burt, First Presbyterian Church of Bentonville
 Elder Pat Marts, First Presbyterian of Springdale

4. Motions concerning the call of MWS Craig King as Pastor of the Wynne Presbyterian Church:

a. Motion to receive MWS Craig King as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and request the transfer of his membership from Giddings Lovejoy Presbytery.

b. Motion to approve the call, and the associated terms of call, of MWS Craig King as Pastor of the Wynne Presbyterian Church:

Cash Salary	\$30,000
Supplement for Social Security Tax	3,200
Total Income reported to IRS	33,200
Housing	Manse
Utilities	5,100
Full Board of Pensions	14,578
Medical/Dental reimbursement allowance	2,400
Dental Insurance	1,200
Professional Expenses	2,000
Moving expenses	actual
Paid vacation leave of 4 weeks annually	
Paid continuing education leave of 2 weeks annually, cumulative of up to 6 weeks	
Reimbursable travel expenses at .585 per mile	\$5,400
Continuing Education reimbursement allowance	1,200

c. Motion to approve:

- i. the effective date of the call of October 1, 2008.
- ii. the date of installation of November 2, 2008 at 3:30 pm.

- iii. that the offering be designated to the Presbytery of Arkansas' Pastor Emergency Fund (through Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals), and
 - iv. that the following be elected to serve on the Administrative Commission to install:
 - MWS Jim Freeman to moderate
 - MWS Carl McCormack
 - MWS Patty Schaller
 - MWS David Schaller
 - Elder Jean Pope, Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City
 - Elder Ailene Thames, First, Heber Springs Presbyterian
 - Elder Ray Woodruff, Wynne Presbyterian
5. Motion to commission Jim Keyes as the CLP for Gamaliel One-O-One Presbyterian Church, effective date of October 11, 2008, extending until October 2011.

Necrology

The following members of our Presbytery have died since our last Presbytery meeting and now rest in God with that great body of saints who have gone before:

- MWS Dean Waychoff, HR, died on July 10, 2008 (Ailene Thames to speak)
- MWS Joe Nathan Cole, Sr., HR, died on July 23, 2008 (LaNoir Dawkins-Leeper to speak)

PERSONAL STATEMENT OF FAITH - David A. Schneider

HOLY SCRIPTURE is the unique word of God told through ordinary human word. It testifies to the Living Word which is Jesus the Christ. It proclaims, "The Good News is that God loves the world!"

You and I know GOD as nurturing parent and lover,
as giver and finisher of life,
as one who frees and binds us,
as one who speaks and is silent.

God's person does not change, but the way we experience God's self-revelation changes constantly, is exciting and new, is never exhausted.

God's love for us is so full that God condescended and truly was what we are through the birth, life, death and resurrection of JESUS CHRIST, the Son who called God, "Father." Jesus, a Nazarene, became and becomes for each of us
the prodigal brother,
the Lord of the Dance,
our personal Savior.

He claims you and me by name as more than servants and more than friends, for we know what He is doing. Therefore in Him we believe all of God's promises, hating evil and enjoying God's goodness.

You and I are created in the perfect image of God, we are called to be prophetic witnesses and healers in a broken, unbelieving world. The HOLY SPIRIT in her freedom gives us the vision to be the CHURCH,
the sacramental living body of Christ,
at the same time pilgrims
and the kingdom people.

But we who are the church so often fail to trust,
we do not love and accept love,
we forget to forgive and be forgiven,
we are unfaithful and fall prey to what is Evil,
we fail to witness and to dream.

What makes the church different from the world is that we confess that we are forgiven sinners:
washed in his baptism and given new life;
invited to his table, sharing in his cup of blessing;
living in covenant faithfulness.

As kingdom people we look for the day when we live as holy, one family, an inclusive society where none are excluded by human labels. It is our task to work together—all creation—to protect and renew God's world, sometimes beautiful, sometimes ugly, until the new earth and new heaven appear
always being reformed,
singing a new song;
knowing our mission issues from our worship.
"Come, Lord Jesus!"

I was born in the PRESBYTERIAN family; I grew up on its foreign mission field; I have been educated in Presbyterian schools and called to the ministry of word and sacrament in this church. I have always been a member of this particular church and I will die faithful to my church. For me there is no other choice. This is both an exciting and a threatening time to be in this church. The Good News is that God will continue to love the world through the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). 04-21-08

Statement of Faith
Dennis Ritchie

I believe in the triune God, who claims us through the grace of our Lord Jesus, the Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit who calls us into faithful lives of obedience and service.

I believe that the hope for humanity is in Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior. Jesus is God incarnate, the Messiah and that "there is no other name under heaven that has been given among humans, by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12) "Through Christ, God is reconciling the world to God's self." (2 Cor. 5:19) Christ's ministry of healing, teaching, compassion, mercy, reconciliation and justice stands as a model for all people, reflecting God's love for all people.

I believe the sinfulness of humanity has resulted in a broken relationship with God, as well as with each other, and creation. It is through the atoning death of Christ that grace is extended to us, our sins forgiven, and our relationship restored. By the mercy and unmerited grace of God alone, God assures us our redemption and salvation.

I believe the church is Christ's body, to be a covenant community, called into existence by God, and led by the Holy Spirit to witness to the love of God through its worship, fellowship, and unity. The church is God's instrument by which God calls humanity into relationship with God's self as it lives out and proclaims the grace and hope found in Jesus. Therefore we must go into the world as the "Great Commission" instructs to fulfill this mandate from Christ.

I believe the sacraments are a means of grace, and visible signs of God's promise, where we are brought into union with God and each other. In baptism we are adopted into the body of Christ, and marked as God's own. Our identity is sealed by the Holy Spirit as a child of God, called into God's service. In the Lord's Supper we encounter the spiritual presence of Christ, who calls us into community and promises to always be with us and nurture us spiritually. Remembering Jesus' self-giving, sacrificial act, we are empowered to rededicate our lives to God's purpose and to be a sign of God's grace and activity in the world.

