

Roundtable Report
Presbytery of Southern New England
October 21, 2025

On June 10:

Present: Elder Mildred McNeill (co-chair), Rev. Christopher Tate (co-chair), Elder Nicole Aronson Champagne, Rev. John Merz, Rev. Jenny Peek (Vice Moderator), Rev. Joan Priest, Rev. Mark Montgomery, Elder Cathy Thomas, Rev. Kevin White

Excused: Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo, Rev. Kate Carlisle, Elder Peter Cameron

On September 9:

Present: Elder Mildred McNeill (co-chair), Rev. Christopher Tate (co-chair), Elder Nicole Aronson Champagne, Rev. John Merz, Rev. Joan Priest, Elder Cathy Thomas, Rev. Kevin White, Elder Peter Cameron (Vice Moderator), Rev. Jenny Peek (Vice Moderator), Rev. Dr. Shannan Vance-Ocampo (ex officio, General Presbyter), Rev. Kate Carlisle (ex officio, Stated Clerk), Rev. David Bennett (ex officio, interim Presbytery administrator)

For Information:

At its June 10 meeting, the Roundtable discussed the Vision Team process, and how to try and keep it moving ahead given a resignation (see below).

At its June 10 meeting, The Roundtable discussed the survey from the May 2025 Presbytery meeting, and continued an ongoing discussion about in-person vs. electronic Zoom meetings. It has proved to be a challenging topic, with agreement achieved, but not without remaining questions. The Roundtable continues to explore the timing and format of Presbytery meetings. According to the survey, at least, favorability was slightly higher for in-person meetings, even with lower participation rates in attendance than Zoom-only or hybrid meetings.

At the September 9 meeting of Roundtable, following discussion, the Roundtable set a goal of identifying at least 4-5 people, plus General Presbyter and Stated Clerk for the Vision Team, to assist with resourcing. For any matters that should be discussed with Shannan and/or Kate recused, the Vision Team chair will approach the Roundtable co-chairs to think through that process. Nicole noted that Mark Montgomery will be rolling off of Personnel in May, as he was one of the names considered for the Vision team.

At the September 9 meeting, Kate and Shannan offered information about Vision Team developments in Boston Presbytery, and the work of the LGBTQAI+ safety team, respectively.

At the September 9 meeting, David reported on the work of the budget team. Some positive changes have happened in the cost of staff Board of Pensions costs, so the projected necessary per capita jump has decreased to about \$2.76. The current draft budget has about a \$15,000 projected deficit. The sense of the meeting was that Roundtable would support Trustees in a recommendation of raising per capita by \$2.50.

At the September 9 meeting, MLK let Roundtable know that they are not going to be able to host on October 4.

For Action:

At the June 10 meeting, Roundtable **VOTED** to elect Chris Tate, Cathy Thomas and John Merz to join Dan Blackford and Bob Spangler from the Trustees on the budget team.

At the June 10 meeting, with regret, the Roundtable **VOTED** to receive the resignation of the Rev. Shelley Donaldson from the Vision Team.

At the September 9 meeting, Roundtable **VOTED** to establish its calendar of meetings.

All meetings scheduled for 4-5:30PM via Zoom unless otherwise indicated:

- October 7, 2025 (only if needed)
- November 11, 2025
- December 9, 2025 (only if needed)
- January 13, 2026
- March 10, 2026
- April 14, 2026
- June 9, 2026
- September 22, 2026
- November 10, 2026

At the September 9 meeting, Roundtable **VOTED** to elect Elder Bob Santy, DCCCP, ruling elder for ordination exam reader.

Roundtable **VOTED** to hold the October Stated Meeting at First, Hartford on Tuesday, October 21 at 6pm. Dinner will be at 5pm with a potential pre-presbytery event at 4pm.

At the September 9 meeting, Roundtable **VOTED** to ask presbytery to suspend Bylaw 3.1 for 2026, to permit having only 3 Stated Meetings.

Roundtable **VOTED** to recommend, for a first reading, amending the first sentence of Bylaw 3.1 from “There shall be four (4) stated meetings of Presbytery each year.” to “There shall be at least three (3) stated meetings of Presbytery each year.”

Roundtable **VOTED** to recommend that Presbytery approve the following calendar for the 2026 stated meetings:

- Tuesday, Feb 10
- Saturday, May 9
- Tuesday, October 27

And to ask Presbytery to authorize Roundtable to determine location and format of the meetings.

At the September 9 meeting, Roundtable **VOTED** to accept the proposed docket for the October 21 meeting, subject to change by email as needed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mildred McNeill and Christopher Tate, Roundtable Co-Chairs