

**Presbytery of the Pines
2012 Minutes
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MINUTES
Presbytery of the Pines
102nd Stated Meeting
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
Shreveport, Louisiana
February 18, 2012

CONSTITUTION

The 102nd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Pines was Called to Order at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Shreveport, Louisiana, by Moderator John Arnold, who opened the meeting with Prayer.

The following Teaching and Ruling Elders were present, constituting a quorum.

TEACHING ELDERS

John C. Albright, John Arnold, Susan Arnold, Alford L. Branch, Barry W. Chance, Philip A. Faris, Wallace Faris, James D. Freeman, J. Daniel Hignight, Joseph W. Hill, Erin P. Kaye, Mark E. Kennedy, Stephen K. Kim, Young Doo Kim, Ronald P. Lawrence, John D. McClelland, Bryan L. McDowell, Philip W. McLarty, Gary W. Miller, Michael D. Morgan, Kathy S. Muder, Pendleton B. Peery, Thomas K. Reinowski, William H. Searight, Sarah Cooper Searight, Beth B. Sentell, Rosemary Stelz, Jerry R. Tompkins, James A. Van Hook, Jr., Bonnie J. Wilkins, Bill Willis, George M. Wortham.

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Athens-David Pate, Baskin Union-Shirley Smith, Bastrop-Diane DeShazo, Belcher-Dan Logan, Benton-Ed Cooper, Bossier City Trinity-Gordon Christy, Camden-Gary Martin, Choudrant Alabama-Marijon Echols, Crossett-Thaddeus Wilkins, Homer-Susan Herring, Hope-Mary Vail, Jonesville Trinity-Ronnie Swayze, Keatchie-Dudley M. Glenn, Magnolia-Mike McNeill, Mansfield Red Lick-Ponder Clinton, Jr., Minden-Robert Addison, Monroe-Graceminster-James Kyser, Monticello Holmes Chapel-Charles Peeples, Natchitoches-Michael Rorex, Plain Dealing Cottage Grove-Hugh S. Coyle, Plain Dealing First-David A. Kelly, Plain Dealing Rocky Mount-Judy Watkins, Rayville-Sandra Watson, Ruston-Buddy Johnson, Shreveport Broadmoor-Sally Griffin, Shreveport First-Julie Blewer, Charles Grubb, Shreveport Hollywood-Marjorie Conner, Shreveport John Calvin-Prissy Quinn, Shreveport St. Andrew-Lebanon Driggers, Texarkana-Cynthia Walker, Vivian-Bill Ethredge, West Monroe Highland-Lynn Fant, Winnsboro-John Guice

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS

Ron Brown, Charlotte Cobb, Edith Hill

RULING ELDERS ENROLLED IN PRESBYTERY

Allan Bean, Nancy Bergeron, Kay Hummel, Don Brice

The body was led in the Worship of Almighty God by Teaching Elders Kathy Muder and Philip Faris. Teaching Elder Susan Arnold proclaimed the Word. Teaching Elder Philip Faris and Barry Chance celebrated the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and remembered Ruling Elders who died in the previous year.

WELCOME BY HOST CHURCH

The Rev. Barry Chance, pastor of the host church, offered a welcome.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Moderator appointed the following Standing Committees for this meeting:

Attendance: George Wortham and Lynn Fant

Resolutions: Pen Perry and Nancy Bergeron

REPORTS TO PRESBYTERY

Stated Clerk Dan Hignight presented the report. IT WAS VOTED to adopt the following recommendations:

1. That Presbytery adopt the Docket for this meeting of Presbytery.
2. That the minutes of the October Stated Meeting be approved as circulated.
3. That the following Ruling Elders serving as moderators of Presbytery agencies be enrolled as members of Presbytery while serving as moderators:

Nancy Bergeron, Corbet Lamkin, Nancy Arn Worrel, Allan Bean, Don Brice

4. That Presbytery adopt the following Rolls as of December 31, 2011:

Minister Members in Validated

Ministries with Congregations

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. ALBRIGHT, John C. | 17. MCLARTY, Philip W. |
| 2. ARNOLD, John C. | 18. MILLER, Gary W. |
| 3. ARNOLD, Susan | 19. MOODY, Allison |
| 4. BRANCH, Alford L. | 20. MOORE, Lauren S. |
| 5. BROWN, Dianne E | 21. MORGAN, Michael D. |
| 6. CHANCE, Barry W. | 22. MUDER, Kathy S. |
| 7. FARIS, Philip A. | 23. PEERY, Pendleton B. |
| 8. FREEMAN, James D. | 24. REINOWSKI, Thomas K. |
| 9. HIGNIGHT, J. Daniel | 25. ROBERTS, David |
| 10. KAYE, Erin P. | 26. SEARIGHT, Sarah Cooper |
| 11. KENNEDY, Mark E. | 27. SEARIGHT, William H. |
| 12. KIM, Young Doo | 28. SENTELL, Beth B. |
| 13. LAWRENCE, Ronald P. | 29. STELZ, Rosemary E. |
| 14. LOOMIS, Daniel G. | 30. VANHOOK, James A. Jr. |
| 15. MCCLELLAND, John D. | 31. WILKINS, Bonnie J. |
| 16. MCDOWELL, Bryan L. | 32. WILLIS, William C. |
| | 33. WORTHAM, George M. |

**Commissioned Ruling Elders
Serving Congregations in the Church**

1. BROWN, Ron
2. COBB, Charlotte
3. HILL, Edith
4. TRAVIS, Kay Childs
5. WEBBER, Clyde Ray

**Minister Members who are
Honorably Retired**

1. BURNS, Ralph M.
2. FARIS, William W.
3. GRISSO, E. Lee
4. GROVES, Grantland M.
5. KIM, Stephen K.
6. MURRAY, Spencer C.
7. PARKHILL, Ralyn
8. RUX, Bruce M
9. SHEELER, Joe T.
10. STIPP, R. Rhodes
11. TOMPKINS, Jerry R.
12. VANCE, A. Arthur
13. YATES, Hugh

**Minister Members in Other
Validated Ministry**

1. HILL, Joseph W.

**Minister Members who are
Members at large**

1. HIGNIGHT, R. Kathleen
2. KIM, Jung Jin
3. NYGAARD, Robin
4. PEERY, Lindsey W
5. ROBSON, Martha

5. That Presbytery elect one Teaching Elder and one Ruling Elder to the Presbytery Response Team for the Class of 2013:

TE Beth Sentell
RE Cynthia Walker

The following are currently members:

Teaching Elders:

*Susan Arnold, Alford Branch, Kathleen Hignight, Dan Loomis, Allison Moody,
George Wortham*

Ruling Elders:

*Betty Jo Fagan, Tom Myrick, Charles Peeples, Ham Singleton, Kay Childs Travis,
Clyde Ray Webber*

6. That the Minutes of the Administrative Commissions to Ordain Catherine Dodson Goodrich, and Install the Rev. Beth Sentell and the Rev. Ronald Lawrence be entered into record.

ORDER OF THE DAY

The time arrived for the Order of the Day. The Task Force on Presbytery Structure presented a report, and then asked the body to move to the fellowship hall for discussion around tables.

NOON RECESS

The body recessed for lunch, led by prayer by the Moderator.

RECONVENED

The Presbytery was called to order at 1:00 p.m. and led in prayer by the Moderator.

Joe Gill of the Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center was granted Privilege of the Floor and brought an update on the Center.

REPORTS CONTINUED

General Presbyter Joe Hill presented the report.

Administrative Commission for the Baskin Church John Guice, Moderator of the Commission presented the report. IT WAS VOTED to adopt the following recommendations:

1. That the report be received as information.
2. That the minutes of the Administrative Commission be admitted to Presbytery records. (Appendix B)
3. That the Baskin Presbyterian Church be closed, effective December 1, 2011.
4. That the commission powers of this Administrative Commission be extended to facilitate the renting or leasing of the Baskin property to a congregation of the Assemblies of God at such terms as may be in compliance with good stewardship practices and the furtherance of the Kingdom of God subject to review by Presbytery counsel.
5. That the Presbyterian portion of the rental proceeds be directed toward the ministry of New Covenant Parish of which Baskin was formerly a member.

Committee on Polity Jim Van Hook, Moderator, presented the report. IT WAS VOTED to adopt the following recommendations:

1. That the report and recommendation with respect to the two overtures be noted in the minutes of this meeting.

The Presbytery of the Pines by its Polity Committee with respect to an Overture from the Minden Presbyterian Church

Facts

The Minden Presbyterian Church has submitted an overture to The Presbytery of the Pines for approval. The overture requests that the General Assembly amend the Form of Government by amending section G-2.0104 of the *Book of Order* (Gifts and Qualifications) by adding language to G-2.0104b. G-2.0104 is part of Chapter Two of the Form of Government, the title of which is *Ordered Ministry, Commissioning, and Certification*. Section G-2.0104b is commonly referred to as the section governing ordination standards. A copy of the overture is attached.

Comment: The overture refers (at about the center of the page) to "G-2.0104a - G-2.0201". G-2.0105 is the single section which follows G-2.0104 and precedes G-2.0201. It deals with Freedom of Conscience, and the Committee has assumed that G-2.0105 is to be considered as being within the purview of the overture. G-2.0201 is the first subsection of the section with respect to deacons and contains the definition of a deacon. The Committee has assumed that G-2.0201 is not to be considered as being within the purview of the overture.

The overture must be approved or disapproved by the presbytery. If it is approved, it must be timely submitted to the Office of the General Assembly for consideration at the 220th General Assembly (2012).

Background Information
(Past and Pending General Assembly
Consideration of Ordination Standards)

In compliance with the provisions of the Manual of the General Assembly, the Committee has investigated past consideration and pending consideration of the subject matter of the overture by the General Assembly.

With respect to past consideration of the subject matter of the overture, the subject (ordination standards) was considered, apparently thoroughly, by the 219th General Assembly (2010) which replaced the then-existing Form of Government with a new Foundations of Presbyterian Polity and a new Form of Government which were recommended to, and approved by, a majority of the presbyteries and, for purposes of the overture under consideration, took effect on July 10, 2011.

The new Form of Government (part G of the *Book of Order*) includes the ordination standards found at G-2.0104b, to which the overture of the Minden Presbyterian Church asks the General Assembly to add additional language.

The Committee therefore concludes that the matter addressed by this overture has been thoroughly considered by the General Assembly as recently as 2010, as part of the revision of the Form of Government.

With respect to pending consideration of the subject matter of the overture, as of January 23, 2012, twenty (20) overtures had been submitted for consideration by the 220th General Assembly (2012). The General Assembly was seeking clarification of one such overture. Of the remaining nineteen (19) overtures, six (6) recommend various amendments to G-2.0104. Although the Committee infers that the overtures which have been submitted for consideration by the General Assembly and the overture which has been submitted to The Presbytery of the Pines by the Minden Presbyterian Church are motivated by similar concerns, the Committee finds that they are not sufficiently similar in form, and cannot be conclusively determined to be sufficiently similar in intent, that the presbytery could simply concur with one of the overtures already submitted (in the event that it should approve the overture from the Minden Presbyterian Church).

Accordingly, the Committee believes that The Presbytery of the Pines must either (1) approve the overture submitted by the Minden Presbyterian Church and present it for consideration by the 220th General Assembly or (2) not approve the overture submitted by the Minden Presbyterian Church.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends, with a comment, below, that The Presbytery of the Pines **not approve** the overture submitted by the Minden Presbyterian Church.

Comment

The Committee recognizes and respects the sincerity with which differing positions on same-sex issues are held. The Committee notes that its recommendation is its best considered opinion and acknowledges that people of good will may differ with its recommendation.

Reasons for Recommendation

Reasons for the recommendation of the Committee include the following:

- (1) The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has found no consensus in the interpretation of Scripture with respect to what are commonly referred to as issues of same-sex practice. Convictions which differ markedly are held sincerely and firmly. G-2.0104 presently permits the bodies responsible for ordination (sessions and presbyteries, in their respective areas of responsibility) to apply ordination standards which are consistent with the *Book of Order*, which, in turn, **permits**, but **does not require**, the ordaining body to consider the standards which appear to be advocated in the overture from the Minden Presbyterian Church.
- (2) At present it appears highly unlikely that the General Assembly can resolve same-sex issues in a manner which is universally acceptable in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Nevertheless G-2.0104, as presently written, would appear to present the opportunity for people of good will to maintain their differences of belief and to advocate their beliefs within the bodies responsible for ordination, while permitting ordination for service to continue elsewhere, under the auspices of the bodies responsible for ordination, throughout the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

- (3) The Committee believes that when consideration is given to the concerns expressed by the Minden Presbyterian Church and the strongly and sincerely held concerns of others in The Presbytery of the Pines which are not consistent with those articulated by the Minden Presbyterian Church, the best course of action is to allow the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to operate under the new Form of Government with the hope that these divisive issues can and will be resolved at the level of the councils responsible for ordination.
- (4) Ordination standards have been proposed, debated, modified, discussed, prayed over, and voted upon. The General Assembly has made a considered recommendation, and the recommendation has been approved by a majority of the presbyteries. It is time to seek the matters which unite us and not to re-litigate the matters which divide us. It is time to focus on the faith and life, the unity and mission, of the Church and to let the issue of ordination standards, at least for a time, rest in peace.

**Report and Recommendation to
The Presbytery of the Pines by
its Polity Committee with respect to
an Overture from the Alabama Presbyterian Church**

Facts

The Alabama Presbyterian Church has submitted an overture to The Presbytery of the Pines for approval. The overture requests that the General Assembly amend the Form of Government by amending section G-2.0104 of the *Book of Order* (Gifts and Qualifications) by eliminating the present language and restoring the former (2009-2011 *Book of Order*) language of G-2.0104b. G-2.0104 is part of Chapter Two of the Form of Government, the title of which is *Ordered Ministry, Commissioning, and Certification*. Section G-2.0104b is commonly referred to as the section governing ordination standards. A copy of the overture is attached.

The overture must be approved or disapproved by the presbytery. If it is approved, it must be timely submitted to the Office of the General Assembly for consideration at the 220th General Assembly (2012).

Information Incorporated by Reference

The Committee has made a report and recommendation with respect to an overture from the Minden Presbyterian Church contemporaneously with this one. The sections of that report and recommendation which are entitled:

Background Information

and

Reasons for Recommendation

are incorporated herein by reference.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends, with a comment, below, that The Presbytery of the Pines **not approve** the overture submitted by the Alabama Presbyterian Church.

