

# Highlights

## of the 146<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Southern New England September 10, 2011 Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT

There were 56 ministers, 46 elder commissioners, and 6 elder Council members present and voting. Twenty-five of the Presbytery's 34 sessions were represented. There were 15 observers and 5 corresponding members at the meeting. The total attendance was 126.

### Council

- Rev. McNaughton invited the Presbytery to thank Ned Castner, Pam Garner, and Frank Poole for their assistance during the sabbatical of Rev. Dana Lindsley.
- Council presented a "bridge" motion to take us from the "old" Form of Government structure that we have been using until the committees and Council determine policies and procedures no longer mandated by the new Form of Government. Presbytery VOTED to approve the following motion: "All matters of policy that 1) the new Form of Government leaves to the discretion of a presbytery, 2) were part of the 2009-2011 Form of Government as amended, and 3) were part of Chapter 14 of the 2005-2007 Form of Government as adopted by PSNE on 9/15/2007, are now adopted as PSNE policy until December 21, 2012, or until superseded by action of Presbytery."
- Rev. Tom Speers reported that the Listening Team working with the Christ Church in Springfield is nearing the completion of the work they are doing.  
The Faith Church in Cranston has also requested to take part in the Discerning the Way process.
- Chris Tate spoke of the work of the Implemental Team with the Presbyterian Church of Old Greenwich in the Discerning the Way process. They are seeking to minimize the financial, spiritual and ecclesiastical impact of whatever decision the congregation and presbytery agree. They are moving forward in the dismissal process for that congregation.  
Rev. Tate requests presbyters to give input and thoughts on the idea of what it means to "minimize the spiritual, financial and ecclesiastical impact of the congregation separating from the denomination." Please contact Christ Tate at <mailto:chris@2cc.org>.
- Elder William Schimpf presented the Presbytery Budget for 2012 resulting in a \$0.14 increase in per capita for the coming year. Presbytery VOTED to approve the budget.

### Were You There ...?

- ... when Rev. Gerson Annunciacao announced that on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, he would become a United States citizen, and then he reminded us that we are all citizens of heaven?
- ... when members of Presbytery with connections to Yale Divinity School led the Presbytery in Worship?
- ... when Rev. Dana Lindsley preached and the body stood around the table and celebrated Holy Communion?
- ... when the Presbytery VOTED to request Charleston Atlantic Presbytery to transfer the covenant care relationship of Inquirer Tricia Thelen to the Presbytery of Southern New England?
- **If you weren't there ... well, let me tell you, you missed a lot!**

### Trustees

- The Trustees approved the refinancing of the mortgage for Calvary: Enfield at a lower interest rate. The Board has created a task force to look at our current office situation.
- The Trustees are looking at ways to reduce costs of office space and expenses.
- The Trustees voted to provide health insurance to the Financial Secretary, if necessary.
- The Board of the MLK Family Services, who are using the MLK Community Center building, decided to withdraw their offer to buy the facility. There have been further discussions about leasing or renting the building.

### Treasurer's Report

Elder Tom Taylor presented the report. Only 15 churches have contributed to the mission budget, and Tom hopes that more churches will remit their annual contributions shortly.

### Committee on Ministry

- The Presbytery VOTED to approve the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between **Rev. John Rodkey** and the First Presbyterian Church of Granby, MA effective June 30, 2011.
- The Presbytery VOTED to receive the **Rev. Paulo de Tarso Ribeiro** into membership from Homestead Presbytery, if the way be clear, as the pastor of the Christ is Life Church in Fall River, MA effective August 1, 2011.
- The Presbytery VOTED to receive the **Rev. Stewart MacColl** into membership from New Covenant Presbytery as Interim Pastor at Wilton Presbyterian Church, Wilton, CT, if the way be clear, effective August 27, 2011-
- The committee VOTED that the Committee on Ministry defines a quorum to conduct business for its meetings as being a majority of the active membership.
- The committee VOTED to approve the change in the terms of call for the **Rev. James Mahan** with Stamford: Turn of River.

### Nominations Committee

Rev. Tracy Mehr-Muska presented the report of the Committee on Nominations. The Committee has applications to the General Assembly for those who may be interested. The deadline is December 31, 2011.

Presbytery VOTED to elect the following:

#### **Committee on Ministry:**

- Elder Jane Adams (Waterford: Crossroads) class of 2014
- Rev. Russ Feroe, class of 2014
- Elder Ellen Sisson (New Canaan: First), class of 2012

#### **Committee on Ecclesiastical Relations:**

- Elder Barry Baxter (Warwick: Greenwood), class of 2014
- Rev. Arthur Shippee, class of 2014

#### **Synod YAD**

- Christopher McCloskey (New Haven: First), class of 2012

#### **Synod Commissioners:**

- Elder Douglas Ray (Warwick: Woodbury), class of 2014
- Elder Pat Wales (New Haven: First), class of 2013

### Church Development Committee

Rev. David Watermulder announced that the keynote speaker at the November 12, 2011 meeting of Presbytery will be Rev. Michael Prewitt. He will speak of the “**Promise of planting new churches in New England.**”

### World Mission

Rev. Chris Foster spoke to the Presbytery about the World Mission of the PC (USA) and introduced Rev. Hunter Farrell, Director of the General Assembly Mission Council’s World Mission.

Rev. Farrell stated that, in listening to our mission partners, we are challenged to focus on three critical issues.

- The first focus is to address the root causes of poverty, especially as they impact women and children. He shared the efforts of several mission workers.
- The second focus of world mission is to share God’s love in Christ together with partners around the world. We need to provide evangelism and sharing the Word of God to cultures different from our own, in ways that can be heard. Can our own churches open up to accept the world that our global world is bringing to us?
- The third focus of global mission is to work against violence and towards peacemaking and reconciliation in places like Northern Ireland, southern Sudan and Kenya.

If you weren't able to hear Hunter Farrell at the meeting you can request a DVD of his presentation by emailing [pamgarner@psne.org](mailto:pamgarner@psne.org).

Rev. Farrell introduced Marta Bennett, who spoke of her work. She will be at the Overseas Mission Study Center in New Haven for the next several months. She has been in Kenya for the past 17 years.

Rev. Farrell introduced Karen Gadson, Mission Support and Chris Roseland, Congregational Support, who matches Presbyterian congregations with mission workers.

**The next Stated Meeting of Presbytery  
will be held on Saturday  
November 12, 2011  
Greenwood Community Church  
Warwick, RI**