

“APPROVED MINUTES”
ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH STATED MEETING
OF THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS
LYON COLLEGE, BATESVILLE, ARKANSAS
FRIDAY-SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19-20, 2010

The 113th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas began in the Brown Chapel at Lyon College, Batesville at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, February 19, 2010 following four pre-presbytery workshops (Clerk of Session Training, PERCEPT Demographics, Planning Mission Trips and Statistical Reporting).

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

Elder/Commissioned Lay Pastor Claire Rhodes, presbytery moderator, called the meeting to order and gave the opening prayer while lighting the Christ candle. She gave housekeeping instructions, talked about the four packets, encouraged evaluations, thanked hosts and planning team. She moved the adoption of the printed docket with the addition of new business. **Docket was approved.**

REPORT OF ENROLLMENT

Stated Clerk MWS Catherine Ulrich reported on the following enrollment at the time of the gavel: 49 MWSs, 5 Commissioned Lay Pastors, 1 Certified Christian Educator, 53 elders and 8 at-large elders, totaling 116 voting commissioners which constituted a quorum.

ENROLLMENT

MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT: Kofi Adzaku, Chip Andrus, Bill Bailey, Nancy Benson-Nicol, D. Breckinridge Castleman, Fern M. Davis, David H. Dyer, Ruskin Falls, James J. Farley III, Dan Festa, Alan Ford, Debra Carl Freeman, James Daniel Freeman, Bill Galbraith, Gordon F. Garlington III, David E. Gill, Jesus Juan Gonzalez, Susan Gray, Robert Hadley, Steve Hancock, Al Henager, Marion A. Humphrey, Ron Jones, Clare Martin Kelley, Judith Kelley, Craig King, Frank LeBlanc, Robert Lowry, Carl McCormack, Steve Merrin, Jeff Parker, Camille LeBron Powell, Emmett Powers, Jeff Price, Timothy C. Reeves, Dennis Ritchie, Leslie Bethell Roper, Susan Rose, Anne Russ, David Schaller, Patricia Schaller, Dave Schneider, Georgia Senor, Shauna Silmon, J. Stewart Smith, Debbie Spangler, Rebecca Spooner, Nancy Taylor, Drew Travis, Catherine Ulrich.

Honorably Retired Active Ministers: Ben H. Bateman, Art Bell, William W. Branch, Thomas S. Carter, Sally Stockley Johnson, Carlos Lopez, Burle D. Mattingly, Bill McWeeny, Richard H. Miller, C. Michael D. Seitz, W. Kennedy Upham, Don Wardlaw.

ELDER COMMISSIONERS FROM CONGREGATIONS: Alpine, Amity, Thomas A. Robertson, Jr.; First, Arkadelphia, Chris Mortenson; First, Batesville, James Anderson; First, Beebe, Sharon Grindstaff; Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, Dave Guarncia; First, Benton, Emily Laurel; Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals, Pat Erlewine; First,

Clarksville, Linda Castleman; First, Conway, Pamela Woodard George; First, Eureka Springs, Kim Dewey; Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay, Phyllis Young; First United, Fayetteville, Jane Steinkraus; Mount Comfort, Fayetteville, Dave Wall; Graham Memorial, Forrest City, Claire Cranford; Central, Fort Smith, Mike McClure; One-O-One, Gamaliel, Mike Hildebrand; Spring River, Hardy, Carol McWilliams; First, Harrison, Gwen Hoffmann; First, Heber Springs, John P. Hanna; Holiday Island Presbyterian, Dixie Mills; Faith, Horseshoe Bend, Bill Lewis; First, Hot Springs, Orville Poole; Highland, Hot Springs, Frances Bateman; Westminster, Hot Springs, Lawrence Grubb; Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village, Ruth Hamilton and Jerral Johnson; Woodlands, Hot Springs Village, Sam D. Thompson; First, Huntsville, William Embry; First, Jacksonville, Glenn Fiscus; First, Jonesboro, Linda Norvell; First, Little Rock, David Duke; Grace, Little Rock, Randall Haynes; Pulaski Heights, Little Rock, Jane Anne Spikes; Second, Little Rock, Ann McCoy, Anne Allen, Adam Rule, Rob Owens; Trinity, Little Rock, Raymond Screws; Westminster, Little Rock, Art Ritter; Westover Hills, Little Rock, Tammy Pflug; First, Lonoke, Ann McSwain; First, Malvern, Charlotte Peek; First, McGehee, Ronny Henderson; First, Mena, Sue Quinney; First, Morrilton, Leeann Mobley; Hopewell, Morrilton, Susan Morris; First, Mountain Home, Janet Newman; Mountainburg Presbyterian, Barbara Jensen; First, Newport, Richard Allen; Barr Memorial, Norman, Noah Williamson; First, North Little Rock, Jeannie Price; Park Hill, North Little Rock, Russell Mathis; First, Ozark, Wayne Porter; Mount Vernon, Pea Ridge, Leslie Pedersen; Central, Pine Bluff, Al Glover; First, Pine Bluff, Steve Matthews; First, Rogers, Jim Pedersen; Central, Russellville, Susan Jordan; First, Searcy, David Cook; First, Stuttgart, Bill Moll; First, Van Buren, Jan Enke; First, Walnut Ridge, Penny Sloan; West Fork, Jennifer Stiles; Wynne Presbyterian, Corbin Brown; First, Yellville, LeNelle Cagle.

AT-LARGE COMMISSIONERS: Associate General Presbyter Joan Erickson; Elder Members of General Council, Sam Highsmith, Chuck Blanton, Lon Hardin. Elder Members of Committee on Clusters, Betty Anderson, Ted Belden, Nancy Dean (moderator). Elder Moderators of Presbytery Committees, Wayne Quinney, Congregational Care and Development, and Tom Verdery, Administration. Elder Commissioners to General Assembly 218, Dawn Scarborough.

COMMISSIONED LAY PASTORS: Elizabeth Hardin, First, Gurdon; Jim Keyes, One-O-One, Gamaliel and First, Yellville; Kelly Pearson, First, Dardanella; Claire Rhodes, West End, Arkadelphia; Kenneth Rhodes, West End, Arkadelphia.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS: Nancy McSpadden, Lyon College Chaplain, AR Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church; Mary Jane Winter, World Mission, Presbyterian Church (USA), Eastern VA Presbytery; Philip W. Butin, San Francisco Presbytery; Jan Butin, Redwoods Presbytery; Terry Hart, Palo Duro Presbytery; Kenneth Shaw, Pueblo Presbytery; Dari Rowen, Pines Presbytery.

CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS: Linda LeBron, retired. NiAnn Thompson, presbytery staff.

Certified Associate Christian Educators: Lynn Condra, Central, Fort Smith; Theresa

Spragins, First, Springdale; Susie Wright, Westminster, Hot Springs.

Christian Educators in Particular Churches: Heather Kilpatrick, Westover Hills, Little Rock; Mary Shaw, First, Bentonville; Cheryl Allison, First, Jonesboro; Kristi Button, First United, Fayetteville; Cameron Highsmith, Grace, Little Rock; Whitney Bordelon, Park Hill, North Little Rock.

VISITORS TO THIS MEETING OF PRESBYTERY: 42 registered.

YOUTH ADVISORY DELEGATES: 25 registered.

MINISTERS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES: Karen Kokles Akin, Catherine L. Allsbury, Paul Andresen, Leslie F. Belden, Jeff Cranton, Lewis R. Donelson IV, Arthur Fogartie, Tracy Y. Julian, Kendal Land, Mark Lenneville, Charles T. Olsen, Thomas A. Ulrich, Michael Vinson, Donn L. Walters, Marci Ward, Sallie Watson, Daniel Wooley.

HONORABLY RETIRED ACTIVE MINISTERS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES: Dennis R. Bennett, Donald K. Campbell II, J. Donald Corley, David B. Davies, Milton B. Davis, Guy Delaney, Heinrich B. Eiler, Richard Frothingham, William F. Henning, Robert Hyatt, David S. King, David Laverty, James B. Miller, Leila L. Power, Jerry Rice, Richard Shinkle, Frederick A. Taylor, Joe Tropansky, Darwin Wolfe.

MINISTERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: Robert Cox, Kris Crawford, Clifton P. Ford, John Gibson, Byung-Mook Kim, John E. King, Libby Lizarraga, Harry Young.

HONORABLY RETIRED ACTIVE MINISTERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: James P. Fleming, Orin M. Frank, Howard H. Gordon, Walter Swetnam, Donald Trent, J. Q. Williams.

SESSIONS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES: West End, Arkadelphia; First, Berryville; Harmony, Clarksville; Ferguson Memorial, Coal Hill; Second Commissioner, First, Conway; First, Dardanelle; Second Commissioner, Central, Fort Smith; First, Gurdon; First, Lincoln; First, Marianna; First, Pocahontas; First, Siloam Springs.

SESSIONS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: First, Alma; Memorial, Atkins; First, Bentonville; Vaughn, Bentonville; First, Brinkley; Cane Hill; Elkins; Walnut Grove, Farmington; First, Fort Smith; First, Gravette; Good Shepherd, Greenwood; First, Helena; Holly Grove; Allison, Little Rock; First, Paragould; Faith, Pine Bluff; First, Prairie Grove; First, Springdale; Cleburne Avenue, West Helena.

AT-LARGE COMMISSIONERS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCE: Elder Members of General Council, Kim Danehower, LaNoir D. Leeper, Sheree Niece. Elder Moderators of Presbytery Committees, Jeannie Ford, Christian Education and Nurture and Dan Roebuck, Nominations.

COMMISSIONED LAY PASTORS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCE: Joshua Bridges, First, Beebe; Bill Brown, West Fork; Bruce Schlegel, Walnut Grove, Farmington and

Cane Hill Presbyterian.

COMMISSIONED LAY PASTORS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: Bill Bush, First, Gravette; K. C. Chanthorn, Laotian—First, Fort Smith; Robert Sohn, First, Brinkley; Harlis Wright, Faith, Pine Bluff.

CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCE: Anna Bedford, Lynn King, Nancy Irving Smith. **Certified Associate Christian Educators,** Sheila Reddig.

WELCOME FROM HOST

Dr. Donald Weatherman, president of Lyon College, brought greetings and explained his long affiliation with Lyon, what it means to be a church-related college, and his joy at presbytery's presence on campus.

WELCOME TO FIRST-TIME ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Stated Clerk Ulrich welcomed first-time elder and minister commissioners. She pointed out that the youth may be first-timers, and that this is the first time to install moderator and GP and commission missionaries, and exercise different voting requirements, all at one meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF PRESBYTERY STAFF

Moderator Rhodes introduced the staff of the Presbytery of Arkansas: MWS Bill Galbraith, General Presbyter-Elect; Elder Joan Erickson, Associate General Presbytery; MWS Cathy Ulrich, Stated Clerk; Elder NiAnn Thompson, Resourcing Director and Assistant Stated Clerk; Presbytery/Financial Administrator Pauline Rhodes, Communications Director Brian Perry; Presbytery Evangelist MWS Jesse Gonzalez, General Council Moderator Claire Rhodes, Presbytery Moderator-elect MWS Debra Freeman, and Presbytery Vice Moderator-elect Sam Highsmith. Billy Stone, treasurer, was absent.

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS/ GRANTING PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

The Stated Clerk seated the seven corresponding members listed above and **it was voted.** Privilege of the floor was granted to Elder Dawn Scarborough.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Stated Clerk Ulrich gave the report, referencing the original and addenda packet.

- 1) The minutes of the Administrative Commissions to install Nancy Taylor as pastor of First, Mountain Home; ordain and install Susan Rose, United Campus Ministry, Fayetteville; and install Judith Kelley as pastor of Highland, Hot Springs have been received. The Presbytery may now dismiss these commissions with its thanks. **Dissolution of commissions was approved.**
- 2) Faith Presbyterian Church, Pine Bluff, after a duly called congregational meeting, requests permission to sell front footage of the Church property to the Arkansas

Highway Department to widen the roadway. The property was appraised at \$6500.00 by the State Appraisers. **Permission was granted.**

- 3) One-O-One Presbyterian Church, Gamaliel, through its commissioned lay pastor, Jim Keys, requests permission for a waiver of the limitation on reelection of church officers after six years, and additionally asks that the waiver be effective for calendar years 2010 through 2012. (G-14.0226c When a particular church is unable to conform to the provisions of G-14.0221, it shall request of presbytery a waiver, stating the reasons for noncompliance and shall outline a plan for steps to compliance. Presbytery may grant the waiver of G-14.0221 by three-fourths vote and for not more than three years, subject to renewal by a three-fourths vote and to revocation by a majority vote.)
Waiver was approved.

- 4) Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Arkansas request permission to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at their spring gathering on April 24 at Central, Russellville with a PC(USA) minister officiating. **Sacrament was approved.**

- 5) Presbytery is asked to elect Candidate for Ministry Susie Wiggins, a member of Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock, who has been nominated by Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary as the theological student advisory delegate from LPTS to the 219th General Assembly meeting (2010). **Election was approved.**

- 6) Stated Clerk of the General Assembly Gradye Parsons sent a letter dated January 13, 2010 which extended "a special word of appreciation to the Presbytery of Arkansas for...faithful stewardship in 2009...and presbytery's full support of 2009 per capita apportionment." This communication is for the body's information only.

- 7) Central Presbyterian Church, Russellville, after a duly called meeting of the congregation on Sunday, January 17, 2010, requests permission of the Presbytery to renew a loan with Simmons bank in Russellville. **Permission was granted.**

- 8) Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Morrilton, after a duly called meeting of the congregation held on November 8, 2009, requests permission of the Presbytery:
(1) to accept the Gas and Oil lease agreement from the New Century Production Company for \$1,200.00 per acre and 1/5 royalty interest.

(2) the waiver of limitation on re-election of elders after six years of active service. This waiver will allow willing and qualified members to continue serving in a capacity that other church members do not feel comfortable with. The additional time provided by this waiver will allow other members time to become familiar with the church services and procedures before serving in a demanding position. **Both requests were approved.**

- 9) The Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Pocahontas, met on January 28, 2010 for an on-site meeting. Alan Ford was elected as moderator,

Debbie Spangler was elected as clerk, a budget was set of \$1460, and the goal is to finish its work and report to the June meeting of Presbytery. This update is for the body's information only.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the 112th Stated Meeting of Presbytery were approved as printed and without change.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Moderator Rhodes named the following:

Tellers: MWSs Anne Russ of First, North Little Rock and Carl McCormack, First, Malvern; Richard Allen, First, Newport; Tammy Pflug, Westover Hills, Little Rock.

Leaves of Absence Committee: MWS Patty Schaller, at-large member; John Hanna, First, Heber Springs; Kelly Pearson, First, Dardanelle.

ARKANSAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS

Moderator pointed out the printed report in the addendum packet, which highlighted the Caucus' activities in May and December last year. Rhodes also noted the absence of reporter LaNoir D. Leeper who was ill and asked that she be lifted in prayer.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Committee member MWS Clare Kelley made the report, moving the election of the following:

Moderator, Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response, Class of 2010, Elder Carol Dunkle, Searcy, First Presbyterian

General Council, Class of 2012:

MWS Debbie Spangler, Walnut Ridge, First Presbyterian

Readers for Theological Exams, Class of 2010:

Elder Jeannie Ford-Andrews, Little Rock, Second Presbyterian

MWS Robert Frothingham, HR

MWS Tom Ulrich, Fort Smith, Central Presbyterian

There were no nominations from the floor. **Election was approved.**

OPENING WORSHIP WITH SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AND INSTALLATION OF NEW MODERATOR

Leading worship were MWS Patty Schaller, Elder Bruce Johnston and Rhodes, who preached, and participating in the installation of MWS Debra Carl Freeman were MWS Jim Freeman and Elder Jann Greenland and General Presbyter-elect MWS Bill Galbraith who officiated at the sacrament served by intinction. Providing music were Westover Hills organist David Austin and Westover member Marcey Schaller Berry. Two dozen members of the incoming moderator's congregation attended in her support.

**PRESBYTERY IN RECESS
RECEPTION**

President and Mrs. Weatherman hosted the presbytery at their home, Bradley Manor, after worship.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2010

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Lyon College hosted continental breakfast in Bevens Music Room.

MORNING PRAYERS

MWS Nancy McSpadden, Lyon College chaplain, led the morning prayer service in Brown Chapel at 8:00 a.m.

BUSINESS SESSION #2

Moderator Freeman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with prayer. She reminded all to turn off cell phones, speak directly into microphones, complete evaluations, that leaves of absence committee and the installation service participants would meet at the break. The worship offering totaled \$1,509.01 for Lyon College Presbytery of Arkansas scholarship.

COMMITTEE REPORTS RESUMED

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

Committee Moderator Tom Verdery reported, pointing out the following printed report and two motions.

“In light of the financial challenges we all faced last year, 2009 was a remarkable year for the Presbytery of Arkansas. Thanks to the commitment of our church families across the state, after all contributions were sent in, our churches paid 99.9% of their pledges for 2009! Due to our church pledge income levels, we were able to withdraw only our normal 5% spend rate (also called distribution rate) from our non-restricted funds, even though we had voted a 6.5% spend rate in June, 2009 if needed.

In addition to the support of our church family in 2009, your committees in the Presbytery of Arkansas also had a remarkable year. Not only did they stay within their respective budgets, but they did this with budgets unchanged from 2008. An example of your committee members’ commitment, total travel donations to Presbytery represented \$11,606.00, versus average donation levels over the last few years of \$6,000-\$7,000/year.

To our church family and to all the hard working committee members who support our Presbytery – Thank You! He particularly thanked committee members who donated back their expenses.

For 2010, your Committee on Administration is presenting a balanced budget with anticipated revenues of \$993,342.00 or a 1.7% reduction from 2009. To meet this budget

we again had to reduce committee funding to levels equal to or lower than 2009, which included staff compensation (equal to 2009). We are pleased to report that we balanced our 2010 budget, staying within the 5% spend rate, and are hopeful that we can meet all the needs of the Presbytery without asking for an increase in 2010. We will continue to pray for all our church families in 2010 and we will continue to pledge our strong stewardship of your monies this year.”

He highlighted those 24 churches which have increased their pledges for 2010 over 2009 and those who continue to give the same.

Motion #1 – To approve the 2010 Proposed Budget for the Presbytery of Arkansas (appendix). Budget was approved.

Motion #2 – To approve the Terms of Call for Associate General Presbyter, Joan Erickson from April 9, 2010 through April 8, 2011.

Salary	54,913.40
Pension/MM	17,297.72
Study Leave	1,200.00
Cell Phone	<u>700.00</u>
Total	\$74,111.12

He reminded everyone that Erickson’s terms and other staff compensation for 2010 are unchanged from 2009. **Terms were approved.**

He voiced appreciation and optimism and solicited prayers for the work of the presbytery and noted that 21 churches have not yet pledged for 2010.