Comment

The Committee recognizes and respects the sincerity with which differing positions on same-sex issues are held. The Committee notes that its recommendation is its best considered opinion and acknowledges that people of good will may differ with its recommendation.

2. That the Overture from the Minden Presbyterian Church be voted on and that the Overture and vote be recorded in the minutes.

Overture to the Presbytery of the Pines

Rationale:

Whereas, the last General Assembly passed language reversing a long standing standard for Ordination,

Whereas, the presbyteries voted on this language with the false assurance that it “changes nothing” when in fact it changed our fundamental Reformed standard of *sola scriptura* (doctrines based on the Scriptures alone) and, thereby, the scriptural basis of our governance as interpreted by our confessions:

Whereas, the presbyteries voted favorably on the change of language in our Form of Government with the understanding that this change would result in reducing discord when in fact we see hundreds of congregations either leaving or poised to leave the Presbyterian Church (USA);

Whereas, this change of language places many of our church officers in a crisis of conscience over answering the questions of the ordination vows;

We, the session of the Minden Presbyterian Church, overtures the Presbytery of the Pines to approve and forward to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, the following amendment to our Form of Government by adding the language that is viewed in bold print.

G-2.0104a–G-2.0201

b. Standards for ordained service reflect the church’s desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (F-1.02). The council responsible for ordination and/or installation (G.2.0402; G-2.0607; G-3.0306) shall examine each candidate’s calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of ordered ministry. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate’s ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Councils shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates. **No Council shall approve a candidate who refuses to submit to the confession’s interpretation of Scriptures where it reads that repentance consists of “a sincere turning to God and all good, and earnest turning away from the devil and all evil.”¹ Further where our confessions interpret the Scriptures to say, “Anarchy in sexual relationships is a symptom of man’s alienation from God, his neighbor, and himself.” (C67 9,47) No candidate who exemplifies this anarchy by practicing homosexual behavior or any other behavior that is defiant to the biblical principles of fidelity in marriage between a man and woman and chastity in singleness shall be approved.**

Second Helvetic Confession 5,094 (also see; 3.13;4.088;6,081-086;7:087;31

IT WAS VOTED 31 in favor of sending to General Assembly, 32 opposed.

3. That the Overture from the Alabama Presbyterian Church be voted on and that the Overture and vote be recorded in the minutes.

**A Resolution for Presbytery of the Pines
from
Alabama Presbyterian Church
January 21, 2012**

The Session of Alabama Presbyterian Church requests Presbytery of the Pines to forward to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly in timely fashion the following overture to the 220th General Assembly of the PCUSA.

If approved, the overture would amend the Book of Order by removing § G-2.0104b on ordination standards and replacing it with the former § G-6.0106b (Book of Order 2009 – 2011) containing the “fidelity or chastity” provision.

The Presbytery of the Pines respectfully overtures the 220th General Assembly to amend the Book of Order, § G-2.0104b, by striking that paragraph in its entirety, and replacing it with the former § G-6.0106b in its entirety (Book of Order, 2009-2011).

THUS:

“G-2.0104 Gifts and Qualifications

~~b. Standards for ordained service reflect the church’s desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (F1.02). The council responsible for ordination and/or installation (G-2.0402; G-2.0607; G-3.0306) shall examine each candidate’s calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of ordered ministry. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate’s ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Councils shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.”~~

“G-6.0106 Gifts and Requirements

b. Those who are called to office in the church are to lead a life in obedience to Scripture and in conformity to the historic confessional standards of the church. Among these standards is the requirement to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman (W-4.9001), or chastity in singleness. Persons refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which the confessions call sin shall not be ordained and/or installed as deacons, elders, or ministers of the Word and Sacrament.”

RATIONALE:

The PCUSA has committed a grievous error in the 2011 approval of Amendment 10-A. That mistake needs to be corrected by restoring the former standards. Visible evidence of this need is everywhere. The negative reaction to the accomplished fact of the change has been enormous, and continues to grow. Many individuals and churches have already left the denomination, many more are considering it, and the high level of distress eats away at morale and ministry throughout the church. 10-A as a reality is much more destructive of church, family, and society than when it was only an arguable proposition. It was a mistake to pass it.

“Reformed and ever reforming” has long been a trusted watchword, but it is much more than a mere slogan to encourage changing the *status quo*. The concept also includes an obligation to back up from a wrong decision recognized. Over 350 years ago, the Westminster Confession pointed out that “All synods or councils since the apostles’ times, whether general or particular, may err, and many have erred; therefore they are not to be made the rule of faith or practice, but to be used as a help in both.” (Westminster, § 6.175).

The Presbyterian Church has a long and distinguished ministry on this continent; it is well worth pulling back from the precipice. It is time now to restore the witness, ministry, peace, and integrity of the PCUSA by correcting this error.

IT WAS VOTED 29 in favor of sending to General Assembly, 32 opposed.

Committee on Ministry Barry Chance, Moderator, presented the report.

IT WAS VOTED to adopt the following recommendations:

1. That presbytery receive the report as information.

2. That presbytery enter into its records the following actions taken by the Committee on Ministry, acting under commission powers authorized by the Presbytery:
 - A. Dissolved the call between the Rev. Dr. Martha Robson and First Presbyterian Church of Monticello, AR effective October 31, 2011.

 - B. If the way be clear, dismiss the Rev. Dr. Martha Robson to the Presbytery of South Louisiana.

 - C. If the way be clear, dismiss the Rev. Kris Crawford to the Presbytery of Arkansas.

 - D. Dissolved the call between the Rev. Phil McLarty and First Presbyterian Church of Hope, AR effective December 31, 2011.

 - E. Concur with the Stated Clerk on his report on the rolls of minister members of the Presbytery, and the types of work in which minister members are engaged as of December 31, 2011.

 - F. Approved the following Stated/Temporary Supply relationships for 2012:

Belcher	James A. VanHook Jr
DeQueen	Dianne Brown
Dermott	Troy Pritt
Frierson, Good Hope	Ronald Lawrence
Haynesville	Bruce Rux
Newellton	Johnny Wilkins

 - G. Appointed the following moderators of sessions:

Athens	John McClelland
Belcher	Jim Van Hook
Carthage	Dan Loomis
Chidester, Tates Bluff	Charlotte Cobb (CRE)
DeQueen	Dianne Brown
Dermott	Troy Pritt
Ferriday	Clyde R. Webber (CRE)
Fordyce	Kay Childs Travis (CRE)
Frierson, Good Hope	Ronald Lawrence
Grand Cane, Smyrna	Ron Brown (CRE)
Haynesville	Bruce Rux
Hermitage, Calvary	Maribeth Frazer
Hope	Mike Morgan

Jonseville, Trinity	Joe Hill
Keatchie	Bill Searight
Mansfield, First	Ron Brown (CRE)
Mansfield, Red Lick	Dudley Glenn
Monticello, First	Erin Kaye
Newellton	Johnny Wilkins
Prescott	Charlotte Cobb (CRE)
Ruston	Edith Hill (CRE)
Strong, Ebenezer	Bonnie Wilkins
Tallulah	George Wortham
Tulip	Ham Singleton
Vidalia	Clyde R. Webber (CRE)
Warren, First	Erin Kaye

3. That presbytery approve the temporary supply agreement for part time service for a period of twelve months between Rev. Ronald Lawrence and Good Hope Presbyterian Church (Frierson, LA) at the following terms effective September 4, 2011:

Cash Salary	\$1000/month
Reimbursable Travel	As Used
Vacation	1 Week/quarter
4. That presbytery proceed to examine the Rev. Dr. John-Nelson Pope for membership in the Presbytery of the Pines.
5. That the examination of the Rev. Dr. John-Nelson Pope be sustained in parts and as a whole and that he be enrolled as a Minister-at-Large.
6. That presbytery adopt the following policy under it's authority in G-3.0201:
When a church is without an installed pastor or the installed pastor is unable to invite another moderator, the presbytery shall provide for a moderator who meets one of the following criteria:
 1. Is a teaching elder member of the presbytery in good standing.
 2. Is a ruling elder who is now serving or has previously served on the Committee on Ministry.
 3. Is a ruling elder commissioned to particular pastoral service for that congregation.
Unless serving as a Commissioned Ruling Elder to that congregation, no ruling elder shall moderate the session of a congregation where he or she is a member.
7. That presbytery appoint the following moderators of session:

Winnfield, First	Nancy Bergeron
Strong, Ebenezer	Gary Martin

8. That the presbytery authorize the following list of ruling elders "to administer or preside at the Lord's Supper" in order "to meet the needs for the administration of the Sacrament" (G-3.0301b) through December 31, 2012.

Name	Church
Carroll, Nancy S.	Athens
Bedard, Dr. David	Benton
Brock, Clay	Benton
Thompson, Jim	Benton
Thompson, Wanda	
Christy, Gordon	Bossier, Trinity
Bensberg, Susan	Camden
Martin, Gary	Camden
Murray, Jim	Camden
Singleton, Hamilton	Camden
Peterman, Trisha	Chidester, TB
Walter, Jessica	Chidester, TB
Barnett, Mary Kate	Crossett
Barnett, Patricia	Crossett
Coulter, Baker	Crossett
Smith, Martha	Crossett
Travis, Kay Childs	Fordyce
Travis, Johnnie	Warren
Bradford, Ella	Frierson, Good H
Parrott, Victoria	Frierson, Good H
Stull, Carl	Frierson, Good H
White, Hezekiah III	Frierson, Good H
White, Charles	Frierson, Good H
White, Willie J.	Frierson, Good H
Smith, Sherry T.	Haynesville
Boumtje, Martine	Magnolia
Boumtje, Pierre	Magnolia
Clinton, Harry	Mansfield, Red L
Clinton, Ponder	Mansfield, Red L
Bell, B. H. "Skip"	Monroe 1 st
Daniel, Warren	Monroe 1 st
Rose, Donna	Natchitoches
Smith, Susan	Natchitoches
Bergeron, Nancy	Ruston
Blackman, Gordon Jr.	Shv. First

Morgan, Lee	Shv. First
Broom, Elina	Shv. Hollywood
Broom, Richard	Shv. Hollywood
Conner, Marjorie	Shv. Hollywood
Henderson, Janice	Shv. Hollywood
Porter, Claretha	Shv. Hollywood
Mays, V.W.	Shv. Hollywood
Williams, Nicole	Shv. Hollywood
Grout, Robert	Shv. John Calvin
Morgan, Chuck	Texarkana
Walker, Cynthia	Texarkana
Guice, John	Winnsboro

9. That presbytery receive the supplemental report as information.

10. That presbytery approve the following changes in terms of call:

NAME	CHURCH	DESCRIPTION	CHANGE
Arnold, John	Texarkana, First	Increase Salary	1,250.00
		Decrease HFSA	(3,850.00)
		Increase Dental	110.00
		Decrease CE	(2,500.00)
		Decrease Prof. Exp.	(1,500.00)
Arnold, Susan	Texarkana, First	Increase Salary	1,250.00
		Decrease HFSA	(3,850.00)
		Decrease CE	(3,250.00)
		Decrease Prof. Exp.	(750.00)
Branch, Alford	Monticello, Holmes Chapel	Increase Salary	2,225.00
		Increase Deferred Comp.	400.00
		Decrease Travel	(2,225.00)
Chance, Barry	Shreveport, St. Andrew	Increase Dental Ins.	60.72
		Decrease Life Ins.	(21.36)
		Travel-CE-Prof. Exp. Combined to ARP	
Kaye, Erin	Camden, First	Increase Salary	835.00
		Increase Manse/Utility	417.00
		Increase Travel	400.00
		Increase CE	500.00
		Decrease Prof. Exp	(912.00)

Miller, Gary	Minden	Increase Salary.	1,421.00
Muder, Kathy	Natchitoches	Increase Salary	425.06
		Travel-CE-Prof. Exp. Combined to ARP	

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Edith Hill, Moderator, presented the report. IT WAS VOTED to receive the report as information.

Council Nancy Bergeron, Moderator, presented the report. IT WAS VOTED to receive the report as information.

Committee on Nominations John Albright, Moderator, presented the report. IT WAS VOTED to adopt the following recommendations:

1. That the report be received as information
2. That Presbytery elect the following persons for service:
 Committee on Polity: Rev. Dianne Brown, Class of 2014
 Committee on Ministry:
 Rev. Bill Searight, Class of 2013
 Elder Dana Stinson, Class of 2014
 Young Adult Advisor 220th General Assembly 2012: Taylor Blevins

Church Development and Mission George Wortham, Moderator, presented the report. IT WAS VOTED that Presbytery receive the report as information.

Faith Education A written report was presented. IT WAS VOTED that Presbytery receive the report as information.

Budget and Finance Committee Allen Bean, Moderator, presented the report. IT WAS VOTED that Presbytery receive the report as information.

Real Estate Committee Don Brice, Moderator, presented the report. IT WAS VOTED that Presbytery receive the report as information.

Standing Committee on Attendance George Wortham presented the report. IT WAS VOTED to adopt the following report:

Attendance			
TEs serving congregations	26	Sessions represented	34
TE in other service	1	CREs present	3
TE at large member	1	REs enrolled in Presbytery	4
TEs retired	3	Visitors	20

Absences

Excused

Teaching Elders

Dianne Brown
Kathleen Hignight
Jung Jin Kim
Dan Loomis
Robin Nygaard
David Roberts

Sessions

Alto
DeQueen
Dermott
El Dorado
Fordyce
Monticello, First

Commissioned Ruling Elder

Kay Childs Travis

Elders Enrolled in Presbytery

Nancy Arn Worrel

Without Excuse

Teaching Elders

Allison Moody
Lauren Moore
Lindsey W. Peery
Martha Robson

Sessions

Baskin
Bossier-Korean
Carthage
Chidester
Ferriday
Frierson
Grand Cane
Haynesville
Hermitage, Calvary
Lake Providence
Lake Village
Mansfield, First
Monroe, First
Newellton
Prescott
Strong
Tallulah
Tulip
Vidalia
Warren
Winnfield

Commissioned Ruling Elder

Clyde R. Webber

Standing Committee on Resolutions
VOTED to adopt resolution as read.

Pen Peery presented the report. IT WAS

ADJOURNMENT

With all business being concluded, the moderator closed the meeting with prayer at 2:30 p.m.

