



June 2018

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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FIRST, CONWAY HOSTS 138TH STATED MEETING OF PRESBYTERY

By Recording Clerk NiAnn Thompson

The 138th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas began at 9:30 a.m. on

Saturday, June 2, 2018 in the sanctuary of First, Conway with Rev. Leslie Bethell Roper moderating. 149 commissioners and guests signed in for the only one-day presbytery meeting of the year.

Initial actions taken under the consent agenda were approval of the Clergy Compensation report for this year, reports of five Administrative Commissions who ordained and/or installed new ministers and their dismissal, and the annual in-depth statistical report and analysis for 2017 made by Committee on Representation. General Presbyter Rev. Stewart Smith introduced Synod of the Sun director Ruling Elder Valerie Young and Ruling Elder Bill McConnell from Presbyterian Mission Agency. Treasurer Bob Boehmler reported on the presbytery's finances and the auditor's report on the financial review for 2015 and 2016. At morning worship at 10 Inquirer in Ministry Max Hill preached and Lyon College student Emma Gillaspay and Campus Ministry intern at First, Conway Blake Thompson led worship. A quintet including organist Robert Clark and choir director Kayla White brought the anthem and led hymns that were projected on a large screen. Commissioners to the General Assembly meeting this month and youth who are participants in the three presbytery-sponsored summer trips were commissioned for service, and attendees contributed \$1,497 toward youth summer trips.

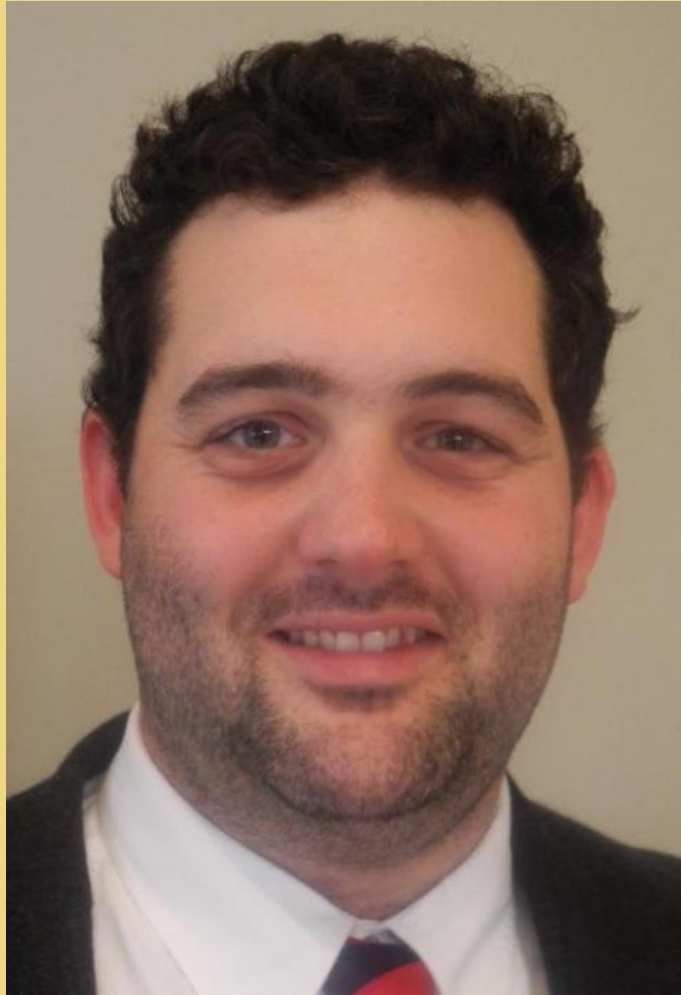


Candidate Max Hill

At the break the council moved to Fellowship Hall to meet around tables where Temporary Stated Clerk Leslie Belden informed the body of the ministers dismissed to other presbyteries, the status selected by honorably retired minister members for this year (active or non-active), and listed those congregations that had not submitted statistical reports for 2017 to General Assembly. In the update on Administrative Commissions working with specific congregations, First, Ozark was dissolved at their request, and Cane Hill Presbyterian's Session, AC and presbytery agreed to transfer ownership of their property to Historic Cane Hill preservation program which will make repairs and improvements with the congregation given access for worship and activities. Belden thanked congregations that had had their congregations' minutes and registers reviewed and reported same and shared ways that more congregations could accomplish this requirement. She pronounced censure of a minister member as a report of an investigating committee, then prayed for him and the congregations he had affected.

The theological discussion occurred around tables as commissioners and guests reviewed the current core priorities of the presbytery adopted in 2014 and suggested updates, revisions, additions or "fleshing out" for the next years. After lunch, the council elected five people to fill immediate vacancies and read of the actions of Coordinating Team at their recent meetings including permission for First, Newport to sell their manse. Presbytery's Task Force on Staff Structure reported on their progress of what they have looked at, listened to and learned. Presbytery approved a motion instructing the Task Force to prepare a staffing structure to be presented to the presbytery no fewer than 14 days prior to the October 19-20, 2018 meeting of the body.

Presbytery heard updates on the presbytery's coming new website and grants to churches from Future of the Church Ministry Area and was requested to share what is working with young adults in the local churches by Ministries with Youth, Young Adults and Campus Ministry Area. As part of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry's report, inquirers Max Hill and Keith Dove were examined and approved as candidates for ministry. Under the Committee on Ministry report, the honorable retirement of Rev. Carol Clark effective Dec. 31, 2017 and of Commissioned Ruling Elder Kelly Pearson, First, Dardanella effective Sept. 30, 2018 were approved as both were recognized. Honorably retired ministers Linda Whitworth-Reed and David Reed, now of Conway, were welcomed back as presbytery members and Rev. Steve Frazier was approved as pastor of Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay with his installation set for July 8. Rev. Steven Kurtz was welcomed, introduced and approved as pastor of Central, Fort Smith with his installation set for June 24. The body marked the passing of Rev. Jim Fleming, HR and read of Committee on Ministry's actions to affirm covenants of ministers serving in temporary relationships with congregations.



Candidate Keith Dove



CRE Kelly Pearson (left) and RE NiAnn Thompson



RE Cyril Hollingsworth (right) welcomes Revs. David Reed and Linda Whitworth-Reed



Rev. Steven Kurtz

In the Administration Ministry Area report, the budget hearing for 2019 on August 23 was highlighted before tribute was made to Resourcing Director/Recording Clerk NiAnn Thompson who will retire on October 1 after 20 years on staff. Mission of the Church Ministry Area announced specifics of The PLACE Central educational event at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock on Saturday, August 4, and grants made and still available to congregations for ministry to "the most vulnerable" populations. Subgroups of Mission, Subcommittee on Disaster Preparedness and Response and Presbyterian Women, submitted written reports on the former's assistance to the Mountainburg Church after the tornado on April 23 and the latter's past and future events. One of the commissioners to Synod closed the meeting with reminders of Synod Sunday, Imagine event and grants available. Closing prayer with joys and concerns of the presbytery ended the meeting at 3:30 p.m.



(Left to right) NiAnn Thompson, Sally Johnson, and Kristi Button listen to Jeannie Ford's remarks on NiAnn Thompson's retirement



RE NiAnn Thompson addresses the presbytery on her retirement coming up Oct. 1st.

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Nominations Sought for Committee, Ministry Area Service

Presbytery's Committee on Nominations is seeking names of qualified and willing persons to serve on presbytery ministry areas or committees or subcommittee beginning in 2019. To download the current form, [click here](#).

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Church Employment (and Other) Opportunities in our Presbytery

Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock seeks an *Associate Pastor for Congregational Nurture*. The person in this full-time ordained position will provide leadership and support for the church's ministries of pastoral care and counseling, hospital visitation, and congregational fellowship. Job Description can be found at <http://www.secondpreslr.org/search-for-associate-pastor/>. Personal Information Forms can be sent to Philip Shell at pshell88@gmail.com.

Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church, Forrest City is searching for a full-time pastor. The church is right at 100 members, with average attendance of 41 members. Desired experience is Solo Pastor/Head of Staff with 5-10 years of experience. Graham Memorial is a welcoming community of faith that seeks to serve Jesus Christ through sharing our collective talents, proclaiming the Gospel, feeding the hungry, and ministering to our community. For more information, visit the church's Facebook page or contact the PNC through Nancy Dunaway via email jdunaway@arkansas.net or phone 870-261-3330. The MIF can be viewed on the CLC website.

The First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro is looking for a Transitional (Interim) Pastor, either full or part time. For more information contact Sandra Puryear, Clerk of Session, at srpuryear93@gmail.com.

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VERA LLOYD DONOR APPRECIATION DAY

This Saturday, June 9th, at 11:30am, Vera Lloyd is hosting its annual Donor Appreciation Day - the Campus Carnival. We'll be serving a BBQ lunch, have a short program and awards ceremony and "Pink Hat" Retirement. There will also be a time to tour the Pettus home and enjoy some good old fashioned fun! This is Vera Lloyd's chance to thank you, the churches and individuals, who transform the lives of Arkansas boys and girls.

Please join us for the fun and let us honor your commitment to sharing Christ's healing love!

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People and Church News

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

--**Andrew Kreckmann** has completed service as music director at First, Arkadelphia.

--**Telia Creekmore**, a graduate of UofA Fayetteville who was active in United Campus Ministry, is the summer intern at First, Bentonville. She plans to attend Dubuque Theological Seminary.

--**Susan Drummond** retired on May 27 as accompanist at First, Bentonville after 17-1/2 years of service.

--**Jennifer Knight** is the new part-time Director for Families with Young Children at Second, Little Rock.

--Candidate for Ministry **Brittany Fiscus Van Rossum** from First, Jacksonville has been ordained as associate pastor at Mercy Community Church in Atlanta.

--Christian sympathy goes to Ruling Elder **Ruth Hamilton and husband Dave** on

the death of her sister Joan Cardwell on May 18. Ruth is the moderator of presbytery's Coordinating Team, was moderator of presbytery last year and is a member of Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village.

--**Matthew Tatus** has completed duties as Administrative Assistant at Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock but will continue as music director there.

--**Andre' Strydom** completed his service as Director of Music at First, Bentonville on May 30.

--**Scott Seidenschwartz** has completed duties as the organist/choir director at First, Little Rock.

NEWS OF OUR CONGREGATIONS

--**Second Presbyterian, Little Rock** summer worship schedule features 9:00 and 10:00 worship, Sunday School in recess, and light breakfast from 9:40-9:50 on Sundays from June 3 to August 19.

--Renovation of the sanctuary at **First United, Fayetteville** will begin June 18 after a special worship service processional from the sanctuary to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and visual images where worship will be held during construction.

--**First, Hot Springs** offers a recycling bin for their past worship bulletins and gives to visitors bookmarks depicting their historic stained glass windows.

--**Central Presbyterian, Russellville** plans a trip to Subiaco Abbey on June 30.

--**Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village** hosts an English wind quintet on June 10 as part of the Hot Springs Music Festival.

--Some members of **Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock** joined friends at Little Rock Raindrop Turkish House on May 17 for fellowship and learning about Ramadan and on June 6 will hear from three Young Adult Volunteers at "First Wednesday Dinner and Program."

--Men's Breakfast Group of **First, Heber Springs** is supporting the Palacaguina Christian Academy in Palacaguina, Nicaragua (Lovepala.com website), a bi-lingual Christian school being built one classroom at a time (pre-k through 1st grade completed for 97 students) until a 12-grade school is operational. Their motto is "Changing a generation" by teaching children, as a means to end poverty in NE Nicaragua.

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Resource Center News

by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Resourcing Director
Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104
Monday & Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.



PRESBYTERY FACEBOOK PAGE

If you have events that you want the people of the Presbytery to know about, post them to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PresbyteryOfArkansas. Rev. Anne Russ at First, North Little Rock (Argenta) at 501.374.7677 or email revruss@gmail.com will be glad to answer your questions.

NEW RESOURCES JUST RELEASED from Westminster/John Knox Press for the PC(USA) Office of Theology and Worship will be of interest to pastors and other leaders. You may check out any on loan or preview them for possible purchase from the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation for your library collection.

"Book of Common Worship, Pastoral Edition" (navy cover) is a slim volume, designed for use at occasional services, home and hospital visits and other events that take place outside the congregational setting. It contains excerpts from the full "Book of Common Worship" which include the Service for the Lord's Day, Baptism and Reaffirmation, Ministry in the Church, Mission in the World, Dedications, Marriage, Healing and Wholeness, and Death and Resurrection.

"Book of Common Worship, Daily Prayer" (red cover) is the same overall size as the pastoral edition but contains 200 additional pages and is designed for services of daily prayer, worship at home or on retreat, personal devotion, and other use in everyday life. It contains excerpts from the full "Book of Common Worship" including Daily Prayer, Psalms and Canticles, Ancient and Classic Prayers, and Prayers for Various Occasions, full texts of the Psalms for responsive reading and psalm prayers, the three-year Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings and an expanded version of the two-year daily lectionary.

"Book of Common Worship" (gray cover) is the first major service book to be published in the 21st century. The word "common" in its title is rooted in the real world of human experience and intended for the regular joys and struggles of daily life. The final editing of the book took place in 2017, the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The Table of Contents includes The Lord's Day, The Christian Year, Baptism and Reaffirmation, Ministry in the Church, Mission in the World, Dedications, Marriage, Healing and Wholeness, Death and Resurrection, Daily Prayer, Psalms and Canticles Ancient and Classic Prayers and Lectionaries, Calendars and Indexes.

--As we enter the summer season of more relaxed schedules, call on YOUR Resource Center to provide uplifting but lighter reading material for all ages. Just call, email or come by.

The Resource Center Advisory Board and I continue to call for return of all overdue resources so they can be reshelved this summer. Please help us in this project by checking your office for resources labeled for Presbytery Resource Center. Notices of overdue resources are going out now, and all will be forgiven as items are brought back home. Thank you!

(Your Resource Center receives funding from the presbytery's Mission of the Church ministry area.)

Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

Upcoming Youth Events and Trips sponsored by the Youth Advisory Team

Trip to PC(U.S.A.) General Assembly (St. Louis) - June 15-21, 2018

Jr. High Jubilee (Mo Ranch, TX) - June 30-July 5, 2018

Montreat Youth Conference (Montreat, NC) - July 21-28, 2018

(These dates are also posted at www.presbyteryofarkansas.org under "Ministries," then "Youth Council.")

Want to stay updated about Youth Ministry happenings in the Presbytery?

"Like" us on Facebook!

Search

PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry

on Facebook,

or go to

www.facebook.com/PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry

This page is for anyone wishing to stay updated about Youth Ministry happenings in the Presbytery -- Youth Workers, parents, youth, Educators, Pastors.

(Presbytery's Youth Ministry receives funding from
Presbytery's Ministries with Youth, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry.)

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THE P.L.A.C.E. CENTRAL 2018 REGISTRATION OPEN

The Changing Face of the Church

Offered by
The Mission of the Church Ministry Area
of the Presbytery of Arkansas



The P.L.A.C.E. Central
Brought to you by the **Presbytery Leadership Academy**
for **Congregational Enrichment**

Workshops and Leaders to Date:

1. Growing Young: Best Practices for Helping Young People Find a Home in your Congregation led by Certified Christian Educator Theresa Spragins, First, Conway
2. What is NEW! from Board of Pensions led by Regional B of P Representative Kevin Keaton
3. Single Shooter Situation led by Little Rock S.W.A.T. Officer Henry Moore (presented twice)
4. The GREAT Great Ends of the Church led by Rev. David Dyer, HR, Westminster, Little Rock
5. Leading the "Purple" Church led by Rev. Steve Hancock, Second, Little Rock
6. Church Giving in the 21st Century led by Malinda Kirchner, Director of Planned Giving at Second, Little Rock
7. Clerk of Session Training led by Clerk/Elder Sam Highsmith assisted by Tracy May, Second, Little Rock (covers two workshop time slots)
8. "Transformative Conversations"- Gospel's Call to Bridge the Radial Chasms in Our Society led by Rev. Frank LeBlanc (covers two workshop time slots), Westover Hills, Little Rock and Woodson Walker, Mosaic Church of Little Rock
9. Navigating Change in the Church and Staying Spiritually Safe in Times of Change, both led by Rev. Michael Vinson on Presbytery Staff
10. Honduras Mission Programs and Opportunities for the Presbytery, led by Elder Duke Monroe, First, Jacksonville
11. We Need A Little Christmas Now! Led by Rev. Carol Clark, HR

August 4, 2018

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Second Presbyterian Church,
600 Pleasant Valley Dr., Little Rock, AR**

Registration for the August 4th event ends on Wednesday, July 25th. To download the complete packet of flyers, details about workshops and registration forms, [click here](#).

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The PLACE--Tools for Navigating Next Steps in Ministry

by Rev. Michael Vinson

Last year, the Presbytery offered workshops on Thriving in Change. In these workshops participants learned tools and methods for thriving in the rapidly changing environment of our churches. We learned about assessment tools, navigational tools, tools for measuring capacity and learned ways to develop Life Nurturing Climates so that we may thrive during rapidly changing times. This year at the PLACE, Central (Aug 4 @ Second, LR) I am going to offer two opportunities to explore more deeply how we might thrive in change. Time slots for these workshops will be short, less than an hour, but they will give you a good starting point for where you might need to start when considering not only how to survive but to thrive in the rapidly changing ministry areas of our local congregations.

The First Workshop is called Conversations for Transformational Change. This workshop will use one of the tools we used in our workshop last year to help us discern what conversations we need to be having in our local congregations in order that we might discern next steps in ministry. This will give participants an opportunity to reflect on current ministry conversations, and whether or not they are helpful in discerning next steps in ministry. The workshop will also give participants the opportunity to discern which conversations need more attention to help move toward new and next steps in ministry.

The Second Workshop is called Spiritual Tools for Navigating Change. In all the work we do as congregations, we affirm the presence of God's Spirit and guidance in our work. But we rarely talk about the spiritual tools and practices that are available to us to strengthen us in our discernment process. In this workshop, participants will learn specific tools that they can readily use to have a safe, nurtured and empowered Spiritual life. In this workshop we will learn about personal disciplines as well as public disciplines that need to be undertaken in order to have safe, nurtured and empowered spirits. When we know how to keep our spirits nurtured and safe, we are empowered to do the work God calls us to do. When our spirits are afraid, anxious, or are out of energy because we are busy seeking to keep others happy or attend to

their needs in other ways, we are trying to draw from an empty well. In this workshop we will learn practical ways to keep our spirits safe, nurtured and empowered so that we can adapt to the many demands of the work God calls us to do.

Each of these workshops is a stand-alone workshop. You do not have to attend one to benefit from the other. Look for more details in this edition of the Banner for times and locations of the workshops. See you there.

Rev. J. Michael Vinson
Staff Resource
Mission Discernment
Presbytery of Arkansas

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MISSION GRANTS AVAILABLE TO CONGREGATIONS

Mission of the Church Ministry Area again encourages congregations to submit grant requests for this last year of three of the Unified Mission Emphasis: helping the "most vulnerable of the very young and old." These might range from a diaper drive to treats for nursing home residents. If you have some project to launch or one to keep afloat, consider applying for a grant of up to \$500 with Mission of the Church. This may be done by emailing: ktpearson@suddenlink.net. Include in the request: the purpose of the program/project, proof of Session approval, the overall cost of the ministry, the amount desired for the grant, how the grant money, if received, would be utilized, as specifically as possible, submitted at least six weeks in advance of use. Several grants have already been awarded.

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QUILTING RETREAT AT DWIGHT MISSION
Sep 10-16, 2018

Calling all quilters, crafters, knitters, scrapbookers, and anyone else who just needs a little more time creating your one-of-a-kind artworks. Dwight Mission, Vian, OK, has put together a retreat that will let you create away the day without worrying about the cooking and other household chores. Come for 3, 5, or 7 days.

Dwight Mission hosts Quilting Retreats for experienced quilters several times a year. Dwight provides the lodging and meals. You bring your sewing machine, all your supplies, and the many projects you plan to work on. Stations for cutting and ironing, as well as tables and outlets will be provided. Pack your bags and get ready to make new friends and have time to get those projects done!

To register or for more information, go to our website:
<http://www.dwightmission.org/quilting>.

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ATTENTION: Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Arkansas

MARK THESE DATES for these upcoming important events!
Questions? Contact Ila Blacketter-Wolfe at ila.nb.wolfe@gmail.com or Cathy Rogers at ccrogers86@gmail.com.

**2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women
Thursday, August 2 - Sunday, August 5, 2018**

Louisville, Kentucky

Register at www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering

**Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Women Gathering
July 25 - July 27, 2019**

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa, Oklahoma

More information to come!

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APPLY NOW FOR THE STRUTHERS PASTORAL STUDY LEAVE PROGRAM

The University of the Ozarks sponsors 2 ordained PC(USA) pastors each semester to spend 4-5 days of self-guided pastoral study leave on campus. Participants will also be able to access the many resources the university has to offer, attend classes and campus events. Travel expenses, meals, lodging, resources, workspace and events are all covered by the university. For more information go to: <https://ozarks.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Struthers-Pastor-Information-and-Application.pdf> or contact, The Rev. Jeremy Wilhelmi, University Chaplain 479-979-1307, jwilhelmi@ozarks.edu

Applications for Fall semester are due by Saturday, June 30, spring semester by October 31.

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Do You Have News for the Banner?

If you have something you would like us to consider for inclusion in the Banner newsletter, please send it to: kenneth@presbyteryofarkansas.org, niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org, and stewart@presbyteryofarkansas.org. We cannot guarantee your submission will be published, but we will do our best to include what we can.

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Prayer List for Congregations -- 2018 can be found [here](#).

(Note: some web browsers may require you to press and hold the "Ctrl" key while you click the link to reach the linked website).

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[Presbytery Calendar](#)

PRESBYTERY STAFF:

General Presbyter [STEWART SMITH](#)

Temporary Stated Clerk [LESLIE BELDEN](#)

Resourcing Director [NIANN THOMPSON](#)

Director of Mission Support [KENNETH RICH](#)

Interim Staff Resource for Youth [HANNAH LAHODNY](#)

Staff Resource for Mission Discernment [MICHAEL VINSON](#)

Treasurer [BOB BOEHMLER](#)

Moderator of Presbytery [LESLIE ROPER](#)

Moderator of the Coordinating Team [RUTH HAMILTON](#)

Vice Moderator of Presbytery [DAVID STRICKLIN](#)

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

We are composed of over 10,000 Presbyterians gathered in 82 active churches, located in various towns and cities in the northern two-thirds of the State of Arkansas.

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

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