

Highlights

of the 147th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Southern New England November 12, 2011

Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian, Warwick, RI

There were 46 teaching elders, 42 ruling elder commissioners, and 6 ruling elder Council members present and voting. Twenty-two of the Presbytery's 34 sessions were represented. There were 17 observers and 2 corresponding members at the meeting. The total attendance was 114.

Council

- Rev. Marilyn McNaughton thanked commissioners to Synod and announced that Judy Babcock was elected Moderator of Synod, and the Ghanaian Choir from Providence Presbyterian Church offered music at the meeting. She informed us that Tom Taylor and John Webster serve on the middle governing body commission.
- As a part of the September Council meeting, Rev. Dana Lindsley, Presbyter to the Spiritual Community, led a discussion of "New Ways to be Together as a Presbytery." The Council endorsed further discussion of the options both as a Council and throughout the Presbytery including the February 11, 2012 stated meeting. To assist with this process the Council formed a Collaborative Exploration Team of Dana Lindsley, Beth Appel, Lisa Baker, Hal Hall, Marilyn McNaughton, Arthur Shippee, Steve Thayer, and David Van Dyke.
- Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the revised 2012 Budget that includes no salary increases for staff, a minor increase in pensions, and a 20% reduction in committee expenditures. This budget is still \$32,000 short of a balanced budget.
- Presbytery **VOTED** to renew Presbyterian Promise as an advocacy group for three years within the current PSNE By-laws.
- Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the grant application to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Long Term Recovery which would help fund the ongoing tornado recovery efforts in Springfield.
- Rev. Tom Speers reported that there are three Churches in the 'Discerning the Way' process: Faith in Cranston, Christ in Springfield, and Old Greenwich.

The next Stated Meeting of Presbytery
will be held on Saturday,
February 11, 2012
Yale Divinity School
New Haven, CT

Were You There ...?

- ... when Elder Commissioners **Jenny Surgenor** from Providence, **Hal Hall** from Calvary in Enfield and **Lisa Baker** from the MLK Church in Springfield shared reflections on "abundance" at their particular congregations?
- ... when **Rev. Gerson Annunciacao** told that the Independent Church in Brazil has agreed to be partners in the jail ministry, and will be sending Bibles for the jail Bible studies?
- ... when **Rev. Paulo Ribeiro** translated for Wilson da Silva who spoke about his experience in jail and he believed that God led him there to teach and to change him.
- ... when Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the sale of 2.35 acres of the Camp Wilmot property by the Presbytery of Northern New England.
- ... when Presbytery **VOTED** to approve donating back to the camp the PSNE proceeds from the sale of the 2.35 acres of Camp Wilmot for maintenance and development.
- ... when **Rev. Dana Lindsley** discussed the issues facing the Presbytery: that things are not going to continue as they have been; that things are not working in the Presbytery to strengthen congregations; that the way church used to be no longer seems to be effective.
- **If you weren't there ... well, let me tell you, you missed a lot!**

Trustees

- Presbytery **VOTED** to grant approval for the purchase by the New Haven Korean Church: Hamden, CT of a 10,600 square foot building and 1.45 acres located adjacent to the church property. The Lorraine Foster Day School, Inc. owns the building and has agreed to a \$1.6 million sale price. The New Haven Korean Church will make an \$800,000 down payment and the School will carry a no-interest mortgage for the remaining \$800,000 payable over a ten year period, with the provision that the school will be granted partial use of the building without cost.

Nominations Committee

Presbytery **VOTED** to elect the following:

Stewardship and Mission

- Elder Nancy Rupp (New Haven: First), class of 2013

Synod Commissioner

- Rev. Johanna Johns Jung, class of 2013

Permanent Judicial Commission

- Elder Mark Carta (Wilton), Class of 2015
- Elder Larry Cox (Stamford: First), Class of 2017

Synod Council

- Rev. Johanna Johns Jung, class of 2015.

Committee on Ministry

- Presbytery **VOTED** to receive the **Rev. Byeta Hoover-Mulvany** as a member at large from the Blackhawk Presbytery (Illinois), if the way be clear.
- Presbytery **VOTED** to receive the **Rev. Erin Keys** as a member from the Presbytery of New York City, if the way be clear. Erin has been called to Greenwich: First as Associate Pastor.
- Presbytery examined **Candidate Bradley Long** for ordination to the Ordered Ministry of Teaching Elder. Presbytery **VOTED** to approve Bradley to be ordained by the Presbytery of the Peaks and to become a member of this Presbytery upon his ordination. Bradley has a call to a chaplain residency at the Hospital of St. Raphael in New Haven, CT
- Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between **Rev. Graham Robinson** and the Westminster Presbyterian Church of West Hartford, CT effective November 9, 2011 and that his ecclesiastical designation be changed to member-at-large.
- Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the terms of call for **Rev. Christine Delmar** as Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care and Nurture at the First Congregational Church UCC, New Canaan, CT.
- Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the **Standards for Ministerial Compensation**. The amount of the minimum salary remains the same. The total effective salary will be calculated differently now in accordance with the guidelines of the Board of Pensions.

Treasurer's Report

Elder Tom Taylor reported that the fiscal picture of the Presbytery is grim: income is only 67% of budget, mission contributions are sharply down, and there is a significant per capita shortfall to Presbytery, Synod and GA.

Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk read the report of the Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) of the Presbytery of Southern New England in regards to disciplinary case 11-01, whereby the PJC approved the Alternative Form of Resolution, which read as follows:

“The Investigating Committee ("IC") finds that on January 8, 2009 in a singular act of pastoral care, The Reverend Graham Scott Robinson technically violated the constitution of the Presbyterian Church, USA by misinterpreting paragraph W-4.9001 of the Book of Order and officiating at a religious ceremony witnessed and acknowledged by the community of faith.

The Investigating Committee therefore recommends to the Permanent Judicial Commission that The Reverend Graham Scott Robinson be censured by rebuke (D-12.0102) which rebuke shall be completed when pronounced (D-11.0403e)”

Church Development Committee

Rev. Michael Prewitt talked about planting of new churches and leader development. Rev. Prewitt asked Presbytery to consider what might be some of the ‘mission fields’ in our area. He offered a perspective on mission, and shared some stories about how some reformed churches are developing communities in the United States and how we might discuss with one another where there might be partnership opportunities in the “Mission Field” that is our neighborhood.

He showed a video of two men who are developing a faith community in Pittsburgh called “Hot Metal Bridge”. Their concept was the development of a community built around faith.

In Philadelphia, there is a community called “liberti”, which developed Home communities and leaders with “Gospel intentionality”. The Reformed Church in the area developed a “City Classis” (similar to a Presbytery). There is a difference in how we can do mission and church development in our areas.