Rev. John Arnold, Moderator

Rev. Dan Hignight, Acting Stated Clerk

MINUTES

Administrative Commission Appointed to Ordain
Catherine Dodson Goodrich
To the Ministry of Word and Sacrament

October 29, 2011

The Administrative Commission appointed by the Presbytery of the Pines, to ordain Catherine Goodrich to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament met at the First Presbyterian Church, Shreveport, LA, on Saturday, October 29, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. with the following members present, thereby constituting a quorum:

Rev. Pendleton B. Peery, Elder Betty Henderson, Rev. Beth Sentell, Elder Janice Henderson

Seated as guest of the commission: Steve Bacon, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta

Absent: Barbara Callaway

The meeting was opened with prayer by Steve Bacon.

Rev. Pendleton B. Peery, was appointed Moderator of the Commission and Betty Henderson as Clerk.

The Commission reviewed the liturgy approved by the Committee on Ministry and recessed into the Sanctuary, where during worship, Catherine Goodrich was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The Commission reconvened. IT WAS VOTED to approve the minutes of this meeting and to adjourn with prayer by Rev. Beth Sentell.

s/Pendleton B. Peery
Pendleton B. Peery, Moderator

s/Betty Henderson
Betty Henderson, Clerk

MINUTES

Administrative Commission Appointed to Install
Rev. Ronald P. Lawrence as Pastor of
Hollywood Presbyterian Church, Shreveport, Louisiana

October 30, 2011

The Administrative Commission appointed by the Presbytery of the Pines, to Install Rev. Ronald Pierre Lawrence as Pastor of Hollywood Presbyterian Church, Shreveport, LA, met on Sunday, October 30, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. at Hollywood Presbyterian Church with the following members present, thereby constituting a quorum:

Rev. Alford Branch, Rev. Barry Chance, Rev. James Freeman, Elder Janice Henderson, Elder Carl Stull, Elder James Williams

In addition, Rev. Dr. Joe W. May, was invited to sit with the commission.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Alford Branch

Rev. Barry Chance, was appointed Moderator of the Commission and Elder Carl B. Stull, as Clerk.

The Commission reviewed the liturgy approved by the Committee on Ministry and recessed into the Sanctuary, where during worship, Rev. Ron Lawrence was installed as the Pastor of the Hollywood Presbyterian Church, Shreveport, Louisiana.

The Commission reconvened. IT WAS VOTED to approve the minutes of this meeting and to adjourn with prayer by Rev. Barry Chance

s/Rev. Barry Chance
Rev. Barry W. Chance, Moderator

s/Carl B. Stull
Carl B. Stull, Clerk

MINUTES

Administrative Commission Appointed to Install
Rev. Beth B. Sentell as Pastor of
John Calvin Presbyterian Church, Shreveport, Louisiana

November 20, 2011

The Administrative Commission appointed by the Presbytery of the Pines, to Install Rev. Beth B. Sentell as Pastor of John Calvin Presbyterian Church, Shreveport, LA, met on Sunday, November 20, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. at John Calvin Presbyterian Church with the following members present, thereby constituting a quorum:

Rev. Barry Chance, Rev. Dan Hignight, Rev. Kathleen Hignight, Rev. Joe Hill,
Elder Amy McGhee, Elder Dana Stinson, Elder Prissy Quinn

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Dan Hignight.

Rev. Dan Hignight, was appointed Moderator of the Commission and Elder Amy McGhee, as Clerk.

The Commission reviewed the liturgy approved by the Committee on Ministry and recessed into the Sanctuary, where during worship, Rev. Beth Sentell was installed as the Pastor of the John Calvin Presbyterian Church, Shreveport, Louisiana.

The Commission reconvened. IT WAS VOTED to approve the minutes of this meeting and to adjourn with prayer by Rev. Dan Hignight.

s/Rev. Dan Hignight
Rev. J. Daniel Hignight, Moderator

s/Amy McGhee
Amy McGhee, Clerk

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
BASKIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MINUTES

February 22, 2011

The following commission members, appointed by the Presbytery of the Pines at its last stated meeting, gathered via email: Rev. Allison Moody, Elder Donna Tiser, Rev. Gary Miller, Rev. George Wortham, Elder Shirley Smith, Rev. Bruce Rux and Elder John Guice.

John Guice offered a history of the Baskin Church and the events leading up to the present time. In summary, Baskin has operated since its founding in the 1920's as a joint congregation with the Methodist. They own the property in common as undivided interests. The present membership has decreased to one Presbyterian and five or six Methodist. Baskin Presbyterian Church is a part of New Covenant Parish, an association of five churches formed to facilitate the calling of a pastor. John Guice serves as president of the NCP council, the governing body of the parish. He and Rev. John Albright, joined by the Methodist District Superintendent, have met twice with the joint congregation to discuss the possible closing of the church. (Minutes of those meetings are included hereto.) John Guice offered the opinion that the Methodist would eventually close their congregation but the Methodist process of closing will take much longer than the Presbyterian process.

It was agreed by common consent that John Guice would serve as commission Moderator.

John M. Guice
Moderator

Attachment I

BASKIN METHODIST / PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
GENERAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 27, 2010

A general membership meeting of the congregation of the Baskin Methodist – Presbyterian Church was held in the church sanctuary on Monday of the above date at 5:00 p.m.

Present were:

Rev. Bob Burgess, District Superintendent, United Methodist Church
Rev. Mary Anne Collie, Methodist Pastor
Rev. John Albright, Presbyterian Pastor
Mr. John Guice, President, New Covenant Parish Council (Presbyterian)
Mrs. Debbie Albright
Ms. Lalarie Boyle (Presbyterian)
Ms. Judy Mock (Methodist)
Ms. Shirley McPhail Jones (Methodist)

Ms. Amy Bumgarden (Methodist)
Dr. William Fletcher (Methodist)
Mr. Billy R. Smith – Acting Presbyterian Treasurer
Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Hatton (Methodist)
Ms. Lenell Browder (Methodist)

John Guice opened the meeting with prayer and acted as moderator. A time of sharing memories of life in the Baskin church was held and in which all participated. Many stories were told and the group expressed affection and fond memories of their time as members of this church.

John Guice then explained to the group the ecclesiastical difficulty which the Presbyterians had in being able to maintain the church. He stated that a church had to have a governing body (a session) in order to function as a church. Given the death of Miss Kathlyn Goforth and the fact that only one active Presbyterian member was still attending, no governing body existed and that continued Presbyterian presence would be very difficult. The group expressed agreement and understanding of this position.

Rev. Burgess then presented the Methodist perspective. He stated that the ordering of the church was in accord with Methodist requirements and that, from a governance viewpoint, there was no reason why the church couldn't continue to exist. He did express concern regarding the financial capability of the church. He reported that the "Methodist apportionment" had not been paid since 2008 and that the pastor's pension payment was in arrears. There was some misunderstanding regarding the pension payment. Dr. Fletcher and Rev. Burgess agreed to look into that aspect of the church finances.

A series of questions followed. The first group of questions concerned the availability of grants or outside funds. Both Presbyterian and Methodist spokespersons agreed that there were no funds available to pay "current expenses". There was continued discussion regarding assistance in paying a pastor's salary but both denominations declared such assistance not to be available in this situation.

A question concerning the ownership of the property was raised. Mr. Guice explained that the Methodist Episcopal Church South had obtained title to the property in November of 1926. In April of 1927, the Methodist ceded an undivided ½ interest in the property to the Presbyterians. It was then explained by both denominational representatives that the local church held the property in trust for the Methodist Conference and the Presbyterian Presbytery. A question followed which sought to determine if the Presbyterians could donate their interest in the property back to the Methodist if the Methodist were able to maintain their existence. Mr. Guice explained that there was a provision in the Presbyterian Book of Order (G16.0401r) which allowed a surviving congregation in a union church to retain the property. He further explained that this decision was a Presbytery prerogative and that he could not guarantee what the Presbytery might do. He offered the opinion that he felt the Presbytery would be favorably disposed to ceding the property to a surviving congregation but that was only an opinion. Rev. Albright agreed to that assessment.

There was a general consensus that the Presbyterian portion of the congregation would have to be closed. The Methodist expressed a desire to keep their portion of the congregation alive and functioning. A general discussion of how that might be brought about followed. In order to determine the viability of continuing the Methodist congregation, it was agreed by common consent that the finances of the church operating solely as a Methodist congregation would have to be determined. The need for an income and expense statement forecasting what the operating expenses were and what the likely income would be was evident to determine if the single congregation could continue to exist. Dr. Wm. Fletcher, assisted by the acting Presbyterian treasurer, Billy R. Smith, is to compile the needed financial information. The group agreed to meet again at 5:30 p.m. on October 25, 2010. At that time, the group would have a clearer picture of its continuation as a Methodist congregation.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Burgess.

*Rev. Bob Burgess, Methodist
District Superintendent*

*John Guice, Parish Council
President, New Covenant
Parish, PCUSA (Presbyterian)*

Attachment II

BASKIN METHODIST / PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2ND GENERAL MEETING

OCTOBER 25, 2010

The second general meeting of the membership of the Baskin Methodist / Presbyterian church was held on the above date in the sanctuary of the church.

Present were:

*Rev. Bob Burgess, District Superintendent, UMC
Rev. Mary Anne Collie, UMC pastor
Rev. John Albright, PCUSA pastor
Mr. John Guice, NCP Council President (PCUSA)
Ms. Lalarie Boyle, PCUSA
Ms. Judy Mock, UMC
Ms. Shirley McPhail Jones, UMC
Dr. William Fletcher, UMC
Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Hatton, UMC
Ms. Lenell Browder, UMC*

Rev. Collie opened the meeting with prayer. Mr. Guice informed the gathering that, in accord with the last meeting, the Presbyterian presence would end either Nov. 1 or Dec. 1, 2010.

Dr. William Fletcher then gave a report regarding the financial ability of the Methodist congregation to continue the existence of the church. Based upon his forecast of anticipated income and expenses, he was of the opinion that the Methodist congregation could continue for a short while. Further discussion revealed that a great deal of the financial support of the church came from non-resident persons who had a long standing connection to the church and several regular attendees who did not officially belong to the church. Doubt was expressed about how long these contributions might continue.

Ms. Judy Mock expressed the concern that, given the age of those who attended worship services, the energy level was not present to be able to physically see to the upkeep of the property.

Rev. Burgess then detailed the Methodist procedure for closing a church. There was great ambivalence among the people regarding the decision to close. The common consent seemed to be that the closing of the church was inevitable even if they tried to continue for a short while. Concern was then expressed by Rev. Burgess regarding the financial commitment to Rev. Collie. Her call extends through May 31, 2011. It was agreed that the financial records of the church would be examined to see what funds might be used to implement a "severance package" for Rev. Collie. It was agreed that any remaining funds in the Presbyterian account would go to New Covenant Parish to help fund the financial package of Rev. Albright.

Rev. Burgess explained that the Methodist congregation was scheduled for its annual "Charge Conference" on November 21st at 10:00 a.m. He said that a motion would be in order at that meeting to request that the UMC Louisiana Conference take whatever actions were necessary to dissolve the church at Baskin. Rev. Burgess reminded the group that the congregational vote had to be unanimous. By common consent and at the urging of Rev. Collie, it was agreed to follow that course of action. Rev. Burgess and Rev. Collie are to make the arrangements to bring about the foregoing decision.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Albright.

*Rev. Bob Burgess
Superintendent, UMC*

*Elder John Guice
President, New Covenant
Parish Council, PCUSA*

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
BASKIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MINUTES
March 31, 2011

The following members of the commission met via email: Rev. Allison Moody, Rev. Bruce Rux, Elder Donna Tiser, Rev. George Wortham, Elder Shirley Smith, Rev. Gary Miller, and Elder John Guice.

The commission reviewed its responsibilities as outlined in the Book of Order, particularly in regard to G-9.0503 & G-11.0101(i) and the responsibility to “*divide, dismiss or dissolve churches in consultation with their members*”. The commission agreed that “the consultation” had been met through the congregational visits by Rev. Albright and John Guice. The commission is to be guided on property issues by G-16:0201(x).

By common consent, it was agreed that we should proceed to:

- 1) Recommend to presbytery the closure of the church.
- 2) Transfer the membership of the one remaining member.
- 3) Secure the sessional records of the church and forward them to the archives.
- 4) Add the liability on the property to the Presbytery’s master policy.
- 5) Continue to consult with the Methodist regarding the property.

John M. Guice
Moderator

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
BASKIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MINUTES
June 29, 2011

The following commission members met via email on the above date: Rev. Allison Moody, Elder Donna Tiser, Rev. Bruce Rux, Elder Shirley Smith, Rev. George Wortham, Rev. Gary Miller and Elder John Guice.

John Guice reported that the following actions had been taken:

- 1) The membership of the one remaining Presbyterian had been transferred to Winnsboro.
- 2) The sessional records have been secured and forwarded to the denomination’s archives.
- 3) Liability coverage on the Baskin property has been added to the Presbytery’s master policy.

John Guice also reported that the Methodist have stopped holding worship services as of June 1, 2011.

John M. Guice
Moderator

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
BASKIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MINUTES

The following commission members met via email: Rev. Allison Moody, Elder Donna Tiser, Rev. Bruce Rux, Elder Shirley Smith, Rev. George Wortham, Rev. Gary Miller and Elder John Guice.

John Guice reported that he had been contacted by a Rev. Don Banks, an Assembly of God minister from West Monroe, LA. Rev. Banks indicated that he is interested in renting or leasing the Baskin property to form a satellite church. John Guice further stated that he had been in contact with the Methodist District Superintendent and it was their wish to pursue this rental possibility assuming that Rev. Banks passed a “due diligence” test and that acceptable terms could be worked out.

By common consent, the commission agreed to pursue this action.

s/John M. Guice
Moderator

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
BASKIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MINUTES

February 10, 2012

The commission met via email with the following members present: Rev. Allison Moody, Elder Donna Tiser, Rev. Bruce Rux, Rev. George Wortham, Elder Shirley Smith, Rev. Gary Miller and Elder John Guice.

John Guice proposed the following report which was adopted by common consent:

The commission charged with the closing of the Baskin church makes the following report:

- 1) The membership roll of the Baskin Church has been reviewed and the one remaining Presbyterian member was assigned to First Presbyterian Church, Winnsboro.
- 2) The historical records and minutes of the church were secured and placed in the archives of PCUSA.
- 3) The property remains intact and is jointly owned by the United Methodist Church.
- 4) Liability insurance on the property has been secured through the Presbytery’s master policy. There is no coverage for physical loss – only liability.
- 5) The United Methodist Conference will officially close its congregation effective at the annual conference meeting.

The commission moves the following:

- 1) That this report be received as information.
- 2) That the minutes of the Administrative Commission be admitted to Presbytery records.
- 3) That the Baskin Presbyterian Church be closed, effective December 1, 2011.
- 4) That the commission powers of the Administrative Commission be extended to facilitate the renting or leasing of the Baskin property to a congregation of the Assemblies of God at such terms as may be in compliance with good stewardship practices and the furtherance of the Kingdom of God subject to review by Presbytery counsel.
- 5) That the Presbyterian portion of the rental proceeds be directed toward the ministry of New Covenant Parish of which Baskin was formerly a member.

s/John M. Guice
Moderator

MINUTES
Presbytery of the Pines
103rd Stated Meeting
First Presbyterian Church
Texarkana, Arkansas
May 19, 2012

CONSTITUTION

The 103rd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Pines was Called to Order at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, Arkansas, by Moderator Rev. John Arnold, who opened the meeting with Prayer.

The following Teaching and Ruling Elders were present, constituting a quorum.

TEACHING ELDERS

John Arnold, Susan Arnold, Dianne E. Brown, Barry W. Chance, Philip A. Faris, Wallace Faris, James D. Freeman, Grantland M. Groves, Joseph W. Hill, Erin P. Kaye, Ronald P. Lawrence, Gary W. Miller, Kathy S. Muder, William H. Searight, Sarah Cooper Searight, Beth B. Sentell, Rosemary Stelz, R. Rhodes Stipp, James A. VanHook, Jr., Bonnie J. Wilkins, Bill Willis, George M. Wortham

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Belcher-Bill McColgan, Camden-Susan E. Bensberg, Chidester Bates Bluff-Trisha Peterman, Choudrant Alabama-Will Gray, Crossett-Baker Coulter, DeQueen-Gary Walker, El Dorado-Nancy Arn Worrel, Hope-Cliff Knowles, Lake Village-Lisa Moon, Minden-Bob Addison, Monticello First-Joe Guenter, Natchitoches-Donna Rose, Plain Dealing Cottage Grove Memorial-James Strayhan, Plain Dealing First-Tom Myrick, Plain Dealing Rocky Mount-Randy Watkins, Ruston-Buddy Johnson, Shreveport Broadmoor-Linda Nall, Shreveport First-Frank Dodson, Charles C. Grubb, Shreveport Hollywood-Elina Broom, Shreveport John Calvin-Prissy Quinn, Texarkana-Margo Strickland, West Monroe Highland-Shelia D. Martin

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS

Ron Brown, Charlotte Cobb, Edith Hill

RULING ELDERS ENROLLED IN PRESBYTERY

Nancy Bergeron, Corbet Lamkin

WELCOME BY HOST CHURCH

The Rev. John Arnold, pastor of the host church, offered a welcome.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Moderator appointed the following Standing Committees for this meeting:

Attendance: Ruling Elder Shelia Martin and Rev. Kathy Muder

Resolutions: Ruling Elder Buddy Johnson and Rev. Bonnie Wilkins

INTRODUCTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

The Moderator introduced the concept of, and working with, a Consent Agenda. Recommendation #3 from the Committee on Ministry Report was extracted from the Consent Agenda upon request of the COM moderator, Barry Chance.

REPORTS TO PRESBYTERY

Stated Clerk Joe Hill, General Presbyter, was appointed by the moderator to serve as acting clerk of the meeting in the absence of Dan Hignight, Stated Clerk. Hill presented the report. **Presbytery Voted** to adopt the following recommendations:

1. That Presbytery adopt the Docket with approved extractions for this meeting of Presbytery.
2. That the minutes of the February 18, 2012 Stated Meeting be approved as circulated.
3. That Corresponding members, as identified, be seated.
4. That the Administrative Commission appointed to work with the Baskin Church be dissolved with the gratitude of presbytery, and any remaining minutes be entered into the records. (See Lease Agreement -Appendix A)
5. That Sandra Watson, Ruling Elder from the Rayville Church be elected as an at-large member to the Class of 2013 to the Presbytery Response Team.

ORDER OF THE DAY

The time arrived for the Order of the Day. Rev. Susan Arnold, co-pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, led the presbytery through a Bible Study session around the question of "*What Can Presbyteries Learn from the Apostles for Today's Church?*" A copy of the foundational document is attached. (Appendix B)

DOCKET AMENDMENT

The Presbytery approved to amend the docket to move the previously extracted recommendation #3 from the Committee On Ministry report for action prior to lunch.

REPORTS TO PRESBYTERY

Committee on Preparation for Ministry No report.

Committee on Ministry Barry Chance, Moderator, presented the report.

3. **THE PRESBYTERY VOTED** to commission Gary Martin as the Commissioned Ruling Elder of Ebenezer Presbyterian Church (Strong, AR) until May 15, 2015 and grant him permission to:
 - Administer the Lord's Supper
 - Administer the Sacrament of Baptism
 - Moderate the Session under the supervision of, and when invited by, the Moderator of the Session appointed by Presbytery
 - Have a voice in meetings of Presbytery
 - Have a vote in meetings of Presbytery
 - Perform service of Christian Marriage

The following Committee on Ministry recommendations were approved by the Consent Agenda:

1. That the Presbytery receive the report as information.

2. That the Presbytery enter into its records the following actions taken by the Committee on Ministry, acting under commission powers authorized by the Presbytery:
 - A. Dissolved the call between the Rev. Philip Faris and Graceminster Presbyterian Church effective April 30, 2012.
 - B. In response to the call of First Presbyterian Church (Warren, AR), conducted the preliminary examination of Philip Faris and granted permission for him to move onto the field effective May 1, 2012.
 - C. Appointed the following Moderator of Session:
 - a. Graceminster (Monroe, LA) - Allison Moody
 - D. Dissolved the call between the Rev. Bryan McDowell and First Presbyterian Church (Shreveport, LA) effective April 30, 2012.
 - E. Granted permission to Rev. Beth Sentell to labor outside the bounds of Presbytery to officiate at two weddings: June 9, 2012 in Van Buren Arkansas (Arkansas Presbytery) and September 22, 2012 in San Antonio, Texas (Mission Presbytery).

4. That Presbytery approve the call from First Presbyterian Church of Warren, AR to the Rev. Philip Faris to serve as Pastor at the following terms effective May 1, 2012:

Annual Salary	\$45,200
Full Use of the Manse	
Reimbursable Travel	3,000
Continuing Education	300
Professional Expenses	1,000
Social Security Offset	4,495
Board of Pensions	18,950
Annual Vacation	Four Weeks
Continuing Education Leave	Two Weeks
Move to the Field	In Full

5. That Presbytery appoint the following administrative Commission, with the full power of Presbytery, to install Rev. Philip Faris, as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church (Warren, AR) on Sunday, June 3, 2012 at 5pm:
 - Teaching Elder Barry Chance
 - Ruling Elder Jim Cross
 - Ruling Elder Frank Ferguson - Secretary
 - Teaching Elder Joseph Hill
 - Teaching Elder Erin Kaye - Moderator
 - Ruling Elder Ham Singleton
 - Teaching Elder W. Wallace Faris

Teaching Elder Alford Branch

To sit with the commission: Rev. Gary Maskell
 President, Warren Ministers' Alliance and
 Pastor, First Methodist Church, Warren, AR

6. That Presbytery confer on the Rev. Philip McLarty the status of Honorably Retired effective January 1, 2012.
7. That Presbytery confer on the Rev. Bryan McDowell the status of Honorably Retired effective May 1, 2012.
8. That Presbytery approve the following changes in terms of call:

NAME	CHURCH	DESCRIPTION	CHANGE
Moody, Allison	Monroe, First	Decrease Salary	(3,600)
		Decrease Travel-CE-Prof. Exp. Combined to ARP	(8,200)
Morgan, Mike	Magnolia, First	Increase Salary	1,000
		Increase Housing/Utility	3,115
		Decrease deferred comp.	28
		Decrease medical deductible	1,500
		Increase combined Travel-CE-Prof Exp ARP	5,000
Roberts, J. David	Monroe, First	Decrease Travel-CE-Prof. Exp. Combined to ARP	(1,385)
Stelz, Rosemary	Bastrop, First	Annual Vacation	5 weeks

9. That Presbytery approve the Temporary Supply agreement between the Rev. Dianne Brown and First Presbyterian Church (DeQueen, AR) for part-time service (5 hours/week) for a period of six months beginning February 1, 2012 with the following terms:

Compensation \$200/week

10. That Presbytery appoint the following additional members to the administrative Commission, with the full power of Presbytery, to install Rev. Philip Faris, as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church (Warren, AR) on Sunday, June 3, 2012 at 5pm:

NOON RECESS

The body recessed for lunch, led in prayer by the Moderator, Rev. John Arnold.

RECONVENED

The Presbytery was called to order at 1:00 p.m. and led in prayer by the Moderator.

THE PRESBYTERY GATHERS IN WORSHIP

The Presbytery gathered to worship and celebrated the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Teaching Elder Ronald Lawrence proclaimed the Word. Teaching Elders John and Susan Arnold celebrated the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

ORDER OF THE DAY

The time arrived for the second Order of the Day. Ruling Elder Cynthia Walker presented an overview of the how the First Presbyterian Church in Texarkana used the support from the Phoenix Fund to grow its Godly Play program.

The time arrived for the third Order of the Day. Teaching Elder Bill Willis, Ruling Elder Brenda Jacobs and Young Adult Advisory Delegate Taylor Blevins were commissioned as Commissioners to the 220th General Assembly to be held in Pittsburgh, PA, June 29 - July 7, 2012.

REPORTS CONTINUED

Presbytery Council approved by the Consent Agenda

1. That Presbytery received the report as information.

Committee on Nomination No report.

Budget and Finance approved by the Consent Agenda

1. That Presbytery received the report as information.
2. Share the good works of this Presbytery with your Session and the need for financial support.

Church Development and Mission No report.

Faith Education Ministries No report.

Outdoor Ministries Management Team No report

Personnel Committee No report.

Real Estate Committee No report.

Committee on Representation No report.

General Presbyter Joe Hill presented an oral report received as information.

Standing Committee on Resolutions Buddy Johnson presented the report.

Presbytery Voted to adopt the following report.

Let It Be Resolved that the Presbytery of the Pines gathered on May 19, 2012, at the First Presbyterian Church in Texarkana, Arkansas, benefiting from the fellowship, and are thankful for:

- the coffee, food (especially the donuts) and smiling faces of the members of the First Presbyterian Church who greeted us;

- the leadership of Rev. John Arnold, who explained the new “consent agenda” and “open space” forum that puts spiritual business in its rightful place;
- Rev. Susan Arnold and the opportunity to gain new insight into scripture using the Lecto Divine model;
- Rev. Joe Hill, who served as acting Stated Clerk and maintained proper rules of order;
- Gary Martin, who was approved as Commissioned Ruling Elder for Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Strong, Arkansas;
- the wonderful ladies of First Presbyterian Church, who fed the presbyters so well;
- the support of the Phoenix Fund, which supported the First Presbyterian Church by teaching children to be ready to listen and respond to God’s Word;
- the inspiring words of Rev. Ronald Lawrence and the opportunity to worship together in God’s name;
- the beautiful music provided by Ms. Sue Ellen Hall and Dr. James Works;
- God’s healing hands for those suffering from illness;
- the work of the Presbytery Restructure Task Force; and,
- Bill Willis, Brenda Jacobs and Taylor Blevins who will serve as our commissioners to General Assembly.

Standing Committee on Attendance Sheila Martin presented the report.
Presbytery Voted to adopt the following report:

Attendance

TEs serving congregations	19	Sessions represented	22
TE in other service	1	CREs present	3
TEs retired	3	REs enrolled in Presbytery	2
		Visitors	10

Absences

Excused

Teaching Elders

Dan Hignight
 Kathleen Hignight
 Mark Kennedy
 Jung Jin Kim
 Dan Loomis
 John McClelland
 Bryan McDowell
 Philip McLarty
 Mike Morgan
 Lauren Moore
 Robin Nygaard
 Lindsey Peery
 John Nelson Pope

Sessions

Athens
 Bastrop
 Bossier Trinity
 Dermott
 Ferriday
 Homer
 Lake Providence
 Magnolia

Elders Enrolled in Presbytery

Allan Bean
 Don Brice

Without Excuse

Teaching Elders

John Albright
Alford Branch
Young Doo Kim
Allison Moody
Tom Reinowski
David Roberts

Commissioned Ruling Elders

Kay Childs Travis
Clyde R. Webber

Sessions

Alto
Baskin Union
Benton
Carthage
Fordyce
Frierson, Good Hope
Grand Cane, Smyrna
Haynesville
Hermitage, Calvary
Jonesville Trinity
Keatchie
Mansfield, First
Mansfield Red Lick
Monroe First
Monroe Graceminster
Monticello Holmes Chapel
Newellton
Prescott
Rayville
Shreveport-Bossier Korean
Shreveport St. Andrew
Strong
Tallulah
Tulip
Vidalia
Vivian
Warren
Winnfield
Winnsboro

ADJOURNMENT

With all business being concluded, the Moderator closed the meeting with prayer at 2:30 p.m.

Rev. John Arnold, Moderator

Rev. Joseph W. Hill, Acting Stated Clerk

Appendix A

LEASE

This lease is executed by and between:

THE PRESBYTERY OF THE PINES, a Louisiana non-profit corporation, with address of 210 North Bonner Street, Ruston, Louisiana 71270, represented herein by Rev. Joseph W. Hill, its Treasurer and General Presbyter, duly authorized to act herein by resolution of the Board of Trustees of said corporation; and

MONROE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES, LOUISIANA ANNUAL CONFERENCE, THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INC., a Louisiana non-profit corporation, with address of 3101 Armand Street, Suite 2, Monroe, Louisiana 71201, represented herein by Rev. Lynn Malone, its District Superintendent, duly authorized to act herein by resolution of the Board of Trustees of said corporation;

hereinafter jointly referred to as "Lessor"; and

THE GREATER REALNESS CHURCH, INC., a Louisiana Non-Profit Religious Corporation, with address of 207 Defrees Road, West Monroe, Louisiana 71291, represented herein by Dr. Don Banks, its Senior Pastor, duly authorized to act herein by resolution of the Board of Trustees of said corporation, hereinafter referred to as "Lessee";

who have mutually covenanted and agreed as follows:

1. **LEASE:** Lessor hereby leases to Lessee to occupy and use the following described property:

That certain one-story frame building located at 1958 Louisiana Highway 857, Baskin (Franklin Parish), Louisiana 71219, occupied as a house of worship, together with the parcel of real estate upon which said building is situated

And together with all fixtures, equipment and appliances located therein and thereon (which shall not be removed or altered by Lessee except as specifically permitted by Lessor in this instrument or by separate writing), including: all pews, furniture and fixtures.

2. **TERM:** The original term of this lease shall be from March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2013. This lease shall automatically continue for one month periods thereafter under the same terms and conditions stated, unless either party shall give written notice to the other 30 days prior to the end of the lease term. The timely deposit of written notice in the United States mail, properly addressed to the address shown above shall prevent renewal and terminate this lease.

3. **RENTAL:** Lessee agrees to pay to Lessor a monthly rental of ~~\$ 450.00~~ payable in advance on the first day of each calendar month, which shall be considered timely if received by Lessee on or before the 10th day of the month. Should this lease commence on a date other than the first of the month, Lessee shall pay a pro-rated rent for the partial first month. The rent for the months of March, April, May and June, 2012 shall be abated and shall not be required to be paid, provided Lessee complies with those conditions set forth on the Addendum attached hereto.

Payments of rent shall be made by mailing or delivering payment as follows:

The sum of \$225.00 per month shall be remitted to:

Monroe District, UMC
3101 Armand St., Suite 2
Monroe, LA 71201

AND

The sum of \$225.00 per month shall be remitted to:

New Covenant Parish, PCUSA
123 Ashley Avenue
Rayville, LA 71269

4. SECURITY DEPOSIT: Lessee agrees to deposit with Lessor the sum of \$0.00 (no security deposit required) as security for Lessee's obligations under this lease, both financial and otherwise, including the obligation to timely pay rent, the obligation to maintain the premises, and the obligation to deliver the premises clean and in good repair at the expiration of the lease.

5. SUBLEASE: Lessee may not sublease or assign this lease.

6. USE: Lessee is obligated to use the premises for religious purposes only. No for-profit commercial enterprises of any nature may be conducted on or in the leased premises. Lessee shall not conduct any unlawful activity on the leased premises. Lessee will keep the yard free and clear of trash and debris. The draperies if any shall not be removed, nor additional window coverings installed without the express written permission of Lessor. Lessee shall maintain the building and grounds in a manner consistent with the standards of the surrounding properties. Lessee shall not create a nuisance or allow a nuisance to be created on the property, and shall make a faithful effort to be a good neighbor to the owners and occupants of the surrounding properties.

7. WARRANTY: Lessor warrants that Lessor is the owner of the premises and has the right to give Lessee possession under this lease, and will, so long as the lease remains in effect, warrant and defend Lessee's possession against any and all persons.

8. REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE: Lessor warrants that the leased premises are in good condition. Lessee accepts them in such condition and agrees to keep them in such condition during the term of the lease at Lessee's expense and to return them to Lessor in the same condition at the termination of the lease, normal wear and tear excepted.

Lessor's obligation to repair shall be limited to necessary repairs to the roof, structure, plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems of the improvements, but only to the extent that the repairs do not arise out of the negligence of Lessee or Lessee's agents or licensees. Lessee agrees to report to Lessor any and all damage to the leased premises within twenty-four hours after its discovery or occurrence, and upon failure to do so, Lessee shall be bound to repair any consequent or resulting damage.

Lessee shall be responsible for repairing all damage caused by Lessee, Lessee's members, representatives, occupants, or invitees. Should Lessee fail to make such repairs within 10 days of written demand, Lessor may, at Lessor's option, have the repairs made and/or terminate this Lease. Should Lessor make any such repairs, Lessee agrees to reimburse Lessor within 15 days of receipt of written demand therefor all charges for such repairs. In addition to any other right or remedy Lessor may have, and without waiving the right to collect any such damages, Lessor may terminate this lease upon non-payment of any such amount.

To the extent any furniture, furnishings appliances or equipment are covered by this lease, the Lessee shall be obligated to pay for normal service and repair charges; and, should Lessee fail to do so, the rights and obligations of the parties concerning repairs to the premises contained herein shall apply to those items.

9. INDEMNIFICATION: Lessee shall occupy the leased premises at Lessee's own risk and shall indemnify Lessor against any expense, loss, cost, damage, claim, action or liability paid, suffered or incurred as a result of any breach by Lessee, Lessee's agents, members, servants, employees, guests, visitors or licensees of any covenant or condition of this lease, or as a result of Lessee's use or occupancy of the leased premises or the carelessness, negligence or improper conduct of Lessee, Lessee's agents, members, servants, employees, guests, visitors or licensees. Lessee agrees to obtain and maintain liability insurance coverage with limits of not less than

~~\$250,000.00~~ and to have Lessor named as an additional insured on such coverage. Lessee further agrees to obtain and maintain insurance covering loss or damage to the building in an amount not less than \$50,000.00; or, if Lessor is required to obtain such insurance, Lessee agrees to pay said premiums or reimburse Lessor for the premium paid within fifteen (15) days of demand.

10. ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS, LOCKS: Lessee shall make no additions or alterations to the premises without written permission of the Lessor. Lessee may change or re-key locks, but agrees to furnish Lessor with a key or keys so that Lessor shall at all times possess a key affording access to the premises. Any additions made to the premises become the property of Lessor at the termination of this lease unless otherwise agreed.

11. SIGNS AND ACCESS: Lessor or Lessor's agents shall have the right, upon 24 hours prior notice to Lessee, to enter the premises for the purpose of making repairs necessary for the preservation of the property, for inspection, or for any other reasonable purpose. Advance notice shall not be required if Lessor determines that exigent circumstances exist making immediate access necessary.

Lessor reserves the right to keep posted on the premises "For Sale" signs and "For Rent" signs during the thirty day period preceding the expiration of this lease, and Lessee will allow parties authorized by Lessor to visit the premises in view of buying or renting during the thirty day period preceding the expiration of this lease from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

12. SURRENDER OF POSSESSION: At the expiration of this lease or at its termination for other causes, Lessee is to immediately surrender possession by actual delivery of all keys to Lessor. Should Lessee fail to deliver such possession, Lessee consents to pay as liquidated damages five times the daily rent per day for each day of Lessee's failure to surrender possession.

13. ABANDONMENT: Should the premises be abandoned by Lessee or should Lessee begin to remove personal property to the detriment of Lessor's lien, then the rent for the unexpired term, with reasonable attorney's fees, shall immediately become due, and Lessor, at Lessor's option, may cancel the lease and re-enter and let the premises for such price or on such terms as may be immediately obtainable, and apply the net amount realized to the amount due by Lessee.

14. TAXES AND UTILITY CHARGES: Lessee agrees to punctually pay all charges for gas, electricity, telephone, water, and cable services, or any other utilities used or consumed at the leased premises during the term of this lease. Lessor agrees to punctually pay all ad valorem taxes and assessments due on the leased premises during the term of this lease.

15. PETS: No animals, birds, or pets of any kind shall be brought onto the leased premises, either permanently or temporarily, unless specifically permitted by Lessor in writing, except for service animals as provided by law. An additional pet deposit shall be required by Lessor in the event one or more pets are allowed. Said pet deposit shall be applied toward cleaning and repairs at the end of the lease and is not refundable. Lessee's liability to Lessor for damages caused by animals or pets shall not be limited by the amount of the pet deposit.

16. DEFAULT: Should the Lessee fail to pay the rent or any other charges arising under this lease promptly as stipulated, or should Lessee be in violation of any other provision of this lease, then in such event Lessor may, at Lessor's option, declare Lessee to be in default. In the event of default Lessor may demand the rent for the whole unexpired term of the lease, or proceed one or more times for past due installments without prejudicing Lessor's rights to proceed later for the rent for the then unexpired term. In the event of default, Lessor

may also proceed to evict Lessee as authorized by law. Lessee waives the notice to vacate provided by La. Code of Civil Procedure Art. 4701.

17. **ATTORNEY'S FEES:** In the event that an attorney is employed to protect any right of Lessor or Lessee arising under this lease, the party whose actions or inactions necessitate such employment shall pay additionally a reasonable attorney's fee.

18. **NOTICE REQUIRED BY LAW ("Megan's Law"):** Louisiana law (La. R.S. 37:1469, as amended) requires every contract for the sale or lease of residential immovable property to contain a notice of the availability to the public of access to a state-wide database disclosing the locations of individuals required to register pursuant to R.S. 15:540 et seq (registered sex offenders). Pursuant to such law, the following notice is given:

The Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information maintains a state Sex Offender and Child Predator Registry. It is a public access database of the locations of individuals who are required to register pursuant to LSA-R.S. 15:540 et seq. Sheriff's departments and police departments serving jurisdictions of 450,000 also maintain such information. The state Sex Offender and Child Predator Registry database can be accessed at www.lasocpr.lsp.org/socpri/ and contains address, pictures, and conviction records for registered offenders. The database can be searched by zip code, city, parish, or by offender name. Information is also available by phone at 1-800-858-0551 or 1-225-925-6100 or mail at P.O. Box 66614, Mail Slip #18, Baton Rouge, LA, 70896. You may also e-mail State Services at SOCPR@dps.state.la.us for more information.

SEE ATTACHED ADDENDUM TO LEASE FOR ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

This Lease is dated the _____ day of _____, 2012.

WITNESSES:

Barbara R. Wade
John M. Luvie

Barbara R. Wade
John M. Luvie

Barbara R. Wade
John M. Luvie

LESSOR:

THE PRESBYTERY OF THE PINES

By: *Joseph W. Hill*
Name: /Rev. Joseph W. Hill
Title: Treasurer and General Presbyter

MONROE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
LOUISIANA ANNUAL CONFERENCE, THE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INC.

By: *Lynn Malone*
Name: Rev. Lynn Malone
Title: District Superintendent

LESSEE:

THE GREATER REALNESS CHURCH, INC.

By: *Dr. Don Banks*
Name: Dr. Don Banks
Title: Senior Pastor

**ADDENDUM TO LEASE
BETWEEN THE PRESBYTERY OF THE PINES and MONROE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
LOUISIANA ANNUAL CONFERENCE, THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INC., LESSOR
AND THE GREATER REALNESS CHURCH, INC., LESSEE**

1. Lessor and Lessee agree that the monthly rental of \$450.00 for the months of March, April, May and June, 2012 shall be adjusted downward to the sum of \$0.00 (no rent owed). The consideration for this adjustment is the agreement of Lessee to do the following work to the leased premises:

- A. Paint the exterior of the building
- B. Replace deteriorating boards and paint
- C. Remove exterior carpet
- D. Remove bees which have nested in the exterior wall

Other: _____

Lessee agrees to complete such work in accordance with the following schedule:

All work shall be completed by July 1, 2012

Should Lessee not have completed the work by July 1, 2012, then in that event the credit shall not apply and Lessee agrees to pay the amount of \$450.00 per month for the months of March through June, 2012 to the Lessor no later than the tenth day of the following month (said payment to be remitted in two equal parts in accordance with the instructions set forth in Section 3). Should the work be partially completed, then in that event Lessor, at Lessor's discretion, may extend a partial credit for the incomplete work to Lessee, or provide Lessee an additional extension of time within which to complete the work. Any sums owed by Lessee to Lessor for unfinished work shall be due from Lessee to Lessor by the tenth day of the month following the date of required completion, as extended, and shall be considered as rent due under this lease.

2. Lessor and Lessee may in the future to agree to additional credits against the rent for repairs or improvements to be made by Lessee to the leased premises. Any such agreement must be reduced to writing including without limitation the amount of credit to be given, and the date by which the work must be completed. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, the provisions of the foregoing paragraph concerning payments for unfinished work shall apply to any such agreement.

3. Lessee has inspected the leased premises and accepts them "as is", in their present condition.

Signed for identification with act of Lease:

THE PRESBYTERY OF THE PINES
By: [Signature]
Name: Rev. Joseph W. Hill
Title: Treasurer and General Presbyter

MONROE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
LOUISIANA ANNUAL CONFERENCE, THE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INC.
By: [Signature]
Name: Rev. Evelyn Malone
Title: District Superintendent

THE GREATER REALNESS CHURCH, INC.
By: [Signature]
Name: Dr. Don Banks
Title: Senior Pastor

The Jerusalem Council in Acts
What Can Presbyteries Learn from the Apostles for Today's Church?

Paige M. McRight

September, 2010

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Why Presbyteries Can Benefit from a Look at the Apostles in Acts

Presbyteries across the Presbyterian Church (USA) are experiencing major changes in funding and structure. The 219th General Assembly has appointed a commission to study the work and structure of middle governing bodies with authority to implement changes. A number of presbytery leaders have undertaken and are now undertaking our own studies of how presbyteries can effectively serve the mission God gives us in the early years of the 21st century.

