

PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY ROUNDTABLE
August 9, 2018

The Roundtable of the Presbytery of Southern New England met in the Fellowship Hall of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Hartford, Connecticut. The meeting was called to order with prayer and opening devotions at 9:40 a.m. by the Co-Chair of the Roundtable, Rev. David Van Dyke.

A **QUORUM** was present.

Present were: David Van Dyke, co-chair of Roundtable; Anne Carney, co-chair of Roundtable; Doug Ray; Judy Cunningham; J. C. Cadwallader, Barbara Riihimaki, Art Riihimaki, Lisa Baker; Jenny Davis; Virginia Smanik; Ralph Reynolds; Ruth Smalt (Vice Moderator of the Presbytery, via video conference); Dick Hasbany (via video conference)

Also present were: Ex-Officio members: the Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo, General Presbyter; the Rev. David Baer, Stated Clerk; and Elder Tom Taylor, Treasurer.

In addition, Dayle Larson, the financial secretary of the Presbytery, was present via video conference.

Excused were: Chris Tate (Moderator of the Presbytery), Sean Miller, Julie Emery, Paulo Ribeiro, Anne Fuhrmeister, and John Sweet.

The Chair welcomed the new members of the Roundtable, as well as the new Stated Clerk, the Rev. David Baer.

The General Presbyter, the Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo, presented her report to the Roundtable. Ms. Vance-Ocampo characterized the theme of the Assembly as determining what it means to be the church of Jesus Christ in the twenty-first century. She drew the Roundtable's attention to the actions of the General Assembly related to the work of mid-councils. She recommended that she and David Baer, the Stated Clerk, lead a team to review these items and bring recommendations to the Roundtable. By unanimous consent, the Roundtable agreed.

Ms. Vance-Ocampo reported that Jim Glenn would like the blessing of the Roundtable in working with the Session of the Martin Luther King Presbyterian Church of Springfield, Massachusetts (MLK), this fall to assemble clergy-led work teams to do some work on the MLK church facility. He has been in touch with the Trustees about this and is still working out the details but would like to know from Roundtable if he can move forward on this idea. The goal is to work on some of the things that need addressing with MLK and to do so in a collegial way that builds relationships within the Presbytery and also between the Presbytery and MLK. By unanimous consent, the Roundtable agreed to approve his request.

The Presbyteries of Boston and Northern New England have expressed interest in joining with PSNE in forming a joint-delegation for next summer's Presbyterian Youth Triennium. The members of the Roundtable expressed interest in pursuing this initiative. There is grant money

from the synod available for presbyteries that join together. There is also money budgeted at the synod for underwriting the cost of sending youth to Triennium.

The General Presbyter updated the Roundtable on the situation at Valley Presbyterian Church (Brookfield, CT).

The Stated Clerk presented a proposed docket for the September Stated Meeting of the Presbytery. The Vision/Mission Team will lead the Presbytery in a time of conversation and reflection during the morning, in lieu of Open Space. The Trustees will need time to present the 2019 budget. Nominating Committee expects to present a report. The Stated Clerk will contact the chair of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry to ask about whether they will need time on the docket.

The Roundtable considered the schedule of Stated Meetings for the year 2019, specifically the possibility of holding two meetings on weekdays, instead of one. Other proposals included holding weekday meetings in the afternoon and evening, though a late adjournment might prove difficult for those who travel long distances. By unanimous consent, the Roundtable agreed to schedule the May Stated Meeting of the Presbytery on Wednesday, May 8, 2019, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., as a trial. David Baer will contact the Groton church about hosting the February Stated Meeting. The other meetings are tentatively scheduled to be hosted by Westminster Presbyterian Church of West Hartford, Connecticut.

The Rev. Chris Tate, the Presbytery Moderator, was excused from the meeting, and did not give a report. The Rev. Ruth Smalt, the Presbytery Vice-Moderator, had no report to present to the Roundtable.

Dayle Larson, the financial secretary of Presbytery, joined the meeting via video conference.

Ralph Reynolds discussed a number of alternative budgets for 2019 prepared by the Trustees, reflecting an unchanged level of spending on personnel compensation, others reflecting differing levels of staff compensation (cost-of-living and merit increases). Mr. Reynolds suggested that the Presbytery consider increasing the annual per-capita assessment from \$34 to \$37, in order to offset the projected deficits in all of the alternative budgets under consideration. There is income from agreements with congregations that have been dismissed from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), some of which may be used to offset the deficit in 2019. He challenged the Roundtable to think about how to address the deficit. Upon motion made by Doug Ray and properly seconded, the Roundtable voted to **RECOMMEND** that the Presbytery **ADOPT** the following budget for 2019:

	Mission/Ministry	Administration	2019 Proposed		2018 Current
Income					
General Mission	70,000		70,000.00	A	75,000.00
General Mission - prior year			-		-
Interest on Operating Cash		450	450.00		450.00
Presbytery Per Capita		240,944	240,944.00	B	241,094.00
Donations			-		-
Merrill Lynch dividends minus fees			-		-
Total Income	70,000	241,394	311,394.00		316,544.00
<i>2017 GA & SY Per Capita Received</i>			<i>77,281.00</i>		
Expenses					
Ministries of the Presbytery					
PBM	0,000	0	10,000	C	-
Breadth Fellowship	20,000	0	20,000	D	-
Grants for Emerging Ministries	5,000		15,000	E	-
Social Justice	2,000	0	2,000	F	-
Youth Triennial	3,000	0	3,000	G	-
KICC	1,000	0	1,000	H	-
Congregational Development	4,000	0	4,000	I	-
Committees					
Committee of Ministry	2,400	4,000	7,000.00		6,000.00
Committee of Preparation	1,560	1,440	5,000.00		5,000.00
Nominations	200	0	200.00		200.00
Nurturing Creativity & Relationships	0	0	-	J	58,770.00
Personnel		500	500.00		500.00
Presbytery Roundtable		9,000	9,000.00		7,747.00
Trustees	500	1,500	8,000.00		8,000.00
New Initiatives					
Office Operation		5,000	5,000.00		-
Office Operation		8,000	8,000.00	K	10,187.00
Equip. Replacement Reserve		7,000	7,000.00		7,000.00
GP Salary & Professional Expenses	6,340	96,721	103,071.00	L	100,500.00
Pastor to Pastor	4,000		4,000.00		3,600.00
Stated Clerk Salary & Professional Expenses		30,000	30,000.00		29,200.00
Office Manager Salary & Benefits		96,619	96,619.00	M	91,112.00
Financial Secretary Salary		40,800	40,800.00	N	49,985.00
GA Travel		1,500	1,500.00	O	1,500.00
Total Expense	70,000	303,690	373,690.00		368,918.00
<i>2017 GA & SY Paid in full</i>			<i>84,087.00</i>		
<i>Net loss from GA & SY not received</i>			<i>(6,806.00)</i>	P	
Transfers					
Accumulated budget deficit	0	62,285	6,806.00		
Net Income/Loss			(69,102.00)		
Notes					
A 2018 Projected Presbytery Mission Pledges based on actual received in 2017.					
B Per Capita Membership decrease from 7091 to 6512. Per member increase from \$34 to \$37.					
C Regularize out of NCR.					
D Regularize out of NCR, slight decrease, and setup process for ministry in 2019.					
E Phase NCR grant program. May be able to eliminate when RT develops a process/plan for Transition Fund and Reserves.					
F Regularize out of NCR.					
G Triennial is in 2019.					
H Regularize out of NCR, slight decrease, and evaluate in 2019.					
I Regularize out of NCR.					
J NCR budget to be regularized to a ministry budget.					
K Working on cost-savings initiatives.					
L COLA increase of 3%.					
M COLA increase of 3%.					
N Increase annual contract by \$1,200.					
O Reflects annual amount for biennial GA Assembly.					
P This shortfall in submissions from churches increases the indicated total deficit by this amount.					

Mr. Reynolds reported that the Trustees have found it difficult to open investment accounts in the name of the Trustees of the Presbytery, but that they will continue working to find suitable vehicles.

The Roundtable discussed a letter received from Mr. Harrison Davis, a member of First (New Haven, CT), who is serving as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) in Atlanta, Georgia. YAVs are required to raise half of the funds needed to employ them for a year. Mr. Davis still needs to raise \$2,000. There is still \$11,000 left in the emerging mission budget line, and \$1,000 left in the youth line. Upon a motion made by J.C. Cadwallader and properly seconded, the Roundtable voted to **APPROVE** the expenditure of \$2,000 in mission funds to support Mr. Davis in his work as a YAV.

Art Riihimaki presented the nomination of Audrey Garcia (Brookfield: Valley) to serve as YAAD to Synod Assembly. The Roundtable voted to **NOMINATE** Ms. Garcia to serve in this capacity. The nomination will be voted upon by the Presbytery at the September Meeting.

The Synod has asked for names of three persons who might serve on the Mission and Ministries Commission, of which they would elect one. The next meeting of the commission is November 2-3. Doug Ray, Lisa Baker, and Art Riihimaki volunteered their names to be passed on to the Stated Clerk of the Synod. The Roundtable voted to **RECOMMEND** these persons to the Synod.

The Roundtable adjourned at 11:45 a.m., led in closing prayer by the General Presbyter, the Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo.

Respectfully submitted,

-signed-

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk

*The Next Regular Meeting of the Presbytery Roundtable Will Take Place On
Thursday, October 11, 2018, at 9:30 a.m., at the Westminster Presbyterian Church
in West Hartford, Connecticut*