

# Highlights

of the 139<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting  
of the Presbytery of Southern New England  
November 14, 2009

## Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian, Warwick, RI

There were 40 ministers, 31 elder commissioners, and 6 elder Council members present and voting. Eighteen of the Presbytery's 34 sessions were represented. There were 7 observers at the meeting. The total attendance was 84.

### [Ecclesiastical Relations Committee](#)

Rev. Barbara Hager presented two overtures from Wilton Presbyterian Church for a first reading.

Overture 10-01 requests that the G-6.0106b paragraph be replaced with: "Jesus Christ, Head of the Church, has established standards for church officers (G-6.0101). These standards are contained in the Scriptures rightly understood in the light of the Confessions, and expressed in The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003) shall guide those responsible for examination as they discern with an individual that person's calling, gifts, and preparation for their willingness to adhere to church standards. Those seeking office shall demonstrate their understanding of and affirm their willingness to adhere to church standards."

Overture 10-02 requests an Authoritative Interpretation that would permit pastors, in states which authorize same-gender marriage, to officiate at such marriages in the context of Christian worship.

### [Church Development Committee](#)

Rev. David Watermulder brought the report of the CDC. The committee reported on the progress with the Tumaini Fellowship and their new building; the Granby church in the Meadows; and the house church in Amherst. In addition, representatives from the Hyannis Brazilian Fellowship were present at the meeting.

### [Were You There ...?](#)

- Were you there ... when Presbytery worshiped and Rev. Joseph Kimatu preached?
- Were you there ... when Rev. Susan Pfeil spoke about her participation in the Global Mission Celebration in Cincinnati, OH?
- Were you there ... when Rev. Dana Lindsley offered an image of the Presbytery as being like a forest of trees. When there is a lack of nutrients in one part of the forest, the trees share nutrition through their roots. As a Presbytery, our forest is stressed. The environment around us is inhospitable to our faith and our congregations. The Forest is not what it used to be. Yet, God has planted us here.
- Were you there ... when Rev. Jovelino Ramos spoke about faith, hope and love abiding. However, these come with risk. The Church needs to take a risk to be the Church in the world, and risk the journey. Diversity and unity by themselves is not enough. Through diversity in unity, infused with love, the Church will witness to Christ.
- Were you there ... when the Presbyterian Women presented a Life Membership award to Penny Webster?

If you weren't there ... well, you missed a lot!

### [Treasurer's Report](#)

Rev. Bill Showalter reported on the state of the expenses, income, and investments of the Presbytery. He noted that the report was good news – that there was no bad news. Presbytery VOTED to receive the Treasurer's report.

### Personnel Committee

Presbytery VOTED to increase the 2009 Terms of Call for the Rev. Dana Lindsley, Executive Presbyter, by \$1,000 for Auto/Professional expenses.

Presbytery VOTED to increase the 2010 Terms of Call for the Rev. Dana Lindsley, Executive Presbyter, by \$500 for Continuing Education and by \$2,300 for a General Assembly line item.

Presbytery VOTED to increase the Continuing Education Compensation for Office Manager Pam Garner by \$300 for 2010.

Presbytery VOTED to establish a Contingency Plan to move Dayle Larson, our Financial Secretary, from contract to employee status with health insurance benefits, if necessary, in 2010.

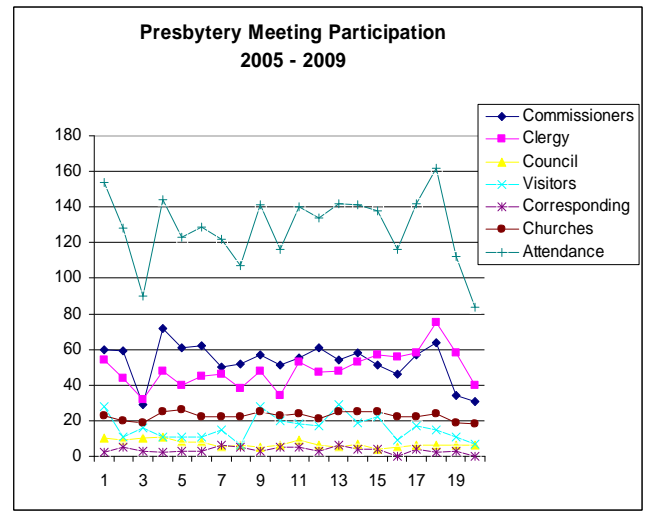
### Trustees

The Presbytery VOTED to approve a church use agreement between Turn of River: Stamford (CT) and the Brazilian Nazarene Church (BNC) for use of Turn of River's sanctuary for worship services, and other portions of its building for fellowship activities, contingent upon receipt by the Presbytery of proof of sexual misconduct liability insurance coverage for BNC. The term of the agreement is July 5, 2009 through July 5, 2010. The Trustees presented the 2008 auditors report as information.

### Synod Report

Rev. Ned Castner spoke about the happenings at the Synod Assembly held at Stony Point, NY on October 16 & 17th, 2009. The Synod continues to fund the Campus Ministries, Career Counseling, Camp Wilmot, Early Ministry Institute, and the Presbytery Partnership Groups. Ned reported that a Special Administrative Review Committee (SARC) was charged to consult with New York City Presbytery with a pastoral approach rather than the Administrative Commission to evaluate findings and report back to Council, which would share it with New York City Presbytery.

The next Stated Meeting of Presbytery will be held on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010 at Westminster Presbyterian Church West Hartford, CT



### Council Report

Elder Schimpf reported that Council will be contacting the Presbytery's clerks of session regarding weekday versus Saturday Presbytery meetings.

On behalf of Council, the "Rules for Appointment of a Special Administrative Review Committee" was presented. Presbytery VOTED to approve the "Rules for Appointment of a SARC."

### Committee on Ministry

- Presbytery VOTED to approve the request of Rev. William Lover for Honorable Retirement effective October 1, 2009.
- Presbytery VOTED to approve the request of Rev. Carl Holt for Honorable Retirement effective January 1, 2010.
- Presbytery VOTED to approve expanding the background check process to include a credit check for all inquirers, candidates and ministers seeking membership and request that each candidate contribute \$20.00 toward the cost of the background check.
- The Committee presented for a first reading a proposed policy for members at large.
- The Committee dismissed Rev. Patricia McElroy to New Hope Presbytery.

### Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women will hold their Winter Retreat on January 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> entitled "Journeying with a Cup of Blessings" at the Immaculate conception Convent. Rev. Marilyn McNaughton and Rev. Lori Hedlund will be the retreat leaders.