The structures that developed in the latter half of the 20th century, based on models from the business world, provided regional resources and expertise in the days before current technology made geographic boundaries more permeable than ever before. In his paper, "The Travail of the Presbyteries", Joseph D. Small helpfully describes the radical changes in the purpose and structure of presbyteries beginning in the early 1970s:

Ten years in the making, reorganization was based on the premise that "church structures exist for mission and must be designed for mission." Thus, a greatly enlarged role was set out for presbyteries and synods, now designated "agents of mission." Rather than supporting the mission of congregations, including support for the congregations' teaching and ruling elders, presbyteries were expected to develop and carry out their own mission. Not surprisingly, presbyteries as autonomous mission agencies required staffing at an unprecedented level, and large staffs required larger presbyteries and synods to support them. Synods, which had tended to follow state boundaries, became regional, multi-state bodies composed of presbyteries of increased geographic size, with increased numbers of churches, members, and ministers. (p.7)

Large regional presbyteries and synods have had the unintended consequence of making it difficult if not impossible for ministers and elders to know one another well enough to be a real community of people who provide genuine mutual support and accountability, people who own an understanding of shared ministry and mission in a particular area. In the final book of their seven volume study, The Presbyterian Presence, Milton Coulter, John Mulder and Lewis Weeks observe that:

Governing bodies have always passed laws to order the life of American Presbyterians. That is not at stake....It is actually the increasing tendency of the governing bodies of the PC(USA) to substitute legislation for education, to impose policies rather than persuade people to change. The result is alienation between the "two churches" of American Presbyterian – the one centered in the congregation,

the other focused in governing bodies. Each is often seriously at odds with the other. (p. 268)

This “two church” model of church, congregation and governing bodies, each often at odds with the other, is not the church the Reformers intended. It cannot be effective for the witness of the good news of God’s grace which calls people into community through the unity of the Spirit. Small notes that the modern presbytery developed from two institutions in Calvin’s Geneva: the Geneva Consistory and the Venerable Company of Pastors. The consistory, made up of pastors and elders, had responsibility for church order and discipline while the Company of Pastors was responsible for examination and ordination of candidates, continuing biblical and theological education, mutual theological and ethical encouragement and missionary work. He notes that in today’s church at the presbytery level “without the corporate engagement of pastors and elders in biblical, theological, and ecclesiological inquiry, ecclesial order is easily bureaucratized while discipline is either ignored or factionalized. At this time in the life of Presbyterian churches, there is a conspicuous absence of presbyteries as communities of spiritual, intellectual, and vocational discipline that ensure open space for Word and Sacrament, and sharpen clear vision of the presence of Christ”. (p.4)

There is much to be learned from Calvin’s understanding of the function of the presbytery in the life of the church. Another source, more readily available and of even greater importance to most Presbyterians can be found in a look at the Jerusalem Council in Acts. While some in today’s church long for a return to the days of smaller, more intimate governing bodies and others for non-geographic bodies of affiliation, the early church in Acts calls us to remember a church of mutual respect and accountability across an increasingly vast geography. Church governance has become both more diverse and more complex since Acts, yet it may be that the first who were sent as witnesses (apostles) have much yet to teach the presbyteries of a church sent as God’s witnesses today.

Study of Acts

What follows is a look at each of the references in Acts to the gathered apostles and how they functioned together. It offers a glimpse of the first church leaders forming a structure to shape and support ever expanding communities of witness. At the end of each section are some questions for your reflection.

Acts 1:6-9 The eleven ask the risen Christ, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?”(All references are to NRSV) He responds that it is not theirs to know the time but that they “will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (v.8). The rest of the book describes the unfolding of this commission as frightened disciples become apostolic witnesses, sent into the world to bear testimony to what they have seen and experienced. Jesus’ response offers a promise for the future very different from the one the disciples were looking for.

- What does this text suggest for presbyteries looking toward a future very different from its past and, perhaps, very different from members’ expectations?

Acts 1:12-26 describes the gathering of the eleven with the women who were with them as well as Jesus' mother and his brothers. The gathered group devoted themselves to prayer. At this point, Luke tells us, the believers numbered about 120 people. Peter recognized a need to replace Judas citing Psalm 109:8. The group nominated two and then they prayed asking God to show "which of the two you have chosen to that the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside" (v. 25). Using the traditional Jewish practice for discerning God's choice (Lev. 16:8; Num. 26:55; 33:54; Josh 19), they cast lots. With this election of Matthias, the full number of the apostles was restored. Peter defines who an apostle is saying that he must be one who has accompanied the twelve during all the time they went with Jesus from his baptism until the ascension, "one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection" (v. 21).

It may be difficult for us, accustomed as we are to instant messages and constantly busy schedules to imagine days spent in community praying and waiting, recalling past events and reflecting on them in light of the Scriptures. Peter's memory of the Psalms called the community to attend to its leadership void as it prepares to respond to the promised time when the Holy Spirit gives power.

- How can this scene be useful to us in our understanding of our own need to attend prayerfully to God's Word to us as we prepare to receive the power of the Holy Spirit and to serve where the Spirit sends our presbyteries today?
- How important to us is it to remember that we are not called to act by our own power but to be Christ's witnesses in the power of God's Spirit?

Acts 2:1-42 describes the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles. The first gift of the Spirit was the ability to speak to people in their own languages so that the message of God's deeds of power can be received and understood. Some hearers scoffed, but Peter preached to address the question "what does this mean?" (v. 12). He quotes the prophets and David as evidence, in language his hearers knew as holy, of the power of God at work in the resurrection of Jesus to which they were witnesses and of His ascension to be both Lord and Messiah. The words so moved the hearers that three thousand people who welcomed the message that day were added to the believers.

- What does it mean for us to bear witness to the risen Christ?
- What does it mean for us to speak in languages the people can hear and understand by the power of the Holy Spirit?
- What kind of witness today is compelling so that people are drawn to want to join with us in serving Christ?

Acts 2:43-45 gives us a picture of the rhythm of daily life among the believers in Jerusalem. They held all they had in common, selling what they had and distributing the proceeds as any had need. They spent time in worship together, broke bread at home and shared food with glad and generous hearts praising God and having the good will of all the people. And daily God added to their number.

The rhythm of life sounds idyllic, but these people must have been held together by a power beyond themselves. They lived in community, sharing everything in common gladly and generously. They worshiped and praised God and had the good will of all. The competition and trash talk that is so much a part of our culture is absent from this picture.

- What does it mean for individuals and for congregations to look beyond themselves, to share life in community in response to God’s gracious gift of the Spirit?
- The witness of this community was powerful. Daily God added to their number. What can we learn from this text about life in community before God in a day when daily death and disinterest combine to subtract from our numbers?

Acts 4:32-5:16 provides a second look at the whole group of believers being of one heart and soul, sharing all that they had in common. The apostles continued to give their testimony to the resurrection of Jesus with great power, and no one among the believers was needy. Barnabas sold a field and brought the proceeds to the apostles without coercion, acknowledging their authority in the community and his trust in their leadership. But not all was harmony and honesty. Ananias and his wife sold property and kept some of the proceeds. Judgment was quick and harsh. Both were struck dead, not so much because of their withholding but because of their lying to the Holy Spirit and putting the Spirit to the test. This first instance of the Spirit’s discipline is fear inspiring to all the believers and to all who heard of it. It is the first time the group of believers is referred to as church, *ekklesia*, meaning ‘assembly’ or ‘assembly of believers’. The young church survives this threat and the apostles continue to do many ‘signs and wonders’ among the people. The sick and tormented are brought in Jerusalem and, as word spreads, from the towns nearby. And ‘more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of men and women’ (v.14)

When the community is threatened with challenge to the Spirit, it is a grievous thing. It was with Israel in the wilderness (Exodus 17), it was in Acts and it is today. Church discipline is meant to call to repentance, to restore order, not for convenience sake, but so that the integrity of the community of God’s witnesses can be preserved. How will they know we are Christians if we act deceitfully? Peter was not afraid to challenge dishonest behavior.

- How is integrity shown in the life of the presbytery today?
- How is discipline used to preserve the community of God’s witnesses?

Acts 6:1-7 offers another view of dealing with difficulty that endangered the life of a young church. The Greek speakers sensed that they were being treated like second class citizens. The needs of their widows were being neglected in the daily distributions. In response to their complaint, the apostles called the community together just as they did in the upper room. Time had come for another nominating process. The community named seven qualified men, “of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom” whom the apostles would appoint to wait on tables “(v.3) (deacons). The seven stood before the apostles and were appointed by prayer and the laying on of hands, the ancient Jewish rite of conferring power and authority from God.

A growing church needs leaders for a variety of tasks. The apostles note that they should ‘not neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables’ (v.2). In saying this they do not disparage table waiting, but acknowledge that there is more work to be done than twelve can do – preaching and teaching, witnessing to the resurrection and the power of God’s Spirit in the world and attending to the daily needs of a growing community of faith. In his commentary on Acts, William H. Willimon identifies three core characteristics of leadership in the church from this text: 1) Leadership within the church arises from the community’s quite mundane but utter necessary functional needs, 2) Leadership arises from “below” not from “above” Leaders arise from the needs of God’s people for guidance and service. At the same time leadership is from above, a gift of the Lord therefore the church prays as it lies on hands. (p. 59) 3) The ordained

ministry in its present form is an adaptation of the church to its leadership needs. (p. 60) This understanding of the church's leadership echoes Calvin understands in Book IV, chapter III of the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Leaders are given gifts by God that are recognized by the church which sets those leaders apart for particular service in the church.

- What does this understanding of leadership in the church say to today's church?
- How do we respond to changing needs for leadership?
- How do the ancient qualifications (good standing, being Spirit filled and full of wisdom) apply today?

Acts 8:1-25 The text in chapter six is followed by the stoning of one of the seven, Stephen. This act is the beginning of the severe persecution against the church which leads to the dispersal of the community throughout Judea and Samaria. Only the twelve apostles are left in Jerusalem. The Spirit of God works even through persecution. The scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word (v.4) Word got back to the apostles in Jerusalem that Samaritans had accepted the Word of God and the twelve sent Peter and John to the community in Samaria. When they arrived they prayed and laid hands on the believers there asking God that they might receive the Holy Spirit and they did. Having seen the power of God at work among the Samaritans, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem preaching among the Samaritans as they went.

In this passage we see that the apostles themselves are shaped in their understanding of the community God is creating by their own experience. The church is expanding just as Jesus had said it would. The Spirit is given to baptized believers not only in Judea but also in Samaria, to those traditionally looked down on by Jews in Jerusalem and Judea. Having heard of the spread, the apostles in Jerusalem send representatives to see for themselves what the Spirit is doing. Peter and John are witnesses, but a particular kind of witnesses, instrumental in the process of community building that the Spirit is about.

- How is their way of being in this passage a witness to us of the role of church leaders?
- Are we today like those ancient apostles called not only to see but to pray for and reach out to those despised among our kind?
- What would that mean for the church?

Acts 9:26-31 Immediately after the conversion of the Samaritans, we read the story of Phillip and the first gentile convert, the Ethiopian eunuch, a high court official who heard from Phillip's witness the connection between Isaiah's prophecy and the crucified and risen Christ and believed and was baptized. His conversion is followed by the conversion of Paul, a leader of the Jews and the chief persecutor of the church. Paul is baptized, fed and taught by Ananias of Damascus until it becomes dangerous for Paul there because the Jews were plotting to kill him. Paul went to Jerusalem where the apostles were afraid of him. They did not believe his conversion until Barnabas testified both to Paul's Damascus road conversion and to his bold witness in Damascus which got him in trouble with the Jews there. Hearing Barnabas, the apostles were convinced. They kept Paul with them and he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord (v.28) until his arguing with the Hellenists put his life at risk once again and the believers sent him to Tarsus (v.30). Meanwhile the church increased in numbers in Judea, Galilee and Samaria.

Experience in itself is not enough. The validity of Paul's conversion must be confirmed by the church through its leaders. These people had been with Jesus from the beginning. They were His witnesses, the ones with authority and discernment to confirm what is of God and what

is not. Their acceptance of Paul in response to the testimony of one of their own is crucial to Paul's authority to serve among them. They kept him with them, witnessing among them and hearing from them the truth of what he had experienced. The apostles will counsel Paul again in Acts. This text is the beginning of that relationship. As with the question about the need for deacons and the distribution of goods, it illustrates the work of the apostles as a discernment and decision making body with authority to preach and teach, to determine what the Spirit is saying to the church.

- What can we learn from the apostles about the process of confirming and shaping leaders in today's church?
- What responsibility do sessions and presbyteries have to nurture leaders as well as to confirm them?
- If we expect people to answer truthfully the questions of ordination about being guided by our church's Confessions, abiding by its discipline and being governed by its polity, what responsibility do church leaders have to be sure those called have access to that wisdom before their call is confirmed in ordination, to nurture deeper understanding throughout ordained service?

Acts.10:44-11:18 tells of the gift of the Spirit to the gentiles. Following his vision of clean and unclean food, Peter witnessed to 'unclean' gentiles and the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. Having witnessed this gift of the Holy Spirit, the people who had come with Peter are astounded, but Peter asks for water so that these who have received "the Holy Spirit just as we have" (v. 47) could be baptized, and he remained with them several days. When Peter went back to Jerusalem, he had some explaining to do to the Council and so he testified to his vision from God regarding what God has made clean and the Spirit's counsel to him not to make a distinction between gentiles and Jews. When the apostles heard his testimony, they were silenced and then praised God that God had given to the gentiles repentance that leads to life (v. 18).

The apostles again were called on to hear the testimony of a witness, in this case Peter who had been a vocal defender of the truth since Pentecost, and to discern whether what he was doing now was of the Spirit. Accountability is a discipline of leadership. In Acts, the community of leaders is called to decide whether the act of one of its own is of God or is just a concession to make the church attractive to outsiders so they will want to become insiders so that the church can survive. The apostles hear testimony of Peter's vision from God and of the repentance of the gentiles and the gift of the Holy Spirit and they are convinced. The marks of the church are present, the gifts are given far more abundantly than they had imagined.

- How does this text challenge us to discern today what the Holy Spirit is doing among us and in the world around us?
- How can presbytery leaders help congregations discern the difference between speaking to people in their own language so that they can receive the good news and trying new things to attract people so the church will survive?

Acts 11:19-30 reveals the scattered church witnessing effectively as far as Antioch among the Jews. Some of them spoke to the Greeks as well and great number of the Greeks became believers. When the church in Jerusalem heard of it, they again sent a witness, this time Barnabas who rejoiced at the evidence of the grace of God and counseled steadfast faithfulness to the Lord (V. 23). Barnabas brought Paul from Tarsus to Antioch and together they met with

the church and taught the believers for a year. When prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch and predicted “by the Spirit” severe famine, the disciples in Antioch determined to send relief to the believers in Judea as they were able and sent it by Paul and Barnabas to the elders in Jerusalem for distribution.

In these verses we see the missionary witness of the church bearing fruit in the diaspora among both Jews and Greeks. Again the apostles send a witness for verification and counsel. He, Barnabas, brings in an assistant to teach along with him. Leadership is shared. The local church is connected to the elders far off in Jerusalem. After a year of learning from Barnabas and Paul, when the Antioch church heard of a need, they sent relief to the church in Judea. Goods are shared not just locally but beyond as need is known. Trusted leaders are sent with the goods to the recognized leaders in Jerusalem for distribution. The witness and concern are not one way but mutual.

The work of the Spirit reaches out to call new disciples and those disciples recognize that they are part of something much bigger than themselves and their local community.

- What does this text say to us about how important it is for leaders in presbytery to be attentive to the needs of new faith communities and to provide resources for them?
- What does it suggest about the relationship of the new community that receives support to the ministry of the whole?
- How is the Spirit manifest in our witness among those who do not yet believe today?

Acts 15:1-16:4 contains the controversy over whether circumcision was required for salvation. The controversy troubled the church in Antioch and the community there sent Paul and Barnabas and some others to Jerusalem to discuss the question with the apostles and the elders. Peter again argued convincingly out of his own experience as he had in chapter eleven that gentiles had been given the gift of the Holy Spirit and had their hearts cleansed by God who made no distinction between Jew and gentile. Why should the church put God to the test (v.8-10). He reminded the gathered body that they believed that all will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus (v. 11) Paul and Barnabas testified to what they had witnessed among the gentiles in Antioch and in the whole area. Finally, James argued from Scripture that the prophet Amos wrote that God would restore the house of David so that all other peoples may seek the Lord, even the gentiles. James concluded that the apostles should write a letter to the churches to counsel that gentiles should not be troubled about circumcision but only to abstain from idolatry and the other practices most offensive to Jewish Christians (v. 20). With the consent of the church, the apostles and elders determined to send others with Paul and Barnabas and the letter to Antioch. When the believers there heard the letter, they were glad. The group from Jerusalem stayed for a time encouraging and strengthening the believers. They then returned to Jerusalem in peace. Paul and Barnabas continued teaching in Antioch for a time.

The leaders in Jerusalem are now called on in a formal way to settle controversy in a congregation. Again we see the discipline of the leaders in listening to the testimony of witnesses, discerning evidence of the gift of the Holy Spirit and appeal to the testimony of Scripture as they decide what counsel is best. The letter they send is filled with grace but also with boundaries. Peter’s argument that the law has been too hard for the Jews and its mark should not be imposed on the gentiles since Jews like gentiles are saved by grace (v.10-11) is supported by the testimony of Barnabas and Paul and by James. Circumcision is not required, but respect for the sensibilities of others is required and so those practices of the gentiles’ former religious life most offensive to the Jews are forbidden. Gentiles and Jews alike are saved by

grace, and gentiles and Jews alike must have respect for the sensibilities of their brothers and sisters in the faith. For a people distinctly characterized by one type of religious practice for generations to let go of that practice is very hard, and yet the leaders in Jerusalem counsel that it is what they are all called to do in respect of each other.

- How could presbyteries today learn from this text ways be helpful to a church engaged in conflict over styles of worship and biblical interpretation?
- What kind of discipline should today's presbyteries practice in discerning what is required? in offering counsel in conflict?

Acts 21:17-26 after much success among the gentiles, Paul returned to Jerusalem. The apostles and elders welcomed him and heard his testimony of what God has done among the gentiles through his ministry. They were glad and praised God. At the same time they cautioned Paul that the believers among the Jews were zealous for the law and were plotting to have him tried before the tribune. They counseled Paul to go through the rite of purification along with four others who had taken a Nazirite vow. Paul accepted the counsel and purified himself to demonstrate his loyalty to his Jewish heritage.

Here again, we see the apostles offering counsel to one of their faithful workers, seeking to protect and guide him so that his life and witness will be preserved. In their care for their own, in their willingness to counsel with him to protect him, the apostles witness to us about the importance for leaders in presbytery to look to the welfare of those who work as God's witnesses among us.

- What does their witness suggest about ways in which the presbytery can stand with and counsel ministers and other leaders in times of danger in their lives and ministry?

Summary

Throughout the book of Acts, we see the Council in Jerusalem take shape informing and informed by an increasingly complex church made up of congregations diverse in size and cultural situations. The apostles attend both to internal order to support the life of a growing community and to the issues that arise as 'church' encounters external culture. The election of Matthias to replace Judas as a member of the twelve ensures a full complement of witnesses qualified for office by their witness of the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. Ordaining deacons provides for the welfare of those with particular needs in the community without compromising the expanding public witness. Consultation over questions of the validity of Paul's conversion, of clean and unclean food and people, and of circumcision provides occasions for church leaders to carefully consider new issues as they arise. In every case, the apostles and elders hear testimony of the work of the Holy Spirit from witnesses considered in the light of what Scripture teaches and having heard the arguments prayerfully come to consensus about what God is doing. The community deals with deceit and with conflicting views, the apostles offer counsel to the expanding community and to individual leaders. In its life a picture emerges of a council providing leadership with flexibility not to every wind that blows, but the wind of the Spirit ever open serving effectively in languages appropriate in the expanding mission field God provides.

Afterword

In his unpublished paper, “A Missional Context” written as part of the Lily funded Missional Presbyteries Project Darrell Guder describes four functions of a presbytery engaged in God’s mission in the world through support of congregations and leaders as they seek to live out their missionary calling as God’s witnesses:

Fostering mutual accountability for the shared missional vocation of each congregation.

Fostering missional reflection on the distinctive character of the shared mission field.

Fostering the Formation of Missional Leadership.

Fostering Public Witness to the Unity of Christ’s Church.

Recalling Christ’s words to the apostles on the Mount of Ascension, Guder observes:

Presbyteries can be the “signs, foretastes, and instruments” of such unity if their missional vocation draws them together to become a *covenant community of missional congregations*. That will require a discipline of covenanting which is risky, uncharted territory. . . . The conversion of the church to missional calling will be a Spirit-empowered process that must ultimately embrace both congregations and presbyteries, so that, in true mutual commitment and accountability, they can be live out the promise made by our Lord on the Mount of the Ascension: “You shall be my witnesses.” (pp. 14-15)

Guder’s description of the functions of a missional presbytery is a very helpful way to understand the work to which God calls presbyteries today. It is work not just for our generation but for church leaders who know that the community of faith is called to be Christ’s witnesses in the world in every age. In your review of the apostles in Jerusalem in the Book of Acts do you see the marks of true mutual commitment and accountability among congregations and leaders that make for the unity of which he speaks? How do you understand that the Spirit is empowering the church to be Christ’s witnesses today?

Suggestions for Use

In addition to reading for personal reflection, one way to use this study with a study group in presbytery is to set up the problem as has been done in the first section or in the way that works best in your context and then to ask individuals or small groups to focus on one passage for a time of no less than ten minutes and then to summarize the passage and their reflections on the questions with the whole group.

Those who want to engage in a brief look at the Council in Acts in reflecting on presbyteries today, could summarize the current problem as has been done in the first section, review the summary at the end of the Bible study and the Afterword and discuss the questions at the end. Much richer insight will be gained from taking the time to work through all of the passages, and that method of study is strongly recommended.

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MINUTES
Presbytery of the Pines
104th Stated Meeting
Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home & Family Services
Monticello, Arkansas
October 20, 2012

CONSTITUTION

The 104th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Pines was Called to Order at 10:00 a.m. In the absence of the moderator, Nancy Bergeron, immediate Past Moderator, presided and opened the meeting with prayer.

The following Teaching and Ruling Elders were present, constituting a quorum.

TEACHING ELDERS

Susan Arnold, Alford L. Branch, J. Daniel Hignight, R. Kathleen Hignight, Joseph W. Hill, Erin P. Kaye, Daniel G. Loomis, Bryan L. McDowell, Gary W. Miller, Lauren S. Moore, Kathy S. Muder, John Nelson-Pope, David Roberts, Bruce M. Rux, William H. Searight, Rosemary Stelz, Bonnie J. Wilkins, George M. Wortham

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Bastrop-Jeanne Anders, Belcher-Danny Logan, Camden-Gary Martin, Chidester Tates Bluff-Corbet Lamkin, Crossett-Martha Smith, Dermott-Frank Henry, Jr., El Dorado-Nancy Arn Worrel, Hope-Amelia Leverett, Jonesville Trinity-Ronnie Swayze, Lake Village-Lisa Moon, Minden-Robert Addison, Monroe Graceminster-Mike Bell, Monticello First-Frank Fergurson, Monticello Holmes Chapel-Charles Peeples, Natchitoches-Donna Rose, Plain Dealing Cottage Grove Memorial-Charles Coyle, Ruston-Betty Jo Fagan, Shreveport First-Jeff Abney, Texarkana-Sue Ellen Hall, Warren-Jane Harris, West Monroe Highland-Shelia Martin

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS

Edith Hill, Gary Martin, Kay Childs Travis

RULING ELDERS ENROLLED IN PRESBYTERY

Nancy Bergeron, Corbet Lamkin, Nancy Arn Worrel

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Rev. Kevin Keaton, New Covenant Presbytery, Board of Pensions
Rev. David King, Presbytery of Arkansas, Presbyterian Village Little Rock
Rev. Troy Pritt, Honorably Retired ARP
Rev. Dr. Jerold Shetler, Salem Presbytery, Interim, First Presbyterian Church, Shreveport

WELCOME

Ray Carson of the Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home offered a welcome.

REPORTS

Stated Clerk Dan Hignight, Stated Clerk, presented the report. IT WAS VOTED to adopt the following recommendations:

1. That the Docket for this meeting be approved.
2. That the Minutes of the May 19, 2012, meeting be approved as circulated.
3. That any corresponding members be seated.
4. That with deep sadness and regret, the Presbytery of the Pines dismiss Graceminster Presbyterian Church, Monroe, Louisiana, to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, along with its property.
5. That the following Administrative Commission be appointed to facilitate the transfer of Graceminster Church to the EPC:

Ministers	Elders
George Wortham	Charles Peeples
Beth Sentell	Sandra Watson
Kathleen Hignight	Clyde Ray Webber
Alford Branch	

- a. in consultation with the appropriate EPC presbytery to set a date for transfer
 - b. to secure original copies of all records of historical significance (e.g. Session records, rolls, etc.), or to see that such records are deposited in a PCUSA approved site for archiving historical records before transferring the congregation
 - c. to transfer any member to another PCUSA congregation, if necessary
 - d. to see that all financial obligations of the congregation relating to the PCUSA be fulfilled before transferring the congregation
 - e. to establish that all symbols and seals of the PCUSA or its predecessor denominations be removed from the premises before transferring the congregation.
6. That the Administrative Commission be given the following powers:
 7. That Presbytery instruct the Trustees of Presbytery to sign all necessary documents to transfer the property of Graceminster Church to the EPC.
 8. That with sadness and deep regret that Presbytery respond in the affirmative to the request of First Presbyterian Church, Fordyce, Arkansas, that their congregation be dissolved.
 9. That Presbytery grant the Moderator and Stated Clerk the power to form an Administrative Commission to facilitate the dissolution of the Fordyce Church, once the official letter from the Session of the Fordyce church is secured.

10. That the Administrative Commission be given the following powers:
- a. in consultation with the session to set a date for dissolution
 - b. to secure copies of all records of historical significance (e.g. Session records, rolls, etc.), or to see that such records are deposited in a PCUSA approved site for archiving historical records
 - c. to secure Communion and Baptismal ware for deposit with the Presbytery
 - d. to transfer members to another congregation
 - e. to dispose of the property and appointments in the best manner possible
 - f. to conduct a service of celebration for the life and witness of the congregation

11. That Presbytery instruct the Trustees of Presbytery to sign all necessary documents to transfer the property of Fordyce Church as instructed by the Administrative Commission.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The time for the Order of the Day having arrived, Nancy Bergeron, Moderator of the Presbytery Task Force on Structure led the Council in a Time of Discernment, based upon Philippians 2:4-11

Donna Rose and Thad Wilkins presented a report on the Church Transformation Conference they recently attended.

LUNCH RECESS

The Council recessed for Lunch after a prayer was offered by the Moderator.

RECONVENE

Following Lunch, the Council reconvened with an opening prayer.

WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Council was led in worship to Almighty God by RE Sheila Martin, TE George Wortham, and Kathy Muder. Candidate for Ordination John Scott proclaimed the Word, and TE Alford Branch presided at the Table.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The time for the Orders of the Day having arrived, the Council heard from:

- Renee Dickens of Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home
- Kevin Keaton from the Board of Pensions
- Rick Garner from Evergreen Ministries
- David King from Presbyterian Village

REPORTS CONTINUE

General Presbyter Joe Hill, General Presbytery presented an oral report.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry The Council ADOPTED the following recommendations under a Consent Agenda:

1. That the report be received as information.
2. That the Presbytery of the Pines record in its minutes the enrollment of Lisa M Schrott as inquirer under care of this presbytery.
3. That the Presbytery of the Pines adopt the following areas of instruction for elders seeking to become Commissioned Ruling Elders:

Bible	Reformed Theology
Worship & Sacraments	Presbyterian Polity
Preaching	Pastoral Care
Teaching	Administration
4. That the Presbytery of the Pines remove Brenda K. Leischner from the roll of candidates.

Committee on Ministry The report was presented by Erin Kaye, Moderator of the committee. IT WAS VOTED to adopt the following recommendations

1. That presbytery receive the report as information.
2. That presbytery enter into its records the following actions taken by the Committee on Ministry, acting under commission powers authorized by the presbytery:
 - A. Dissolved the pastoral relationship between:
 - 1) The Rev. Young Doo Kim and Shreveport-Bossier City Korean Presbyterian Church, (Bossier City, LA) effective August 5, 2012.
 - 2) The Rev. Barry W. Chance and St. Andrew (Shreveport, LA) effective August 15, 2012
 - 3) The Rev. Pendleton B. Peery and First (Shreveport, LA) effective August 15, 2012
 - 4) The Rev. Lauren Moore and First (Lake Village, AR) effective August 31, 2012
 - B. Dismissed the following members of presbytery, if the way be clear
 - 1) The Rev. Barry Chance to the Presbytery of South Louisiana
 - 2) The Rev. Pen Peery to Charlotte Presbytery
 - C. Appointed the following moderators of session:
 - 1) St Andrew Presbyterian Church, Shreveport, LA – Rev. Jim Freeman
 - 2) First Presbyterian Church, Lake Village, AR – Rev. Philip Faris
 - 3) First Presbyterian Church, Shreveport - Rev. Sarah Cooper Searight
 - 4) Shreveport-Bossier City Korean Presbyterian Church - Rev. Beth Sentell
 - D. In response to the call of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Jonesville, LA conducted a preliminary examination of John A. Scott, Jr. and recommend that presbytery proceed to examine him for ordination as a Teacher Elder and enroll him as a member of the presbytery.

- E. Granted permission for John Scott, Jr. to move onto the field in advance of the October presbytery meeting.
- F. Approved Rev. Miranda Fontaine to labor within the bounds of Presbytery of the Pines to perform a wedding ceremony.
- G. Approved the request of First Presbyterian Church, Shreveport, LA to abolish the position of associate pastor previously held by Rev. Bryan McDowell, effective April 30, 2012.

