

191st Stated Meeting
of the Presbytery of Southern New England
Woodbury Union Presbyterian Church, Warwick, Rhode Island / Zoom Teleconference
November 19, 2022

The Presbytery of Southern New England of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held a Stated Meeting at the Woodbury Union Presbyterian Church in Warwick on November 19, 2022. As authorized by the PSNE Bylaws, Section 17, “Electronic Meetings,” a number of members and commissioners participated via simultaneous Zoom teleconference.

The Presbytery was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by the Moderator, Elder Nicole Aronson, who led the assembly in prayer.

QUORUM

A **QUORUM** was present. The Stated Clerk announced that the roll for this meeting was being formed through online pre-registration for the meeting, and through the sign-in sheets at the registration desk.

ATTENDANCE

Ministers-	37
<u>Elders-</u>	<u>24</u>
Total-	61

MINISTERS PRESENT

As established by pre-registration and on-site registration, the following minister members were present:

Lynn Barger Elliott	Nancy D’Ippolito	Gregory Keosaian
Mark Barger Elliott	Jennifer Davis	Maria LaSala
Dallas Bradel	Theodore J. DeMarco	Ramy Marcos
Jocelyn Cadwallader	Eileen Epperson	Laurie McKnight
Andre Castillo	Christine Johnson Foster	Tracy Mehr-Muska
Christine Caton	Anne Fuhrmeister	John Merz
Stephen Clark	Dale Green	Mark Montgomery
Richard Crocker	R. Scott Herr	Susan M Pfeil
Terrlyn Curry Avery	Byeta Hoover-Mulvany	Mark Porizky

Jovelino Ramos
Rich Reifsnnyder
Lin Grace Rohr
Ed Sackett

Jason Santalucia
Virginia Smanik
Christopher Tate
Mary Thies

Susan Trucksess
Anne Weirich
Kevin White

MINISTERS EXCUSED

The following minister members were excused: Thelma Burgonio-Watson, Stephen Clark, Brandi Drake, Greg Doll, Byeta Hoover-Mulvany, Shannan Vance-Ocampo, and Shannon White.

ELDER COMMISSIONERS

The following Elders represented the Churches of the Presbytery (20):

Ashaway: Babcock
Barrington

Brookfield: Valley
Cumberland

Darien: Noroton

Farifield: First

Fall River: Calvary

Granby: Pioneer Valley

Greenwich: First

Groton: St. Andrew

Hamden: New Haven Korean

Hartford: First

Milford: United

New Canaan: First

New Haven: Connecticut Korean

New Haven: First

Providence

Springfield: Martin Luther King

Stamford: First

Warwick: Greenwood

Warwick: Woodbury

Waterford: Crossroads

West Hartford: Westminster

Joanne Kenyon, Donna Litwin

Mike Downs

Peter Cameron, Jackie Eckhardt

Clare Schimpf

Laura Geffs

Joe Jackson

David Lane, Beth Aura Miller

Kathy Cooper, Lori Girard

Debra Nicholson

Stephen Hart, Denise Mair

Denise Mair, Wayne Meunier

Deb Morisseau, A. Douglas Ray

Molly Dean

Westerly: Dunn's Corners
Wilton

PRESBYTERY ROUNDTABLE

The following Elder members and officers from the Presbytery Roundtable were present: Nicole Aronson (West Hartford: Westminster), Rachelle Lee (Springfield: MLK), and Mildred McNeill (Hartford: First).

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS

Elder April Saber-Assad (Fall River: Calvary United) was present.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Erika Plank Hagan, the Presbytery Communicator, was present via teleconference. Dayle Larson, the Presbytery Bookkeeper, was present.

VISITORS

Five (5) visitors registered for the meeting:

CHURCHES WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

Twelve (12) Churches were without Elder Commissioner representation.

ELECTRONIC MEETING ORIENTATION

Erika Hagan provided an orientation for those who were attending via Zoom teleconference.

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

The Presbytery **VOTED** to adopt the docket as distributed with the meeting materials.

ENROLLMENT AND INTRODUCTIONS

First-time commissioners introduced themselves to the assembly.

In accordance with the Presbytery's action in the consent motion below, the following ministers were seated as Corresponding Members:

The Rev. David A. Baer – Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey
PSNE Stated Clerk

The Rev. Kathryn Nichols – Olympia Presbytery

WELCOME AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The pastor of the host church, the Rev. T. J. DeMarco, welcomed members of the assembly to the church, highlighting some of the recent changes to the sanctuary. Elder A. Douglas Ray (Warwick: Woodbury Union) acknowledged the original inhabitants of the land. He noted that the neighborhood of Conimicut, where the church stands, is named after the granddaughter of the Narragansett sachem, Canonicus, and the daughter of Queen Quaiapen and the sachem Mixanno. European settlement began with Samuel Gorton, who had originally settled in Massachusetts in 1637, and who fell out with the religious authorities there.

CONSENT MOTION

The Stated Clerk presented the consent motion, and the Presbytery **VOTED:**

Actions related to the conduct of this assembly:

- That the Presbytery grant excuses from attendance at the 191st Stated Meeting to those needing the same, but that the Presbytery suspend the reading of their names.
- That the Presbytery grant excuses for early departures from the 191st Stated Meeting for those requesting the same by **notifying the clerk in a timely manner by any means practicable**, but that the Presbytery suspend the reading of their names.
- That the Presbytery seat as Corresponding Members those ministers for whom a request is made at the beginning of the meeting.

Recommendation from the Stated Clerk:

- That the Presbytery approve the minutes of the 190th Stated Meeting held on September 21, 2022.
- That the Presbytery approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on October 25, 2022.

Recording of materials provided by the Treasurer:

- That the Presbytery spread upon the minutes the report of the Treasurer (marked Ref. C, with numbered attachments, in the materials for this meeting).
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**Treasurer's Report
as of 9/30/2022**

Ref. C

Presbytery of Southern New England - Statement of Financial Position			
	Balance as of 12/31/2021	Balance as of 9/30/2022	Difference
Assets:			
<i>Cash</i>			
Checking Account for Operating Cash	90,530.65	124,999.71	34,469.06
Ministerial Relief Cash	19,820.66	16,833.25	(2,987.41)
<i>Investments</i>			
Fidelity Investments	-	-	-
New Covenant Trust	985,373.27	951,896.45	(33,476.82)
Accounts Receivable	140,852.90	137,528.10	A (3,324.80)
Total Assets	1,236,577.48	1,231,257.51	(5,319.97)
Liabilities:			
Total Liabilities	-	-	-
Net Assets	1,236,577.48	1,231,257.51	B (5,319.97)
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	1,236,577.48	1,231,257.51	(5,319.97)
A) Balance at 9/30/22 includes Dismissal Agreement Balances of PCOG, Enfield: Calvary, and Newport: First			
B) Does not include the value of Church properties or charges against them.			

**Treasurer's Report
as of 9/30/2022**

Presbytery of Southern New England - Statement of Activities				
	2022	Year to Date	Annual	YTD
OPERATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget Bal.	75%
Income				
General Mission	50,000.00	26,238.97	23,761.03	52%
Presbytery Per Capita	227,772.00	153,985.73	73,786.27	68%
Presbytery Per Capita Withheld Income	(15,000.00)			
GA/Synod Per Capita paid for churches that withhold	(6,000.00)			
Donations	0.00	469.85	469.85	
Total Income	256,772.00	180,694.55	98,017.15	70%
Expense				
Ministries of the Presbytery:				
Brazilian Fellowship	20,000.00	15,000.03	4,999.97	75%
Social Justice	750.00	0.00	750.00	0%
NEXT Church Support	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0%
New Initiatives/Emerging Ministries	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0%
Committees:				
Committee on Ministry	4,000.00	1,007.83	2,992.17	25%
Committee on Preparation	3,000.00	500.00	2,500.00	17%
Nominations	200.00	0.00	200.00	0%
Personnel	500.00	277.50	222.50	56%
Roundtable	4,000.00	387.96	3,612.04	10%
Trustees	8,300.00	7,420.44	879.56	89%
Personnel:				
GP Salary & Housing w/ med deduct & SECA	87,113.00	64,497.39	22,615.61	74%
GP BOP	31,897.00	24,160.92	7,736.08	76%
Stated Clerk Salary	21,216.00	15,504.00	5,712.00	73%
Stated Clerk - Additional service if needed	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Chaplain to the Clergy	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0%
Communications Manager	21,832.00	15,953.73	5,878.27	73%
Financial Manager	35,360.00	25,840.00	9,520.00	73%
Treasurer - stipend	2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	50%
Staff & Office Operations:				
GP Auto/Professional Expense	6,000.00	5,108.36	891.64	85%
GP Continuing Education	4,556.00	4,539.01	16.99	100%
Stated Clerk Auto/Professional Expense	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0%
Office Operations	6,000.00	6,356.90	(356.90)	106%
Equip. Replacement Reserve	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0%
Total Expense	266,724.00	187,554.07	67,419.96	70%
Net Income/Expense		(6,859.52)		
PER CAPITA PASS-THRU				
Designated Income:				
GA Per Capita		35,180.36		
Synod Per Capita		<u>18,625.03</u>		
Total Designated Income		53,805.39		
Designated Expense:				
GA Per Capita		0.00		
Synod Per Capita		<u>25,239.60</u>		
Total Designated Expense		25,239.60		
Net Per Capita Pass-Thru		28,565.79		
MISSION PASS-THRU				
GA General Mission	14,615.80		269,895.84	Total Revenues for the year
Synod General Mission	2,899.78			
GA Special Mission	17,780.45		248,189.57	Total Expenditures for the year
Synod Special Mission	99.87			
Total Mission Pass-thru	35,395.90		21,706.27	Net Gain/Loss

FUND ACTIVITY REPORT
AS OF 9/30/2022

Ref. C-2

OPERATING CASH DEDICATED ACCOUNTS:					
	Balance	Year to Date	Year to Date	Transfers	Balance
	12/31/2021	Receipts	Expenses		9/30/2022
Funds held within Operating Account					
General Fund	263,508.05	183,244.55	187,554.07	(6,500.00)	252,698.53
Ministerial Relief Fund	19,820.66	1,251.59	6,000.00	-	15,072.25
COM Clergy Coaching	3,726.52	-	-	-	3,726.52
Anti-Racism/Reparation	19,980.54	225.23	10,810.00	6,500.00	15,895.77
PSNE Grants	-	-	6,000.00	6,000.00	-
Presbytery Immigrant Ministry	2,460.26	3,733.98	5,445.50	-	748.74
MLK Jr. Church Support	(18,963.69)	45,508.78	63,696.04	-	(37,150.95)
Total	290,532.34	233,964.13	279,505.61	6,000.00	250,990.86
Funds held within the New Covenant Investment Account					
Cranston: Faith Closing	439,923.18	-	-	-	439,923.18
MLK Jr. Community Center Sale	176,325.00	-	-	-	176,325.00
Prior Year Reserves	119,854.00	-	9,000.00	-	110,854.00
Prior Investment Accounts	133,298.00	-	-	-	133,298.00
Unrealized Income	-	10,665.55	5,077.37	3,000.00	8,588.18
Simsbury /NCD Reserve	77,934.45	-	-	-	77,934.45
TOTAL	947,334.63	10,665.55	14,077.37		946,922.81
Funds received from Member Churches for Governing Bodies					
GA - Pass thru donations	-	67,576.61	30,905.00	-	36,671.61
SYNOD - Pass thru donations	-	21,624.68	27,976.75	-	(6,352.07)
TOTAL	-	89,201.29	58,881.75	-	30,319.54
Grand Totals	1,237,866.97	333,830.97	352,464.73	6,000.00	1,228,233.21

CHURCH GIVING AS OF 9/30/2022						
PIN#	CHURCH	PRESBYTERY	PRESBYTERY	PRESBYTERY	PRESBYTERY	PRESBYTERY
		GENERAL MISSION YEARLY PLEDGE	GENERAL MISSION RECEIVED TO DATE	PER CAPITA DUE MONTHLY	PER CAPITA DUE TO DATE	PER CAPITA RECEIVED TO DATE
4620	Ashaway: Babcock	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 151.33	\$ 1,361.97	\$ 1,361.97
1274	Barrington	\$ -	\$ 1,160.00	\$ 222.36	\$ 2,001.24	\$ 2,001.24
10562	Brookfield: Valley	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 373.69	\$ 3,363.21	\$ 3,363.21
10027	Cumberland: Calvin	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 352.06	\$ 3,168.54	\$ -
4581	Darien: Noroton	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,706.52	\$ 42,358.68	\$ 37,652.16
4574	Fairfield: First	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 972.80	\$ 8,755.20	\$ 8,755.20
1779	Fall River: Calvary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80.30	\$ 722.70	\$ 963.60
4578	Granby: First	\$ -	\$ 700.00	\$ 111.18	\$ 1,000.62	\$ 1,000.62
4576	Greenwich: First	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,411.94	\$ 21,707.46	\$ 19,295.52
3716	Groton: St. Andrews	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 265.59	\$ 2,390.31	\$ 2,390.31
10645	Hamden: Korean	\$ -	\$ 6,300.00	\$ 948.10	\$ 8,532.90	\$ 8,532.90
4577	Hartford: First	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 281.04	\$ 2,529.36	\$ 2,529.36
4579	Milford: United	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 166.77	\$ 1,500.93	\$ 1,500.93
3719	New Canaan: First	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,188.99	\$ 10,700.91	\$ 10,700.91
10985	New Haven: Korean	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 148.24	\$ 1,334.16	\$ 1,778.88
4580	New Haven: First	\$ -	\$ 4,556.25	\$ 626.92	\$ 5,642.28	\$ 5,642.28
10939	Providence	\$ -	\$ 2,450.00	\$ 423.10	\$ 3,807.90	\$ 3,807.90
10530	Springfield: MLK	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 123.54	\$ 1,111.86	\$ 1,111.86
4583	Stamford: First	\$ -	\$ 8,982.00	\$ 1,374.28	\$ 12,368.52	\$ 12,368.52
4586	Stamford: TOR	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 77.21	\$ 694.89	\$ 953.93
4609	Warwick:Greenwood	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 938.84	\$ 8,449.56	\$ 1,355.95
4607	Warwick: Woodbury	\$ -	\$ 1,680.00	\$ 306.18	\$ 2,755.62	\$ 2,755.62
9427	Waterford:Crrsds	\$ -	\$ 400.92	\$ 231.62	\$ 2,084.58	\$ 1,852.96
4585	West Hfid:West	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 809.13	\$ 7,282.17	\$ 7,282.17
4618	Westerly:Dunns	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 870.89	\$ 7,838.01	\$ 7,838.01
960	Wilton	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 849.28	\$ 7,643.52	\$ 7,643.52
TOTAL		\$ -	\$ 26,229.17	\$ 19,011.90	\$ 171,107.10	\$ 154,439.53
	Paid full year					

WORSHIP

The assembly worshipped God, led by the pastor, the Rev. T. J. DeMarco, the choir director, the Rev. Kevin White, and a number of members of the Woodbury Union congregation. The Presbytery offered a prayer of dedication for the new church sanctuary, rebuilt after being destroyed by fire in November 2018.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Rev. Andre Castillo presented the report of the Board of Trustees. He advised the Presbytery that the Trustees are investigating gaps in the Presbytery's records related to the sale of the Martin Luther King Community Center property in 2014, in order to foster transparency and trust.

REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY ROUNDTABLE

Elder Mildred McNeill presented the report of the Presbytery Roundtable. She commended the Roundtable's written report to the Presbytery, and introduced the Rev. Kevin White for a report from the Anti-Racism and Equity Task Force. The Task Force has been hosting a series of webinars led by Crossroads Anti-Racism, in order to lay a foundation for the Presbytery's anti-racism work. He noted that in the spring there would be two cohorts meeting—one for white members of the presbytery community, and the other for people of color—to develop capacity for the transformative work ahead.

The minutes of the regular meetings of the Presbytery Roundtable can be found below:

Presbytery of Southern New England Stated Meeting of the Presbytery Roundtable

October 13, 2022

The Roundtable of the Presbytery of Southern New England met via Zoom teleconference. The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m. by the chair, Elder Mildred McNeill, who led the Roundtable in its opening devotion.

A **QUORUM** was present.

Present were: Mildred McNeill (chair), Nicole Aronson, Lisa Baker, Rachelle Lee, Deborah Packard, Jenny Peek, Chris Tate, Lauren Tate, and Kevin White.

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

Excused was: Stephen Scovell.

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

The Stated Clerk, David Baer, gave his report. He offered a correction to the minutes that were distributed with the meeting materials, and another correction was offered by a member of the Roundtable. Upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Roundtable **VOTED** to **APPROVE** the minutes as amended.

The November stated meeting of the Presbytery will be held at the Woodbury Union Presbyterian Church of Warwick. Upon consultation with the host pastor, Mr. Baer discovered that the church is not able to host on

November 5, and the Presbytery moderator and vice-moderator will be at the national moderators' conference on November 12. By **CONSENT** the Roundtable agreed to hold the stated meeting on November 19.

Mr. Baer informed the Roundtable that the Permanent Judicial Commission had issued a decision in the matter of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) vs. Jeffrey Weenink, and that the *Book of Order* requires that such a decision be read before the presbytery at a stated meeting, or a special meeting called for the purpose. Upon a motion properly made and seconded the Roundtable **VOTED to CALL** a special meeting to be held on October 25 at 7:30 via Zoom, for the purpose of reading the disciplinary decision and order.

The General Presbyter gave her report, noting that she and Mr. Baer will be attending Synod Assembly in Albany next week. She expressed enthusiasm for the ability to gather in person after such a long time of Zoom-only meetings.

The Moderator, Nicole Aronson, gave her report, noting that she had visited a number of churches in the presbytery. She will be attending Synod Assembly as one of the presbytery's commissioners. Ms. Aronson shared her impressions about her visits with congregations, where she spoke about the presbytery's anti-racism work.

The Anti-Racism and Equity Team co-chairs, Jenny Peek and Kevin White, reflected on the first webinar for the presbytery led by Crossroads Anti-Racism on October 5. Feedback about the webinar included a desire for more time to reflect on the content being presented. Perhaps the Anti-Racism and Equity Team might offer a separate time for discussion a few days after each of the webinars, so that participants might bring questions that arise.

Mildred McNeill led a discussion regarding presbytery meetings in the post-COVID era. She noted that very few people had pre-registered to attend the September meeting in person at the First Presbyterian Church in Hartford. Members of the Roundtable discussed how to encourage more in-person participation, though some noted that they were still cautious about the health risks entailed by in-person gatherings. Other ideas included: alternating between online and in-person meetings, creating more opportunities for fellowship around stated meetings, and creating spaces for ruling elders to form community.

The Roundtable adjourned with a prayer led by Mildred McNeill at 5:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

-signed-

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk

Presbytery of Southern New England

Stated Meeting of the Presbytery Roundtable

November 3, 2022

The Roundtable of the Presbytery of Southern New England met via Zoom teleconference. The chair, Elder Mildred McNeill opened a time of informal consultation with devotions at 4:37 p.m., in the anticipation of the arrival of more members to constitute a quorum.

A **QUORUM** was **NOT** present. Those who were present constituted themselves as a committee, which proceeded to make *recommendations* to be ratified by the full Roundtable.

Present were: Mildred McNeill (chair), Nicole Aronson (early departure), Lisa Baker, Shelley Donaldson (late arrival), Deborah Packard, Jenny Peek, and Kevin White.

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

Excused was: *ex-officio* member Shannan Vance-Ocampo, the General Presbyter.

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

The committee **RECOMMENDS** that the minutes of the October 13 Stated Meeting of the Roundtable be **APPROVED** as distributed.

Nicole Aronson, who served as one of the commissioners to last month's meeting of Synod Assembly, gave a report on this gathering. Lisa Baker, one of the other commissioners, who has also been elected Vice Moderator of the Synod, and David Baer added their observations.

The committee spent some time discussing the implications of the Presbytery's action to become a Matthew 25 presbytery, at the September meeting. would like to resume the conversation about appointing a Matthew 25 team at a later date.

The Stated Clerk presented the report of the General Presbyter in her absence. He noted the two documents that had been prepared—one containing guidelines for churches hosting presbytery meetings, and the other providing guidance for committee chairs. Shannan noted in her written report that the Emerging Ministries Task Force has ceased meeting, and so the Roundtable will need to consider how to relate to and support the new worshiping communities and immigrant fellowships of the Presbytery. Kevin White volunteered to communicate with the remaining members of the Task Force to assess their willingness to continue this work.

The Stated Clerk noted that there are a large number of proposed amendments to the Book of Order for the presbytery to consider before July 9 next year. He suggested that the amendments be reported for a first

reading in November, and that a portion of them be presented for a vote in February, and the remaining proposed amendments presented at the May meeting. It was the consensus of the committee that dividing the proposed amendments in this way would be wise.

The Stated Clerk reviewed the schedule of presbytery meetings for 2023. Kevin White, the Vice Moderator, noted a schedule conflict with the proposed meeting on May 20, at which he would expect to be installed as Moderator. The committee **RECOMMENDS** that the May meeting be moved to Saturday, May 13.

The Clerk reviewed a proposed docket for the November Stated Meeting of the Presbytery. The committee **RECOMMENDS** that the Roundtable **APPROVE** the proposed docket and **AUTHORIZE** the Clerk to make adjustments as needed, in consultation with the Moderator and Vice Moderator.

Nicole Aronson departed, and Shelley Donaldson joined the meeting. The number of members still fell short of a quorum.

Mildred McNeill led a conversation about the format (hybrid vs. in-person vs. online-only) and timing of Presbytery meetings, noting that very few people are registering to attend in person. Jenny Peek volunteered to draft a Google form survey for members of the presbytery community, for distribution following the November Stated Meeting.

The committee adjourned with a prayer led by Mildred McNeill at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

-signed-

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk

ROUNDTABLE REPORT (CONTINUED)

Ms. McNeill introduced the Rev. Mary Thies, who reported on behalf of the Personnel Committee:

Grateful for his service, it is with heavy hearts that the Personnel Committee recommends on behalf of the Roundtable that the Presbytery act to dissolve the call between itself and the Rev. David Baer as its Stated Clerk, effective January 18, 2023.

Rationale:

David has accepted a call to serve as Stated Clerk of National Capital Presbytery and has requested us to take this action.

Going forward, the Personnel Committee plans to undertake the following—

- Conduct an exit interview with David
- Ask for his input on the current position description for the Stated Clerk and develop a new description based on his input and the presbytery's current needs
- Recruit a search committee
- Report back on the above to the Roundtable at its December meeting

There will be a celebration of David's ministry among us on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, West Hartford from 4-6 PM. Please save the date!

Upon the recommendation of the Roundtable, the Presbytery **VOTED** to **DISSOLVE** the call between itself and the Rev. David Baer as its Stated Clerk, effective January 18, 2023. The Moderator offered a prayer of thanksgiving for Mr. Baer's ministry.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

The Rev. David Baer, the Stated Clerk, noted that the recommendations in his report had been adopted as part of the consent motion. He drew the Presbytery's attention to the proposed amendments to the *Book of Order*, which the General Assembly has referred to the Presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes, and which he had provided with the meeting materials. Mr. Baer highlighted the proposed revision to the Rules of Discipline. Members of the assembly asked questions about the proposed amendments. The Presbytery's responses to each of the proposed amendments will need to be received by July 9, 2023.

SMALL GROUP CONVERSATIONS

At the invitation of the moderator, members of the assembly divided into small groups for a period of community-building conversation.

RECESS FOR LUNCH

Ms. Aronson offered grace, and the Presbytery recessed for lunch.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Presbytery reconvened, and Elder Stephen Hart (Stamford: First) presented the report of the Commission on Ministry, in the absence of the two co-chairs.

The Commission informed the Presbytery that it had:

1. **APPROVED** the validated ministry of the Rev. Tracy Mehr-Muska as Minister of Mid/Later Life at Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, CT.
2. **APPROVED** the request for installation for the Rev. Nancy Basseel at First Presbyterian Church of Hartford, CT, on Sunday, November 13, at 3pm.
3. **APPROVED** the addition of Rev. Candace Whitman of the Long Island Presbytery to the pulpit supply list.
4. **APPROVED** the terms of call for the Rev. T.J. DeMarco to serve as the new pastor of Providence Presbyterian Church, Providence, RI.
5. **APPROVED** the extended contract between the Rev. Joan Priest and the Crossroads Presbyterian Church. Waterford, CT.
6. **APPROVED** the updated MIF (Associate Pastor) for the New Canaan Presbyterian Church.

Upon the recommendation of the Commission, the Presbytery **VOTED** to **APPROVE** a minimum effective salary of \$65,000, and a Cost of Living Increase of 6% for 2023.

REPORT ON SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Elder Nicole Aronson, who serves as one of the Ruling Elder Commissioners to the Synod of the Northeast, gave a report on the Synod Assembly, which met October 21-22, 2022. She spoke briefly about the structure of Synod governance, including the Mission and Ministries Commission, on which Elder Lisa Baker (Springfield: MLK) serves. She outlined a few changes to the Standing Rules of the Synod, and noted that Lisa Baker has been elected to serve as the Moderator Elect of the Synod. While the General Assembly has increased the *per capita* assessment, the Synod Assembly chose not to increase the Synod's assessment. Ms. Aronson highlighted a few items from the newly approved Synod budget, and reported the election of a Visioning Team to evaluate the Synod's current mission and structure, and to create a new vision. She expressed appreciation for the Synod's concern for the

equal participation of Young Adult Advisory Delegates, which it accomplishes through the consideration of business as a Committee of the Whole.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Rev. Christopher Tate presented the report of the Nominating Committee, on whose behalf he placed in nomination the following person, for the position indicated:

- For the Personnel Committee: Rev. Mark Montgomery (class of 2024)

There were no nominations from the floor. Upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Presbytery **VOTED** to **CLOSE** the nominations, thereby **ELECTING** the slate as presented.

ADJOURNMENT

At the recommendation of the clerk, and upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Presbytery **VOTED** to **THANK** the Woodbury Union Community Presbyterian Church for serving as host for this meeting..

With no further business to transact, Presbytery **ADJOURNED**, and was led in a closing prayer by the Moderator, Elder Nicole Aronson, at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk