**THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

March 11, 2020

**FOR PRESBYTERY ACTION:**

1. None requested.

FOR PRESBYTERY INFORMATION

1. Approved the renewal contract between The Rev. Carol Howard Merritt, Interim Pastor, and the First Presbyterian Church, New Canaan, CT through July 8, 2020 with no changes to the terms of call.
2. Met with The Rev. Deborah Wright of Pneumatrix to hear her final report on her work with 4 churches and the progress made and opportunities these churches had discovered. Rev. Wright also worked with the COM on how we support congregations faced with the need for adaptive change.
3. Worked with Flor Velez-Dias, Esq., Manager for Judicial Process with the Office of the General Assembly, to discuss the responsibility and authority of Presbyteries to assess the fitness of their minister members.
4. Approved the extension of the contract for The Rev. Carleton Giles as Stated Supply, Milford United Presbyterian Church, Milford, CT for 6 months effective October 1, 2019.
5. Received the contract for The Rev. Susan Pfeil, Honorably Retired, to serve as Stated Pulpit Supply, United Congregational Church, Norwalk, CT from January 1 – December 31, 2020 under the Formula of Agreement with the United Church of Christ Congregational.
6. Appointed The Rev. Andre Castillo, Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Greenwich, CT as temporary Moderator of the Session upon hearing that the Rev. Sean Miller has been placed on administrative leave.
7. Supported The Rev. Shannan Vance–Ocampo in successfully applying for a 3-year grant for the Martin Luther King Presbyterian Church, Springfield, MA from the Synod of the Northeast.
8. Approved the Covenant of Closure between The Rev. Michael Piazza and the First Presbyterian Church, New Canaan, CT.
9. Approved the proposed terms of call for the Rev. Iktae Kim, Pastor of the Connecticut Korean Presbyterian Church, New Haven, CT with the admonition to the Session that the 26 hours per week of work be strictly adhered to.
10. Appointed the Rev. Mary Marple Thies to serve as temporary Moderator of Session at the Turn of River Presbyterian Church, Stamford, CT.
11. Approved the Ministry Information Form of the First Presbyterian Church, Fairfield, CT.
12. Adjusted liaison assignments for churches for 2020 and had a discussion regarding the role of liaisons.
13. Heard updates on pastors receiving disability benefits through the Board of Pensions.
14. A subcommittee is studying whether additional parameters are needed for the PSNE Policy on Pastoral Compensation and what those parameters should be.
15. Appointed the Rev. Richard Reifsnyder as Acting Co-Chair of the Committee on Ministry effective January 8, 2020.
16. Met with The Rev. Laurie Ferguson, Specialized Clergy, Hudson River Presbytery for training on how to work with mental health issues in clergy and processes/decision tree that COM should define for these types of situations.
17. Met with The Rev. Deborah Packard, Interim Pastor, Valley Presbyterian Church, to hear a 6-month update on the progress and ongoing challenges in their interim time.
18. Members of the committee are reading *Recovering from Un-natural disasters: A Guide for Pastors and Congregations after Violence and Trauma*, by Laurie Kraus, David Holyan, and Bruce Wismer as we learn how to work with congregations and others who may be impacted by violence.