

Stated Clerk's Report
Presbytery of Southern New England
Stated Meeting
October 23, 2024

For Information:

1. In accordance with the Book of Order, D-7.0501, I am providing notice that on October 7, 2024, I received a written statement of an alleged disciplinary offense on the part of a minister member of the Presbytery. An investigating committee is being formed in accordance with Church Discipline and the Bylaws of this Presbytery. The committee will investigate this allegation, and will make a determination as to whether to file formal charges. In the meantime, I invite your prayers for all persons involved in this matter.
2. According to 2.2 in the PSNE bylaws, the Stated Clerk addresses any imbalance between ruling and teaching elders eligible to vote at Presbytery by inviting Sessions to designate an additional elder commissioner. There are substantially more minister members than elder commissioners allocated by the bylaws, and attendance at Presbytery meetings tends to be higher among ministers than elders. At least some Sessions have been in the habit of sending that third elder commissioner already. *Therefore, I will invite and encourage **all** PSNE Sessions to designate **three** ruling elder commissioners for Presbytery meetings in 2025.*
3. The 226th General Assembly has sent 13 items to the presbyteries for their vote: twelve proposed amendments to the Book of Order and the Episcopal-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries. These items are compiled in a PDF included in the meeting materials. Presbytery must act on all of these items before July 2025. I recommend that, rather than handling all items at once, we take a few at a time; to that end, I have included items 24-B, 24-D, 24-E, 24-F, 24-G, 24-H, 24-J, and 24-L in today's docket. I recommend that presbytery act on items E and G together, as they concern the same topic (both would prohibit non-disclosure agreements). I also recommend that presbytery act on items D, F, H, and L as a group, as all make relatively minor amendments to the Book of Order. These groupings are reflected in the proposed docket.
4. The PSNE compensation policy, including the moderator/pulpit supply compensation policy and the 2025 compensation worksheet, have been distributed to all churches by email and are available on the PSNE website. Please return the completed worksheet to me by email no later February 15, 2024.

5. The Commission on Ministry and I have a number of items forthcoming, including a survey to check-in with ministers in validated/specialized ministry, on the at large role, and retired ministers; and scheduling a date for a gathering of Clerks of Session with minutes review. Please keep an eye out for those important communications.