

177th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Southern New England
Westminster Presbyterian Church – West Hartford, Connecticut
May 8, 2019

Meeting Highlights

There were 44 ministers, 23 elder commissioners, and 5 elder Officer/Roundtable members present and voting. Thirteen of the Presbytery's 26 sessions were represented. There were 5 corresponding members, 3 observers, and 1 certified administrative staff. The total attendance was 81.

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?

... for worship, which included the installation of the new Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Ruth Herron Smalt, and the necrology report?

... as the Presbytery received Young Wan Son as a Candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament?

... to welcome four new minister members—Thomas Hughart (H.R.), Gail Schneider (H.R.), and Shanell Smith (Hartford Seminary)?

... for the election of new chairs and members of the Presbytery's committees, and to acknowledge and thank the outgoing committee members for their service?

Matthew 25 Initiative

During her report, the General Presbyter, the Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo, told the Presbytery about the Matthew 25 Initiative, as the Presbyterian Mission Agency invites churches to join together in building congregational vitality, dismantling structural

racism, and eradicating systematic poverty. To find out more, or to join this effort as a Matthew 25 Church, visit www.pcusa.org/matthew25.

Parental Leave Policy

The Presbytery adopted a policy which sets forth recommendations for Personnel Committees to provide paid leave to pastoral staff when their families welcome a new child. In cases where this would impose financial hardship on the congregation, churches may apply to the Presbytery for assistance to help defray costs associated with providing Parental Leave.

Ghana Maternity Ward Project

Patti Law, a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Fairfield, gave a presentation on a maternity ward that the congregation is helping to construct in Ghana, in partnership with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana. The Presbytery celebrated the progress of their efforts, including a recent grant from Presbyterian Women for \$40,000.

Next Meeting

The next Stated Meeting will be held at the Dunn's Corners Presbyterian Church of Westerly on September 18, 2019.