

Report of the Commission on Ministry

May 3, 2025

Action:

1. None

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 2025 sabbatical plans for: the Rev. Dr. Terrlyn Curry Avery; the Rev. Gary Morello; the Rev. Emily Scott; the Rev. Shelley Donaldson
2. COM **voted** to grant permission to the Rev. Kymberley Clemons-Jones, Long Island Presbytery, to labor within the bounds from January-March 2025, if the way be clear, to serve at MLK during the sabbatical of Curry Avery.
3. COM **voted** to allow the Rev. Jeffrey Hutchinson (ECO) to guest preach one Sunday at Greenwood.
4. COM **voted** to request that the Board of Trustees set aside an initial minimum of \$25,000 for support of pastors and congregations disproportionately affected by the Board of Pensions changes in 2025 (namely, those with children and those who have had BoP grants that are ending); and to ask the Trustees to work with COM to put together a plan going forward on this matter.
5. COM **voted** to approve the formation of the PNC for Greenwich:First.
6. COM **voted** to approve the Rev. Jinny Smanik as moderator of Crossroads, Waterford including her moderation work since October 25.
7. COM **voted** to release the Rev. Stacy Smith to the Presbytery of Northern NJ effective January 9, 2025.
8. COM **voted**, if the way be clear, to approve the Terms of Call as presented and to receive the Rev. Emily Scott (ELCA) as a temporary member of Presbytery for the term of her service at FPCNH.
9. COM **voted** to approve the Terms of Call for the Rev. Dallas Bradel to serve as Bridge Pastor at Greenwood Community Church, Warwick RI. An additional

request was made at the April meeting to update this to an interim contract, and the COM provisionally **approved** this if the way be clear.

10. COM **voted** to concur with the motion to the Presbytery from the Trustees to ask Presbytery to authorize a discretionary fund of \$100,000 for the remainder of 2025, for Trustees, with the concurrence of COM, to spend on various emergent congregational needs.
11. COM **voted** to approve the Interim Pastor Contract Agreement between United Reformed Church, Somerville, NJ and the Rev. Joan Withers Priest; COM **voted** to give permission to the Rv. Joan Priest to labor outside the bounds and to validate her ministry there under the Formula of Agreement.
12. COM **voted** to appoint the Rev. Pam Spence-Bakker as Moderator pro tem at Babcock, Ashaway, as of the start of the Rev. Bea Hoover-Mulvany's medical leave.
13. COM noted that the Rev. Christine Caton has received a part-time call to serve as pastor at Groton Congregational Church. She is honorably retired and her status will not change at the PSNE.
14. COM connected the Rev. Iktae Kim (CT Korean) the Rev. Josh Park (Assistant Stated Clerk and Manager for Korean-speaking Councils Support, OGA) for support and Session training.
15. COM **voted** to dismiss the Rev. Lynn Barger Elliott and the Rev. Mark Barger Elliott to Redwoods Presbytery, effective March 31, 2025.
16. COM **voted** to approve the draft policies on Pastoral Dissolution and Anti-Harassment for first readings at the May PSNE meeting (see Stated Clerk's report).
17. COM **voted** to approve a MDP for the Greenwich congregation, if the way be clear.

Items of Interest:

1. A joint task force to create policies and procedures for the designation of CRE was formed by three Presbyteries (PSNE, PNNE, and Boston).

2. A Safety Plans Task Force was formed to support leaders and communities who may need special pastoral outreach and other support including pastors who are immigrants and/or serve predominantly immigrant congregations; and those who are LGBTQIA; and the MLK congregation; COM **approved** a plan, without objection, to task John, Scott, David, and Kate, if the way be clear, to find up to \$2000 to support the initial work of the safety team.
3. Rev. Jonathan Vanderbeck of the Danielson Institute at Boston University led a retreat for COM in January 2025, on the topic of “Beyond Self Care.”