3. That presbytery approve the call and the following terms between John Scott, Jr. and Trinity Presbyterian Church (Jonesville, LA) effective August 12, 2012:

Annual Salary	\$26,450
Free Use of the Manse	\$7,935
Travel/Professional Reimbursement	\$3000
Continuing Education	\$300
Social Security Offset	\$2,630
Board of Pension Dues	\$12,255
Continuing Education Leave	2 Weeks
Vacation	4 Weeks
Moving Expenses	In Full

- 4. That presbytery proceed to examine John Scott, Jr. for ordination as a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA).
- 5. That presbytery approve the examination of John Scott, Jr. in parts and as a whole, and upon ordination enroll him as a member of Presbytery of the Pines.
- 6. That the presbytery approve the temporary supply agreement for part time service for a period of twelve months between Rev. Kathleen Hignight and First Presbyterian Church, Hope, AR at the following terms effective June 1, 2012:

Cash Salary	\$1,400/month
Free Use of the Manse	

7. That presbytery approve the following changes in terms of call:

Sarah Cooper Searight	First Shreveport	Increase salary	6,377
Lauren Moore	First Lake Providence	Increase salary	5,390
		Increase housing	2,367
		Increase travel	222
		SECA	One Half
		Board of Pensions	In Full

8. That presbytery approve the following Teaching Elder minimum terms of call for 2013:

Effective Salary-Pension Base	\$36,885
Board of Pension (Basic Medical, Annuity & Death Benefit Dues)	12,826

Travel/Professional Reimbursement	3,000
Vacation	Four Weeks
Continuing Education Leave	Two Weeks
Continuing Education Allowance	300
Social Security Offset	2,822
Total Package	55,833
Increase	3,263

9. That presbytery approve the Interim Agreement between Rev. Dr. Jerold Shetler and First Presbyterian Church for six months effective October 1, 2012:

Cash Salary	63,481.00
Furnished Manse provided	
Auto Allowance	5,000.00
Travel Allowance	2,000.00
SECA Offset	One Half

10. That Presbytery appoint the following Administrative Commission, with the full power of Presbytery, to Ordain John A. Scott, Jr. as Teaching Elder, and install him as Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church Jonesville, Louisiana on Sunday, October 28, 2012 at 3 pm:

Teaching Elder Joe Hill
Teaching Elder Kathy Muder
Teaching Elder George Wortham
CRE Clyde Ray Webber
Ruling Elder Wanda Horne
Ruling Elder Franklin Clay
Ruling Elder Ronnie Swayze

Invited to sit with the commission:

Elder Richard Ulrich, Siesta Key Chapel, Peace River Presbytery

11. That Presbytery re-commission Edith Hill as the Commissioned Ruling Elder of The Presbyterian Church of Ruston, until October 20, 2015 and grant her permission to:

- Administer the Lord's Supper
- Administer the Sacrament of Baptism
- Moderate the Session under the supervision of, and when invited by, the Moderator of the Session appointed by Presbytery
- Have a voice in meetings of Presbytery
- Have a vote in meetings of Presbytery
- Perform service of Christian Marriage

12. That Presbytery enter into its records the following actions taken by the Committee on Ministry, acting under commission powers authorized by the Presbytery:

- H. Appointed Rev. Joe Hill moderator of Session for First-Haynesville, LA
- I. Granted permission for Rev. Dr. Jerold Shetler to labor within the bounds of Presbytery of the Pines.

J. Appointed Rev. Dr. Jerold Shetler as moderator of session for First Presbyterian Church, Shreveport, LA.

13. That Presbytery approve the Interim Agreement between the Rev. Dianne Brown and St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Shreveport, LA for half time service for a period of one year beginning November 4, 2012 until November 3, 2013 with the following terms:

Annual Salary	24,000.00
Board of Pension Basic Medical & Annuity	14,000.00
Vacation	Four Weeks
Continuing Education	Two Weeks

Presbytery Council The Council ADOPTED the following recommendations under a Consent Agenda:

1. That the report be received as information

Budget and Finance The Council ADOPTED the following recommendations under a Consent Agenda:

1. Receive the report as information.
2. Approve Per Capita of \$10.00 for the next two years.
3. Approve Tithes and Offerings for the Operation of Presbytery distribution as 90% Presbytery, 5% Synod of the Sun, and 5% General Assembly as presented.
4. Approve the Challenge Budget for 2013 as follows:

General Operating

Budget and Finance Committee	39,993
Camp and Conference Centers	66,786
Church Development and Mission	21,000
Committee on Ministry	8,850
Committee on Nominations	50
Committee on Representation	50
Faith Education Ministries	17,200
Permanent Judicial Commission	50
Personnel	264,344
Polity	1,600
Preparation for Ministry	3,400
Presbytery Council	750
Real Estate	30,500
	454,573

5. Re-elect Joseph W. Hill as Presbytery Treasurer.

Faith Education Ministries The Council ADOPTED the following recommendations under a Consent Agenda:

1. That the report be received as information.

Committee on Representation The Council ADOPTED the following recommendations under a Consent Agenda:

1. That the report be received as information.

Committee on Nominations

1. That this report be received as information.

2. That Presbytery elect the following persons for service as members of the following agencies of the Presbytery:

CONTINUING COMMITTEES

Presbytery Council

Class of 2015

Alford Branch

Ronald Lawrence

Cynthia Steele

Moderator of Presbytery Council 2013	Rev. John Arnold
Moderator of Presbytery 2013	Rev. Kathy Muder
Moderator-Elect of Presbytery 2013	Elder Corbet Lamkin
Presbyterian Women's Moderator	Elder Kay Hummel

Committee on Representation

Class of 2014

JoEtta Foster

John Nelson-Pope

Class of 2015

Harry Clinton

Stephen K. Kim

Moderator: _____

Vice Moderator: Nancy Arn Worrel

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Class of 2014

Susan E. Bensberg

Class of 2015

Dianne Brown

Sarah Cooper Searight

Moderator: Edith Hill

Vice Moderator: Sarah Cooper Searight

Committee on Ministry

Class of 2013

_____ (RE)

Class of 2014

Maribeth Frazer

Class of 2015

Nancy Bergeron

Philip Faris

Robert Folsom

Jim Freeman

Erin Kaye

_____ (RE)

Moderator: Erin Kaye

Vice Moderator: Rhodes Stipp

Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2014

John Guice

Class of 2016

Betty Jo Hays

Class of 2018

Susan Arnold

Elton Richey

Clyde White

PRESBYTERY MINISTRIES

Church Development and Mission

Class of 2014

George Wortham

Class of 2015

Al Rawls

Moderator: George Wortham

Vice Moderator: Karen Logan

Faith Education Ministries

Class of 2014

Class of 2015

Peggy Thompson

Moderator: Nancy Arn Worrel

Vice Moderator: John McClelland

PRESBYTERY ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

Budget & Finance Committee

Class of 2013

Ted Carmical

Class of 2015

Mike Wilson

John Knox, Jr.

Moderator: _____

Vice Moderator: _____

Personnel Committee

Class of 2014

Class of 2015

Mary T. Bethel
Denzer Burke

Moderator: Beth Sentell
Vice Moderator: Denzer Burke

Committee on Polity

Class of 2013

Class of 2014

Class of 2015

Margaret Hunter Gordon Christy Donna Rose

Moderator: James A. VanHook Jr.
Vice Moderator: Donna Rose

Real Estate Committee

Class of 2014

Class of 2015

Mike Davis

Moderator: Don Brice
Vice Moderator: Phil G. Brown

Stated Clerk of Presbytery Class of 2015

Dan Hignight

Presbytery Trustee At Large Class of 2015

J. N. Walpole

Synod of Sun Commissioners Class of 2014

Elder: John Guice

Minister: Lauren Moore

Louisiana Board of Publications Representatives

Class of 2015: Shirley Smith
Sandra Watson

ELECTION OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following names were placed in nomination and elected by acclamation:

Class of 2013

RE Amy McGhee
TE Lauren Moore

Class of 2014

RE Wayne Neuroth
TE Sarah Cooper Searight

Class of 2015

TE David Roberts
LW Debra Scott

Attendance

TEs serving congregations	15	Sessions represented	21
TE in other service	1	CREs present	3
TEs At Large	1	REs enrolled in Presbytery	3
TEs retired	2	Corresponding Members	4
Visitors	17		

Absences

Excused

Teaching Elders

John Albright
 John Arnold
 Dianne Brown
 Philip Faris
 Jim Freeman
 Jung Jin Kim
 Ron Lawrence
 John McClelland
 Robin Nygaard
 Lindsey Peery
 Sarah Searight
 Beth Sentell
 James A. VanHook, Jr.
 Bill Willis

Sessions

Alto
 Athens
 Baskin Union
 Bossier City, Trinity
 Choudrant, Alabama
 Ferriday
 Homer
 Lake Providence
 Mansfield, Red Lick
 Rayville
 Winnsboro

Elders Enrolled in Presbytery

Don Brice
 Kay Hummel

Commissioned Ruling Elder

Charlotte Cobb

Without Excuse

Teaching Elders

Mark Kennedy
 Allison Moody
 Mike Morgan
 Tom Reinowski

Sessions

Benton
 Carthage
 DeQueen
 Fordyce
 Frierson, Good Hope
 Grand Cane, Smyrna
 Haynesville
 Hermitage, Calvary
 Keatchie
 Magnolia
 Mansfield, First
 Monroe First
 Newellton
 Plain Dealing First
 Plain Dealing Rocky Mount

Commissioned Ruling Elder

Clyde R. Webber

Prescott
Shreveport, Broadmoor
Shreveport-Bossier Korean
Shreveport, Hollywood
Shreveport, John Calvin
Shreveport, St. Andrew
Strong
Tallulah
Tulip
Vidalia
Vivian
Winnfield

INSTALLATION OF THE MODERATOR

Moderator Bergeron led the Council in a Service of Installation where TE Kathy Muder was installed to the office of Moderator of the Presbytery of the Pines.

ADJOURNMENT

With all business being completed, Moderator Bergeron adjourned the meeting with prayer at 2:55 p.m.

Elder Nancy Bergeron, Moderator

Rev. Dan Hignight, Stated Clerk

MINUTES

Administrative Commission Appointed to Install
Rev. Philip A. Faris as Pastor of
First Presbyterian Church, Warren, Arkansas

June 3, 2012

The Administrative Commission appointed by the Presbytery of the Pines, to Install Rev. Philip A. Faris as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Warren, Arkansas, met on Sunday, June 3, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church with the following members present, thereby constituting a quorum:

Teaching Elders
Erin P. Kay
Joseph W. Hill
Barry Chance
Alford Branch
Wallace Faris

Ruling Elders
Jim Cross
Frank Ferguson
Hamilton Singleton

In addition, Rev. Gary Maskell, was invited to sit with the commission,

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Joe Hill.

Rev. Erin Kaye, was appointed Moderator of the Commission and Elder Frank Ferguson as Clerk.

The Commission reviewed the liturgy approved by the Committee on Ministry and recessed into the Sanctuary, where during worship, Rev. Philip Faris was installed as the Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Warren, Arkansas.

The Commission reconvened. IT WAS VOTED to approve the minutes of this meeting and to adjourn with prayer by Rev. Erin Kaye.

s/ Erin P. Kaye
Erin P. Kaye, Moderator

s/ Frank Ferguson
Frank Ferguson, Clerk

Presbytery of the Pines
Permanent Judicial Commission
Updated 2012

Class of 1990

Rev. G. Preston Brown
Mr. Dewey Burchett
Mrs. Mary Jo Kolean
Rev. Margaret Wilson-Stayton

Class of 1992

Rev. John R. Blue
Mrs. DeMaris Marsh
Rev. Spencer C. Murray
Mr. Mark Sherland

Class of 1994

Rev. Jim Anderton
Rev. Walter Easton
Mr. John Richardson
Mr. Earl Tarver

Class of 1996

Mr. Ronny J. Bell
Rev. Fred Holper
Ms. Margaret Hunter
Rev. John T. Mabray

Class of 1998

Rev. David Jones
Mr. Kermit Moss
Mrs. Doris Norrell
Rev. Thomas K. Reinowski
Rev. John B. Rogers, Jr. (moved 1996)

Class of 2000

Rev. David Davies (resigned 1997)
Mr. John A. O'Neal
Rev. Karen Rogers
Rev. Janet W. Ruark (moved 1997)
Mrs. Mary Ann Selber

Class of 2002

Rev. Martin Jacobsen (moved 1998)
Mr. Stephen Glassell
Rev. Thomas D. Launius (moved 2000)
Ms. Evalyn Ormond
Mr. Tom Richardson (moved 1998)
Rev. Alford Branch
Rev. Susan Denne (moved 1998)

Class of 2004

Mr. Gordon Blackman, Jr. (resigned 2002)
Rev. Bruce Byers (moved 2002)

Rev. David L. Jones

Rev. Jonathan Oglesbee (moved 2001)

Ms. Jane C. Purser

Mr. Rob Shadoin

Class of 2006

Rev. Michele Allen (moved 2001)

Mr. Paul C. Crumpler (deceased 2005)

Rev. Kathleen Hignight

Rev. John Langham (moved 2006)

Class of 2008

Ms. Cassandra Martin

Mr. Robert Plummer

Rev. Beth Sentell

(Presbytery new structure 2006 elected classes to begin rotation)

Class of 2008 (2 yrs)

Rev. David Jones (resigned 2007)

Rev. Gary Miller

Mrs. Jane Purser

Rev. James A. Van Hook, Jr.

Class of 2010 (4 yrs)

Mr. John T. Cox (resigned 2008)

Rev. Kathleen Hignight

Mr. W. Lee Perkins (resigned 2008)

Mr. Robert Plummer

Ms. Linda Smith

Class of 2012 (6 yrs)

Mrs. Sheila Coyle (deceased 2011)

Rev. Kathy Muder

Rev. James A. VanHook, Jr.

Class of 2014

Mr. John Guice

Rev. Bonnie Milligan

Mr. Webb Sentell (resigned 2010)

Rev. George Wortham

Class of 2016

Mrs. Betty Jo Hays

Mr. Emon Mahony

Rev. Bryan McDowell

Class of 2018

Rev. Susan Arnold

Mr. Elton Richey

Mr. Clyde White