

# Highlights

## of the 143<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Southern New England November 13, 2010 Ethel Walker School, Simsbury, CT

There were 51 ministers, 48 elder commissioners, and 4 elder Council members present and voting. Twenty-one of the Presbytery's 34 sessions were represented. There were 7 observers at the meeting. The total attendance was 112.

### Council

- **Rev. Marilyn McNaughton** highlighted the availability of "Getting Connected" Presbytery newsletter.
- The Council has received letters of concern from six of the Sessions of the Presbytery. A task force was been appointed to consider these letters. A letter of response was sent on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The Council is proposing opportunities for discussion and an invitation to a mutual season of discernment. [Rev. McNaughton](#) is the contact person for people and churches to respond to this letter and suggestions.
- **Rev. Tom Speers** brought a report from the Review Team working with the Presbyterian Church of Old Greenwich.

Presbytery **VOTED** to authorize the Council to act on behalf of the Presbytery to name an Implementation Team.

### Social Justice

**Rev. Adele Crawford** presented the report of the Social Justice Committee. She and **Elder Dick Hasbany** discussed a survey of the issues for focus by the Social Justice Committee - hunger and homelessness were the top concerns.

Sixteen New Haven churches take turns sheltering the homeless during the winter. Several members of New Haven: First spoke about their experiences of sheltering the homeless.

### Were You There ...?

- ... when we, as brothers and sisters in faith, shared our joys and concerns around tables?
- ... when **Rev. Marilyn McNaughton** delivered **the** three-hat sermon on the conversations between Philemon, Onesimus, and Paul?
- ... when we partook of the delicious **Agape meal** at our tables?
- ... when **Rev. Dana Lindsley** reminded us of how we are practicing life together in a multitude of ways?
- ... when **Rev. Joseph Kimatu** spoke of the good news of the worship and celebration of God in the Tumaini Fellowship, but also the financial challenges for the group who have been supporting a member of their Fellowship?
- ... when we saw the Presbytery as Community slide show of the meeting at Brookfield: Valley?
- ... when Presbytery enjoyed singing hymns throughout the meeting?

**If you weren't there ... well, let me tell you, you missed a lot!**

### Nominations

Presbytery **VOTED** to elect the following:

- **Elder Judy Babcock**, Providence, Committee on Ministry - class 2013
- **Rev. Christine Caton**, Social Justice – class 2013
- **Elder Barry Baxter**, Warwick: Greenwood, Ecclesiastical Relations – class 2011
- **Elder Judy Cunningham**, Brookfield: Valley, Synod Commissioner - class 2012

### Committee on Ministry

- Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the request from the Korean Presbyterian Church of Greater Hartford to change the name of the church to the Hartford Korean Presbyterian Church.
- Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the request of the **Rev. David Graybill** and the Wilton Presbyterian Church to dissolve their pastoral relationship and grant the Rev. Graybill honorable retirement effective July 31, 2011.
- Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the request of the **Rev. Patricia Marion** that she be honorably retired effective March 23, 2011.
- Presbytery **VOTED** to receive **Rev. Michael Prewitt** into membership as Interim Pastor at Calvin Presbyterian Church, Cumberland, RI, if the way be clear, upon his dismissal by the Presbytery of New Brunswick.

### Trustees

**Elder William Schimpf** presented the Trustee's Report. Presbytery **VOTED** to increase the budget for attendance expenses at the 2010 General Assembly by \$1,171.14.

### Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Presbytery **VOTED** to enroll Christopher Samsen from Darien: Noroton as a candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

### Voting on Amendments

Presbytery **VOTED** to approve (Affirmative) the following proposed amendments:

- 10-B – Specifies a process for removing Stated Clerk or Clerk of Session who are alleged to have failed to carry out the duties and responsibilities of their office
- 10-C – Requires that all governing bodies adopt and implement a sexual misconduct policy
- 10-D – Nominating Committee allows a more equal mix of ministers and elders and men and women

### Voting on Amendments (cont'd)

Presbytery **VOTED** to approve (Affirmative) the following proposed amendments:

- 10-E – Presbytery Roll and Registers reserves the word "Roll" for ministers and instructs that "Registers" be kept of all CCE's and CACE's and Commissioned Lay Pastors
- 10-F – Assures that Certified Christian Educators have voting privileges if ordained as an elder and is under Presbytery oversight.
- 10-G – Allows for curtailing functions of Synod (not including the judicial and review) and for combining two adjoining Synods' administrative services, by 2/3 vote of Presbyteries.
- 10-H – Nominations Process proposes similar changes for GA committees as being proposed for synods and presbyteries.
- 10-I – Prayer added to Ordination and Installation Services in three places.
- 10-J - Stay of Enforcement corrects a prior error concerning entering stays of enforcement
- 10-K – When a PJC's moderator and clerk find Preliminary Questions answered in the negative, without challenge, then dismissal is automatic, and the PJC need not meet.
- 10-L - Allows an Investigative Committee not to pursue repetitive allegations without new evidence.
- 10-M – Time Limit allows more time for the governing body to receive notice that an offense has been committed
- 10-O - Decision of Permanent Judicial Commission is returned to the lower court for retrial if a prosecutor's appeal is upheld (Moot if 10-N passes)

Presbytery **VOTED NOT** to approve (Negative) the following proposed amendment:

- 10-N – Allows appeal of a verdict only by person found guilty

### The next Stated Meeting of Presbytery

**will be held on Saturday**

**February 12, 2011**

**First Presbyterian Church  
Fairfield, CT**