

174th Stated Meeting
of the Presbytery of Southern New England
Westminster Presbyterian Church
West Hartford, Connecticut
September 12, 2018

The Presbytery of Southern New England of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held a Stated Meeting at the Westminster Presbyterian Church of West Hartford, Connecticut, on September 12, 2018.

The Presbytery was called to order in the sanctuary, and led in sung prayer by the Moderator, the Rev. Christopher Tate, at 9:40 a.m.

QUORUM

A **QUORUM** was present. The Stated Clerk announced that the roll for this meeting was being formed through registration for the meeting.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE	Ministers-	39
	Elders-	<u>24</u>
		63

MINISTERS PRESENT

The following minister members were present:

Jocelyn Cadwallader	Dana F. Lindsley	Virginia Smanik
Stephen Clark	Tracy Mehr-Muska	Pamela Spence-Bakker
Lynda J. Clements	John Merz	Chris Tate
Adele Crawford	Anne Marie Meyerhoffer	Mary Marple Thies
Shelley Donaldson	Sean Miller	Susan Power Trucksess
Brandi Wolfe Drake	Jenny R. Peek	Frances A. Unsell
Julie Emery	Susan M. Pfeil	David R. Van Dyke
Eileen Epperson	Jovelino Ramos	Shannan Vance-Ocampo
Anne Fuhrmeister	Richard Reifsnyder	John C. B. Webster
James R. Glenn	John S. Sandel	Kevin White
David Graybill	Jason Santalucia	Shannon White
Byeta Hoover-Mulvany	Samuel A. Schreiner III	Candace Whitman
Ik Tae Kim	Ruth Herron Smalt	Heather P. Wright

MINISTERS EXCUSED

The following minister members were excused:

Christine Caton	Thomas Hawkins	Laura Opsahl
Greg Doll	Patricia Koons	Lin Rohr
Wayne Eberly	Kathryn Kibbie Laird	April Saber-Assad
Royal Garren	Jim Mahan	John Seiders
Barbara Hager	Marilyn McNaughton	Shavon Starling-Louis
Jan Hawkins	Jimmy McPherson	

ELDER COMMISSIONERS

The following Elders represented the Churches of the Presbytery:

Ashaway: Babcock	Donna Letwin
Barrington	
Brookfield: Valley	Colin Harrison
Cumberland	Peter Cameron, Jackie Eckhardt
Darien: Noroton	Louis DeLoma
Farifield: First	William Schimpf, Clare Schimpf
Fall River: Calvary	
Granby: Pioneer Valley	
Greenwich: First	
Groton: St. Andrew	
Hamden: New Haven Korean	
Hartford: First	June O'Neil
Milford: United	Nadine Logan
New Canaan: First	
New Haven: Connecticut Korean	
New Haven: First	Ralph Jones, Nancy Rudd
Providence	
Springfield: Martin Luther King	Joyce Davis
Stamford: First	
Stamford: Turn of River	
Warwick: Greenwood	
Warwick: Woodbury	Ginny O'Neill
Waterford: Crossroads	Jacqueline Yeung, John Succo
West Hartford: Westminster	Nicole Aronson

Westerly: Dunn's Corners
Wilton

PRESBYTERY ROUNDTABLE

The following Elders from the Presbytery Roundtable were present: Anne Carney (West Hartford: Westminster), Judy Cunningham (Brookfield: Valley), Dick Hasbany (New Haven: First), Lisa Baker (Springfield: MLK), Ralph Reynolds (Darien: Noroton), Art Riihimaki (West Hartford: Westminster), Barbara Riihimaki (West Hartford: Westminster), and Tom Taylor (Darien: Noroton).

VISITORS

Four (4) visitors registered for the meeting: Joan Ramos, Penny Webster, Joanne Kenyon, and Kirk Louis.

CERTIFIED ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Pamela Garner, the Presbytery Administrator, was present.

CHURCHES WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

Fourteen (14) Churches were without Elder Commissioner representation.

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

The Presbytery VOTED to adopt the docket as presented by the Stated Clerk.

ENROLLMENT AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Presbytery VOTED to enroll the following as Corresponding Members:

The Rev. David A. Baer – Palisades Presbytery

The Rev. Theodore J. DeMarco – Boston Presbytery

The Rev. Deborah Mahaney – Presbytery of New York City

CONSENT MOTION

The Presbytery VOTED:

- to **GRANT** excuses from attendance at the 174th Stated Meeting to those needing the same, but that the Presbytery suspend the reading of their names.

- to **GRANT** excuses for early departures from the 174th Stated Meeting for those requesting the same by signing their names on a list maintained at the Clerks' desk, but that the Presbytery suspend the reading of their names.
- to **SEAT** as Corresponding Members those ministers for whom a request is made at the beginning of the meeting.
- to **RECEIVE** the Treasurer's report as list Reference C through C-4.
- to **APPROVE** the minutes of the 174th Stated Meeting held on May 5, 2018, and the minutes of the Special Meeting held on June 5, 2018, as printed in the "Minutes" section of the PSNE website.
- to **DISMISS** the Administrative Commission for the Ordination and Installation of Shelley Donaldson with thanks.

WORSHIP

Worship was held in the sanctuary. The Rev. David A. Baer was installed as the Stated Clerk. The Rev. Virginia Smanik offered the sermon, "And the Children Said," which featured recordings of children reading and reflecting upon Acts 20:1-6 and Mark 10:13-16. Elder Barbara Riihimaki (West Hartford: Westminster) provided musical accompaniment on the piano and organ. Other persons leading worship: the Rev. J. C. Cadwallader, the Rev. Eileen Epperson, the Rev. Chris Tate, the Rev. David Baer, and the Rev. Candace Whitman.

REPORT FROM GENERAL PRESBYTER

The Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo, General Presbyter, delivered her report, in which she reflected on the work of the General Assembly. She presented an overview of the organization of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including the General Assembly and its agencies, and the purpose of per capita funds. The General Assembly is increasing the per capita assessment, because they want to provide mid-councils with the resources to help revitalize congregations. She spoke about advocacy work that commissioners and others engaged in during the meeting of General Assembly this summer, which featured a march to the city jail to pay the cash bail of a number of those held in pre-trial detention at the jail. She emphasized the opportunity for the church to move beyond intra-church conflict and outward toward active witness in the world.

REPORT FROM COMMISSIONERS AND DELEGATES TO THE 223rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Rev. Julie Emery, one of this Presbytery's two Commissioners to the 223rd General Assembly, reported on her experience and the work of the Assembly. This Assembly, she said was "prayerful,

courageous, united, serving, and alive.” Prayer punctuated their work, with prayers offered for those present who had suffered injury or injustice. The work of the Assembly was valuable, but the connection to God in this work was even more valuable! The Assembly courageously confronted issues of injustice, from racism, to the treatment of native peoples, to matters pertaining to human sexuality and sexual minorities. Unity at the Assembly did not mean uniformity of opinion or agreement in all matters of substance, but rather a unity of purpose and fellowship. The activity surrounding the meeting of the Assembly included active service for justice and the poor. Ms. Emery was encouraged at the demonstration of vitality in the church that was in evidence at this Assembly.

The other Commissioner, Elder Steve Hart (Stamford: First), and the Young Adult Advisory Delegate, Walter Manuel (Brookfield: Valley), were unavailable for this Stated Meeting, and will be invited to report at the November Stated Meeting of the Presbytery.

ROUNDTABLE REPORT

The Rev. David Van Dyke, co-chair of the Presbytery Roundtable, presented the report of the Roundtable. He advised the Presbytery that Roundtable had voted to support Harrison Davis (New Haven: First) with a grant of \$2,000 from the Mission Budget in support of his service as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV), and that Harrison was recording his experiences in his blog at hgdavisyav.wordpress.com. 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.

Mr. Van Dyke invited Elder Ralph Reynolds, the chair of the Presbytery Board of Trustees, to join him in presenting a proposed budget for the year 2019.

Upon the recommendation of the Roundtable and after discussion, the Presbytery **VOTED** to **ADOPT** the following budget for the year 2019:

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	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					
Miracles 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 Internship	3,000	0	3,000	G	-
RICC	1,000	0	1,000	H	-
Congregational Development	4,000	0	4,000	I	-
Committees					
Committee on Ministry	2,400	4,000	7,000.00		6,000.00
Committee on Preparation	1,500	1,140	3,000.00		5,000.00
Nominations	200	0	200.00		200.00
Nurturing Creativity & Relationships	0	0	-	J	59,750.00
Personnel		500	500.00		500.00
Presbytery Roundtable		5,000	9,000.00		7,717.00
Trustees	500	1,500	8,000.00		8,000.00
New Initiatives		5,000	5,000.00		-
Office Operation		8,000	8,000.00	K	10,187.00
Equip, Reparation, Reserve		2,000	2,000.00		2,000.00
GP Salary & Professional Expenses	6,340	96,731	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		29,237.00
Office Manager Salary & Benefits		96,619	96,619.00	M	94,112.00
Finance Secretary Salary		40,800	40,800.00	N	39,985.00
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	62,306	6,806.00		
Net Income/Loss			(69,102.00)		
Notes					
A 2019 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 ramp process for ministry in 2019.					
E Prior NCR grant program. May be able to estimate when RT develops a process plan for Transition Fund and Reserves.					
F Regularize out of NCR					
G Transition 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 Reflucts annual amount for biennial GA Assembly					
P This shortfall in submissions from churches increases the indicated total deficit by this amount.					

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustee Report was covered during the report of the Presbytery Roundtable.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

Elder Barbara Riihimaki (West Hartford: Westminster) and the Rev. Sean Miller presented the report of the Committee on Ministry.

Before turning the items listed in the Committee on Ministry's written report, Ms. Riihimaki and Mr. Miller led the Presbytery in recognizing and giving thanks for the Rev. David Graybill's fifty years of ordained service in the Presbyterian Church as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. The Rev. John Merz led the Presbytery in a celebratory prayer.

At the recommendation of the committee, Presbytery **VOTED** to confer upon the Rev. John Sandel the status of Honorably Retired, effective November 1, 2018.

Ms. Riihimaki advised the Presbytery that the Committee had:

1. **APPOINTED** The Rev. Barbara Hager as Moderator of the Session at the United Presbyterian Church, Milford, CT effective July 2, 2018 until an interim pastor is in place.
2. **APPROVED** the Parish Associate contracts for the following clergy with the First Presbyterian Church, New Haven, CT: Rev. Dr. Michal Beth Dinkler, Rev. Stephen Davis, Rev. John Sandel, Rev. Thomas Hastings, and Rev. Arthur Shippee.
3. **APPOINTED** The Rev. Terrlyn Curry Avery as Moderator of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Presbyterian Church, Springfield, MA effective June 15, 2018.
4. **APPROVED** The Rev. Ji Hoon Shin as Temporary Pastor for Youth, New Haven Korean Presbyterian Church, Hamden.
5. **APPROVED** the transfer of The Rev. Stanley Kim to the Presbytery of Los Ranchos effective June 19, 2018.
6. **APPROVED** the Request for Administrative Commission for Ordination and Installation on July 1, 2018 of the Rev. Shelley Donaldson as Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Stamford, CT.
7. **APPROVED** the dissolution of the relationship between The Rev. Pamela Spence Bakker, Interim Pastor, and the Session of Woodbury Union Church, Presbyterian, Warwick, RI

effective July 29, 2018.

8. **CONFERRED** upon the Rev. Anne Marie Meyerhoffer the status of Member at Large effective September 1, 2018.
9. **CONFERRED** upon the Rev. Jennifer Davis the status of Specialized Clergy, Director of Supervised Ministries, Yale Divinity School, effective August 13, 2018.
10. **APPROVED** the Rev. Theodore DeMarco to work within the bounds of the Presbytery of Southern New England effective September 1, 2018 until his membership is transferred to the Presbytery of Southern New England and to work outside the bounds of the Presbyterians of Southern New England as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Boston and the Presbytery of Northern New England.
11. Conducted exit interviews with The Rev. John Seiders, The Rev. Anne Marie Meyerhoffer, and The Rev. Pamela Spence Bakker.
12. Completed the 2017 Session Minutes Review with all churches.
13. **APPROVED** the First Presbyterian Church of Noroton to establish a Dedicated Pastor position for Youth.
14. **APPROVED** the Administrative Commission for Installation of The Rev. Greg Doll, Pastor, Noroton Presbyterian Church, Darien, CT on September 9, 2018.
15. **APPROVED** the request from The Rev. Gregory J. Keosaian, Honorably Retired Minister Member of Presbytery of the Palisades, to work within the bounds of the Presbytery of Southern New England as Pastoral Assistant at Brewster Baptist Church, Brewster, MA.

At the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry, the Presbytery **VOTED**:

1. To **DISSOLVE** the pastoral relationship between The Rev. Anne Marie Meyerhoffer, Pastor, and the United Presbyterian Church, Milford, CT effective August 31, 2018.
2. To **DISSOLVE** the pastoral relationship between The Rev. Jennifer Davis, Associate Pastor, and the First Presbyterian Church, Stamford, CT effective August 12, 2018.
3. To **DISSOLVE** the pastoral relationship between The Rev. Edward Duffy and the First Presbyterian Church, Fairfield, CT effective September 30, 2018.
4. To **APPROVE** the Rev. Theodore J. DeMarco as Pastor of the Woodbury Union Church,

Presbyterian, Warwick, RI effective September 1, 2018 and to approve the transfer of his membership from The Presbytery of Boston to the Presbytery of Southern New England on September 12, 2018. His compensation is as follows (25 hours):

Salary	\$35,000
Housing Allowance	\$14,000
TOTAL EFFECTIVE SALARY	\$49,000
Benefits Plan Dues	\$17,640
SECA Tax Allowance	\$3,773
Professional Expenses (Auto, Cont. Ed., etc.)	\$1,500
TOTAL COMPENSATION	\$71,913

After the Presbytery joined in singing the Doxology, a celebratory prayer was offered by the Rev. Susan Power Trucksess.

5. To **APPROVE** the transfer of membership of the Rev. Deborah Mahaney, Specialized Clergy in Validated Ministry Serving Another Denomination, from the Presbytery of New York City to the Presbytery of Southern New England effective September 12, 2018.

After the Presbytery joined in singing the Doxology, a celebratory prayer was offered by the Rev. Pamela Spence-Bakker.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND LUNCH

Following announcements, the Presbytery recessed for lunch at 12:15 p.m., and was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by the Moderator, the Rev. Chris Tate.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT (CONTINUED)

Upon returning from the lunch recess, at the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry the Presbytery **VOTED**:

6. To **ADOPT** the Presbytery of Southern New England Policy on Regular Background Checks for Clergy (included as Reference H-3).
7. To **ADOPT** the updates to the Presbytery of Southern New England Sexual Misconduct Policy

and Procedures (included as Reference H-4).

8. To **ADOPT** the Presbytery of Southern New England Child Protection Policy (included as Reference H-5).

After a presentation about the circumstances faced by the Valley Presbyterian Church of Brookfield, Connecticut, and upon the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry, the Presbytery **VOTED** to **ESTABLISH** an Administrative Commission for the Valley Presbyterian Church, in accordance with **Book of Order G-3.0109b**. The purpose of this Administrative Commission shall be to inquire into and to resolve all of the issues related to the report to the State of Connecticut regarding the release of fuel oil from a tank on the property held by the Valley Presbyterian Church, which has given rise to concerns about the sufficiency of the congregation's resources for the remediation of the property and the exposure of the Church and the Presbytery to civil litigation.

The Administrative Commission for the Valley Presbyterian Church of Brookfield, Connecticut, shall have the **AUTHORITY** and the **POWER** to:

1. Make certain that any and all parties involved, including but not limited to the Church and the Presbytery, are formally directed and urged to be represented by separate legal counsel, at their own expense.
2. Assume original jurisdiction from the Session, under the provisions of **Book of Order G-3.0303(e)**, *for the limited purpose of* "managing the physical property of the congregation for the furtherance of its mission" (G-3.0201(c)), in order to resolve the issues arising from the release of oil.
3. Meet with the Session of the Valley Presbyterian Church and represent the Session in responding to the State of Connecticut and its agents or other interested parties in this matter.
4. Approve, on behalf of the Presbytery and as the Commission deems appropriate, applications for grants and/or loans needed for the remediation of the physical property held by the Valley Presbyterian Church. All grant and loan approvals shall be reported to the Presbytery at its next Stated Meeting.
5. Inquire into and become an agent of reconciliation in any internal tensions that are present that disturb the peace, unity, and purity of the congregation's life.
6. Create communication channels between Church leadership and the congregation, informing and interpreting the work and decisions of the administrative commission and Session within the life of the Valley Church. The administrative commission shall report its work to the Presbytery at appropriate intervals through the Stated Clerk, and shall maintain a thorough

record of all of its proceedings, which shall be submitted to the Presbytery for incorporation into the permanent records of the Presbytery of Southern New England.

Mr. Miller placed in nomination the Rev. J.C. Cadwallader, the Rev. Shannon White, the Rev. Jimmy McPherson, and Elder Sandy Zuvanich (Brookfield: Valley) for election to the Commission. There were no nominations from the floor. The nominations were closed and the slate elected. The Presbytery **VOTED**, at the recommendation of Mr. Miller, to **AUTHORIZE** the Committee on Ministry to appoint one additional member of the Administrative Commission for the Valley Presbyterian Church.

NOMINATING REPORT

The report of the Nominating Committee was presented by the chair, Elder Art Riihimaki (West Hartford: Westminster). Upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, the Presbytery **VOTED**:

1. To **CONFIRM** the action of Roundtable on August 9, 2018, to nominate Elders A. Douglas Ray, Lisa Baker, and Arthur Riihimaki from the Presbytery of Southern New England to the Mission and Ministries Commission of the Synod of the Northeast, pursuant to rule 6.05 R of the bylaws of the Presbytery of Southern New England. [Note: the Synod will select one of the three nominees to serve.]
2. To **SUSPEND** rule 6.08 of the bylaws of the Presbytery of Southern New England, which states that the Personnel Committee shall be composed of a chairperson and four members, in order to allow the Personnel Committee to consist of a chairperson and five members. [This action was taken in accordance with rule 20.02 of the bylaws of the Presbytery, and passed with the required three-quarters of votes cast in the affirmative.]

STATED CLERK REPORT

The report of the Stated Clerk was covered in the Consent Motion.

REPORT FROM PIM

The Rev. John Webster offered a report on behalf of the PIM ministry, which serves incarcerated persons within our Presbytery. There will be a newsletter coming out shortly to inform the Presbytery about the activities of PIM. Paulo Ribeiro suffered a series of heart attacks, and was visited by members of the steering committee. He was meant to come home yesterday. PIM needed to terminate a member of staff, and to continue his compensation for three months, which placed a financial burden on the ministry for this year. PIM appreciates gifts from congregations and

individuals, and these would be welcome sooner rather than later, in order for the ministry to avoid cash-flow problems.

TIME OF CONVERSATION AND REFLECTION

The Presbytery's Vision/Mission Team led the Presbytery in a time of conversation. The team sought feedback from the Presbytery, inviting those present to indicate the location of their ministry within the Presbytery, and to respond to such questions as:

- What from the Presbytery's past and present energizes you for ministry, and what do you take into the future?
- What is missing from our common life together as a Presbytery?
- What do you seek from the Presbytery that you currently cannot find?
- Why does the ministry you are a part of exist?
- Why do you come to meetings of the Presbytery? What feeds you?

There followed a time of conversation in small groups. The Presbytery was led in prayer by the Rev. Jennifer Peek and Elder Lisa Baker (Springfield: MLK).

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

At the recommendation of the Stated Clerk, the Presbytery **VOTED** a Resolution of Thanks to the host Church for their hospitality at this Stated Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to transact, Presbytery **ADJOURNED**, and was led in a closing prayer by the Vice-Moderator, the Rev. Ruth Smalt, at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk