

Commission on Preparation for Ministry

Presbytery of Southern New England

February 2026

Information items

Since the last Presbytery meeting:

1. The Commission met on November 7, 2025 with **Candidate Ji Hee Hyung** (First Pres.: New Haven, CT) for her Annual Consultation. She is back in the U.S. from Korea and working in a Korean Church in NJ with youth and children, while her husband studies at Columbia University. The Commission also met with **Alex Rogers: Manager of the Preparation for Ministry and Exams for PC(USA)**. We discussed how the process of preparing for ministry is quite different than even 10 years ago and there are many changes coming, especially with ordination exams, as proposals to the General Assembly this summer from a study commission who has been working on these questions.
2. The Commission met on January 9, 2026 with **Elder Mary Slattery** (Dunn's Corners Pres.: Westerly, RI) who was applying to become an Inquirer. Mary has begun a Master's in Ministry Program at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and is very active in her church, recently becoming the Children's Ministry Coordinator. It was M/S/V favorably for Mary to be enrolled as an Inquirer. Sophie Beal agreed to be her Liaison.
3. The Commission has been in conversation with **CRRC Jin Hwa (Deborah) Lee** who has been offered a call, if the way be clear, to be the pastor of the Bovina United Presbyterian Church in Bovina Center, NY which is in Susquehanna Valley Presbytery. COM voted to help fund her Visa Processing Fees with that Presbytery. She is expecting to begin her ministry and organize her ordination in the next few weeks. We will have an update on those dates by the time of the Presbytery meeting and can provide them at that time for the record.
4. The Commission continues to discuss their role related to Commissioned Ruling Elders (CRE's) which is becoming a growing practice in our area. A joint policy for managing the CRE process is in the business agenda of the COM for this meeting for a first reading. This policy was worked on over the last year between our Presbytery, Boston Presbytery, and Northern New England Presbytery. There is discussion among the three Presbyteries about gathering the leadership of the CPM's together this year to explore opportunities to share how we do our work and learn about our similarities and differences. The Book of Order allows for a CPM to be shared across Presbytery boundaries. No decisions have been made, we will have initial exploratory conversations this year and keep the Presbytery posted on how they are going.
5. Currently under care of the Presbytery are 1 Inquirer, 2 Candidates, and 4 Certified Ready to Receive a Call.