

Presbytery of Southern New England Roundtable Report May 2024

The Roundtable met on April 17, 2024 and took the following actions:

Roundtable **elected** John Merz as chair pro tem as the chair Mildred McNeil was attending to a family emergency.

Discussed overture concurrences to the General Assembly to bring to the Presbytery at their May Stated Meeting. The Roundtable also worked on the agenda for the May Presbytery meeting and tasked John Merz to work on watch parties in geographic clusters for it.

Heard a report about the death of the Rev. Dr. Stephen Clark at the Greenwood Church and how the COM is supporting them in this time. The Roundtable also heard from the Trustees that the Trustees have recently become aware that the Greenwood church has had communications equipment in the bell tower since 2008. This sort of encumbrance needs to be approved by Presbytery. Greenwood's recollection is that the Presbytery reviewed this in 2008, but we have not located those records.

The Trustees also have learned that Providence also has a cell tower contract, and another church is in the process of considering such a contract. Trustees will remind congregations of the need to consult with Presbytery on any encumbrances, and seek to rectify in the next few months any issues which have not already been voted on by Presbytery. The Trustees are also considering

The Roundtable decided that they will meet more often this year to discuss big-picture leadership needs in the Presbytery, meeting about every other month.

The Roundtable heard about the plans of the COM to consider the wide-ranging changes to the medical plan for clergy in active ministry service for 2025.

The Roundtable heard from Nominating about the concerns about filling essential spots of volunteer leadership around the Presbytery, most especially leadership for the Roundtable and the position of Vice-Moderator.

The Roundtable approved one motion at their meeting:

To call a special meeting of Presbytery on Monday June 24 at 6pm via Zoom to address the Board of Pensions changes and various other items of business; and to give itself permission as Roundtable to do any or all of the following via email: to officially call the special meeting at the appropriate time, to add or change items on the docket for the special meeting, and to change the date and time if necessary.

From our previous meeting this year, the Roundtable also brings the final report of the Administrative Commission for the Brazilian Immigrant Fellowship to be received by Presbytery, and to dismiss the AC with our thanks.

Motion for Presbytery Consideration:

The Roundtable moves the nomination of Elder Nicole Aronson Champagne as nominating chair.