

2019 COM Annual Report

May 8, 2019

We welcomed:

- The Rev. Michael Piazza as Interim Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, New Canaan, CT effective May 5, 2018 and Rev. Piazza as temporary member of the Presbytery of Southern New England based on the Formula of Agreement between the United Church of Christ, Congregational and the Presbyterian Church (USA) effective June 5, 2018.
- Received The Rev. Shelley Donaldson as Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Stamford, CT, and received her into membership of the Presbytery of Southern New England effective July 1, 2018.
- Received The Rev. Andre Castillo as Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Greenwich, Ct, and received him into membership of the Presbytery of Southern New England effective September 30, 2018.
- The Rev. Lynda Clements from the Presbytery of Hudson River effective May 5, 2018.
- The Rev. Christa Swenson from the Presbytery of Hudson River effective May 5, 2018.
- The Rev. Charles (Carter) Via from the Presbytery of Hudson River effective May 5, 2018.
- The Rev. Arthur Woolverton from the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois effective May 5, 2018.
- The Rev. Gregory Doll as Pastor, Noroton Presbyterian Church, Darien, CT effective June 15, 2018.
- The Rev. Theodore James DeMarco as Pastor, Woodbury Union Church, Presbyterian, Warwick, RI effective September 1, 2018 and the transfer of his membership from the Presbytery of Boston effective September 12, 2018.
- The Rev. Deborah Mahaney from the Presbytery of New York City, effective September 12, 2018.
- The Rev. Dr. Thomas Groome, III, as Interim Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Fairfield, CT and the transfer of his membership from the Presbytery of Transylvania, effective February 9, 2019.
- The Rev. Dr. Laurie McKnight, Member at Large, from the Presbytery of Transylvania, effective February 9, 2019.

We ordained/certified/installed:

- Ordained Shelley Donaldson as Minister of Word and Sacrament effective July 1, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church, Stamford, CT.
- Ordained Andre Castillo as Minister of Word and Sacrament effective September 30, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church, Greenwich, CT.

- Ordained The Rev. Greg Doll, as pastor, Noroton Presbyterian Church, Darien, CT, effective Sept. 9, 2018.
- Installed The Rev. Theodore J. DeMarco as Pastor, Woodbury Union Church, Presbyterian, Warwick, RI effective October 21, 2018.

We assisted congregations in their pastoral relations:

- Dissolved the pastoral relationship between The Rev. Erin Keys, Associate Pastor, and the First Presbyterian Church, Greenwich, CT effective December 15, 2017.
- Appointed The Rev. Brandi Drake as Interim Moderator of First Presbyterian Church, New Canaan, CT effective June 5, 2018.
- Dissolved the pastoral relationship between The Rev. Anne Marie Meyerhoffer and the United Presbyterian Church, Milford, CT effective August 31, 2018.
- Appointed of The Rev. Barbara Hager as Interim Moderator of the Session at the United Presbyterian Church, Milford, CT effective July 2, 2018.
- Approved the appointment of Parish Associate for the First Presbyterian Church, New Haven for the following clergy: The Rev. Michal Beth Dinkler, The Rev. Stephen J. Davis, The Rev. John Sweet, The Rev. Thomas J. Hastings, and The Rev. Arthur B. Shippee.
- Appointed The Rev. Terrlyn Curry-Avery as Moderator of the Session and Interim Pastor of Martin Luther King, Jr., Presbyterian Church, Springfield, MA effective June 15, 2018.
- Dissolved the relationship between The Rev. Pamela Spence Bakker, Interim Pastor, Woodbury Union Church, Presbyterian, Warwick, RI and the Session effective July 29, 2018.
- Appointed The Rev. Lynda Clements as Interim Moderator, Woodbury Union Church, Warwick, RI effective July 30, 2018.
- Dissolved the pastoral relationship between The Rev. Jenny Davis, Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Stamford, CT effective August 12, 2018.
- Dissolved the pastoral relationship between The Rev. Edward Duffy and the First Presbyterian Church, Fairfield, CT effective September 30, 2018.
- Appointed The Rev. Brandi Drake, Associate Pastor, as Interim Moderator, First Presbyterian Church, Fairfield, CT effective October 1, 2018.
- Dissolved the pastoral relationship between The Rev. Adele Crawford, Pastor, and the Valley Presbyterian Church, Brookfield, CT effective October 7, 2018.
- Appointed The Rev. Johanna Johns Jung as Interim Moderator of the Session at the Valley Presbyterian Church, Brookfield, CT effective October 8, 2018.
- Appointed The Rev. Carleton Giles as Stated Supply for the United Presbyterian Church, Milford, CT, for six months effective January 1, 2019.
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- Approved the sabbatical plan of The Rev. Shannon White, Wilton Presbyterian Church, Wilton, CT.
- Dismissed The Rev. Pat Koons as Stated Supply and Moderator of Session for the Presbyterian Church in the Meadows, Granby, MA effective April 30, 2019.
- Appointed The Rev. John Merz as Interim Moderator of the Session for First Presbyterian Church, Hartford, CT effective May 1, 2019.
- Dismissed The Rev. Jan Hawkins and The Rev. Thomas Hawkins as State Supply and Moderators of Session for the First Presbyterian Church, Hartford, CT effective April 30, 2019.
- Appointed The Rev. John Merz as Interim Moderator of the Session for First Presbyterian Church in the Meadows, Granby, MA effective May 1, 2019.

We dismissed:

- The Rev. Paul Terry to the Northeast Coast Presbytery of the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians effective May 5, 2018 with the understanding that Rev. Terry renounced the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and that his name was deleted with regret and gratitude from the roles of the Presbytery of Southern New England.
- The Rev. Paul Gilmore to the Presbytery of Chicago.
- The Rev. Erin Keys to the National Capital Presbytery.
- The Rev. Candice Provey to the Presbytery of Northern New England.
- The Rev. Stanley Kim to the Presbytery of Los Ranchos.
- The Rev. Matthew Jun to the Presbytery of Hudson River at their request.
- The Rev. John Seiders to the Presbytery of Northern New England.
- The Rev. Gerson Annunciacao to the Presbytery of Utah.
- The Rev. Christine Delmar to the Presbytery of Seattle.
- The Rev. Christine Foster to the National Capital Presbytery.
- The Rev. Megan Cullip to the Presbytery of Santa Fe.

We honorably retired:

- The Rev. John Sandel, Specialized Clergy, effective November 11, 2018.
- The Rev. Royal Garren, Specialized Clergy, effective January 1, 2019.
- The Rev. Jan Hawkins and The Rev. Thomas Hawkins, Stated Supply Pastors, First Presbyterian Church, Hartford, CT effective April 30, 2019.

We approved the contract:

- The Rev. Jihoon Shin as Temporary Pastor for Youth, New Haven Korean Presbyterian Church, Hamden, CT.

We gave thanks for the life well lived and courageously finished:

- The Rev. Edward (Ned) Castner, who died on March 20, 2019.

We assisted congregations and clergy:

- Developed a Presbytery of Southern New England Policy on Regular Background Checks for Clergy.
- Updated the Presbytery of Southern New England Policy on Ministerial Compensation for 2019.
- Developed a Presbytery of Southern New England Policy on Child Protection.
- Updated the Presbytery of Southern New England Policy on Sexual Misconduct.
- Presented the following people to serve on the Sexual Misconduct Response Team: Elder Lisa Baker; The Rev. Richard Dannenfeler; The Rev. Eileen Epperson; Rev. The John Sandel; and The Rev. Heather Wright.
- Updated the Presbytery of Southern New England Policy on Parental Leave.
- Recommended with the concurrence of the Session of the Valley Presbyterian Church the establishment of an Administrative Commission for the Valley Presbyterian Church to inquire and resolve all issues related to the release of fuel oil from a tank on the Valley Church property.
- Approved The Rev. Theodore James DeMarco to work within our bounds at Woodbury Union Church, Presbyterian, Warwick, RI from September 1, 2018 to September 12, 2018 and outside the bounds of the Presbytery of Southern New England as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Boston and the Presbytery of Northern New England.
- Worked with the leadership teams of the First Presbyterian Church, New Canaan, CT and Valley Presbyterian Church, Brookfield, CT and a consultant on issues that have arisen during the transitional period.
- Worked with the Pastor Nominating Committee of several congregations on their search for an interim pastor and installed pastors.
- Validated the Specialized Clergy ministry of Rev. Joan Priest as Interim Pastor, Groton Congregational Church, Groton, CT.
- Engaged with PneuMatrix in working with adaptive change and living into the future for selected churches and the PSNE.
- Developed a process with the Stated Clerk on handling the request for an Administrative Commission for Ordination or Installation and the final report of the Commission based on the Book of Order G-3.0109b.
- Coordinated 3 sessions to review 2017 Session Minutes with all clerks of session: April 14, April 28 and May 12 and completed all reviews by August 2018.
- Worked with the Connecticut Korean Presbyterian Church to help them update their church bylaws and clarify their relationship with the Korean Saturday School.
- Conducted exit interviews with The Revs. John Seiders, Anne Marie Meyerhoffer, Pamela Spence Bakker, Adele Crawford, and Edward Duffy.

- Approved The Rev. Anne Marie Meyerhoffer, Specialized Clergy, to work outside the bounds of the PSNE as Interim pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Marcellus, NY (Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse).
- Approved the Noroton Presbyterian Church of Darien to establish a Dedicated Pastor for Youth position.
- Recommended that the PSNE rescind the action of the Presbytery of Southern New England removing The Rev. Matthew Jun from membership in the PSNE in 2013 and expunge this action from the minutes of the Presbytery.
- Began discussion on the findings of the 2018 and 2019 Board of Pensions study "Living By the Gospel" on disparities in effective salary for pastors related to age, gender and congregational size and the terms of call /effective salary of installed pastors in the PSNE and the justice implications for fair compensation and hosted an Open Space at the November 2018 Presbytery meeting.
- Supported the Woodbury Union Church, Presbyterian and The Rev. T. J. DeMarco following the fire in that church in November 2018.
- Worked with the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Hartford, CT in discerning clergy support for the future.
- Assisted Rev. Adele Crawford in obtaining disability benefits through the Board of Pensions.
- Worked on revising the COM Operations Manual.
- Completed the Annual Non-Parish Clergy Report for the Presbytery.
- Approved the Annual Parish Clergy Compensation Report for the Presbytery.
- Participated in multiple training sessions on the following topics:
 - o Interim and installed pastor search and how they have evolved with Rev. Vance-Ocampo;
 - o The evolution of interim ministry practices and support of interim ministers with Rev. John Seiders;
 - o Board of Pension benefit changes for 2019, optional benefits available and the Disability Benefit offered by the Board of Pensions with Rev. Allison Seed;
 - o Small church programs from the Presbyterian Foundation with Rev. Paul Grier;
 - o Updates to the Board of Pension benefits and new offerings for 2019 with Rev. Allison Seed;
 - o Anti-racism training at Stony Point Conference Center, NY with Jessica Torres-Vazquez of Crossroads; and
 - o Adaptive change and challenges in discerning future paths and ministry for churches in the 21st century with Rev. Deborah Wright of PneuMatrix.
- Approved the Healthy Boundaries Training schedule for June 6, 2019.
- Worked with several congregations in transition situations: Valley Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church, New Canaan, United Presbyterian Church, Milford, First Presbyterian Church, Hartford, First Presbyterian Church in the Meadows, Granby, MA, Martin Luther King, Jr. Presbyterian Church, Springfield, MA.

- Approved the Mission Information Form for First Presbyterian Church, Fairfield, CT for an Interim Pastor.
- Approved the Interim Pastor position description and proposed terms of call for Valley Presbyterian Church, Brookfield, CT.
- Approved the Ministry Information Form for First Presbyterian Church, Hartford, CT.