

Highlights

of the 145th Stated Meeting
of the Presbytery of Southern New England
May 7, 2011
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Groton, CT

There were 51 ministers, 48 elder commissioners, and 6 elder Council members present and voting. Twenty-five of the Presbytery's 34 sessions were represented. There were 8 observers and two corresponding members at the meeting. The total attendance was 126.

Council

- Presbytery VOTED to approve the nomination the following persons to the Nominating Committee:
 - **Rev. Tracy Mehr-Muska**, Chair (2012)
 - **Rev. Jane Field** (2013)
 - **Rev. Justin Ray** (2014)
 - **Elder Arthur Riihimaki** (2014)
 - **Elder Tom Taylor** (2014)
- The Council announced plans to meet on June 15th for a half-day retreat to discuss the ministry, mission, identity, and financial priorities of our presbytery.
- Rev. Tom Speers reported on Discerning the Way:
 - The Springfield: Christ process having begun
 - Old Greenwich Implementation Team is meeting
 - Mission Strategy Team is close to having a report

Treasurer's Report

Rev. Bill Showalter reported that the Presbytery is generally in good shape having received 12% of the General Mission and 22% per capita.

The Dedicated Account set aside for Flood Relief has to be used by June 2011 or it has to be returned.

The summary of investment shows gain of \$4,598.90

Voting on Amendments

Rev. Arthur Shippee brought the report of the Ecclesiastical Relations Committee and MOVED, without recommendation, that Amendment 10-1 New Form of Government (nFOG) be approved.

- The motion was defeated with paper ballots of 10 yes, 28 no, and 6 abstain.

The Committee MOVED, without recommendation, that Amendment 10-2 the Belhar Confession be approved.

- The motion was approved with paper ballots of 40 yes, 15 no, and 1 abstention.

The next Stated Meeting of Presbytery

**will be held on Saturday
September 10, 2011
Yale Divinity School
New Haven, CT**

Were You There ...?

- ... when during the Communion Meditation, we were asked if we know the persons who are walking with us on the way to Emmaus? Do we really recognize the person across the table?
- ... when Presbytery VOTED to elect **Rev. Frank Poole** as Vice Moderator?
- ... when **Rev. Martha Highsmith** was installed as Moderator and **Rev. Frank Poole** was installed as Vice Moderator?
- ... when **Rev. Martha Highsmith** officiated and **Elder Tom Taylor** assisted at the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the Presbytery.
- ... when we met **Rev. Allison Seed**, our new representative from the Board of Pensions?
- **If you weren't there ... well, let me tell you, you missed a lot!**

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Presbytery VOTED to enroll **Inquirer Efrain Sanabria** (Frank) as a Candidate. Frank served Youth Minister at Darien: Noroton and will be graduating from Pittsburg Theological Seminary in June.

Church Development Committee

Rev. David Watermulder reported that the Presbytery has revitalized the partnerships; continuing new groups-immigrant and others to meet at Smith College; and Rev. Michael Prewitt to be consultant to Redevelopment and New Church Development.

Meeting of the Corporation

Elder Bill Schimpf opened a meeting of the Corporation for the purpose of electing Officers.

Elder Pat Wales presented the Nominees for officers of the corporation and Presbytery VOTED to elect these officers:

- William Schimpf, President
- Tom Taylor, Treasurer
- William Thomas, Secretary

Presbytery VOTED to adjourn the meeting of the Corporation, and reconvene as a meeting of the Presbytery.

Committee on Ministry

- Presbytery VOTED to approve **Candidate Jennifer Davis'** examination for ordination and upon ordination that she be received into membership.
- Presbytery VOTED to receive the **Rev. Donald L. Parker** into membership as Honorably Retired from the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.
- Presbytery VOTED to approve the report of Specialized Ministries.
- The committee voted to dismiss **Rev. Karen Sloan** to the Presbytery of Pittsburgh.
- The committee voted to change the status of **Rev. Gerson Annunciacao** from Parish Clergy to Specialized Ministry, effective August 1, 2011.
- The Committee approved the **Rev. John Nesbitt** to serve Cumberland: Calvary as Assistant to the Pastor.
- Triennium visit completed:
First Presbyterian Church, Newport, RI

Nominations Committee

Presbytery VOTED to elect the following:

Council

Elder Harold Hall (Enfield: Calvary), at large member, class of 2014

Rev. Steve Thayer, at large member, class of 2014

Rev. Joseph Kimatu, chair, Stewardship & Mission, class of 2012

Rev. David Watermulder, co-chair, Church Development, class of 2012

Elder Penny Webster (Waterford: Crossroads), co-chair, Church Development, class of 2012

Rev. Stephen Clark, co-chair, Committee on Ministry, class of 2012

Rev. Arthur Shippee, chair, Ecclesiastical Relations, class of 2012

Elder William Schimpf (Fairfield: First), chair, Trustees, class of 2012

Rev. James Mahan, chair, Social Justice, class of 2012

Rev. gretchen Sausville, chair, Youth, class of 2012

Elder Anne Carney (West Hartford: Westminster), chair, Personnel, class of 2012

Church Development Committee

Ms. Amanda Doescher (Westerly: Dunn's Corners), class of 2014

Rev. Graham Robinson, class of 2014

Committee on Ministry

Rev. Johanna Johns Jung, class of 2014

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Rev. Susan Olson, class of 2014

Rev. John Sweet, class of 2014

Committee on Nomination (continued)

Ecclesiastical Relations Committee

Elder Cathy Thomas (Wilton: Wilton), class of 2014

Stewardship and Mission Committee

Elder Judy Cunningham (Brookfield: Valley), class of 2014

Elder Anne Lang (Waterford: Crossroads), class of 2014

Social Justice Committee

Rev. Alsonso Dacunha, class of 2014

Trustees

Elder Susan Frew, (New Haven: First), class of 2013

Rev. Anne Fuhrmeister, class of 2014

Elder Robert Bourguignon (Wilton), class of 2014

Permanent Judicial Commission

Rev. Eileen Epperson, class of 2017

Elder Samuel Hamilton, (Hartford: First), class of 2017

Personnel

Rev. John Sandel, class of 2014

Rev. Paul Gilmore, class of 2014

Trustees

- For the Trustees, William Schimpf moved and Presbytery VOTED to approve the sale of the property and building dedicated to the **Martin Luther King Community Center** to The Martin Luther King Family Services for the sum of \$405,000; \$360,000 due at the closing of the sale, and \$45,000 financed through a note to the Presbytery. The closing on this sale to be on or before December 31, 2011. The Presbytery's interest in the \$45,000 loan will be protected by our legal counsel in the drafting of the sale agreement. The interest on the note shall be 3% per year for the period of the loan. The sale agreement shall contain a provision limiting the resale of this property for a period to be determined.
- **Babcock Presbyterian Church** requested permission to establish a Memorial Garden on the property of the church. Gordon Oats presented the plan and the church has the funds necessary for the development of the Memorial Garden. The plan calls for the distribution of ashes of church members in specific locations with no identifying signage. Such usage would require an encumbrance on that section of the church property making it unavailable for sale in the future. The Trustees moved and Presbytery VOTED to approve of the Babcock Memorial Garden.
- The Trustees moved that the Presbytery reconsider the existing policy of paying per capita assessments to the Synod and General Assembly for churches who do not pay their Per Capita assessments. Book of Order was cited (G9.0404D) and the Moderator ruled the motion Out of Order. Further research is required.