

Report of the Commission on Ministry - September 20, 2023

Action Item:

1. **Motion:** *That the COM recommends to the Presbytery to call the Rev. Gary Morello as Associate Pastor at Noroton Presbyterian Church under the provisions of G-02.0505 effective October 29, 2023. And to waive ordination examination requirements as the Rev. Morello has been ordained longer than five years in a partner denomination. He has taken PCUSA polity and engaged in study of reformed theology under a curriculum designed and implemented by the COM in the summer of 2023.*

Rationale: All provisions in G-2.0505 have been met by the COM. They have engaged in long-term discussions with leadership at the Noroton congregation, engaged in a period of theological study with the Rev. Morello, examined his statement of faith with him as a Commission, received his file and notice of good standing from the United Church of Christ, and reviewed all paperwork including transcripts, psychological and career testing. They have also reviewed his terms of call from the Noroton Session and approved of them as fitting the minimum requirements of the Presbytery.

2. **Motion:** *That the COM recommends to the Presbytery the Gracious Separation Policy.*

Rationale: The policy has been updated and presented for first reading at the ___ Presbytery meeting and for second reading at this September 20, 2023 meeting.

3. **Motion:** *That the COM recommends to the Presbytery the 2024 Pastoral Compensation Policy.*

Rationale: The policy has been updated to increase minimum salary to \$68,000; provides a 3% cost of living adjustment (COLA), and further reminds churches of the Presbytery's Sabbatical policy, and is revised with updates from the new Book of Order published in July 2023.

Information: At the September Meeting of the Commission we took the following actions:

By consent, the Commission:

1. **Approved** the minutes of the June 14, 2023 meeting of COM.
2. **Ratified** the email vote on July 26, 2023 to grant early retirement to the Rev. Lin Grace Rohr, effective *date*

3. **Approved, if the way be clear**, the transfer of the Rev. Tiffany Nicely Holleck to North Central California Presbytery, effective October 1, 2023. Tiffany has accepted a call to serve at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Yuba City, CA.
4. **Approved** the transfer of the Rev. Thomas Cyrus (“Cy”) Varland, Jr., HR, to Genesee Valley Presbytery.
5. **Approved** the change in status of the Rev. Ed Sackett from member-at-large to validated ministry. Ed has taken a position with Trinity Health as a chaplain resident as of August 14.
6. **Granted permission** to the Rev. Kate Carlisle, minister member of the Presbytery of Boston, to labor within the bounds of PSNE, including celebration of the sacraments as appropriate, effective May 30, 2023, for the length of their term. Kate was installed as Stated Clerk at the May 30 Special Joint Meeting, and began work on June 15.
7. **Approved** the Terms of Call for the Revs. Jessica Jones, Mark Montgomery, and Christ Tate at Wilton Presbyterian Church.
8. **Appointed** an Administrative Commission of the COM to install the Rev. T.J. DeMarco as Pastor of Providence Presbyterian Church, on October 1, 2023. The members of the AC are:
 - Elder Peter Cameron, Calvin Presbyterian Church
 - Elder Gina Bae, Providence Presbyterian Church
 - Elder Matt Harrison, Providence Presbyterian Church
 - Rev. Kevin White, Calvin Presbyterian Church
 - Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo, General Presbyter
 - Rev. John Sweet, corresponding member, Presbytery of Boston
9. **Appointed, if the way be clear**, an Administrative Commission of the COM to install the Rev. Gary Morello as Associate Pastor of Noroton Presbyterian Church, on October 29, 2023. The members of the AC will be:
 - Elder Sue Labins, First Presbyterian Church, Hartford, Conn.
 - Elder Stephen Hart, First Presbyterian Church, Stamford, Conn.
 - Elder Mindy Houck, Noroton Presbyterian Church
 - Rev. Kevin White, Calvin Presbyterian Church
 - Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo, General Presbyter
 - Rev. Scott Herr, First Presbyterian Church, New Canaan, Conn.
 - Rev. Greg Doll, Noroton Presbyterian Church
 - Rev. Carter Via, Specialized Ministry
 - Rev. Greg Penza, First Presbyterian Church, Fairfield, Conn.