

175th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Southern New England
Westminster Presbyterian Church – West Hartford, Connecticut

November 17, 2018

Meeting Highlights

There were 35 ministers, 17 elder commissioners, and 6 elder Officer/Roundtable members present and voting. Eleven of the Presbytery's 27 sessions were represented. There were 2 corresponding members, 6 observers, and 1 certified administrative staff. The total attendance was 67.

Were you there...?

... when the host pastor, the Rev. Julie Emery, acknowledged the Sicaog people, the original inhabitants of the land on which the meeting was held?

... in worship, when the Rev. Jenny Peek gave a sermon on Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch, inviting us to consider how those on the margins might help inform and guide the church's ministry?

... for Open Space conversations including discussions about faithful participation in social media spaces, trauma in Vietnam veterans, good stewardship of the environment in local churches, the Parliament of the World's Religions, and the book *White Fragility*?

... when Elder Steve Hart offered his reflections on serving as a commissioner to the 223rd General Assembly?

... when Alonso and Katia Da Cunha and John Webster reported on their work with the Presbyterian Immigrant Ministry (PIM)?

Committee on Representation

The committee presented its review of the presbytery's elected leadership, noting the

underrepresentation of people of color and those under age 60. The Committee has been in conversation with the Nominating Committee regarding their findings, and they are working with the Presbytery Roundtable to provide anti-racism training for the leadership of the Presbytery.

Report from General Presbyter

The Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo continues to work with the Mission and Vision Team to help the presbytery support local congregations in becoming vital faith communities. She presented a summary of "Theory U," a framework for adaptive change developed by Otto Scharmer.

Committee on Ministry

The policy on pastoral compensation was approved. The proposed policy on family leave was sent back to the committee with instructions that the policy should include the same amount of leave and address other concerns expressed by the presbytery in an overture to this year's General Assembly.

Next Meeting

The next Stated Meeting will be held at the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church of Gronton on February 9, 2019.