PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY ROUNDTABLE
June 10, 2021

The Roundtable of the Presbytery of Southern New England met via Zoom teleconference. The meeting came to order at 9:35 a.m., with opening devotions offered by the co-chair, the Rev. Julie Emery.

A **QUORUM** was present.

Present were: Julie Emery (co-chair), Nicole Aronson, Lisa Baker, Andre Castillo, Rachelle Lee, Kirk Louis, John Merz, Deborah Packard, and Chris Tate.

Also present were: ex-officio members Shannan Vance-Ocampo, General Presbyter; David Baer, Stated Clerk.

Members of the Roundtable introduced themselves.

The agenda for the meeting, distributed in advance of the meeting by the chair, was **APPROVED**.

The General Presbyter gave her report, in which she presented a proposal on how committee and Presbytery meetings might be conducted, as the area comes out of pandemic-related restrictions. Upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Roundtable **VOTED** to **ADOPT** and **IMPLEMENT** the proposal (Attachment 1).

Mr. Baer provided a copy of the minutes of the April Roundtable meeting, which were **APPROVED** upon a motion properly made and seconded.

The Roundtable received a proposal from the Rev. J. C. Cadwallader, the Presbytery Moderator, for an in-person retreat connected with the September Stated Meeting of the Presbytery. The retreat would be held in New Bedford, Massachusetts on the afternoon and evening of Tuesday, September 21, and the meeting would be held on the morning of September 22, at the Woodbury Union Church in Warwick, Rhode Island. Upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Roundtable **VOTED** to **ADOPT** the proposal. The Moderator, the General Presbyter, and the Stated Clerk will proceed to make the appropriate arrangements.

Andre Castillo, the President of the Corporation, asked for representatives from the Roundtable to serve on the budget team, together with himself and Jim Duncan from the Board of Trustees. John Merz volunteered to serve in this role, and Mr. Castillo will inquire individually of members of the Roundtable to find one additional volunteer.

Mr. Castillo reported that the Paycheck Protection Program loan that the Presbytery had received had been forgiven by the U. S. government. The total amount was approximately $77,000.

The Trustees will meet later today, and will consider a number of recommendations related to dedicated funds accounts. A list of the recommendations was provided to members of the Roundtable for their feedback. The total amount of funds in these accounts is approximately $10,000.

John Merz, the chair of the Personnel Committee, reported that the committee has been developing a Covenant of Relationship for those active as employees and volunteers in the Presbytery. They are being guided by the "Standards of Ethical Conduct for Members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) approved by the General Assembly in 2002. The committee will be meeting in two weeks, and is looking for feedback.

The chairs of the other committees of the Presbytery provided updates on their work.

The Roundtable adjourned with a prayer offered by the Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo at 11:20 a.m. The next meeting of the Roundtable will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 26, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

-signed-

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk

These ideas were originally brought to the Roundtable from David Baer, Stated Clerk and Shannan Vance-Ocampo, General Presbyter. Roundtable discussed and made some suggestions which have been incorporated into this document.

The Roundtable welcomes your input before they make decisions at their June Roundtable meeting. You can do so via this <u>form</u>.

We welcome all suggestions and ideas.

Goals/Values

- Build and grow community and relationships

- Return to in-person gatherings

- Allow for hybrid set-up for all in-person meetings

- Continue to increase opportunities for participation across the Presbytery (nominating)

- Theology of equity and inclusion

- Built-in flexibility and adaptability in the event we need to return to all virtual for health/safety reasons

Committee/Team Meetings

- Continue with Zoom for all committee meetings. This will allow more people to serve than have before

- Consider moving needed committees to evening time slots to deal with representation issues on all committees of age parity especially among Ruling Elders and to allow more ability for Nominating to find potential candidates

- At the beginning of each year hold a one-day retreat for all committee/team members to:

    o Establish Presbytery-wide goals for all committees

- o Biblical/theological study and worship

- o Leadership development

- o Anti-racism and equity training

- o Individual team time/fellowship

● In-person fellowship events twice/year for all committee/teams for relationship building such as summer BBQ, holiday gathering, etc.

Stated Meetings

● Continue with quarterly in-person meetings of the Presbytery

● All meetings to include hybrid participation options

● One meeting each year converted to an attractional all-Presbytery training event with outside leader(s) (with potential to invite Boston, Northern New England to join us)

● All Presbytery meeting dates/locations/times announced by November of the prior year for planning purposes

● Potential winter meeting Zoom-only as we typically have unstable weather and historically this meeting (pre-Covid) was rescheduled often

Staff

● Continue with twice/month Zoom staff meetings as we have been doing pre-Covid and during Covid.

● Quarterly in-person staff gatherings

Other

➢ Target the **(September 2021)** November 13, 2021 Stated Meeting for the first in-person gathering for PSNE (location TBD). With hybrid set-up. Meeting to be focused on worship, fellowship, renewing relationships and healing.

➢ Have a fall clergy wellness retreat annually with outside leadership. Begin with this in Fall 2021 to allow separate space for processing, etc. of the pandemic by clergy with a variety of wellness modalities built in.

➢ Full implementation of above to begin January 2022