

**PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY ROUNDTABLE
March 8, 2022**

The Roundtable of the Presbytery of Southern New England held a Special Meeting via Zoom teleconference. The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by the co-chair, Elder Mildred McNeill. The General Presbyter, the Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo, led the Roundtable in prayer.

A **QUORUM** was present.

Present were: Mildred McNeill (co-chair), Jason Santalucia (acting co-chair), Nicole Aronson, Lisa Baker, J. C. Cadwallader, Rachelle Lee, Kirk Louis, John Merz, Deborah Packard, Jennifer Peek, and Christopher Tate.

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

The General Presbyter shared a proposal for a joint worship service to be held by the three New England Presbyteries on the afternoon of Pentecost, June 5, at the Calvin Presbyterian Church in Cumberland, Rhode Island. The Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, Executive Director and President of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, has agreed to take part in leading the service. Ms. Vance-Ocampo characterized this event as an opportunity to build connections with these neighboring presbyteries, as we look—over the long term—to share more of our work and ministry with them. A commitment of \$750 from PSNE is required, and will go to provide tents for the outdoor event, as well as food for the meal to follow worship.

Upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Roundtable **VOTED** to **APPROVE** the joint worship service, and to **AUTHORIZE** the expenditure of up to \$750 for expenses.

The meeting adjourned with prayer offered by Mildred McNeill at 4:15 p.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

**PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY ROUNDTABLE
April 28, 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, the Rev. Jason Santalucia, who briefly introduced himself to the members of the Roundtable. Mr. Santalucia then led the Roundtable in a devotion from a collection of writings by Henri Nouwen, entitled *The Call of the Small*.

A **QUORUM** was present.

Present were: Mildred McNeill (co-chair), Jason Santalucia (co-chair), Nicole Aronson, J. C. Cadwallader, Andre Castillo, Rachelle Lee, Kirk Louis, John Merz, Jenny Peek, and Chris Tate.

Also present was: *ex-officio* members Shannan Vance-Ocampo, the General Presbyter; and David Baer, Stated Clerk.

Excused were: Lisa Baker and Deborah Packard.

The agenda for the meeting was **APPROVED** as distributed. The minutes of the January Roundtable meeting, and the Special Meeting of March 8, were **APPROVED** as distributed by the clerk.

The Stated Clerk, David Baer, gave his report, in which he presented a proposed docket for the May meeting. Upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Roundtable **VOTED** to **APPROVE** the docket (Attachment 1), with amendments.

Shannan Vance-Ocampo, the General Presbyter, gave her report. She noted that this is a liminal, transitional time for the presbytery as the pandemic recedes and new ways of gathering take hold. This will be a year of experimentation! She noted that the Roundtable will need to engage in some conversation about worship in presbytery meetings—though this is something that host churches are able to help with—as well as the larger questions of why and how we gather.

This year's General Assembly will take place over three weeks, with committees meeting in person in Louisville, and the plenary taking place as an online virtual meeting. Because of this, Ms. Vance-Ocampo and Mr. Baer will not be physically present with our commissioners, but they will be available remotely as resource persons throughout the Assembly.

The Roundtable engaged in a period of conversation about the history of the presbytery worship team, and whether there is still a need for a group to plan services of worship at presbytery meetings—perhaps in collaboration with the host church. The moderator and vice moderator will work with the host church to draw attention to certain themes or pastoral needs that can be addressed through worship.

The Roundtable also began a conversation about the purpose of presbytery-wide gatherings, including business meetings, and whether there can be a focus on relationship building, now that the COM and CPM have been constituted as Administrative Commissions with the authority to carry out much of the routine business of the presbytery. Points of conversation included: a fear that without a business component, many people may choose not to attend; and the value of Open Space as a time accessible to all and not “owned” by the Roundtable. J. C. Cadwallader volunteered to host a follow-up conversation over a meal about this topic.

Upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Roundtable **VOTED** to **AMEND** the schedule of stated meetings as follows:

- The September meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 21, at 5:30 p.m.
- The November meeting will be held on Saturday, November 5, at 10:00 a.m., provided that the host church, the Woodbury Union Presbyterian Church of Warwick, is able to accommodate the new date and time.

Mr. Baer will contact the Rev. Nancy Baseel, the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Hartford, to see whether that church might host the September meeting. He will also contact the Rev. T. J. Demarco, pastor of the Woodbury Union Church, regarding the new date and time.

The Roundtable turned to the nomination of persons to serve on the Presbytery Nominating Committee. Upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Roundtable **VOTED** to place the following persons in nomination:

- Chris Tate and Terrlyn Curry Avery (class of 2025)
- Carter Via (class of 2023)

The Roundtable **VOTED** further to place Chris Tate in nomination to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee, class of 2023, and to **RECOMMEND** that the Presbytery suspend the bylaws, with respect to term limits for committee chairs, in order to elect Mr. Tate to this position.

Upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Roundtable **VOTED** to **RATIFY** the appointment of Elder Keunsam Chung (Hamden: New Haven Korean) to serve as elder commissioner to the General Assembly. In accordance with the presbytery's bylaws, the presbytery will need to approve this appointment at the next meeting.

There is a need for members of the Roundtable to serve on the budget team over the summer. It is expected that the Rev. John Merz will volunteer to serve in this role again. Upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Roundtable **VOTED** to **AUTHORIZE** the co-chairs of Roundtable to appoint the Roundtable representatives for the budget team.

The meeting adjourned with prayer offered by J. C. Cadwallader at 12:02 p.m. The next meeting of the Roundtable will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 25, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

-signed-

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk

Attachment 1

189TH STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Wednesday, May 25, 2022
Noroton Presbyterian Church, Darien, CT
Proposed Docket

All members of Presbytery are strongly encouraged to be with us for our first gathering in person since March 2020 so that we can continue to rebuild our community life together as a Presbytery and welcome our new leaders who have joined us during the pandemic.

Livestreaming and Zoom voting will be available during the business and worship portions of the meetings.

We will be following current CDC guidelines for Fairfield County where this meeting is located. Masks and distancing, where appropriate, are strongly encouraged,

- 10:30 Fellowship, Book Fair, Nosh & Registration (Atrium)
- *11:15 Gather in God's Name
Call to Order, Prayer, and Forming the Roll
Greetings from the Host Church & Land Acknowledgment – Greg Doll
Electronic Meeting Orientation – Erika Hagan & David Baer
Docket, Enrollment, Introductions – David Baer
Consent Motion – David Baer
Election of the Moderator and Vice-Moderator – Chris Tate
- **11:30 Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)
Installation of Moderator and Vice-Moderator
Commissioning of Commissioners to the 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
The Rev. Christine Caton (Honorably Retired)
Elder Keunsam Chung (Hamden: NH Korean)
Young Adult Advisory Delegate Skyler McDonnell (Stamford: First)
Corresponding Members the Rev. David Baer & the Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo
The Necrology
- 12:30 Lunch and Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
- 1:15 Conversation in Assigned Small Groups
- 1:40 Regather in the Sanctuary/Online
- *1:45 Mission and Ministry of the Presbytery

Attachment 1

Celebration of the Ministry of the Turn of River Presbyterian Church in Stamford,
CT (Joan Priest, Armin Thies and Andre Castillo)

Report of the General Presbyter (Ref. D) (Shannan Vance-Ocampo)

Report of the Nominating Committee (Ref. O) (Chris Tate)

Report of the Commission on Ministry (Ref. H) (Shelley Donaldson)

Memorial Moment for the Rev. Thomas Troeger

*Celebration and Laying on of Hands of Virtual Ordinations and Installations During the
Pandemic:*

The Rev. Dr. Terrlyn Curry Avery (Springfield: MLK Community Presbyterian)

The Rev. Dale Green (Specialized)

The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr (New Canaan: First)

The Rev. Jessica Jones (Specialized)

The Rev. Steve Scovell (Milford: United)

The Rev. Grace Woodward (Specialized)

Installations Pending:

The Revs. Mark and Linda Barger Elliott (Greenwich: First)

The Rev. Nancy Baseel (Hartford: First)

The Rev. Dallas Bradel (Groton: St. Andrew)

The Rev. Gregory Penza (Fairfield: First)

Annual Meeting of the Corporation (Andre Castillo, President)

Old or New Business

3:00 Adjournment

Times are provided as advisory estimates and do not create orders of the day.

* Indicates zoom with virtual voting participation + livestream

** Indicates livestream only