

## **Presbytery of Southern New England**

### **Roundtable Report October 2024**

Roundtable met on Oct. 2, 2024, in person at Westminster Church in West Hartford. Mildred McNeill and Barbara Riihmaki (co-chairs) presided. The committee took the following actions:

-Heard from nominating committee chair Nicole Aronson-Champagne that Peter Cameron, a ruling elder at Calvin, Cumberland has agreed to be presented to the Presbytery as Vice Moderator and Rev. Jane Esterline, retired, has agreed to be voted on as a member of the Permanent Judicial Council.

-Heard a presentation via Zoom by the Vandersall Collective that is working with Trustees and three congregations on a project to help Trustees, the Presbytery, and congregations make future property decisions based on our core values.

-Heard a report from Rev. Nancy Baseel on the Antiracism and Equity Committee gatherings at 4 churches immediately prior to the Oct. 23 Presbytery meeting to view and discuss the documentary *Bad Faith*, followed by discussion. The Committee's next planned event is an Antiracism training on March 1, 2025, with Dr. William Yoo, author of *What Kind of Christianity?* Boston Presbytery will be invited. The team is working to make themselves available in a consulting role for congregations that are working on their antiracism projects.

-Heard a report from General Presbyter Shannan Vance-Ocampo on her sabbatical plans.

-Heard a presentation on a proposed budget for the coming year. The proposed budget had a deficit due to a decrease in funding from the Synod and a decrease in per capita income due to attrition and church closures. Roundtable encouraged the budget committee to consider actions that will attempt to reduce the deficit in the recommended budget.

-Discussed a proposed calendar of Presbytery meetings in 2025 with Matthew 25 themes. And voted to recommend that Presbytery suspend Presbytery Bylaw 3.1 to allow only three only three stated meetings in 2025.

-Heard a report from the Personnel Committee about ongoing conversations with Boston Presbytery about the joint stated clerk position. Additionally, Personnel shared plans to have Rev. David Bennett, executive presbyter of Albany, on call during Shannan Vance-Ocampo's sabbatical that begins in November.

-Via Zoom, met the new Communications Coordinator Jenelle Hopkins and Rev. David Bennett, Stated Clerk of Albany Presbytery who will be voted on at the Presbytery meeting to serve as Sabbatical Gap Presbyter.

Roundtable voted to meet six times in 2025.

Roundtable approved the docket for the October 23 Presbytery meeting on Zoom.

**Motions for Presbytery Consideration:**

The Roundtable moves the ratification of the election of Elder Peter Cameron as Vice Moderator and Rev. Jane Esterline, retired, as a member of the Permanent Judicial Council.

The Roundtable moves that Presbytery suspend Presbytery Bylaw 3.1 to allow only three only three stated meetings in 2025.

The Roundtable moves that Presbytery hold Stated Meetings on the following dates in 2025:

- February 11
- May 3
- November 13

The February meeting will be held on Zoom only and the locations and formats of additional meetings is to be determined.