

**PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY ROUNDTABLE
September 1, 2022**

The Roundtable of the Presbytery of Southern New England met in the Smart Room at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Hartford, with via Zoom teleconference. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by the chair, Elder Mildred McNeill, who invited the members of the Roundtable to introduce themselves, and led the Roundtable in its opening devotion.

A **QUORUM** was present.

Present were: Mildred McNeill (chair), Nicole Aronson, Lisa Baker, Chris Tate, and Kevin White.

Present via Zoom teleconference were: Andre Castillo, Shelley Donaldson, Deborah Packard, and Steven Scovell.

Also present were: *ex-officio* members Shannan Vance-Ocampo, the General Presbyter; and David Baer, Stated Clerk (via Zoom).

The agenda for the meeting was **APPROVED** as distributed.

The Roundtable welcomed the Rev. John Merz, who presented a proposed presbytery budget for 2023 (Attachment 1). Following discussion, and upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Roundtable **VOTED** to **PRESENT** the proposed budget to the presbytery for its approval.

The Stated Clerk, David Baer, noted that the minutes of the last Roundtable meeting were distributed with the materials for this meeting. Upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Roundtable **VOTED** to **APPROVE** the minutes of the Roundtable meeting held on April 28, 2022.

The Roundtable recessed to meet in pairs, in order to discuss how they had been formed by the land where they had grown up.

Following this time of discussion in prayer, the Roundtable reconvened and welcomed Jessica Vasquez-Torres and Ryan Lentz via Zoom, who joined with Kevin White, the chair of the Anti-Racism Task Force, to provide an update on the presbytery's anti-racism work. The Anti-Racism Task Force will be working with Crossroads Antiracism to offer a series of webinars, which church groups will be invited to participate in. There will be two series: the first will be foundational, answering a core set of questions (What is antiracism? What are the theological values it requires of Christians?).

The Roundtable recessed for lunch, after which the General Presbyter, Shannan Vance-Ocampo, gave her report. She highlighted the PCUSA's Matthew 25 initiative, inviting the Roundtable to consider proposing that PSNE become a Matthew 25 presbytery. (There are about five or six congregations that have become Matthew 25 congregations.) Following discussion, the Roundtable **VOTED** to **RECOMMEND** that the Presbytery become a Matthew 25 presbytery. (The recommendation will be brought to the September stated meeting.) The General Presbyter also previewed this fall's Synod Assembly.

The Roundtable **VOTED** to **ESTABLISH** the cost of meals at meetings of the Presbytery at \$15, and to **ESTABLISH** as policy that Presbytery staff who are present at these meetings shall not be required to pay for their meals.

The Stated Clerk, the Rev. David Baer, gave his report. He reviewed a draft docket for the

upcoming Stated Meeting of the presbytery. Upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Roundtable **VOTED** to **APPROVE** the proposed docket (Attachment 1), and to **AUTHORIZE** the clerk to make further changes as necessary, in consultation with the Moderator and Vice Moderator.

Mr. Baer also proposed a schedule of Stated Meetings for 2023. By consent, the Roundtable **APPROVED** the following schedule:

- Wednesday, February 15, 5:30 p.m. (via Zoom)
- Saturday, May 20, 9:30 a.m. (host TBD)
- Wednesday, September 20, 5:30 p.m. (host TBD)
- Saturday, November 4, 9:30 a.m. (host TBD)

Mr. Baer reviewed this year's General Assembly, noting the summary document provided to the Roundtable in the meeting materials folder. As directed by the Presbytery at the May meeting, he and the General Presbyter provided support to PSNE's commissioner, the Rev. Christine Caton, in developing a commissioner's resolution related to firearms divestment. A modified form of this proposal was adopted by the Assembly. He plans to present the proposed amendment to the Constitution approved by the General Assembly at the November Stated Meeting for a first reading and questions, and again in February for voting.

The Roundtable chair, Mildred McNeill, led a discussion about the frequency and scheduling of Roundtable meetings. She proposed holding more frequent meetings of no more than two hours, via Zoom, in the late afternoon or evening, rather than on weekday mornings. She expressed a concern that ruling elder committee chairs may not be able to meet during the day, due to work responsibilities. Ms. McNeill will prepare a proposed schedule of meetings. The Roundtable agreed to hold its next meeting on October 13, at 4:30 p.m., via Zoom.

The Roundtable adjourned with a prayer led by Chris Tate at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

-signed-

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk

Attachment 1

190TH STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Wednesday, September 21, 2022
First Presbyterian Church, Hartford, Connecticut
Proposed Docket

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

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

- 5:00 Fellowship, Nosh & Registration
- *5:15 Gather in God's Name
Call to Order, Prayer, and Forming the Roll
Greetings from the Host Church & Land Acknowledgment – Nancy Baseel
Electronic Meeting Orientation – Erika Hagan & David Baer
Docket, Enrollment, Introductions – David Baer
Consent Motion – David Baer
- *5:40 Small Group Conversations
- *6:00 Worship (Sanctuary)
- 6:45 Mission and Ministry of the Presbytery
Report of the Trustees (Ref. P) (Brandi Drake)
 - PILP Line of Credit request
- Dinner and Fellowship (Hodge Hall)
- *7:30 Mission and Ministry of the Presbytery (continued) (Sanctuary)
Report of the Anti-Racism and Equity Team
Report of the Roundtable (Ref. A) (Mildred McNeill)
 - Proposed budget for 2023
 - Matthew 25 Conversation
 - Revised Personnel ManualReport 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 & Steve Scovell)
Memorial Moment:

Attachment 1

- the Rev. Ed Brooks
- the Rev. Thomas Conboy, Jr.
- the Rev. Thomas Troeger
- the Rev. Thomas Witter

Report of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry (Ref. J) (Deb Packard)
Old or New Business

9:00 Adjournment

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

* Indicates zoom with virtual voting participation + livestream

DRAFT