

Ref. B
Stated Clerk
September 19, 2020
Presbytery of Southern New England

**REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK
TO THE PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
September 19, 2020**

FOR INFORMATION:

1. Connecticut congregations should be aware of the **Time's Up Act** which requires all employers in the state to conduct a two hour sexual harassment prevention training by October 1, 2020. This includes all religious employees. Please make sure this is addressed for all employees in your congregation, including pastoral staff.

More information, including a link to a training video which fulfills the act's requirements, can be found at the following web address: <https://portal.ct.gov/CHRO/Sexual-Harassment-Prevention-Training/Pages/Sexual-Harassment-Prevention-Resources>

2. I would like to remind the sessions of the Presbytery's congregations 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 16, 2020), as included with the materials for this meeting.