GENERAL COUNCIL

Council moderator Claire Rhodes reported, using the following written reports: “The General Council met on December 12, 2009 at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Little Rock, Arkansas. A quorum, 7 of 11 voting members, was present (as of the date of the meeting four vacancies existed on General Council).

Discussions requiring no action:

The General Council had further discussion about amendments to the Standing Rules to deal with either the Moderator or Vice Moderator resigning or otherwise being unable to serve his or her full term. The matter was referred back the Stated Clerk for further study.

Evaluations of the October 2009 Presbytery meeting were reviewed.

Reports and minutes of meetings were received from

- Treasurer
- 1 Committee on Administration
- 2 Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals
- 3 Committee on Christian Education and Nurture
- 4 Committee on Clusters

- 5 Committee on Congregational Care and Development
- 6 Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response
- 7 Committee on Mission
- 8 Committee on Nominations
- 9 Committee on Representation
- 10 Ferncliff Board
- 11 Presbyterian Women
- 12 Task Force on Community Building
- 13 Task Force for the February 2010 Presbytery meeting
- 14 Assistant Stated Clerk NiAnn Thompson
- 15 Stated Clerk Cathy Ulrich
- 16 Associate General Presbyter Joan Erickson
- 17 General Presbyter Bill Galbraith

Discussions with respect to which the General Council took action (but no action on behalf of the Presbytery is required):

1. First Presbyterian, Searcy has requested that the Presbytery send two overtures to the General Assembly. The following polity committee was formed to review the overtures and make a recommendation to the Presbytery at its February 2010 meeting on whether to send the overtures to the General Assembly:

MWS Drew Travis, Elder H. William Allen, Elder Nancy Dunaway; Stated Clerk Cathy Ulrich – Staff Resource

2. Request from the Committee on Christian Education and Nurture to serve communion at Cursillo events in 2010 was approved.

3. Requests from the Committee on Mission to (i) designate the worship offering at the February 2010 Presbytery meeting to the Lyon College Presbytery of Arkansas scholarship (ii) conduct a pre-Presbytery workshop at the February 2010 Presbytery meeting on “Planning Mission Trips,” and (iii) designate the worship offering at the June 2010 Presbytery meeting to Cents-ability were approved.

4. For the February 2010 Presbytery meeting, ingathering gifts of canned goods to be donated to Help and Hope in Batesville was approved.

5. The following pre-Presbytery workshops for the February 2010 Presbytery meeting were approved:

- Planning Mission Trips (Committee on Mission)
- Clerk Training (Stated Clerk Cathy Ulrich)
- Percept (Committee on Congregational Care and Development)
- Statistical Reporting (Pauline Rhodes)

6. The following persons were appointed to the planning team for the June 2010 Presbytery meeting: Worship expert in Cluster V – MWS Jim Freeman, First, Pine Bluff
Convener – Kim Danehower, GC member

7. The following persons were appointed to the planning team for the October 2010 Presbytery meeting: Worship expert in Cluster I – MWS Jeff Parker, First, Rogers
Convener – Dan Festa, GC member
8. The following persons were appointed to the planning team for the February 2011 Presbytery meeting: Worship expert in Cluster VII – MWS Tracy Julian, Harmony, Clarksville and Convener – Sheree Niece, GC member

Discussions with respect to which the General Council took action and makes recommendations to the Presbytery for action:

1. Although by practice the Permanent Judicial Commission has been made up of 12 members, that membership is not set forth in the Manual of Operations. Therefore the General Council recommends that the Manual of Operations be amended by adding the following new paragraph on page 20, Permanent Judicial Commission between the paragraphs “Purpose” and “Organization”:

MEMBERSHIP

The Permanent Judicial Commission shall be composed of 12 members, six being elders and six being Ministers of Word and Sacrament, who shall be elected for six-year terms with four persons in each of three classes; classes shall be elected in alternate years. The members shall be recommended by Committee on Nominations and shall be elected by presbytery. No person who has served for a full term of six years shall be eligible for reelection until four years have elapsed after the expired six-year term (D-5.0105).

Addition to Manual was approved.

2. The Manual of Operations does not state a quorum requirement for meetings of the Committee on Representation. The General Council recommends that the Manual of Operations be amended by adding the following sentence to the paragraph “Membership” on page 19, Committee on Representation:

A quorum shall be a majority of the currently serving members of the committee as determined by the records of the presbytery office, but in no event shall a quorum be less than three members.

Addition to Manual was approved.

3. In accordance with the Presbytery’s Policy for Schismatic Churches, the General Council voted that:

An Administrative Commission be formed with respect to the First Presbyterian Church, Pocahontas for the purposes of (1) inquiring into and settling the difficulties of that congregation, (2) leading the session to set goals for pastoral leadership, and (3) helping the session communicate its goals and purposes with the congregation, and that such Administrative Commission be made up of the following individuals:

**MWS Guy Delaney - First, Jonesboro
Elder Paula Thompson – First, Jonesboro
MWS Debbie Spangler – First, Walnut Ridge**

**Elder Vicki Davis – First, Walnut Ridge
MWS Alan Ford - First, Newport
Elder Richard Allen – First, Newport
Elder Sharon Pitts – First, Pocahontas**

This item is for information only.

4. The General Council recommends that with respect to the Ferncliff Board of Trustees the following sections of the Manual of Operations be amended by deleting the words that are stricken through and adding the words that are italicized:

a. COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS (page 16), paragraph “RESPONSIBILITIES,”

1. Nominate six (6) at-large members of the General Council, all presbytery officers, trustees, and permanent committee members, except those positions elected in a different manner as delineated in other places in this document. It shall also make nominations to the Committee on Nominations of our Synod, and nominations for designated clergy to the Board of Trustees of Lyon College, and ~~Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center.~~

Youth Advisory Delegate advisory vote: Yes 22 ; none opposed. Change was approved by youth. **Change to Manual was approved by presbytery vote.**

b. FERNCLIFF BOARD OF TRUSTEES (page 32), paragraph “MEMBERSHIP

Fifteen ~~Elders/ministers~~ members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A), clergy and lay, will be elected by the Ferncliff Board of Trustees with the concurrence of the Presbytery of Arkansas in classes of five for three-year terms renewable for two terms. Three trustees are to also be members of the Presbyterian Foundation of Arkansas, the entity that holds title to the real property and leases it to Ferncliff. The General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Arkansas is an ex-officio member with voice and vote. The moderator ~~The Chair~~ of the Presbytery’s Christian Education and Nurture Committee and the Executive Director of Ferncliff are to be ex-officio members without vote.”

Amendment by Andrus was proposed: **To strike “clergy and lay” language and replace with “elders, deacons, ministers and members.”** In the discussion which followed, Falls asked what the difference is in the language. Andrus responded. Freeman asked again. Andrus responded. Freeman spoke against amendment. Tellers counted: 57 yes; 49 against. **Amendment was approved.** Youth Advisory Delegates voted: 24 yes, 1 no. **Main motion as amended was approved by presbytery vote.**

“5. Upon a report from Assistant Stated Clerk NiAnn Thompson, the General Council recommends that the Manual of Operations be amended by deleting the words that are stricken through and adding the words that are italicized:

Part III, Task Forces and Clusters, Presbytery Task Forces, first paragraph, third sentence

**For each stated meeting a task force will ordinarily include the Moderator of the Presbytery, the Moderator of the General Council, Vice Moderator of the Council Presbytery, Assistant Stated Clerk, a representative from the local church or institution where presbytery is meeting, a representative from the local church or institution hosting the upcoming presbytery meeting, one person from the Presbytery at-large with worship skills, one person from the Presbytery at-large who will consult with every planning team to ensure variety and consistency among the worship services at the presbytery meetings that year, and a voting member of General Council, who will convene the task force.
Change to Manual was approved.**

6. Upon a report from Assistant Stated Clerk NiAnn Thompson, the General Council recommends that the Manual of Operations be amended by adding the following paragraph to Part III, Task Forces and Clusters, between the paragraphs “Presbytery Task Forces” and “Clusters”:

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS

Occasionally an Administrative Commission (AC) may be appointed by the Presbytery. (G-9.0503) The functions of an AC are ordinarily:

- 1) to ordain and/or install Ministers of the Word and Sacrament (Committee on Ministry)**
- 2) to organize churches (Committee on Congregational Care and Development)**
- 3) to merge churches (CC&D)**
- 4) to visit particular churches or other organizations reported to be affected with disorder, and to inquire into and settle the difficulties therein (COM)**
- 5) to divide, dismiss, or dissolve churches (CC&D) (G-11.0103i)**

The committee of presbytery involved with the particular function shall report the need for and state the scope of the AC to the Stated Clerk. This report will include budget and timeline and the committee will suggest names for membership in the AC. An AC shall be composed of ministers and elders in numbers as nearly equal as possible with the minimum number not fewer than seven members, with not more than one of its elder members from any one particular church. The quorum of an AC shall be a majority of the members. The committee shall make this request to presbytery at one of its stated or called meetings. A staff member of presbytery may be assigned as resource to the AC. Any vacancy on the AC due to resignation or any other cause may be filled at the request of the moderator of the AC by the presbytery or General Council, which may elect a person or persons to the AC. The minutes and final report of the AC shall be transmitted in writing to the Stated Clerk who shall report it to the presbytery at its next meeting.

Change in Manual was approved.

7. Upon a report from the Committee on Christian Education and Nurture, the General Council recommends that the Standing Rules be amended by adding the following section to Article III, MEETINGS OF THE PRESBYTERY:

Section 3.5 Young Adult Delegate Advisors (YADAs)

Young Adult Delegate Advisors (YADAs) shall be active members of one of the member churches in the Presbytery of Arkansas or one of the campus ministries of the presbytery (and a member of the PC(USA) who are selected to attend meetings of the presbytery so that presbytery may be assured of hearing and taking cognizance of their special viewpoints. Each member church and college ministry may send up to two delegates ages 18-28 who have been appointed by their respective sessions or campus ministry. The YADAS may have privilege of the floor with advisory vote on those items of business designated by the General Council.

A 3/4 vote is required to change the Standing Rules. Festa questioned the ages of the group; Rhodes replied; Freeman asked about adding a specific age group who could be sent as youth elders. Falls asked if their privilege of the floor applied to only those specific items on which they were voting. Rhodes replied. Parker spoke in favor of the amendment. Falls asked about advance notice of items to be discussed. Rhodes answered that GC would designate the items to discuss. Youth Advisory Delegates voted: 20 yes; 1 no. **Presbytery also voted to approve addition to Standing Rules.**

Addendum Report: The General Council met on January 23, 2010 at First Presbyterian Church, Conway. 10 of 13 voting members were present and a quorum was declared.

Discussions requiring no action:

Reports and meetings were received from

- 1 Treasurer
- 2 General Presbyter Bill Galbraith
- 3 Committee on Administration
- 4 Care and Nurture of Church Professionals
- 5 Congregational Care and Development
- 6 Committee on Mission
- 7 Presbyterian Women

The Stated Clerk informed the Council that it has been several years since our Presbytery has met with the presidents of our institutions and encouraged renewing conversations with Lyon College and University of the Ozarks regarding February meetings held on campus. The current staff of Lyon College is using a Board of Church Advocates, a volunteer group, who will meet on March 1 and consider the costs of Presbytery meetings.

Discussions with respect to which the General Council took action (but no action on behalf of the Presbytery is required):

1. The Presbytery of Arkansas had received a request from the Synod to provide

financial assistance of \$3000 to the South Louisiana Presbytery. General Council moved and voted that it was inappropriate for the Presbytery of Arkansas to make such a donation at this time. The Council expressed concern for the South Louisiana Presbytery in the aftermath of Katrina but felt that the existing legal matters involving the South Louisiana Presbytery would complicate proper usage of any possible donation.

2. The Polity Committee formed in December by the General Council met January 25 and will make a recommendation to the Presbytery at its February 2010 meeting on whether to send the overtures to the General Assembly.
3. The Administrative Commission elected by the Council on behalf of the Presbytery met on January 28 in Walnut Ridge to begin its work in addressing the difficulties of First Presbyterian Church, Pocahontas. The Commission plans to conclude its business by June 2010 and a report will be made to the Presbytery at that time.
4. The Stated Clerk encouraged the Council to develop an Electronic Voting Policy. We as a Presbytery have been using technology to replace on-site meetings; in some cases to augment meeting attendance, in order to ensure a quorum. The Council made a motion and voted to set up a task force to address a policy of electronic meetings. The task force members - Chuck Blanton, Kim Danehower and Sheree Niece - will report to the next General Council meeting.
5. The Council voted to approve Communion for the Small Church Retreat at Ferncliff, March 4-6, 2010
6. The Council voted to recommend that the Committee on Congregational Care and Development establish a quorum at their next meeting and make any requests for an Administrative Commission to the Presbytery meeting in February.
7. The Council voted to approve the celebration of Communion at the 2010 Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering to be held at Central Presbyterian Church, Russellville on Saturday, April 24, 2010. The offering will be donated to Solar under the Sun, a mission project of the Synod.
8. The Council voted and approved a recommendation from Presbytery moderator-elect, MWS Debra Freeman, that the offering collected during the installation service of the new General Presbyter, MWS Bill Galbraith, on February 20 be donated to the Living Waters of the World and Solar Under the Sun for use in Haiti.
9. A recommendation patterned after the Synod's office was presented from LaNoir Leeper that the Presbytery office consider "going green" by reducing office hours to save on utility usage and gasoline consumption. A discussion followed, with the General Presbyter providing relevant information from Synod Executive. The

Council then moved and voted to respectfully decline to address the issue at this time, commenting on several ways that our Presbytery is already “going green”.

10. At the October Presbytery meeting, the body voted to approve the Vision Statement presented for consideration. The Council discussed at length how this vision can be implemented throughout our Presbytery. A motion was made and approved to appoint a task force – Robert Lowry (convener), Chuck Blanton, Kim Danehower and Patty Schaller – which will recommend ways in which the whole Presbytery can be involved in living out the vision of the Presbytery. After the meeting, the Council voted to increase the Task Force to accommodate the scope of the work. The two additional members are Linda LeBron and Chip Andrus.

MWS Robert Lowry spoke on the history of the Vision Task Force. They will gather stories and hear from congregations, distribute surveys and gather information in the clusters and want to hear from as many people as possible. He recognized the Task Force, who will report to GC in Aug. and to the presbytery in October.

FERNCLIFF BOARD

Program Director Abby Cain and MWS David Gill gave the report assisted by MWS Anne Russ and “Ferncliff Players” on the history of graham crackers and s’mores. Gill gave the “state of the camp” report: 683 campers, a record; Footsteps in Faith camp; the connections begun and continued through camping; how a third grader, recalling working on disaster kits at camp, suggested that Ferncliff can help in Haiti; how “camp makes a difference”; top five churches in numbers sent to camp: Second; FUPC, Trinity, Shreveport and Park Hill; smaller churches sending a large percentage: Grace, First, Arkadelphia; Park Hill and Yellville; Confirmation Camp next weekend with 65 registered; encouraged summer camping program; theme “Be a Hero”; three YADs are in Footsteps in Faith; Cameron Highsmith and a youth from Barr Memorial, Norman, Yuri Hernandez-Ramos brought greetings and gave moderator a YAD T-shirt; reported on Gloryland Choir; camp-in-a-van going to Mountain Home, First NLR, Yellville, and Bella Vista; seven week camping season; counselor development; flyers and email templates for counselor recruitment; summer camp brochures given out today; \$20 off until April 1 to register for camp. Gill reported on the 30,000 kits that are waiting for re-boxing and thanked churches that have helped (Huntsville and Conway; Woodlands; Westover Hills; Kansas and St. Andrew Presbytery; Lonoke and Pulaski Heights, LR are working). He read a letter for a church that struggled to assemble just a few kits. They need donations to ship kits every week (\$1 sends 12 kits). Ferncliff is center for Solar under the Sun, a synod mission project. Living Waters for the World was mentioned, especially in Haiti. Training for solar will be offered on May 13-16 and Sept. 9-12. Gill thanked for support to buy new beds in honor of pastors (Bob Hadley was named the “biggest pain in the back”). National gathering of camping leaders (150) met at Ferncliff in Nov.

COMMITTEE ON CARE AND NURTURE OF CHURCH PROFESSIONALS

Committee Moderator MWS Susan Gray reported and asked committee members to join her. She pointed out their annual report below and encouraged all to sign up for Annual

Retreat on April 25-27. Their report was given through a skit, led by a new minister Kenny Shaw on the challenge to ministers to balance and satisfy demands for their time and energy and the help that the committee can offer. Written report follows:

“Who cares about our church professionals—that is, the Ministers of the Word and Sacrament, the Commissioned Lay Pastors, the Certified Christian Educators?

We all do! As the official caring committee of the Presbytery of Arkansas, we put our concern into action in many different ways. Like these:

1. We work with the Laurence Schmidt Center to provide counseling to church professionals and their families under an annual contract, which the Presbytery approves at the June meeting. This assures our professionals of confidential encouragement and help in family or personal crisis or mental health issues of any kind. The Center also offers clergy support groups and workshops on mental health issues. A Clergy Counseling Network of selected counselors in the professional’s geographic area is also available through the Center. Church professionals are at high risk for burnout. We want to support them!
2. The Annual Retreat in the spring is a welcome and very affordable break for professionals. Held at beautiful Ferncliff, the retreat’s presenter on March 29-31, 2009 was the Rev. Dr. Brian Blount, President of Union Theological Seminary, PSCE. Dr. Blount is a New Testament scholar who recently has written a commentary on the Book of Revelation. The retreat is always enjoyable on every level. Be sure to sign up soon for the next retreat April 25-27, 2010. The presenter is the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Lord, associate professor of homiletics at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.
3. Throughout the year our committee members minister to those in their Cluster who have experienced loss, illness, surgery or other challenges, through visits, phone calls, and cards. Think of us as the Deacon’s Board of the Presbytery!
4. We honor retiring ministers with a gift, given at the Presbytery meeting at which the retirement is announced.
5. In the October Presbytery meeting, we honor all church professionals with a gift, celebrating their five year increments of service.
6. We send Christmas cards to our retired ministers.
7. We are sponsoring and coordinating a new program for the “Later Day Saints.” These are retired ministers and spouses who are gathering for fellowship and support. The first meeting was in Conway October 27. There is a meeting scheduled at First United Presbyterian of Fayetteville March 23 from 10:00 till 3:00. All retired ministers and their spouses are welcome. Enjoy each other’s company, and a catered lunch at noon!
8. The CNCP has recently sent an email questionnaire, exploring the possibility of a Medical Resource Support Network. The committee would serve as a referral service between pre-qualified Presbyterian laity and church professionals who have agreed to caring contact. This would include situations such as chronic illness of the professional or family member, accidents, and other stressful situations. All professionals are asked to complete this short survey. There will also be copies at the February

Presbytery meeting.

9. CNCP assigns a mentor to each incoming active minister or CLP, to provide support, information, and collegial fellowship during the first year of service in the Presbytery of Arkansas. The mentor/mentee guidelines were reviewed in 2009 and rewritten to reflect this committee's interest in the relationship as friendship, not supervision.
10. Rev. Susan Gray, CNCP Moderator, represented the Presbytery of Arkansas on June 10-14 2009, at the Big Tent Conference in Atlanta, Ga. She attended the Pastoral Care Network's conference, as well as most of the presentations on care of professionals and healthy churches at the Big Tent.

We thank our church professionals for all they do. Please contact the Presbytery of Arkansas or our committee if there is any way we can serve an individual professional who needs support, or with an idea to serve our professionals better. We care!"

MWS David Dyer offered prayer for all those suffering loss in the presbytery.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

MWS Bill Bailey, committee moderator, gave the report.

"Information and Recommendations from the October 8th, November 17th, and January 5th Committee on Ministry Meetings

For Information Only

It was brought to the attention of the Committee on Ministry that First Presbyterian Church of Pocahontas is a church with stated area of disagreement and that it would be appropriate to elect an Administrative Commission to assist the Session and congregation. The COM sent the request to appoint an Administrative Commission to the General Council for action between stated presbytery meetings, to elect an Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian, Pocahontas, for the purpose of:

1. Inquiring into and settling the difficulties of that congregation;
2. Leading the Session to set goals for pastoral leadership;
3. Helping the Session communicate its goals and purposes with the congregation

The members of the commission include:

MWS Guy Delaney

MWS Debbie Spangler

MWS Alan Ford

Elder Paula Thompson of First Presbyterian Church in Jonesboro

Elder Vicki Davis of First Presbyterian Church in Walnut Ridge

Elder Richard Allen of First Presbyterian Church in Newport

Elder Sharon Pitts of First Presbyterian Church in Pocahontas.

Stated Clerk MWS Cathy Ulrich has offered to be the staff resource for the commission and train them for the task.

The COM decided that those who may approve a validated ministry are:

1. The COM Moderator
2. The COM Clerk

3. A group of people appointed by the COM Moderator

The following Ministers of Word and Sacrament were given permission to labor outside the bounds of the Presbytery of Arkansas:

David Schneider to officiate a funeral in Indian Nations Presbytery on Saturday, November 28th in Oklahoma City.

Kris Crawford within the bounds of the Presbytery of the Pines, since she now resides in Shreveport, Louisiana

Clare Kelley to officiate a wedding at Amicalola Falls State Park, just north of Atlanta, GA (within the bounds of Greater Atlanta Presbytery) on November 22, 2009.

Jerry Rice to officiate at his grandson's wedding December 31, 2009 in Minneapolis, Minnesota

The following requests for validated ministry were approved:

MWS Al Henager as a chaplain at UAMS

MWS Donn Walters as the Clinical Director for the Methodist Children's Home

MWS Rebecca Spooner as the Director of the Laurence E. Schmidt Center

The following commissions for Commissioned Lay Pastors (CLP) were extended:

CLP Bob Sohn and First Presbyterian Church of Brinkley through September 2, 2010.

CLP Bill Brown and West Fork Presbyterian Church from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 with permission to celebrate the sacraments and moderate the session.

MWS Vernon K. Forsberg, H.R., was dismissed to John Knox Presbytery upon their request.

MWS Art Bell was approved to be the Short Term Interim Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith, with a beginning date of November 1, 2009, for a period of six months, with the following terms of call in the covenant agreement:

Salary	\$46,174 annually,
payable monthly, payable in advance	
FICA Offset	3,824.98
Per Diem (vouchered)	39,785 (vouchered @ \$109 per day)
Total Financial Provision	\$89,784.77
Travel Reimbursement (vouchered)	
For church business	\$0.55 per mile (or established IRS rate)
	Pension and Medical Payments will be required by the Board of Pensions
Four weeks vacation annually	

MWS Jim Miller was approved as the Interim Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, with a beginning date of January 1, 2010, with the following terms of call in the covenant agreement:

Salary	\$38,700
Continuing Education	\$1,200
Total Compensation Package	\$39,900

Vacation	4 weeks/year
Study leave	2 weeks/year
Personal/Sick Leave	(As needed)

MWS Terry Hart was approved as the Interim Pastor of Bull Shoals Presbyterian Church with a beginning date of January 1, 2010, with the following terms of call in the covenant agreement:

Salary	\$12,000
Housing	\$24,350
Pensions and Medical in full, including dental for pastor and spouse	
½ of SECA taxes paid out in four payments of \$701 over the course of the year	
Moving expenses in full up to \$5,000	
Continuing education of \$3,200 (including 2 weeks of Interim Pastor training)	
3 weeks of continuing education – 2 weeks for Interim Pastor training (once every 6 months) and 1 additional week	
Professional Expenses of \$328	
Church related mileage at \$.35 per mile	
Vacation of 1 week/quarter cumulative up to 2 weeks	

MWS Beth Sentell was approved to continue as the Interim Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Van Buren from December 1, 2009 through November 30, 2010 with the following terms of call in the covenant agreement:

Salary	\$17,000
Housing	5,310
Utilities	3,775
Pension	8,217
Medical Benefits	2,415
Continuing Ed	1,200
Automobile	4,125
Continuing Ed leave of 2 weeks	
Paid vacation of 3 weeks, accruing 1.25 days per month.	

MWS Anne Russ was approved to be the Temporary Supply at First Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock with the following covenant agreement:

Commitment of 8 hours per week.

Start date of October 18, 2009, through October 17, 2010.

Salary \$12,000 per year

Continuing Education 1,200

Four weeks paid vacation, including 4 Sundays

Two weeks continuing education, including 2 Sundays

Two weeks education leave including 2 Sundays for training for PCUSA

Congregational Transformation

Tasks: Preach regularly, lead special services, moderate the Session, officiate at weddings as requested, celebrate the sacraments, and participate with the congregation in the PCUSA Congregational Transformation process.

The Committee on Ministry approved the request of the Session of Bella Vista Presbyterian Church to concur with them to hire MWS Laura Fleetwood as their Parish Associate (G-15.0570) with the following terms of call in the covenant agreement:

19.5 hours per week	
Annual Salary (estimated)	\$25,000.00
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
Mileage allowance (estimated)	\$3,000.00
Continuing education allowance (estimated)	\$750.00

MWS Clif Ford was approved to continue as the Temporary Supply at First, Alma with the following terms of call of the covenant agreement:

\$1,666.66 per month to include 1 week vacation per quarter, 1 week of continuing education every six months, which includes \$1,200 for continuing education

MWS Ron Jones was re-appointed as the Stated Supply of First Presbyterian Church in Ozark from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, with the following terms of call of the covenant agreement:

\$26,940.16 to be divided between housing, utilities, and travel
\$1,200 continuing education

Reimbursement for travel and expenses for church-related functions not included above.

4 weeks vacation per year, cumulative

The Committee on Ministry renewed its commitment to strengthen the relationship between the Presbytery of Arkansas and the Korean Fellowship of Fort Smith, who worships and meets at Central Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith.

Motions Before the Presbytery

1. Motion to approve MWS Terry Hart as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and to add her to rolls, requesting her release from Palo Duro Presbytery. (She has been approved as the Interim Pastor of Bull Shoals Presbyterian Church, see information above.)

She was introduced, giving her background in other denominations and speaking of her former service and her family. **Hart was approved.**

2. Motions pertaining to the call of Candidate Kenneth W. Shaw, Jr. as the Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of McGehee:

He was welcomed and told about his background and service.

a. Motion to approve Kenny Shaw as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas pending successful examination and ordination on February 13, 2010 at First Presbyterian Church, Colorado Springs Colorado, and to add him to the rolls, pending his dismissal from Pueblo Presbytery.

b. Motion to approve the call of Kenneth W. Shaw, Jr. as the Pastor of First Presbyterian

Church of McGehee, Arkansas, with a beginning date of December 1, 2009, and the following terms of call:

Cash Salary	\$27,000
Manse	
Utilities Allowance	3,000
Paid Vacation leave of 4 weeks annually	
Paid continuing education leave of 2 weeks annually	
Cumulative up to 6 weeks	
Moving Expenses	Negotiable
Travel expense at \$.55 per mile	\$ 3,000
Continuing education reimbursement	\$1,200

Both motions were voted together and approved. People from McGehee were recognized.

3. Motion to elect the following to serve on an Administrative Commission to install Rev. Kenny Shaw as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, McGehee, at 6:00 p.m. on March 7, 2010, with the offering recipient being the Vera Lloyd Home:

Rev. Dr. Debra Carl Freeman, Moderator

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

Rev. Dr. Dan Festa, Central Presbyterian Church, Pine Bluff

Rev. Dr. Bill Galbraith, General Presbyter, Little Rock

Elder Don Eilbott, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

Elder Joan Hyatt, First Presbyterian Church, McGehee

Elder Dr. Laura Festa, Central Presbyterian Church, Pine Bluff

(Faith statements are in appendix.) **Administrative Commission was approved.**

4. Motions pertaining to the call of Rev. Ruskin Falls as the Pastor of Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church of Little Rock:

Falls was introduced as temporary supply (24 hours/week), his family needs in Little Rock, his service at First, Camden and his history at Pulaski Heights as occasion pulpit supply.

a. Motion to approve installing Rev. Ruskin Falls as the Pastor of Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church of Little Rock with the beginning date of January 1, 2010.

Note: This particular motion requires a 2/3 majority vote for passage. Rev. Ruskin Falls has been serving at Pulaski Heights Presbyterian as their temporary supply and the Book of Order outlines a process whereby a temporary supply may be called as the installed pastor in G-14.0551: "A presbytery may choose to allow a temporary supply to become the next installed pastor by a two-thirds vote of the presbytery." **Installation was approved.**

b. Motion to approve the following terms of call:

Financial Compensation:

Salary	\$ 12,450.00
Housing Allowance:	20,000.00
100% of Pensions Dues	10,511.00

Reimbursement for ½ of Social Security	2,483.00	
Books/Periodicals/Continuing Education	2,000.00	
Use of Personal Vehicle	1,500.00	
	Total:	\$ 48,944.00

Vacation: 4 weeks plus 2 additional weekends, Friday through Sunday.

Continuing Education: 2 weeks, cumulative to 6 weeks, with the amount provided for books, periodicals, and continuing education cumulative to 3 years.

Paternity leave: 2 weeks, to be taken within the first three months of the child's life or the time of adoption.

Sabbatical Leave: 10 weeks in addition to normal study leave time, to be granted after the completion of six years of service, for the purpose of theological study and spiritual renewal, to be planned in consultation with the session, with the pastor agreeing either to remain with the church at least one year thereafter or to refund to the church the salary and housing allowance received during the sabbatical leave.

Church will pay regularly in advance to the board responsible for benefits, a sum equal to that requisite percent of Falls' salary which may be fixed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including full medical, pension, disability, and death coverage, or any successor plan approved by the General Assembly, during the time of being and continuing in the pastoral relationship set forth in this call to this church. The terms of this call meet or exceed the minimum terms set forth by the Presbytery of Arkansas. Church further promises and obligates itself to review with Falls annually the adequacy of this compensation.

c. Motion to elect the following to serve on an Administrative Commission to install Rev. Ruskin Falls as the Pastor of Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church in Little Rock on February 28, 2010 at 3:00 pm, with the offering recipient as the Theological Education Fund:

Ministers of Word and Sacrament:

Rev. Debra Freeman, to moderate
 Rev. Clif Ford, to preach
 Rev. Karen Akin, to charge the congregation
 Rev. Don Campbell, HR

Elders:

Peg Falls-Corbitt, First Presbyterian, Conway, to charge the pastor
 Penny Noel, Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock
 Charles Harper, Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock

Terms of call and Administrative Commission were approved.

5. Motions pertaining to the call of Rev. Philip W. Butin and Rev. Janet B. Butin as Co-Pastors of First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville:

a. Motion to enroll Rev. Dr. Philip W. Butin and Rev. Janet B. Butin as members of the Presbytery of Arkansas, requesting his release from the Presbytery of San Francisco and hers from Redwoods Presbytery, and to install them as Co-Pastors of First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville.

b. Motion to approve the following terms of call, with the beginning date of March 1, 2010:

Rev. Dr. Philip W. Butin		Rev. Janet B. Butin	
Effective Salary		Effective Salary	
Cash salary	23,385	Cash salary	58,385
Housing	35,000	Housing	
Total Eff. Sal. (TES)	\$58,385	Total Eff. Sal. (TES)	\$58,385
Other benefits and allowances		Other benefits and allowances	
Social Security Tax offset	4,467	Social Security Tax offset	4,467
(7.65% TES)		(7.65% TES)	
Pension, disability, death benefit coverage under the Board of Pensions	7,006	Pension, disability, death benefit coverage under the Board of Pensions	7,006
(12% TES)		(12% TES)	
Family medical coverage (based on full-time equivalent salary under the Board of Pensions – 19.5% TES)	13,283	Family medical coverage (based on full-time equivalent salary under the Board of Pensions – 19.5% TES)	
Total Other	\$24,756	Total Other	\$ 11,473
Reimbursable expense (voucher)		Reimbursable expense (voucher)	
Prof. expenses & travel (mileage @ standard IRS rate)	4,800	Prof. expenses & travel (mileage @ standard IRS rate)	4,800
Continuing education (cumulative to 3 years)	1,200	Continuing education (cumulative to 3 years)	1,200
Total reimbursable	\$6,000	Total reimbursable	\$6,000
Total comp. (individual)	\$89,141	Total comp. (individual)	\$75,858
Total compensation Co-Pastors		Total compensation Co-Pastors	\$164,999

Leaves

The amounts shown in the following sections are for each Co-Pastor and are the same as those for full-time call even though each Co-Pastor is 3/4 of full-time. Since the leave amounts are not reduced for the reduction in time worked, these figures will not change if in the future the percentage of full-time call increases. Changes of these leave times will be separately negotiated with the personnel committee, the session, the congregation, and the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Vacation 4 weeks/year per co-pastor (Presbytery of Arkansas policy)
 Continuing Education 2 weeks/year

Each Co-Pastor shall receive two weeks of scheduled continuing education time annually for the purpose of advancing their education and training. Continuing education time may be accumulated for three years to provide flexibility in scheduling. Continuing education time is part of the ministerial services and accordingly no compensation will be due at the time of the end of call for any accrued but not used continuing education time.

Service to the Larger Church

Each Co-Pastor may engage in service to the larger church up to two weeks a year. The Congregation understands and approves this commitment to the larger church. Expenses for this commitment may be paid from budgeted professional expenses.

Sabbatical (Clergy Renewal) Leave

Sabbatical leave is normally a three –month leave granted in the seventh year of service, or after.

Sabbatical does not accrue with service and will not be compensated for upon the call ending for any reason. The PNC recommends that a sabbatical leave policy be developed for the future.

Moving Expenses

All reasonable and prudent expense for moving the Co-Pastors and household goods from San Anselmo, California to Fayetteville, Arkansas shall be paid.

Both motions were presented and approved together.

6. Motion to concur with the dissolution of call between Rev. Bob Cox and First Presbyterian Church of Batesville, effective January 1, 2010 was approved.

Information and Recommendations from the February 2nd Committee on Ministry Meeting

For Information Only

The following Ministers of Word and Sacrament were given permission to labor outside the bounds of the Presbytery of Arkansas:

Rev. Paul Andresen to officiate at his nephew's wedding in Roeland, Kansas, on March 19, 2010

Rev. Jeff Cranton to officiate at a wedding in Tulsa, Oklahoma on April 10, 2010

The following requests for validated ministry were approved:

Rev. Kofi Adzaku as Chaplain at Jefferson Regional Medical Center, Pine Bluff

Rev. David Gill as Executive Director of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center

Rev. Michael Vinson as Parish Associate for Worship and Spirituality, First Presbyterian Church, Conway

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Lord as Professor of Homiletics, Austin Seminary

Rev. Art Bell's terms of call were changed to reflect a salary of \$89,784.77 in the covenant agreement with First Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith.

Rev. Dr. Leslie Belden was approved for Interim/Transitional Ministry Education, verified as a member in good standing of this presbytery and appropriate for interim/transitional ministry training and service, and that this training would be considered continuing education. The Interim/Transitional Ministry Education will be held in St. Louis on May 3-7, 2010, and offered through the Synod of Mid America and the Synod of Lincoln Trails.

Motions Before the Presbytery

1. Motion to elect the following to serve on an Administrative Commission to install Rev. Dr. Philip W. Butin and Rev. Janet B. Butin as Co-Pastors of First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville at 4:30 p.m. on April 18, 2010, with the offering recipient being the Committee on Preparation Emergency Fund for Candidates:

Rev. Debra Carl Freeman, Moderator

Rev. Stewart Smith, First Presbyterian Church, Springdale

Rev. Susan Rose, University of Arkansas Campus Ministry

Rev. Carlos Lopez, HR, Little Rock

Elder Bill Waite, First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville

Elder Lynn Condra, First Presbyterian, Fort Smith

Elder Loraine Lorne, First Presbyterian Church, Springdale

Elder David Parks, First Presbyterian Church, Prairie Grove

Administrative Commission was approved.

2. Motion to approve an updated covenant agreement between Rev. Anne Russ and First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock.

This covenant shall replace the one that began October 18, 2009. The new covenant will begin January 1, 2010, and last not more than one year. Rev. Anne Russ will serve as temporary supply pastor for First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock. Her responsibilities shall include:

Preach and lead worship on Sundays, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve

Moderate session

Officiate at funerals and weddings as requested

Provide administrative leadership for the congregation

Participate in the congregation's planning and visioning process

Lead congregation in developing new outreach programs

Follow up with new members and lead congregation in developing an evangelism program

Offer pastoral care and hospital visits when needed.

Rev. Russ will be employed at two-thirds time. She will ordinarily work 25 hours a week, including Sundays.

Compensation shall include:

Salary	\$12,000.00
Housing	\$14,000.00
Pensions	
Benefits	\$ 0.00
Cont. Ed	\$ 1,200.00
Reimb. Ex	\$ 2,000.00
SS Matching	\$ 900.00
Total	\$30,100.00

Two weeks continuing education

Two weeks service to the larger church

Four weeks vacation

With a total of 8 possible Sundays off. **New Covenant Agreement was approved.**

3. Motion to approve Rev. Dr. Jennifer Lord as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and to add her to the rolls, requesting her release from Donegal Presbytery and approving her validated ministry as a Professor of Homiletics at Austin Seminary. Motion was approved. She will be presented at a future presbytery meeting.

Recognition of Theresa Spragins of First Presbyterian Church in Springdale in her achievement of her certification as an Associate Christian Educator. Spragins was introduced by her certification advisor NiAnn Thompson, Certified Christian Educator. Moderator Freeman awarded Spragins her certificate and prayed for her ministry.

Committee on Ministry reported was arrested to move to the Order of the Day.

ORDER OF THE DAY

The worship service which included the installation of the General Presbyter MWS Dr. William F. Galbraith III began at 11:05 a.m. Liturgists were MWSs Nancy Benson-Nicol, Donald Weatherman, Jesse Gonzalez, representing agencies of the presbytery; MWSs Rebecca Spooner who charged Galbraith, Alan Ford who charged the presbytery, Cathy Ulrich who prayed for Galbraith's installation, MWS Debbie Freeman, Elder Claire Rhodes, Elder Chris McRae and Elizabeth Sarey. Music was provided by Russell Stinson, MWSs Anne Russ and "Chip" Andrus, and piper Jimmy Bell. (bulletin in appendix)

PRESBYTERY IN RECESS at 12:10 p.m./BREAK FOR LUNCH

COMMISSIONING OF MWS BILL AND ELDER LIZ BRANCH AS ACCOMPANIER

Small Chapel was the site of the commissioning service led by Moderator Freeman of the Branches and those who are going to Chiapas, Mexico. Being an accompanier to Colombia is a ministry of presence. It is mission work that simply means being with people at their work, in their churches, and being a part of their lives. The accompaniers demonstrate the connectional aspect of the denomination and offer comfort and support to the people. Many feel that the Anglos' presence helps insure the Hispanics' safety. Branch and Elder Elizabeth Branch were commissioned in Brown Chapel and Fine Arts Building during the lunch break on Saturday.

BUSINESS SESSION #3 resumed at 1:15 p.m.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (RESUMES)

MWS Bill Bailey continued his report.

4. Motions pertaining to the call of Rev. Dari Rowen as Interim Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Benton. She was introduced and welcomed and told presbytery of her history.

a. Motion to approve Rev. Dari Rowen as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and to

add her to rolls, requesting her release from Presbytery of the Pines.

b. Motion to approve the following Interim Pastor Covenant for Rowen with a beginning date of March 1, 2010, until February 28, 2011, which includes the following terms of call:

Assist the Pastor Nominating Committee and Session in the conduct of a congregational mission study

Provide the Session with a written monthly pastor's report outlining pastoral concerns such as communion offered to shut-ins, hospital visits, home visits, and as appropriate, counseling activities, etc.

The Interim pastor will not be involved in the work of the Pastor Nominating committee beyond providing opportunities for them to communicate with the Session and congregation about their progress.

The compensation for this agreement shall be that in Terms of Call below:

Salary (full time)	\$36,500.00		
Housing	12,000.00		
Sub-Total	\$48,500.00		
Pension & Medical Benefits	15,277.50	{ 31.5% of Salary/Housing }	
Continuing Education	1,200.00	Minimum - include all	
customary and reasonable cost associated with required Interim training			
Pastoral Care incidental	3,000.00	Reimbursement - -	includes mileage
reimbursement at federal rate-currently .50/mile			
Moving Expenses	800.00	Actual - estimated for budget	
Total	\$68,777.50		

In addition to monetary compensation described above the following benefit is provided:

Vacation (earned 1 wk per quarter served)

Both were voted together and approved. Bailey prayed for Rowen.

Necrology for Basil Hicks by MWS Jeff Price.

MWS Basil Hicks, honorably retired, of Little Rock died on November 24, 2009.

Celebrating his service to God and to the church was MWS Jeff Price.

Price was Hicks' pastor for seven years and appreciated his ministry to and with his church family at Trinity and thanked God for his long ministry in this and other presbyteries and his life as fisher of people. Dale and Basil Hicks volunteered to follow up with visitors at Trinity. (appendix)

COMMITTEE ON MISSION

Committee Moderator MWS Gordon Garlington reported. He recounted the history of this presbytery's relationship with Presbytery of Lacandon. He introduced Will Branch who spoke of an upcoming trip to Lacandon (March 20-27) and shared a video program based on the points of their covenant: prayer, communication, learning, working, standing in solidarity and witness. MWS Mary Jane Winter, Associate for Mission Connections of World Mission of the PC(USA), also brought greetings from the denomination and the office of world mission, international missionaries, and thanked the body for its partnership with the Mexican presbytery. She thanked this presbytery, which is her home presbytery, for its nurture, asked for prayers for the Branches as they travel to

Colombia, and thanked all for their financial support of PC(USA) missionaries. She also invited all churches to become more deeply involved in international missionaries and give financial support.

Moderator reported the worship offering from Saturday's installation service was \$1,883.63. Total from the two offerings was \$3,382.64.

COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

Committee Moderator Wayne Quinney reported on a year of their work. Written report follows: (Covering meetings of January 10, April 7, May 5, August 4, October 8, and December 1, 2009)

“Church Development:

At the beginning of 2009 the Congregational Care and Development Committee entered into an intentional time of discernment regarding church development. Our meetings have typically begun with an hour set aside for a time of study, prayer and listening for that sometimes still voice of God.

Through this process we have gained a renewed awareness that our ultimate ministry is to all those in need of God's presence in their lives. Our task begins as we identify, locate and understand first hand the needs of those to whom we are led, regardless of race, ethnicity, age, education level and affluence. Our task will move forward as we understand and implement new ways to minister to diverse needs in diverse settings. We must place a strong emphasis on seeking out, encouraging and equipping congregations who discern the need for transformation or who are simply called to reach new people in new places and in effective ways. Our approach cannot be limited to planting new churches in traditional ways, although the need for these in some situations cannot be ignored.

As we enter 2010, possibilities within our Presbytery are beginning to be identified and on-site visits will be conducted to increase our understanding of these opportunities and identify applicable models for ministry. Efforts to train new resource persons and identify financial resources are under way. All of these will continue in the context of an ongoing process of discernment.

The following actions have been taken during 2009:

Small Church Retreat

The CC&D Committee sponsored the Small Church Retreat, “Small Church Toolbox II”, held at Ferncliff Camp on March 5-7, 2009. Our keynote speaker was Rev. Jeff Gill speaking on “Unbinding the Gospel” providing an understanding of the place and importance of evangelism in the mainline churches today. Small church ministry was celebrated and tools and resources for a healthy small church ministry were shared among the 50 participants.

“Christ's Small Church: Deep and Wide” is the theme of the 2010 Small Church Retreat set for March 4-6 at Ferncliff. The emphasis is on growing our churches both spiritually and physically with Rev. Philip Lotspeich, PCUSA Coordinator for Church Growth, as keynote speaker. Eight all new workshops will be provided as well as the opportunity to share our most effective ministries with each other.

Our appreciation goes out to all who work so hard to plan this vital small church

event each year and especially to those who served as workshop leaders last year and to those who have volunteered this year! We are looking forward to another exciting and productive event.

Small Church Grants

The CC&D Committee has taken the following action regarding small church grant requests during 2009:

1. **Little Rock - Pulaski Heights:** Approved \$2,485 one-time grant to assist with increased insurance coverage and to provide encouragement of continued progress as the congregation seeks to expand their ministry and improve their financial condition.
2. **Brinkley – First:** Approved \$3,000 one-time grant to cover insurance expenses.
3. **North Little Rock – First:** Approved grants totaling \$12,500 in response to a request for \$25,000 to support increasing the pastor’s working hours and obtaining the services of a consultant as the congregation enters into a time of discernment and transformation planning. The ministry of this congregation is in the midst of the rapidly growing and changing Argenta area of downtown North Little Rock.
4. **Norman – Barr Memorial:** Approved \$9,500 for the second year continuance of a five year, annually decreasing grant totaling \$40,500 to assist in the call of pastor Burle Mattingly. The 2010 budgeted amount is \$7,500. This small congregation of 27 members continues to provide an impressive food and clothing distribution ministry supporting all of Montgomery County as well as a growing Hispanic ministry. Plans and preparation for a free medical clinic are in the works.

Church Transformation:

Hot Springs – Highland: Approved \$14,700 for the second year continuance of a five year, annually decreasing grant totaling \$50,000. The 2010 budgeted amount is \$11,400. This grant represents Presbytery’s portion of a General Assembly Mission Program Grant totaling \$140,000. During 2009 the congregation called MWS Judith Kelley as their full time pastor and continues to grow their ministry to the homeless of Hot Springs.

Church Closures:

The CC&D Committee continues to be a resource to the Administrative Commissions for closure of Ft Smith - Dallas Oaks and First, Des Arc.”

Another speaker was MWS Jesse Gonzalez on the history and ministry of the Hispanic NCD and the social outreach in a storefront in Springdale, and he thanked the members of the AC. Their congregation has drawn from natives of Mexico, Bolivia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and native born Hispanic persons, and their median age is 30.

Motion to form an Administrative Commission to close Ferguson Memorial, Coal Hill was approved.

MOTION: That the Presbytery of Arkansas form an Administrative Commission for the purpose of concluding the business of and otherwise closing Ferguson Memorial Presbyterian Church of Coal Hill, Arkansas. Consideration should be given to the following specific responsibilities.

1. First, arrange for transfer all existing members and member records to the church of the member’s choice.
2. Conduct a service of worship to celebrate the life and ministry of the church.
3. Gather all pertinent records of the congregation and insure safe storage during the work of the Commission. These records include articles of incorporation and bylaws; membership records;

financial records and annual audit reports; minutes of Session, Deacons and congregational meetings; property papers, titles and deeds; insurance policies; statistical records, congregational directories, bulletins, newsletters and artifacts including pictures of historical value. These records are to be used by the Commission, as needed, for closure of the Congregation and ultimately turned over to the Presbytery office for storage and/or conveyance to the Presbyterian Historical Society.

4. Locate the financial records of the church and turn all assets over to the Presbytery. These records include checking accounts, savings accounts, endowments and any and all investments.
5. Inventory and appropriately dispose of all moveable contents of the building and manse (if there is one). Special consideration should be given to their possible use by future or existing congregations. Consideration also needs to be given to the cost of interim storage and oversight of these items. Any monetary proceeds from the disposition of these items are to be turned over to Presbytery.
6. Obtain an appraisal of all real property. If the Commission determines that the property should be sold, obtain the services of a realtor to handle the sale. When the property is sold, insure that the proceeds are awarded to the Presbytery of Arkansas. If the Commission determines that the Presbytery should retain ownership of the real property then insure that a clear transfer of title and warranty deed is made to the Presbytery of Arkansas.
7. Insure that all utility, insurance, tax and legal issues are considered in the final disposition of any property and are completely dealt with prior to dissolution of the Commission.
8. Report to the Secretary of State and the County Clerk the closing of the church. Verify transfer of titles, warranty deeds, etc.
9. Report to the General Assembly the closing of the church.
10. Insure conveyance of all historical documents to the Presbyterian Historical Society.
11. Submit a final report of all actions taken by the Commission to the Presbytery (CC&D and the Stated Clerk). Remain convened until all actions necessary are taken to close the church, legal documentation is completed and ownership of all assets have been assumed by Presbytery.

MOTION: That the following be elected to serve on the Administrative Commission for closure of Ferguson Memorial Presbyterian Church:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Elder Julie Adkisson | Conway, First |
| 2. Elder Tony Booth | Hot Springs Village, Woodlands |
| 3. Elder Leslie Griffin | Clarksville, Harmony |
| 4. Elder Linda Richards | Clarksville, First |
| 5. MWS Ron Jones | Ozark, First |
| 6. MWS Tracy Julian, Convener | Clarksville, Harmony |
| 7. MWS Camille LeBron Powell | Little Rock, Second |

Members of the AC were approved.

MWS Judith Kelley reported with powerpoint on Highland's situation of being a church in transformation, the history of her service to a changing neighborhood of various ethnicities and the events that drew in members, how they charted the future of the church, session retreat and new statements, seed of new mission: showers and laundry service for the community, grants and gifts that supported this ministry, help from their clients, help with finding resources in the community, food pantry, cooking help, dramatic Sunday Schools, changes in worship, communion every Sunday, health clinic providing flu shots, changing culture within the congregation, fellowship meals on Tuesdays, resume' training and mentoring, being a service agent for Christ whether

membership grows or not. She thanked the presbytery for its support.

STATE OF THE PRESBYTERY

MWS Bill Galbraith reported on his glimpses after three months as General Presbyter and pointed out the joy of churches that reach beyond themselves. He mentioned First, NLR; Highland, Hot Springs; Good Shepherd, Greenwood; Spring River, Hardy; and Korean Fellowship in Fort Smith. He asked congregations to submit the best names in their congregations to nominate for presbytery service (lifting up the body of Christ); pointed out those who experience financial concerns yet commit to support of the presbytery; Laurence Schmidt Center; Chris McRae and solar schools and repair to water cleaning units in Haiti; God's presence with us in all of the seasons of life. "Lift up your hearts, we lift them up to the Lord."

CAMPUS MINISTRY SUBCOMMITTEE

Moderator MWS Susan Rose reported. She noted the drop-off in participation in church of youth after high school graduation and the changing research on keeping people connected. The subcommittee will start sharing the success stories of campus ministries (locally or afar) and the importance of maintaining the faith journey that has begun. MWS Dave Schneider reported on their campus ministry in Russellville, a trip over spring break, and thanked presbytery for mission dollars.

Vice Moderator Sam Highsmith moderated the next part of the meeting.

POLITY COMMITTEE

MWS Drew Travis reported. First, Searcy has brought two overtures for the presbytery to consider:

1) To amend D-13.0102 and D-13.0106

Motion to consider the overture below, a change to the Book of Order to send to General Assembly. MWS Lowry spoke on this change which restores the status of BOO to 2005: if a person is found not guilty the case could not be reconsidered. **Motion was approved.**

Overture to amend D-13.0102 and D-13.0106

The Presbytery of Arkansas respectfully overtures the 219th General Assembly (2010) to direct the Stated Clerk to send the following amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

a. Shall the current text of D-13.0102 be deleted and previous text inserted to read as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italics.]

~~“ Either party may initiate the first level of appeal by the filing of a written notice of appeal Only the person found guilty may initiate the first level of appeal by the filing of a written notice of appeal.”~~

b. Shall D-13.0106 be amended as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italics.]

“a. The grounds for appeal by the person found guilty are... [the rest of section (a) does not change]

~~“b. — The grounds for appeal by the prosecuting committee are
“(1) — irregularity in the proceedings;
“(2) — refusing a party reasonable opportunity to be heard or to obtain or present evidence;
“(3) — receiving improper, or declining to receive proper evidence or testimony;
“(4) — hastening a decision before the evidence or testimony is fully received;
“(5) — manifestation of prejudice in the conduct of the case; and“
(6) — error in constitutional interpretation.”~~

2) **Motion to consider the amendment to G-13.0103 in the Book of Order.** Lowry explained the authoritative interpretation, and that this overture would insure that GA when it meets is the highest decision-making body of the church and GA alone. **Motion was approved.**

Overture – To clarify the role of the General Assembly and its Permanent Judicial Commission

The Presbytery of Arkansas overtures the 219th General Assembly (2009) of the PC(USA) to send the following proposed amendment of the *Book of Order* to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-13.0103 be amended to read as follows [text to be added is shown in italics]:

The General Assembly constitutes the bond of union, community, and mission among all its congregations and governing bodies. It therefore has the responsibility and power. . . .

r. to provide authoritative interpretation of the Book of Order which shall be binding on the governing bodies of the church when rendered in accord with G-13.0112 or through a decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission, in a remedial or disciplinary case, *which is adopted as an authoritative interpretation by the next plenary session of the General Assembly*. The most recent interpretation of a provision of the Book of Order *adopted by a plenary session of the General Assembly* shall be binding; . . .

Moderator Freeman resumed the moderator duties.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Committee Moderator MWS Jeff Price reported.

At their meeting on November 11, 2009, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry:

1. Received liaison training from Associate General Presbyter, Joan Erickson. A motion was passed that the handout for the training be used as a policy for liaisons.
2. Received information from CPM liaisons on current candidates and inquirers.
3. Received notification from Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry that candidate Wambugu Gachungi would like to transfer care to their presbytery. The CPM deferred a decision on this pending written notification from Wambugu.

At their meeting on December 12, 2009, the CPM:

1. Conducted an annual consultation with Candidate, Will Fletcher. A motion was passed that Will continue as a candidate certified to circulate a Personal Information Form.

At their meeting on January 16, 2010 the CPM:

1. Met with Ben Brisben, a member at First Presbyterian Church of Siloam Springs. After Ben shared his faith journey and sense of call with the committee, and after a review of an appropriately completed Form 1, a motion was made that the CPM recommend to the presbytery that Ben be enrolled as an inquirer. The motion passed unanimously.

Price thanked the presbytery for its enthusiasm at this meeting. He introduced Brisben, a child of missionaries, age 25, Montreat College graduate, social worker for the state in Washington County after graduating from John Brown University. Brisben noted his work with MWS Breck Castleman at First, Siloam Springs and being accepted to Pittsburgh Seminary. **Approval was voted to enroll Brisben as an inquirer.**

REPORT FROM LEAVES OF ABSENCE COMMITTEE

Stated Clerk Ulrich reported for the committee on enrollment: 62 ministers, 65 elders from churches, 19 other elders, 25 YADs, 7 corresponding members, 42 visitors, six Christian Educators, 36 MW excused, 12 sessions excused, 8 at-large excused, 4 Certified Educators excused for a total of 227 registered, 146 of whom could vote. **It was voted to accept the report on attendance.**

NEW BUSINESS

First, Heber Springs, after a duly called congregational meeting, asked that presbytery approve the sale of their manse with proceeds being used for future pastor's housing allowance. **Request was approved.**

MINUTE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Falls updated the body on its motion to Governor Mike Beebe to study the death penalty (he has chosen not to suspend executions, study is ongoing); MWS Dan Festa invited all to attend Central's centennial celebration on April 10-11; MWS Anne Russ invited those present to attend the visit of the Invisible Children's Road Show at First, NLR. Elder Jan Enke invited all to the Small Church Retreat and reminded all that the event is open to churches of all sizes.

CLOSING PRAYER

Vice Moderator Sam Highsmith gave the closing prayer listing the pastoral concerns and joys of the body and dedicating the Ingathering collection of staple foods for Help and Hope in Batesville.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment came at 2:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

NiAnn Thompson
Assistant Stated Clerk

Catherine Ulrich
Stated Clerk

Approved June 5, 2010 (Draft 8)