I believe the scriptures to be the inspired Word and witness to God's love for us and the world. The Bible is a means of God's grace and not an object of idolatry. Led by the Holy Spirit, it is imperative the covenant community study, proclaim, and reflect the Word of God in the world.

I believe that God is present in our lives and in our suffering. By God's providence, God rules the created order in such ways that all things work for God's glory. The church must faithfully witness to this truth by being present in the lives of the marginalized, the ill, and the poor. God calls us into ministries of love, hope, compassion, hospitality and service to others in this broken world. This ministry is to be reflected in our daily life and in the mission of the church, the body of Christ.

Brief Statement of Personal Faith

Craig S. King, Sr.

In life and in death, I belong to God. I take comfort in that, for my God is the Lord; the omniscient, the omnipotent, and the omnipresent Ruler of the universe Who was before time began and will be after time as we know it. Created in God's image, I live with the knowledge that I have tried to hide from God and denied God's sovereignty in my own life. I have abused or misused the wondrous gifts God has poured into my life, rebelled against God's commandments, and failed to demonstrate love for those who share this world with me. I rightly deserve God's condemnation.

It was this sovereign and triune God Who, for the love of the creatures that God created, and desiring a relationship with us, came to earth to live among us as Jesus of Nazareth. This Jesus, fully human and fully divine, came to earth to usher in God's kingdom. Jesus preached Good News to the poor, proclaimed release for the captives, healed the sick and the lame, and restored sight to the blind. This brought freedom for all of us, the captives of sin. Christ renews for us God's covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in fulfillment of the Scriptures, while at the same time establishing a new covenant by breaking the bounds of the law and opening the floodgates of God's grace and mercy. In life and death, Jesus showed God's redeeming love and reconciling work among all people of the earth, that we might be God's people and that we might once again do justice, love, mercy, and walk humbly with the Lord. Unjustly crucified, Jesus suffered for our sake and gave His life as atonement for my sin and the sins of the world. In His resurrection, I find the living proof of God's victory over sin and death, and I live with the confidence that Jesus will come again.

It is the Holy Spirit Who continues the redeeming and reconciling work of God on earth; justifying us by grace through faith and setting us free to participate with God in the establishment of God's kingdom on earth. It is the Spirit that calls us to ministry and called me to repentance and service in this time and at this place. In gratitude and obedience, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I struggle to serve Christ in everything that I do. I know without the Lord in my life, I would be nothing. But with Him and through Him, I can do all things. And I rejoice in the knowledge that nothing in life or in death can separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus. I have been chosen, ransomed, and redeemed in God's love for God's glory. Amen.

NECROLOGY

Rev. Dean Thomas Waychoff, 80, of Little Rock died on July 10, 2008, in Little Rock. Born in Boone, IA, on December 6, 1927, he was a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas. Rev. Waychoff married Barbara Jean Diehl on September 19, 1948, at First Presbyterian, Boone.

A 1946 graduate of Boone High School, he received his B.A. from Grinnell College in Grinnell, IA, in 1949, and his Master of Divinity degree from McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago in 1952.

Rev. Waychoff was ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Boone, IA, on December 9, 1951. He served pastorates in Sidney, Randolph, Independence, and West Des Moines, IA; was Executive Director of Calvin Manor Community Retirement Home in Des Moines; and pastored Presbyterian churches in Beatrice, NE and Ardmore, OK. Rev. Waychoff was honorably retired on January 1, 1991, from First, Heber Springs, AR where he was pastor for nine years, and was elected Pastor Emeritus of that church. He served on the presbytery's Committee on Ministry and after retirement was temporary supply at First, Beebe and a member of the Arkansas Interfaith Conference and presbytery's Committee on Evangelism.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Barbara Jean Waychoff of Little Rock; four children, The Rev. Mary Ellen Waychoff of New Cambria, MO; Susanne Kay Wegner, R.N., and husband Harold of Kingston, OK; Deborah Jean Ross, R.N., and husband John of Conway; and Timothy Clell Waychoff and wife Amy of Benton; six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren; and one sister, Nancy Lynn Larsen of Maple Valley, WA, other relatives and many friends.

A memorial service was held Tuesday morning, July 15, at First Presbyterian, Heber Springs with Rev. Mary Ellen Waychoff officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to Cleburne County Aging Program, Waychoff Senior Citizens Center, 320 Trailwood Dr., Heber Springs, AR 72543.

NECROLOGY

Rev. Joe Nathan Cole, Sr., 80, of Houston, MS died on July 23, 2008 in Van Vleet, MS. Born in St. Louis, MO on July 19, 1928, he was a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas. Rev. Cole attended Lincoln University, graduated from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1991, and pursued post-college and post-seminary education at Washington University, California Lutheran and California State University.

From 1952 to 1988 Cole served as a secondary teacher and administration in MO and in Los Angeles, CA. Rev. Cole was ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) by the former Presbytery of Memphis in 1992. He pastored Bethel Presbyterian Church, Memphis before being called as pastor of West End Presbyterian Church, Arkadelphia where he served from 1999 until March, 2003 when he retired for health reasons. He and his wife Deacon Delores Cole moved to MS upon his retirement where he served Garden of Eden Church in Okolona.

He is survived by his wife of 28 years Delores, daughter Jennifer Cole Deggdingseze of Carson, CA; son Joe Jr. and step-son Robert Wilkins, both of Los Angeles; step-daughter Sandra Smith of Buena Park, CA; five grandchildren, a brother and a sister. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, July 30 at Okolona Presbyterian Church in Okolona, MS.