

**REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK
TO THE PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
September 22, 2021**

FOR INFORMATION:

1. Following the Presbytery's approval of the examination of Mr. Dale Green for ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament and validation of his ministry, the Committee on Ministry appointed an ordaining commission in accordance with the authority granted to it under the PSNE Bylaws (8.2G). The ordaining commission carried out its assigned responsibilities, and on Sunday, June 27, 2021, at a service held for this purpose, the Commission proceeded to ordain Dale Green to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. The Rev. Dale Green is now a member of the Presbytery of Southern New England engaged in validated ministry, and we welcome his return among us—still a presbyter and a colleague in ministry, but now serving in a new role! The minutes of the ordaining commission are provided as Ref. B-1.
2. From time to time I receive requests for excused absences from elder commissioners, and so I wanted to offer a word of clarification about this matter. Minister members of PSNE are continuing members of the presbytery, and as such they are individually expected to attend meetings of the presbytery. The same is true of ruling elders who are members of the assembly by virtue of their elected position—that is, as officers of the Presbytery, chairs of standing committees, Commissioned Ruling Elders, or members-at-large of Roundtable. If any of these persons is unable to attend a meeting of the presbytery, *it is appropriate* for such a member of the assembly to ask to be excused.

Elder commissioners, however, are *fulfilling not an individual obligation, but rather an obligation of the session that commissioned them*. If a commissioner is unable to attend a presbytery meeting, the commissioner should so inform the session, which has the authority and responsibility to appoint another commissioner for the meeting. Sessions may find it convenient to name one or more alternate commissioners in advance, and to provide a means by which one of these may be appointed for a particular presbytery meeting, so as to avoid having to call a special meeting in response to a late-breaking schedule conflict. In any case, it is not necessary for elder commissioners to ask to be excused by the presbytery if they are unable to attend, *but they should ensure that the session has an opportunity to provide for the church to be represented*.

FOR ACTION BY THE PRESBYTERY:

1. I **RECOMMEND** that the Presbytery **APPROVE** the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Presbytery (May 12, 2021), which were posted this spring to the “Minutes” section of the Presbytery of Southern New England website, and which are also included with the materials for this Stated Meeting.
2. I **RECOMMEND** that the Presbytery **DISMISS** the ordaining commission referenced in Information Item #1 above with thanks, and that their proceedings (Ref. B-1) be **SPREAD** upon the minutes of this Presbytery.