

Ref. B
Stated Clerk
September 18, 2019
Presbytery of Southern New England

**REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK
TO THE PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
September 18, 2019**

FOR INFORMATION:

1. The Administrative Commission for the Valley Presbyterian Church has not met since the last stated meeting of the Presbytery, and therefore has no new records to submit to the Presbytery. Until the Commission is dismissed, I will continue to report their minutes to the Presbytery, in accordance with *Book of Order* G-3.0109b, which requires that “[a] commission shall keep a full record of its proceedings and shall submit that record to the council or councils for incorporation into its records[,]” and that “[t]he decisions of an administrative commission shall be reported to the clerk of the designating council, who shall report it to the council at its next stated meeting.”
2. The Office of the General Assembly has released the latest edition of the Book of Order for 2019-2021. You can download a PDF copy of the new edition online or order a paperback copy here:
<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/constitutional-services/constitution/#boo>
3. I would like to make those of you who serve on the session of any of the Presbytery’s congregations aware of one of the *Book of Order*’s requirements related to the leasing of church property: “A congregation shall not lease its real property used for purposes of worship, or lease for more than five years any of its other real property, without the written permission of the presbytery transmitted through the session of the congregation” (G-4.0206b).

Many congregations, including my own, have developed mutually beneficial relationships with other congregations by providing space for worship, education, and fellowship. When a PC(U.S.A.) congregation leases its worship space to another group, the permission of the presbytery is required, and in the great majority of cases can be readily granted. If you are exploring such an arrangement, or if you currently have a tenant using your worship space and have not yet sought the permission of the presbytery, please get in touch with me, so that we can arrange for the lease to be reviewed and approved.

FOR ACTION BY THE PRESBYTERY:

1. I **RECOMMEND** that the Presbytery **APPROVE** the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Presbytery (May 8, 2019), as posted on the “Minutes” section of the Presbytery of Southern New England website.