

Highlights

of the 173rd Stated Meeting
of the Presbytery of Southern New England
Noroton Presbyterian Church
Darien, CT
May 5, 2018

There were 45 teaching elders, 33 ruling elder commissioners, and 9 ruling elder Officer/Roundtable members present and voting. Fifteen of the Presbytery's 27 sessions were represented. There were 7 corresponding members, 15 observers/visitors, and 1 certified administrative staff. The total attendance was 110.

WERE YOU THERE WHEN...?

WORSHIP

Worship was held in the sanctuary led by Revs. Chris Tate, Julie Emery, Candace Whitman, Ruth Smalt, Mary Thies, Jenny Peek, and Elders Lisa Baker, Bill Thomas and Barbara Riihimaki. YDS student Joshua Narcisse was the guest preacher and provided a thought-provoking, insightful sermon.

Worship also included the laying on of hands and prayers for Bill and Ann Thomas; the installation of Moderator Chris Tate and Vice Moderator Ruth Smalt; communion; and the reading the names of deceased clergy and elders over the past year.

1001 NEW WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES

The Rev. Michael Gehrling spoke and shared a video presentation about the work of the 1001 New Worshipping Communities of the PCUSA.

HOSPITALITY

Thank you to Noroton Presbyterian Church for the wonderful hospitality shown to all from the special greeters at the doors, a delicious lunch, with cake and punch for our celebration, to the water, fruit, and granola bars ready for us to take on our homeward journeys!

OPEN SPACE

Some of our Open Spaces were

- 1001 New Worshipping Communities
- Healing the Wounds of Religion
- Synod Innovation Partnerships & Grants
- Drum Circle
- Low- to no-cost technology for ministry

PSNE AUTHORS

Four of PSNE's authors were present to share their books during the registration hour and during lunch:

- Ed Duffy
- Dana Lindsley
- Candy Whitman
- Heather Wright

CELEBRATION FOR BILL THOMAS

We joined together to celebrate the past 16 years of Bill Thomas's ministry as PSNE's Stated Clerk with a commendation letter from J. Herbert Nelson along with a special gift and guest speakers from far and wide. Julia Fuller (former recording clerk), Pam Garner, Dana Lindsley (former executive), Jim Bennett (former interim executive), Nancy Talbot, Synod Stated Clerk, and Charles Kim, Clerk of Session at New Haven: CT Korean church all spoke the laurels of Bill Thomas. Bill ended the party by saying he was glad to serve because God called him to just that!

PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Rev. Mary Thies introduced Dale Green and commented that he has successfully fulfilled requirements. Presbytery VOTED to enroll Mr. Green as a candidate. Rev. Jason Santalucia, Groton: St. Andrew, offered a prayer of celebration.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Presbytery VOTED to receive 4 clergy members

- Rev. Lynda Clements, honorably retired
- Rev. Christa Swenson, specialized clergy
- Rev. Carter Via, specialized clergy
- Rev. Art Woolverton, honorably retired

Presbytery moved to approve two candidates for ordination with approved calls:

- Andre Castillo, associate pastor at Greenwich: First
- Shelley Donaldson, associate pastor at Stamford: First

Presbytery VOTED to dissolve the pastoral relationship between The Rev. Erin Keys, Associate Pastor, and the First Presbyterian Church, Greenwich, CT effective December 15, 2017. Presbytery concurred.

Presbytery VOTED to approve the terms of call for Rev. Michael S. Piazza as Interim Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, New Canaan, CT effective May 5, 2018.

Presbytery VOTED to approve the following persons to serve on the Sexual Misconduct Response Team: - Elder Lisa Baker - Rev. Richard Dannenfeler - Rev. Eileen Epperson - Rev. Susan Pfeil - Rev. John Sandel - Rev. Heather Wright.

Presbytery was given the first-readings on 3 policies:

- Child Protection Policy
- Background Check Policy
- Sexual Misconduct Policy

Presbytery will vote on these policies at the September Presbytery meeting.

ROUNDTABLE

Presbytery VOTED to elect the following persons to the Nominating Committee and/or Roundtable:

Committee Chairs:

Art Riihimaki, Nominating Committee
Chair, class of 2019

Committee Members:

Pat Wales, Nominating Committee
member, class of 2021
Anne Fuhrmeister, Nominating Committee
member, class of 2020

- Rev. John Merz reported that the Stated Clerk Search Committee is still working their assigned task of discerning a new PSNE Stated Clerk.

NOMINATIONS

The following persons were nominated and elected effective May 5, 2018.

- Roundtable Co-Chairs
 - Elder Anne Carney, W. Hartford: Westminster
 - Rev. David Van Dyke
- Committee on Ministry:
 - Rev. Sean Miller, co-chair
 - Elder Barbara Riihimaki, West Hartford: Westminster, co-chair
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry:
 - Rev. John Sweet
- Personnel Committee:
 - Rev. Jennifer Davis
- Representation:
 - Rev. Julie Emery, co-chair
 - Rev. Jocelyn (J.C.) Cadwallader, co-chair
- Trustees
 - Elder Ralph Reynolds, Darien: Noroton
- Social Justice Committee:
 - Elder Lisa Baker, Springfield: MLK
- Church Development:
 - Rev. Paulo Ribeiro
- Stewardship & Mission Committee:
 - Elder Judy Cunningham, Brookfield: Valley

PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Presbytery voted to move Dale Green (Groton: St. Andrew) from Inquirer to Candidate status.

PRESBYTERIAN IMMIGRANT MINISTRY

Rev. John Webster introduced Rev. Alonzo Dacunha, Rev. Paulo Ribeiro, and Katia Dacunha who are working with Presbyterian Immigrant Ministry.

NEXT PRESBYTERY MEETING

The next Presbytery meeting will be a special meeting to elect the new Stated Clerk and other pertinent issues to come before the body. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2018, 1:00 pm, at First Presbyterian Church, 704 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT.