

Proposed Docket
195th Stated Meeting of the
Presbytery of Southern New England
Saturday, November 4, 2023

First Presbyterian Church, New Haven, Conn.
In person and via Zoom

- 9:30 am Registration for in-person participants
Fellowship and Hospitality
- 9:50 am Zoom meeting room opens
- 10:00 am **Gather in God's Name**
Call to Order, Opening in Prayer, and Forming the Roll
Electronic Meeting Orientation
Welcome & Greetings from the Host Church
Acknowledgment of Land / History
Docket, Enrollment, Introductions
Consent Motions
- 10:15 am **Worship**
Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Karen Brown of Baltimore Presbytery and the PCUSA
Self-Development of People Committee
- 11:00 am **Teach-in** and Writing Session - implementing required policies
- 12:00 pm **Mission and Ministry of the Presbytery**
Report of the General Presbyter
Report of the Stated Clerk
Report of the Roundtable
Presbytery Schedule and Format for 2024
Anti-racism and Equity Team Update
Report of the Commission on Ministry
Report of the Nominating Committee
Election of GA commissioners & YAAD
Report of the Trustees
Report of the Personnel Committee
Report of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry
Old or new business
- 12:30 pm **Adjournment** with prayer
- 12:45 pm Lunch at East Rock Brewing Company (285 Nicoll Street, New Haven CT 06511)
All are welcome, food at the Brewing Company comes from a local store (East

Rock Food Hall) next door, and a variety of non-alcoholic drinks are available. We are not charging for lunch, just come as you are and get what you want for lunch to gather with your colleagues for fellowship!

Information Docket and Consent Motion
Presbytery of Southern New England
Stated Meeting
November 4, 2023

Items listed on the **Information Docket** are considered reported to the Presbytery at the time of consideration of the Information Docket. Any person entitled to speak at this meeting may remove an item from the Information Docket for further reporting or discussion to take place during the Committee's report. No motion to receive reports is necessary.

The **Consent Motion** is intended for matters that are not controversial, and items are included in it only by unanimous consent. Any person entitled to vote at this meeting may ask that an item be removed from the Consent Motion when the Presbytery considers the Consent Motion. The Presbytery will debate and act on those items during the relevant committee report. During the period of introductions at the beginning of the meeting, names of those to be seated as corresponding members may be added to the Consent Motion by unanimous consent. The Consent Motion will be adopted by a vote.

Information Docket

The information docket consists of all reports for information presented at the meeting.

Consent Motion

Actions related to the conduct of this assembly:

1. That the Presbytery approve the Minutes of the 192nd Stated Meeting held on February 15, 2023.
2. That the Presbytery approve the Minutes of the 193rd Stated Meeting held on May 13, 2023.
3. That the Presbytery approve the Minutes of the Joint Special Called Meeting on May 30, 2023.
4. That the Presbytery approve the Minutes of the 194th Stated Meeting held on September 20, 2023.
5. That the Presbytery grant excuses from attendance at the 195th Stated Meeting to those needing the same, but that the Presbytery suspend the reading of their names.
6. That the Presbytery grant excuses for early departures from the 195th 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.
7. 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:

8. That the Presbytery accept the resignation, effective December 1, 2023, of Elder Armin Thies from the Administrative Commission for the Turn of River Community Presbyterian Church, with thanks for his service (action item #1 in the Clerk's Report).

Recording of materials provided by the Treasurer:

9. That the Presbytery spread upon the minutes the report of the Treasurer as provided in the meeting materials.

194th Stated Meeting
of the Presbytery of Southern New England
First Presbyterian Church, New Canaan, Connecticut / Zoom Teleconference
September 20, 2023

The Presbytery of Southern New England of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held a Stated Meeting at the First Presbyterian Church in New Canaan on September 20, 2023. 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 5:30 p.m. by the Rev. Kevin White, Moderator, who led the assembly in prayer.

QUORUM

A **QUORUM** was present. The roll for this meeting was formed through online pre-registration for the meeting, Zoom attendance data, and the sign-in sheets at the registration desk.

ATTENDANCE	Ministers-	43
	<u>Elders-</u>	<u>27</u>
	Total-	70

MINISTERS PRESENT

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

George Blakesley	Nancy D'Ippolito	Scott Herr
Virginia Brooks	Greg Doll	Byeta Hoover-Mulvany
JC Cadwallader	Shelley Donaldson	Gregory Keosaian
Andre Castillo	Eileen Epperson	Erin Keys
Christine Caton	Christine Foster	Do Hoon Kim
Stephen Clark	Bill Goettler	Iktae Kim
Terrlyn Curry Avery	Dale Green	Maria LaSala

Dean Lindsay	Gregory Penza	David Van Dyke
Peggy Lindsay	Mark Porizky	Charles C. Via
rachel mastin	Joan Priest	Jeffrey Weenink
John Merz	Jinny Smanik	Kevin White
Laura Opsahl	Christopher Tate	Shannon White
Deb Packard	Mary Thies	Heather Wright
Jenny Peek	Susan Trucksess	

MINISTERS EXCUSED

The following minister members were excused: Tracy Mehr-Muska, Patrick Notley.

ELDER COMMISSIONERS

The following Elders represented the Churches of the Presbytery (23):

Ashaway: Babcock	
Barrington	
Brookfield: Valley	John Sutor
Cumberland	Peter Cameron, Jackie Eckhardt
Darien: Noroton	Peter Riordan, Thomas Taylor
Farifield: First	Clare Schimpf
Fall River: Calvary	
Granby: Pioneer Valley	
Greenwich: First	
Groton: St. Andrew	Joe Jackson, Diane Snider
Hamden: New Haven Korean	
Hartford: First	Susan Labins, Keith Rhoden, Jr.
Milford: United	
New Canaan: First	Cynthia Graziano, Bob Spangler, Jen Van de Graff, Stephan Von Jena
New Haven: Connecticut Korean	
New Haven: First Providence	Nancy Woodington, Mary Webber, Pat Wales
Springfield: Martin Luther King	Joyce Davis, Debra Nicholson Franklin
Stamford: First	Stephen Hart

Warwick: Greenwood

M. Barry Baxter, Dennis Charpentier

Warwick: Woodbury

Waterford: Crossroads

West Hartford: Westminster

Ann Osoba

Westerly: Dunn's Corners

Wilton

PRESBYTERY ROUNDTABLE

The following Elder members and officers from the Presbytery Roundtable were present: Nicole Aronson Champagne (West Hartford: Westminster), Cindy Kozak Buckley (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

Katie Grosh, the Presbytery Communicator, was present.

VISITORS

Eight (8) visitors registered for the meeting.

CHURCHES WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

Thirteen (13) Churches were without Elder Commissioner representation.

ELECTRONIC MEETING ORIENTATION

Katie Grosh provided an orientation for those who were attending via Zoom teleconference.

WELCOME AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The pastor of the host church, the Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr, welcomed members of the assembly to the church and acknowledged the original inhabitants of the land.

ENROLLMENT AND INTRODUCTIONS

First-time commissioners introduced themselves to the assembly.

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

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

CONSENT MOTION

The Rev. Kate Carlisle, Stated Clerk, who was absent due to Mid-Council Leader Orientation in Louisville, has prepared items for a consent motion. The Moderator presented the consent motion. The Presbytery **VOTED**:

Actions related to the conduct of this assembly:

1. That the Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo serve as Clerk *pro tem* for the duration of this meeting.
2. That the Presbytery grant excuses from attendance at the 194th Stated Meeting to those needing the same, but that the Presbytery suspend the reading of their names.
3. That the Presbytery grant excuses for early departures from the 194th 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.
4. 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:

5. That the Presbytery accept the resignation of Rev. Shannon White from the Commission on Ministry, with thanks for her service (action item #1 in the Clerk's Report).

Recording of materials provided by the Treasurer:

6. That the Presbytery spread upon the minutes the report of the Treasurer as provided in the meeting materials.

WORSHIP

The assembly worshiped God. The lessons were Psalm 146 and 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. Worship leaders included ministers, elders, and the music director from FPC New Canaan. The Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr, Senior Pastor, shared a homily titled “The Love of Christ...”. The Necrology was shared in prayer, including Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Elders, and Deacons who have completed their baptisms in death since the May 2022 Presbytery meeting.

The Moderator offered a blessing for the meal and the assembly recessed for dinner.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER

The Presbytery reconvened, and the General Presbyter invited the Rev. Dr. Terrlyn Curry Avery shared an invitation to an upcoming Zoom information meeting about the *Writing the River* Pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine.

The General Presbyter shared a presentation covering several changes to the *Book of Order* effective July 9, 2023, especially those that affect Sessions and congregations. Topics included polity changes and resources related to electronic meetings policies; Roberts Rules requirements; family leave policy changes; child and youth protection policies; sexual misconduct policies; harassment policies; anti-racism policies. Additional resources, especially related to the drafting and implementation of anti-racism policies, will be shared in the coming months. Planning for boundary training in early 2024 is also in progress.

Rev. Vance-Ocampo also shared the dates of upcoming opportunities for lunch and fellowship with the General Presbyter and the Stated Clerk in various regions of the Presbytery.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Rev. Susan Trucksess offered a Memorial Moment for the Rev. Robert B. Allen and the Rev. M. Allen Line. The Rev. Anne Weirich offered a Memorial Moment for the Rev. Ron Minor. The Rev. Dale Green offered a Memorial Moment for the Rev. Anne Fuhrmeister.

For information: At the September Meeting of the Commission took the following actions:

- 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 at a date to be determined.
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.

The Rev. John Merz, COM co-chair, brought the following **MOTION** from COM: *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-o2.0505 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.*

Upon recommendation of the Commission, the Presbytery examined the Rev. Gary Morello. The Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo, General Presbyter, and the Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr, COM co-chair spoke to the motion and to Rev. Morello's ministry. Rev. Morello entered this examination as a minister in good standing in the United Church of Christ; our full communion UCC colleagues are aware of and in support of this process. Several members of the Noroton Presbyterian Church were present in support. Rev. Morello introduced himself, and responded to questions from the assembly.

The examination was arrested without objection, and Rev. Morello was excused from the assembly.

The Presbytery **VOTED** to **APPROVE** the motion, with four voting no.

Upon the recommendation of the Commission, the Presbytery **VOTED** to **APPROVE** the Gracious Separation Policy, which was brought for a first reading at the May 13 Stated Meeting.

Upon the recommendation of the Commission, the Presbytery **VOTED** to **APPROVE** the 2024 Pastoral Compensation Policy, with one abstention.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Rev. Andre Castillo presented the report of the Board of Trustees.

Upon recommendation of the Trustees, the Presbytery **VOTED** to **APPROVE** the co-signature of the PILP loan application with Calvin Presbyterian Church in Cumberland, RI for an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

Upon recommendation of the Trustees, the Presbytery **VOTED** to **APPROVE** the 2024 draft budget as presented, with major changes to be reported at subsequent PSNE meetings as needed, and with gratitude to the Budget Team.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

The Rev. Joan Priest presented the report the Commission on Preparation for Ministry for information:

1. The Commission met with Candidate Yejee (Rachel) Park (New Haven Korean: Hamden CT) and voted her Certified Ready to Receive a Call.
2. The Commission held an Annual Consultation for Candidate Ryan Joslin (First: New Haven, CT).
3. The Commission interviewed and approved Inquirer Heather Gordon (Noroton: Darien, CT) to be enrolled as a Candidate.
4. Currently under care of the Presbytery: 7 Candidates and 3 Candidates Certified Ready to Receive a Call.
5. The Commission's next meeting is in October 2023.

The assembly welcomed Candidate Heather Gordon, and the Moderator welcomed the new Candidate with a litany, questions, charge, and prayer.

Upon recommendation of the Commission, the Presbytery **VOTED** to **APPROVE** the Preparation for Ministry Policy Manual, which was brought for a first reading at the May Stated Meeting, and which also incorporates changes reflecting constitutional changes, with one no vote.

REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY ROUNDTABLE

Elder Mildred McNeill presented the report of the Presbytery Roundtable.

Upon recommendation of the Roundtable, the Presbytery **VOTED** to **RATIFY** the Roundtable's vote to elect Elder Ralph Jones as an ordination exam reader.

Elder McNeill commended the written report, which includes the following items for information:

The Presbytery Roundtable held meetings on September 5 and September 12. At these meetings the Roundtable:

September 5

- Approved Elder Ralph Jones, First New Haven, as ordination exam reader.
- Heard reports from the General Presbyter and the Stated Clerk
- Reviewed a proposed docket for the September Presbytery meeting. Put off final approval until the Roundtable's September 12 meeting

- Discussed possible dates for Presbytery meetings in 2024 and will revisit them at the October Roundtable meeting
- Discussed the Book of Order amendments that the General Presbyter will walk through at the September Presbytery meeting. Each session will need to put anti-racism and harassment policies in place at the congregational level.
- Heard a report from the Administrative Commission to the Igreja Presbiteriana Brasileira Hyannis. Suggested that a report to Presbytery be considered for the November meeting.

September 12

- Completed review of the docket for the September 20 Presbytery meeting
- Reviewed the in-process draft budget that will go before Presbytery at the September meeting
- Formed a sub-committee to review the Presbytery meeting months and times and the pluses/minuses of hybrid or solely in-person meetings.
- Set the next Roundtable meeting for October 17

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elder Nicole Aronson Champagne presented the Report of the Nominating Committee. Upon nomination from the Committee, the Presbytery **VOTED** to **ELECT** the Rev. John Merz and the Rev. Scott Herr as co-chairs of the Commission on Ministry, with one voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to transact, Presbytery **VOTED** to **ADJOURN**, and was led in a closing prayer by the Moderator, Rev. Kevin White, at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Kate Carlisle, Stated Clerk

Special Meeting of the Presbytery of Southern New England
Zoom Teleconference | May 30, 2023

The Presbyteries of Southern New England and Boston of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held a duly called Stated Meeting via Zoom Teleconference on May 30, 2023. For the purposes of Southern New England, these are the minutes for our Presbytery of the meeting as authorized by the PSNE Bylaws, Section 17, “Electronic Meetings.”

The Presbytery was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by the Moderator-elect of Boston Presbytery, Ivy Jones Turner, who led the assembly in prayer.

QUORUM

A **QUORUM** was present. The Stated Clerks announced that the roll for this meeting was being formed through online pre-registration for the meeting.

ATTENDANCE	Ministers-	40
	NWC-	0
	<u>Elders-</u>	<u>10</u>
	Total-	59

MINISTERS PRESENT

As established by pre-registration, the following minister members (41) were present:

Nancy D’Appolito	Shelley Donaldson	Jessica Jones
Lynn Barger-Elliot	Bradi Drake	Gregory Keosian
Nancy Baseel	Eileen Epperson	Maria LaSala
Dallas Bradel	Chris Johnson Foster	Heather Little-Andale
Ginny Brooks	William Goettler	Tracy Mehr-Muska
Thelma Burgonio-Watson	Jan Hawkins	John Merz
Jocelyn Cadwallader	Thomas Hawkins	Susan Pfeil
Christine Caton	Scott Herr	Susan Olson

Laura Opsahl	Mary Thies	Anne Weirich
Joan Priest	Susan Truckness	Kevin White
Deborah Packhard	David Van Dyke	Shannon White
Jinny Smanik	Shannan Vance-Ocampo	
Ed Sackett	Mieke Vandersall	
Christopher Tate	Jeffrey Weenick	

MINISTERS EXCUSED

The following minister members were excused: No minister members requested an excuse for this meeting.

ELDER COMMISSIONERS

The following Elders represented the Churches of the Presbytery (19):

Ashaway: Babcock	
Barrington	
Brookfield: Valley	
Cumberland	Kimberly Ravenelle, Peter Cameron
Darien: Noroton	
Fairfield: First	
Fall River: Calvary	
Granby: Pioneer Valley	
Greenwich: First	
Groton: St. Andrew	Diane Snider, Joe Jackson
Hamden: New Haven Korean	
Hartford: First	Keith Rhodan
Milford: United	
New Canaan: First	
New Haven: Connecticut Korean	
New Haven: First	Nancy Carrington, Tim McCloskey, Beth Aura Miller,
Providence	Dan Blackford
Springfield: Martin Luther King	Lisa Baker, Rachelle Lee
Stamford: First	Ellen McDonnell, Willard Hill, Stephen Hart

Warwick: Greenwood

Warwick: Woodbury

Waterford: Crossroads

West Hartford: Westminster

Westerly: Dunn's Corners

Wilton

Sally Gaenzle

Nicole Aronson Champagne

PRESBYTERY ROUNDTABLE

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

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS

None

NEW WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES

None

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Erika Plank Hagan, the Presbytery Communicator.

VISITORS

Four (4) visitors registered for the meeting: Bob Astine, Molly Dean, and Lauren Tate

CHURCHES WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

Sixteen (16) 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.

ELECTION OF THE STATED CLERK

The Rev. John Merz (Southern New England) described the search process for the Joint Stated Clerk and thanked the following persons who served on the search team: JC Cadwallader (PSNE), Scott DeBlock (Northern NE, ex officio/staff), Moonsu Han (Boston), Rachelle Lee (PSNE), Meaghan Manus (Boston), Kayla McKinsey (Boston), John Merz (PSNE), Shannan Vance-Ocampo (PSNE, ex officio/staff). There were six applicants for the position. The Rev. John Merz and the Rev. Meaghan Manus placed the following motion on the floor for both Presbyteries:

“To elect the Rev. Katherine (Kate) Carlisle to the position of Joint Stated Clerk of the Presbyteries of Boston and Southern New England for a term of three years beginning on June 15, 2022 per the terms outlined below.”

Expenses		
\$50,000.00	housing/cash TBD breakdown	<i>\$30,000 housing</i>
\$19,500.00	BOP Pastor's Participation	
\$5,500.00	travel/professional expense reimbursements	
\$75,000.00	Total	
Income		
\$33,000.00	Presbytery of Boston	
\$36,500.00	Presbytery of Southern New England	<i>\$14,500 funded through grant from Synod of NE</i>
\$5,500.00	Presbytery of Southern New England	<i>funded through grant from Synod of NE</i>
\$75,000.00	Total	
	PSNE to handle all payments to Rev. Carlisle and will bill Boston Presbytery for their portion.	
Other		
\$1,080.00	\$90/mo tech stipend as per PSNE employees	
TBD	Start up tech costs for computer, etc.	

There were no nominations from the floor. The Rev. Carlisle was excused to a virtual waiting room. Moderator White called for a vote and the vote was unanimous in the affirmative from both Presbyteries. The Rev. Carlisle returned to the meeting and was informed of the vote, which they accepted.

WORSHIP

The Joint Assembly worshipped God, co-ed by Moderator White (PSNE) and Moderator-elect Turner (Boston) using the Book of Common Worship Order - Book of Occasional Services "Installation of Governing Body Officers and Staff."

ADJOURNMENT

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

With no further business to transact, the Presbyteries of Boston and Southern New England **ADJOURNED**, and was led in a closing prayer by Moderator White at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Shannan R. Vance-Ocampo, Acting Stated Clerk

The Presbytery of Southern New England re-convened at the request of the Board of Trustees in an additional duly called Special Meeting on May 30, 2023. Moderator White opened with prayer at 7:50 p.m. The same quorum and information as above was still in place.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Rev. Andre Castillo presented the report of the Board of Trustees. He requested the concurrence of the Presbytery on a motion from the Trustees to enter into a loan with the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Corporation for First Presbyterian Church, Stamford, CT in the amount of

\$2,500,000.00 for repairs to its Sanctuary secured by real property value. The Rev. Dr. David Van Dyke described the project and contributions of the congregation. The motion does not need a second. The Presbytery voted unanimously in the affirmative. The Clerk will be directed to file the appropriate paperwork with the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Corporation.

ADJOURNMENT

At the recommendation of the clerk, and upon a motion properly made and seconded, the Presbytery **ADJOURNED**, and was led in a closing prayer by the Moderator, Kevin White, at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shannan R. Vance-Ocampo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish above the first letter of the first name.

Rev. Shannan R. Vance-Ocampo, Acting Stated Clerk

Report of the General Presbyter

Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo
November 2023



**THE PRESBYTERY OF
SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND**



2023 Changes to the Book of Order

- **G-1.0501, G-3.0101, G-3.0105 requires all councils [session, presbytery, etc.] use the most recent revised version of Robert's Rules of Order and the creation of a process for online and hybrid meetings.**
- **G-2.0804 requires that 12 weeks of Paid Family Leave be incorporated into the Presbytery's minimum terms of call for installed pastors.**
- **G-3.0106 requires all councils of the church [Session, Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly] to have the following policies in place:**
 - **Sexual Misconduct Policy**
 - **Harassment Policy**
 - **Child & Youth Protection Policy**
 - **Anti-Racism Policy**



SAFETY CENTRAL

Safety Central is a unique source of safety, liability and insurance articles and reports relevant to the church community, reviewed and compiled by Insurance Board and industry experts.

[Topics](#)

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Two of these policies are *relational* not *boilerplate*

All policies should be rooted in **theology**

All policies should have written into them a **timeline**
and process for review

These two policies will require a **learning curve** for many in your leadership/membership/community - these are opportunities for **deepening of discipleship**

Five Relational Areas to Examine:

1. Leadership
2. Decision-Making
3. Relationships
4. History and Culture
5. Communications

From Samantha Davis, PCUSA Associate for Racial and Gender Justice training slides on policy creation

Harassment Policy

- Should include definitions and clarity for various groups that can be targeted:
 - Women
 - LGBTQUI+ community
 - People of Color
 - Intersectionality
- Presbytery has a policy in our Personnel Manual that can be adapted
- Graduated scale of how to handle incidents
- Non-retaliation
- Online considerations
- For officers, can rise to use of the *Rules of Discipline* contained in the Book of Order

Harassment is unwelcome conduct that is based on race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation, gender identity, or pregnancy), national origin, older age (beginning at age 40), disability, or genetic information (including family medical history). Petty slights, annoyances, and isolated incidents (unless extremely serious) will not rise to the level of illegality. To be unlawful, the conduct must create a work environment that would be intimidating, hostile, or offensive to reasonable people.

Offensive conduct may include, but is not limited to, offensive jokes, slurs, epithets or name calling, physical assaults or threats, intimidation, ridicule or mockery, insults or put-downs, offensive objects or pictures, and interference with work performance.

From the Equal Opportunity Employment Council, National Definition

Anti-Racism Policy

- What is anti-racism in your context? What does it mean theologically to your people? Do they have a shared working definition? How can you lead them to develop one?
- Learning Community
- Confession, Repentance, Repair/Reparations, Relationships
- Bring in trainers

Anti-Racism is:

The active process of identifying and eliminating racism by changing systems, organizational structure, policies and practices and attitudes, so that power is redistributed and shared equitably.

From Samantha Davis, PCUSA Associate for Racial and Gender Justice training slides on policy creation

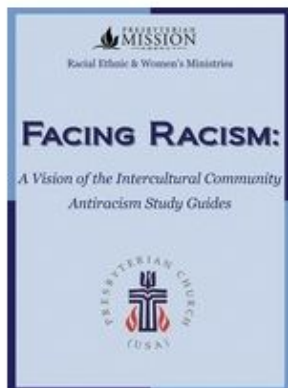
PCUSA POLICY



Facing Racism: Policy

In 2016, the 222nd General Assembly approved a new churchwide antiracism policy: *Facing Racism: A Vision of the Intercultural Community*. The policy includes background information, with historical references and theological rationale.

[View policy](#)



Facing Racism: Study Guide

This series of six antiracism study guides is appropriate for an hour-long conversation among adults or teens. The guides provide tools for empowering church communities to have important conversations about race and racism in relation to Christian faith.

[View study guide](#)

Conversation/Draft Writing

- What's the why? Beyond requirement, what's the theological rationale for your context?
- Define who you are and who you hope to become in the next _____ years.
- What do you want to include?
- How do you want to be relational?
- How do you want to be a discipleship learning community in harassment/anti-racism and how can this show who you are to your community?
- The 5 Relational Areas to explore
- Who has power in your community? Is it healthy?

What is the Synod of the Northeast up to?

Currently:

A diverse group of discernment listening teams are currently meeting to hear YOUR vision of a post-pandemic synod. See the synod website to see meetings scheduled for up to date happenings and reflections: <https://www.synodne.org/>

Come to the Table at Silver Lake YMCA Retreat Center, New York was held October 20-22 with the theme:

When did We See You? -- Removing the Blinders

This bi-ennial gathering of the synod is a time for learning, stretching, reflection and rest held on the years alternate to the synod assembly meeting. The conference opened with worship with Rev. Ruth Santana-Grace, PCUSA Co-Moderator preaching and Q+A and closed with Rev. Scott Williams preaching.

Bible studies and workshops this year were offered by a diverse group of synod members, in many aspects of diversity (bios available on the synod webpage). Our own Rev Dr Terrlyn Curry Avery offered "Paralyzed by Anxiety". The synod Facebook page captures a bit of the worship: <https://www.facebook.com/SynodoftheNE>



CELEBRATING 200 YEARS
WRIGHT MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
You're Invited!
November 18, 2023
1 PM - 4 PM
12672 Route 438
Irving, NY 14081
Join us for a short service and music followed by a luncheon. Come learn about our church's history on the Seneca Cottoraugus Territory.



To RSVP please contact
Eileen Marx
716-864-4745

We value your interest and look forward to seeing you there!

First Nation/Native American Church Initiative

<https://www.synodne.org/native-american-church-initiative> There is much happening in this arena building on visits made to all four First Nation presbyterian congregations within the synod bounds.

Wright Memorial in Irving, NY is celebrating their 200th anniversary, Saturday November 18th 1-4pm with special program and meal together. I will be going and would be happy to have PSNE company (travel and overnighting Fri night and coming back after program Saturday---home very late!).



A DAY OF MOURNING

NATIVE AMERICAN THANKSGIVING
Sunday November 26th, 2023 11am

Brook Native American Presbyterian Church

116 6th Street Hillburn, NY

Potluck Bring a Dish to Share



National Day of Mourning honors Native ancestors and the struggles of Native peoples to survive today. "It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection as well as a protest of the racism and oppression that Native Americans continue to experience."

Brook Native American Presbyterian Church (Hillburn, NY) welcomes us to its Day of Mourning: Native American Thanksgiving

A synod wide mission day with these churches is being worked through in conversation with the churches—with a special offering for supporting the initiative planned for February 18, 2023. Watch for further information. Three of the four churches were represented at Come to the Table—and one member from the Brook Church, Elder Patricia Osterhoudt serves on the synod commission as well as offering a workshop at the gathering.

New Facebook page address, please make a note: <https://www.facebook.com/SynodoftheNE>

Interested in learning more? I'm excited by this new dimension of ministry in higher governing bodies, serving as PSNE representative on the Synod Mission and Ministry Commission, specifically with the Connectional Working Group. I would love to talk to you about ways to connect your passions and interests.

Chris Foster, at-large minister member PSNE/hospice chaplain-- 401-323-7292 or cjfooster@gmail.com

Stated Clerk's Report
Presbytery of Southern New England
Stated Meeting
November 4, 2023

For Action:

1. I recommend that the Presbytery accept, effective December 1, 2023, the resignation of Elder Armin Thies from the Administrative Commission for the Turn of River Community Presbyterian Church, with thanks for his service (item #8 in the Consent Motion).

For Information:

1. As Secretary of the Corporation, I signed documents on the PILP loan for Calvin Presbyterian Church, Cumberland, RI, as approved at the September 20 Stated Meeting, on October 5 and October 24, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Kate Carlisle

November 2023 Report of the Presbytery Roundtable

We committed to the Presbytery in 2022 when we returned to hybrid Presbytery meeting post-pandemic that we would evaluate after about a year to see how the new format was working and what we were learning about patterns and attendance.

- We have a consistent 30/70 attendance percentage split. 30% in person and 70% online. The “who” of this number changes, based on where we are meeting. *What we have learned is that online remains the preferred method of meeting, and folks just are not willing to drive much distance at all.*
- Many of our congregations pivoted to online meetings/hybrid worship during the pandemic, but not all have continued, with many going to broadcast only post-pandemic. *What we have learned is that not as many congregations as we thought are able to support hybrid Presbytery meetings moving forward.*
- With the COM and CPM becoming commissions, there is not as much business that needs to be attended to at Presbytery meetings. *What we have learned is that we do not need as many business meetings in a year as before.*
- The needs of congregations and clergy are shifting to relationship building, resourcing and teaching and the interest in meeting for meeting’s sake is low. *What we have learned is that we need to offer more opportunities in-person and online for relationships and resourcing.*

With these learnings, and after a small task force of the Roundtable looked into them, we are proposing the following Presbytery meeting schedule for 2024, which would also include setting aside #3.1 of our Bylaws for one year. After a year, we will reassess again, because we are still, along with our ministries, in a time of shifting and changing boundaries and priorities to which we want to remain responsive.

Thursday, February 8, 7:00 pm

Saturday, May 4, 10:00 am

Wednesday, October 23, 7:00 pm

The Roundtable will be coming out with additional suggestions around our zoom meetings for 2024 which will include regional in-person gatherings for these meetings, and also set forward the resourcing and training opportunities for the year, alongside a clergy retreat. We want to raise up and commend practices like the monthly clergy luncheon for RI clergy and the dinner party that was held by some clergy while they zoomed into our Presbytery meeting in September as new ways of gathering. We want to expand more of these creative opportunities that speak to how gatherings happen and make meaning for today’s context.

A Report of the Anti-Racism and Equity Team

Presbytery of Southern New England

November 4 2023

Our mandate as a committee is:

To work towards the creation of an inclusive, equitable, antiracist culture within the PSNE that will be attractive to all people in particular those who have been systematically excluded from full participation in the presbytery, as we seek to be cocreators with Christ of a just, peaceful and healed world/creation.

Team members:

Rev. Jenny Peek, Co-Chair
Rev. Kevin White, Co-Chair
Katia Dacunha
Rev. Julie Emery
Ji Young Kim
Keith Rhoden, Jr.
Rev. Susan Trucksess
Rev. David Van Dyke

For Presbytery Information:

The team is currently working in two primary areas:

- Developing an anti-racism policy for the Presbytery, which should be ready for a first reading at the February, 2024 Presbytery meeting.
- Continuing to work with Crossroads Anti-Racism Organizing and Training in coordinating and leading the Presbytery's Anti-Racism cohorts - *Becoming a White Co-Conspirator* (cohort for those who identify as white), and *Building a People of Color Community of Solidarity* (a cohort for those who identify as a person of color). These cohorts have been meeting monthly since June, and will continue through February 7, 2024. Through both the times meeting in the respective cohorts and meeting all together, we have really begun to see a deepening in conversations and awareness around issues of racism and anti-racism in our lives and in our corporate life together in our churches and presbytery.

For Presbytery Action:

There are no current items for Presbytery action.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Jenny Peek
Rev. Kevin White
Co-Chairs, Anti-Racism and Equity Team

Report of the Commission on Ministry - November 4, 2023

The Commission wishes to inform the Presbytery that, in accordance with the authority granted under Chapter 8 of the Bylaws of the Presbytery, it has:

Information:

1. APPROVED the Ministry Discernment Profile (formerly MIF) of the Warwick/Woodbury-Union Church.
2. APPROVED the to concur with the request to dissolve the pastoral relationship between the Rev. JC Cadwallader and the First Presbyterian of New Haven at their Congregational meeting, if the way be clear, on November 19, 2023 and to APPOINT the Rev. Rachel Mastin as Session Moderator as of Nov 20, 2023 until a Bridge Pastor is located.
3. APPROVED correspondence from the COM to the Revs. Linda and Mark Barger Elliott and the Presbytery of New York City to be sent via the Stated Clerk.

Action Items: None

Respectfully submitted,

The Revs. Scott Herr and John Merz, co-chairs

**PSNE Nominating Committee Report
11/4/23 Called Presbytery Meeting**

For Action:

The Committee places in nomination the following person for election by the Presbytery:

Rev. Nancy D'Ippolito (Hon. Retired) - Trustees

Rev. Anne Weirich (Hon. Retired) - Clergy Commissioner to GA 2024

For Information:

We accept, with gratitude for their service, the resignation of:

Elder Armin Thies, Turn of River Church Administrative Commission

Submitted,
Elder Nicole Aronson Champagne
Chair, Nominating Committee

Commission on Preparation for Ministry

Presbytery of Southern New England

November 4, 2023

Information items

Since the last Presbytery meeting:

1. The commission held an annual consultation with Candidate Stacy Arevalo (Noroton: Darien, CT).
2. The commission reviewed each Student under care and the recent Ordination Exams.
3. Currently under care of the Presbytery are 5 Candidates, and 4 Candidates Certified Ready to Receive a Call.
4. The commission's next meeting is November 17, 2023.