

**Presbytery of Southern New England
Roundtable
December 4, 2024
Minutes**

Present: Elder Mildred McNeill (co-chair), Elder Barbara Riihmaki (co-chair), Elder Nicole Aronson Champagne, Elder Peter Cameron, Rev. Dean Lindsey, Rev. John Merz, Rev. Mark Montgomery, Elder David Pak, Rev. Kevin White, Rev. Dallas Bradel (Moderator), Rev. David Bennett (ex officio, Sabbatical Gap Presbyter), Rev. Kate Carlisle (ex officio, Stated Clerk)

Call to Order & Opening Devotion

The Stated Meeting of the Roundtable of the Presbytery of Southern New England was called to order on Zoom, with prayer by co-chair Mildred McNeill on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 6:03 pm.

A quorum was present electronically.

Roundtable **approved** the minutes of the October 2, 2024 meeting

Roundtable Calendar for 2025

Mildred presented the proposed calendar as circulated for Roundtable meetings in 2025.

January 7, 6-8pm, Zoom
January 21, 4-6pm, location TBD
April 8, 4-6pm, location TBD
June 10, 6-8pm, Zoom
September 9, 4-6pm, location TBD
October 7, 4-6pm, location TBD

Roundtable **voted** to approve these dates for 2025 Stated Meetings.

2025 Presbytery Meetings

Roundtable revisited the question of the format of the May and October meetings, including discussing what would be required to hold a vibrant hybrid meeting. Multiple concerns, including relationship building, accessibility, broadening and deepening engagement across the presbytery, and logistical/technological considerations, were discussed.

Roundtable **voted** to form a team to work on Presbytery meeting format and engagement.

Vision Team Planning

Mark named some individuals who have come up as suggestions for the Vision Team to consider the financial future of the presbytery and ask other big picture questions.

The goal is to consider the purpose and goals of Presbytery, review staffing and volunteer models, resources available, etc. The budget needs to be reviewed and mission and ministry

priorities reviewed, and partnership opportunities with other presbyteries investigated. There is a hope that the team will seek more creativity and clarity of vision for the future.

Dean shared that Trustees are concerned about the unsustainability of the current administrative structure. Mark reminded Roundtable of the Personnel recommendation that the current staffing structure be maintained for a minimum of three years.

Mark asked for Roundtable members to email him suggestions of names by December 20. He will be in continued discussion with Roundtable and Roundtable will discuss this again in January.

New Business

No new business.

Adjournment

Mildred adjourned the meeting with prayer at 7:26 pm.

The next Roundtable meeting is January 7. The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery is February 11.