

PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY ROUNDTABLE
January 20, 2022

The Roundtable of the Presbytery of Southern New England met via Zoom teleconference. The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by the co-chair, Elder Mildred McNeill. The Rev. Chris Tate, acting co-chair, led the Roundtable in its opening devotions, which included a viewing of the music video for Amos Lee's "See the Light."

A **QUORUM** was present.

Present were: Mildred McNeill (co-chair), Chris Tate (acting co-chair), Nicole Aronson, Lisa Baker, J. C. Cadwallader, Rachele Lee, Kirk Louis, John Merz, Deborah Packard, and Jenny Peek.

Also present was: *ex-officio* member David Baer, Stated Clerk.

Excused were: Andre Castillo, and Shannan Vance-Ocampo (*ex officio*).

The agenda for the meeting was **APPROVED**, with amendments. The minutes of the October Roundtable meeting were **APPROVED** as distributed by the clerk.

The Stated Clerk, David Baer, gave his report, in which he presented the proposed revisions to the PSNE Bylaws that had been offered for a first reading at the November Stated Meeting. Upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Roundtable **VOTED** to **PRESENT** the proposed revisions for **APPROVAL** by the Presbytery. (The revisions are attached to these minutes as Attachment 1.)

Mr. Baer noted that there is a conflict between the date for the May Annual Meeting previously approved by the Roundtable and the NEXT Church conference, which is to be held in Montreat. Upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Roundtable **VOTED** to **AMEND** the schedule of stated meetings as follows:

- February 16, at 5:30 p.m. - Zoom
- May 25, at 5:30 p.m. - hybrid, host: Darien
- September 17, at 10:00 a.m. - hybrid, host: TBD
- November 16, at 5:30 p.m. - hybrid, host: Warwick, Woodbury Union

Mr. Baer reminded the Roundtable of the need to adopt a schedule of its own meetings for 2022. Upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Roundtable **VOTED** to **ADOPT** the following schedule of Roundtable meetings: April 28, August 25, and October 27, all at 9:30 a.m. over Zoom.

Mr. Baer presented a proposed docket for the February Presbytery Meeting. Upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Roundtable **VOTED** to **APPROVE** the docket, subject to further revision as needed by the clerk, the moderator, and the vice moderator.

The Roundtable engaged in conversation regarding Presbytery worship for the February meeting and subsequent meetings.

The Rev. Jenny Peek and Elder Kirk Louis presented a report on behalf of the Anti-Racism Team. The team is preparing a contract with Crossroads Anti-Racism for consulting in the presbytery's anti-racism work, including a leaders' retreat, coaching, and presbytery-wide training. Upon a motion properly

made and seconded, the Roundtable **VOTED** to **APPROVE** the proposed contract.

Chris Tate, the chair of the Nominating Committee, spoke of various challenges related to that committee's work. Members of the Roundtable expressed their appreciation for the work of the Nominating Committee.

Skyler McDonnell, a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Stamford, has been proposed as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) for this year's General Assembly. Following e-mail consultation in December, the Stated Clerk reported their name to the Office of the General Assembly as the YAAD for PSNE. Upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Roundtable **VOTED** to **RATIFY** the appointment of Skyler McDonnell, subject to approval by the Presbytery at the next Stated Meeting, in accordance with the PSNE Bylaws, 6.5Q.

The Roundtable reviewed a proposal from the Board of Trustees on an allocation of unbudgeted investment income:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--|
| Crossroads Anti-Racism Contract | \$10,000.00 | for the 2022 anti-racism work in PSNE |
| PIM | \$3,000.00 | assistance for PIM's ongoing ministry with one chaplain |
| Clergy Retreats/Renewal | \$4,000.00 | for use over the next 9 months for various renewal needs for PSNE clergy, retreat, etc. related to the pandemic |
| MLK Arson Fund | \$5,000.00 | donation for ministry |
| Latinas in Action NWC | \$3,000.00 | donation for ministry |
| Ministerial Relief Fund | \$8,000.00 | to get some additional funds into this program of the Presbytery, which have been needed/depleted during the pandemic and not replenished in the usual way |
| Not So Churchy NWC | \$3,000.00 | donation for ministry |
| | | |
| Total: | \$36,000.00 | |

An additional \$4,000 in income is not allocated, and is available to reduce the operating deficit for 2022. Upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Roundtable **VOTED** to **APPROVE** the above proposal.

The meeting adjourned with prayer offered by Mildred McNeill at 10:52 a.m. The next meeting of the Roundtable will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 28, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

-signed-

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk