

195th Stated Meeting
of the Presbytery of Southern New England
First Presbyterian Church, New Haven, Connecticut / Zoom Teleconference
November 4, 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 Haven on November 4, 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 10:30 a.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.

ATTENDANCE	Ministers-	24
	<u>Elders-</u>	<u>15</u>
	Total-	39

MINISTERS PRESENT

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

Nancy Baseel	Alonso Dacunha	Jessica Jones
Dallas Bradel	Julie Emery	Do Hoon Kim
JC Cadwallader	Eileen Epperson	Dean Lindsay
Terrlyn Curry Avery	Christine Johnson Foster	Peggy Lindsay
Jennifer Davis	Scott Herr	rachel mastin
Nancy D'Ippolito	Byeta Hoover-Mulvany	Deb Packard

Jenny Peek
Susan Pfeil
Joan Priest

Jason Santalucia
Christopher Tate
Mary Marple Thies

Jeffrey Weenink
Kevin White
Heather Wright

MINISTERS EXCUSED

The following minister members were excused: Stephen Clark, Greg Doll, Brandi Drake, Tracy Mehr-Muska, Gary Morello, Shannon White.

ELDER COMMISSIONERS

The following Elders represented the Churches of the Presbytery (12):

Ashaway: Babcock	
Barrington	
Brookfield: Valley	
Cumberland	Peter Cameron
Darien: Noroton	
Farifield: First	
Fall River: Calvary	
Granby: First	
Greenwich: First	
Groton: St. Andrew	Joe Jackson
Hamden: New Haven Korean	
Hartford: First	
Milford: United	
New Canaan: First	
New Haven: Connecticut Korean	
New Haven: First	Amanda Harvanek, Beth Aura Miller, Mary Webber, Bob Parker
Providence	Kathy Cooper
Springfield: Martin Luther King	
Stamford: First	
Warwick: Greenwood	Marcia Camilleri Camp, Denise Mair

Warwick: Woodbury

Waterford: Crossroads

West Hartford: Westminster

Westerly: Dunn's Corners

Wilton

Sally Gaenzle

Arthur Riihmaki, Ma'Lynn Feingold

PRESBYTERY ROUNDTABLE

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

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS

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

OFFICERS AND STAFF

Rev. Kate Carlisle, PSNE Stated Clerk, minister member of the Presbytery of Boston

Elder Philip Phiri, PSNE Treasurer

Katie Grosh, PSNE Presbytery Communicator

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Rev. Dr. Karen Brown, Presbytery of Baltimore

Elder Julia Hill, Presbytery of Philadelphia

Elder Rick Morrow, Presbytery of Peace River

Elder Juliet Owuor, Presbytery of Palo Duro

Elder Margaret Mwale, Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky

VISITORS

Four (4) visitors registered for the meeting.

CHURCHES WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

Eighteen (18) Churches were without Elder Commissioner representation.

ELECTRONIC MEETING ORIENTATION

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

WELCOME AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The pastor of the host church, the Rev. JC Cadwallader, welcomed members of the assembly to the church and acknowledged the original inhabitants of the land. Rev. Cadwallader offered heartfelt thanks to the Presbytery as she nears the end of her call at FPC New Haven.

First Presbyterian Church sits in what is now New Haven, Connecticut - indigenous peoples and nations including Mohegan, Mashantucket Pequot, Eastern Pequot, Schaghticoke, Golden Hill Paugusett, Niantic, Quinnipiac, and other peoples have stewarded this land and waterways for generations. We honor and respect the enduring relationship between these peoples and this land. We the Church recognize the role that Christianity played in colonization movements throughout time, particularly the Doctrine of Discovery; and we repudiate the use of Christianity or any other religion for the purposes of oppression. We repent and we strive to turn towards more loving ways of being neighbors. Throughout its history, New Haven and the lands within the bounds of the Presbytery have been home to peoples from all over the earth. Efforts of the past to live peaceably may require reflection, often repentance, and occasionally praise. Due to economic, political, and climate migration peoples have moved in and out of the bounds of New Haven and the bounds our Presbytery. This will continue to happen in the future as well. So may we, Presbytery of Southern New England, and may we as Christians seek to bear Christ's light as we heed this call to repent, and to love our neighbor as Christ loves us.

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

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

ENROLLMENT AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo, General Presbyter, introduced corresponding members from Self Development of People.

CONSENT MOTION

The Rev. Kate Carlisle, Stated Clerk, presented the consent motion. The Presbytery **VOTED:**

Actions related to the conduct of this assembly:

1. That the Presbytery approve the Minutes of the Joint Special Called Meeting on May 30, 2023.
2. That the Presbytery approve the Minutes of the 194th Stated Meeting held on September 20, 2023.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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:

6. 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:

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

WORSHIP

The assembly worshiped God. The Rev. Dr. Karen Brown, chair of the Presbyterian Committee on the Self Development of People and Pastor of Hope Presbyterian Church in Baltimore Presbytery, shared a homily in 2 Samuel 9.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER

The General Presbyter shared a presentation, building on her presentation at the September meeting about updates to the 2023 *Book of Order* that affect Sessions and congregations, about the anti-harassment and anti-racism policies that Sessions need to implement. She shared several questions and discussion prompts for churches writing their anti-racism policies, and the Presbytery broke into small groups for conversation and brainstorming.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

The Rev. Kate Carlisle, Stated Clerk, reported. The following item was included in the written report 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.

PSNE has not reviewed Session minutes since 2018. We will set a plan for catching up with these reviews in 2024.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE

Elder Julia Hill and Elder Rick Morrow, co-chairs of the Northeast Task Force of SDOP, brought greetings and thanks as they shared briefly about their visit. They shared gratitude for the contributions SDOP receives from the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, and encouraged the Presbytery to consider greater engagement with SDOP: “Presbyterians are serious about helping people.”

REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY ROUNDTABLE

Elder Mildred McNeill presented the report of the Presbytery Roundtable. A written report has been provided about Roundtable’s discussion of Presbytery meetings format:

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.

Elder McNeill shared about these discussions and answered questions.

Upon recommendation of the Roundtable, the Presbytery **VOTED** unanimously to suspend Presbytery Bylaw #3.1 for calendar year 2024.

Upon recommendation of the Roundtable, the Presbytery **VOTED** to **APPROVE** set the above schedule for Stated Meetings in 2024.

REPORT OF THE ANTI-RACISM AND EQUITY TEAM

The Team's written report included the following items for 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.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Commission's written report included the following items for information:

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:

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. Lynn and Mark Barger Elliott and the Presbytery of New York City to be sent via the Stated Clerk.

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elder Nicole Aronson Champagne presented the Report of the Nominating Committee. The Committee places in nomination the following persons for election by the Presbytery:

- Rev. Nancy D'Ippolito, HR - Trustees
- Rev. Anne Weirich, HR - Teaching Elder Commissioner to GA 2024
- Rev. Anne Weirich, HR - Commission on Ministry, Class of 2024 (partial term)

No nominations were made from the floor, and nominations were closed without objection. Upon recommendation of the Committee, the Presbytery **VOTED** to **ELECT** the above slate to their respective offices.

Elder Aronson Champagne reminded Presbytery that we are still seeking additional nominations for the General Assembly ruling elder commissioner, YAAD, and alternates. Nominating is continuing to meet and will bring any additional GA nominations to Roundtable before the December submission deadline.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees did not give a report.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

The Commission on Preparation for Ministry submitted a written report with the following items for information:

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.

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 12:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Kate Carlisle, Stated Clerk