

Report of the Commission on Ministry January 15, 2026

Note: There is an additional meeting of the COM on February 4, 2026. A supplemental report + documents will be added to the Presbytery meeting page later that day.

For Presbytery Action:

1. The COM recommends the following updated policies for approval:

- a. COM Manual (general section, inclusive of name change)
- b. Policy on Administrative Commissions for Ordinations and Installations

The Commission wishes to **INFORM** the Presbytery, in accordance with the authority granted under Chapter 8 of the Bylaws of the Presbytery, of the following actions:

1. COM **voted** to approve the Parish Associate covenant between the Rev. Dr. Kimberley Clemmons-Jones and the Martin Luther King Community Presbyterian Church.
2. COM **voted** to approve the ordination plans for Stacy Arevalo at the Noroton Presbyterian Church to take place on November 21, 2025.
3. COM **voted** to receive the sabbatical report from the Rev. Gary Morello at the Noroton Presbyterian Church.
4. COM **approved** the updated compensation for CRE April Saber-Assad. Compensation \$1833.00/month for 12 hours/week, and no other changes are being made to her contract.
5. COM **approved** a \$2000 expenditure to cover 50% of the cost of an immigration attorney for Candidate Deborah Jinhwa Lee as she prepares to receive her first call in Susquehanna Valley Presbytery.
6. COM **voted** to dismiss Rev. Melodie Ann Long to Northwest Coast as of February 9, 2023.
7. COM **voted** to approve the consulting contract between the Rev. Dr. Derrick McQueen (NYC Presbytery) and MLK.
8. COM **voted** to, extend the hand of welcome to incoming minister member:
 - a. If the way be clear, COM **voted** to approve the call between Rev. Seth Weeldreyer and First, Greenwich, upon receipt of a satisfactory compensation worksheet; and to receive him from Lake Michigan Presbytery as a member of PSNE.

The COM also wishes to share with the Presbytery that it held its annual one-day retreat on January 14, 2026 at the Westminster Presbyterian Church. During the retreat the COM spent time with the [Rev. Dr. Jonathan Vanderbeck](#) of Gilead Consulting and the

Danielson Institute and considered the topic of: **Systems Beneath the Surface: Race, Gender, and Practice of Ministry.** We explored our work of the past year, trendlines, areas of stress, and areas of promise. This training included discussion of the issue of moral injury as it pertains to the ministry of the COM and time to reflect on the larger systems of which we are a part. The rest of the retreat focused on policy reviews and a few items of business that are incorporated into the report above.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Rev. John Merz
co-chairs