

139th Stated Meeting
The Presbytery of Southern New England
Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian
Warwick, RI
November 14, 2009

The 139th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Southern New England was called to order at 9:38 am in the Sanctuary of the Greenwood Community Church, Warwick, RI, by the Moderator Elder Judy Babcock, who offered an opening prayer.

FORMING OF THE ROLL:

Stated Clerk Bill Thomas reported that the roll was being formed through the registration for the meeting and that a quorum was present.

ELDER COMMISSIONERS FROM CHURCHES: 31

Ashaway: Babcock Not represented	Granby: Pioneer Valley Not represented	Providence Zachary Sharpe Gina Bae
Barrington Betsy Dietrich	Greenwich: First Not represented	Springfield: Christ Not represented
Brookfield Ann Thomas Judy Cunningham	Groton: St. Andrew Joe Jackson Ray Parker	Springfield: MLK Lisa Baker
Cranston: Faith David J. Lucia	Hamden: NH Korean Not represented	Stamford: First Christina McIntyre
Cumberland Bobbie Hazard Lillie Koney	Hartford: First Holly Billings	Stamford: TOR Not represented
Darien: Noroton Diane Gilliam	Manchester: Hartford Korean Not represented	Warwick: Greenwood Betty Stacey Wilma Swanson Glenn Fairbain
Enfield: Calvary Hal Hall Richard Sterling Gloria Walsh	Milford: United Sara E. Lee	Warwick: Woodbury Carol Sullivan Guy Lefebvre
Fairfield: First Herbert Smith Austin Harbinson Eugene Kwapong	New Canaan: First Not represented	Waterford: Crossroads Penny Webster
Fall River: Calvary Not represented	New Haven: CT Korean Not represented	W. Hartford: Westminster Not represented
Fall River: Christ Not represented	New Haven: First Dick Hasbany Mary Webber	Westerly: Dunn's Corners Not represented
Fall River: United Not represented	Newport: First Richard Price	Wilton: Murdock MacGregor
	Old Greenwich: PCOG Walter Baker	

MINISTERS PRESENT: 40

Appel, Beth
Beams, Ann
Castner, Edward
Clark, Stephen

Greer, Bob
Hager, Barbara G.
Hedlund, Lori
Keller, James P.

Priest, Joan Withers
Ramos, Jovelino
Sandel, John S.
Showalter, William

Conboy, Thomas
Crawford, Adele
Davis, Kathleen
Davis, Terrence
Duffy, Edward
Foster, Christine
Fuller, Julia
Gibson, Robert
Goudreau, Diane

Kimatu, Joseph
Laird, Kathryn Kibbie
Lindsley, Dana F.
Little-Andrade, Heather
Mahan, James K.
Merz, John
Meyerhoffer, Anne Marie
Pfeil, Susan
Phillips, James

Smanik, Virginia
Soares, Denise
Soares, Edward J.
Tate, Chris
Terry, Paul
Thayer, Steven
Watermulder, David
Webster, Charles
Webster, John
Wiley, Robert J. (Jud)

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS: 1

Rev. John Nesbitt, United Church of Canada

MEMBERS OF THE PRESBYTERY COUNCIL: 6

Elder Judy Babcock	Elder Tom Taylor
Elder Stephanie Brackett	Elder Bill Thomas
Elder Bill Schimpf	Elder Pat Wales

CERTIFIED ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: 1

Pam Garner

TOTAL PRESENT TO VOTE: 76

VISITORS: 6

TOTAL REGISTERED ATTENDANCE: 85

MINISTERS EXCUSED: 27

Charles, J. Anthony
Davis, Stephen J.
Drake, Brandi
Epperson, Eileen
Everstberg, William
Ferguson, John
Fletcher, Stuart
Fuhrmeister, Anne
Gestal, William

Graybill, David
Highsmith, Martha
Johnson, Tracy A.
LaSala, Maria
Maxwell, William J
McNaughton, Marilyn
Mehr-Muska, Tracy
Mena, Dan
Opsahl, Laura

Porizky, Barbara
Ramsey, Glenn
Schreiner III, Samuel A.
Shippee, Arthur
Smith, Stuart
Speers, Thomas G.
Thies, Mary Marple
Unsell, Frances
Van Dyke, David R.

MINISTERS ABSENT: 96

Ahn, Shin
Alter, Robert
Annunciacao, Gerson
Arner, Susan
Asher, Susan
Baez, Samuel
Blackadar, Murray S.
Bollier, John
Braddock, Matthew B.

Heath, Emily C.
Herndon, Neal
Holleck, Tiffany Nicely
Holt, Carl
Hwang, John H
Johnson, Gordon
Jordan-Haas, Connie
Jun, Matthew
Jung, Johanna

Porizky, Mark
Porter, Frederick
Prasse, Barbara
Prasse, Edgar
Robbins, Cynthia
Robertson, Frank
Robertson, Jill
Robinson, Graham
Rockness, David

Brooks, Edwin
Brooks, Virginia
Carvalhoes, Claudio
Caton, Christine
Chang, Wilson
Chartier, Ruth
Chase, David (R.K.)
Couch, Ed
Danks, Ed
Dannenfelser, Richard A.
Deifell, Jey J.
DeWolfe, Norman
Dietrich, Wendell S.
Doll, Greg
Evans, Robert A.
Faithfull, Gail
Feroe, Russell
Field, Jane
Fisher, Thomas
Forman, Charles
Fuhrmeister, John
Garren, Royal B.
Glenn, Ames
Goettler, William
Hare, David L.
Martinez, Jamie Harris

Kelsey, David
Kim, Keun Soo
Kim, Sun Gil
Lantz, Bob
Lewicki, David
Lindner, John
Line, M. Allen
Lockhart, James
Loder, Cory
Lover, William
Ludeman, Ross
Lundgren, Donald
Marion, Patricia
Mellon, David
Miller, Joseph
Minor, Ron
Newberry, Charles (Terry)
North, Carol
Notley, Patrick
Olson, Susan
Orr, Mark
Peel, Craig L.
Perry, Robert M.
Pietsch, William V.
Pomeroy, George
Poole, Frank

Rodkey, John
Roh, Dae Joon
Ruppert, Randall
Sausville, gretchen
Sloan, Karen
Snell, Georgia Ann
Speers, Jr., T. Guthrie
Spence, James
Sugg, Robert A.
Sullivan, Thomas P.
Sundquist, Ralph R.
Sweet, John D.
Teague, David
Troeger, Thomas
Trucksess, Susan Power
Udell, Harold
Unsworth, Richard
VanDerbeck, Holmes
Veon, Robert
West, Frank
Wilburn, Gary
Wills, David
Willson, Barbara Sterling
Winter, Jeffrey
Witter, Thomas
Wright, Heather P.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council requested that Moderator Babcock form a Committee to plan worship for the Presbytery. Rev. LaSala, Rev. Crawford and Rev. Smanik are a part of this committee. The Moderator requested that anyone interested in helping to plan the worship services at Presbytery meetings should speak with her. The theme for today's meeting is Growing God's Church through Diversity.

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

Presbytery VOTED to adopt the docket as printed. (Appendix I)

ENROLLMENT AND INTRODUCTIONS

Corresponding Members were introduced and enrolled: Guest ministers and first time Commissioners were introduced and welcomed. Rev. John Nesbitt; United Church of Canada was introduced and enrolled as Corresponding Member. Observers from the Hyannis Brazilian Christian Fellowship were introduced.

WORSHIP

Presbytery was led in worship by Elder Judy Babcock. Rev. Joseph Kimatu, Rev. Virginia Smanik, Rev. Adele Crawford and Rev. Stephen Clark. Members of the Greenwood Church Chancel Choir and members of the Ghana Choir of Providence Presbyterian Church led worship in Music.

Presbytery continued with business following worship at 10:42.

COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS

Rev. Steve Clark welcomed the Presbytery to the Warwick Community Church, Presbyterian. He informed the Presbytery of the location of the lunchroom, and that Greenwood members are identified by an "Ask Me" button.

CONSENT MOTION

The Stated Clerk presented the revised Consent Motion. The Stated Clerk MOVES

- 1) That the Presbytery grant excuses from attendance at the 139th Stated Meeting to those needing the same, but that the Presbytery suspend the reading of their names.
- 2) That the Presbytery grant excuses for early departures from the 139th Stated Meeting for those requesting the same by signing their names on a list maintained at the Clerks' desk, but that the Presbytery suspend the reading of their names.
- 3) That the Presbytery seat as corresponding members those ministers for whom a request is made at the beginning of the meeting.
- 4) That the Presbytery receive the resignation, with regret, of:
 - a. Rev. Matthew Braddock, as member of the Stewardship and Mission Committee
 - b. Elder Gerald Fickenschler, as member of the Trustees
- 5) That the Presbytery approve the minutes of the sessions as noted in Appendix II.
- 6) That the Presbytery approve the minutes of the 138th Stated Meeting held on September 16, 2009, as printed in the "Minutes" section of the PSNE website.

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the Consent Motion.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

Rev. Dana Lindsley addressed the Presbytery. He welcomed Commissioners and thanked the members of the Greenwood Community Church. The rain has helped to remind the executive of the cleansing and baptism of God's Grace. The Tumaini Fellowship will be dedicating their new building on Sunday, November 22, 2009. They are entering into community ministry with the Hispanic Ministry next door to their new building.

The Executive also lifted up Gerson Roca whose wife Veronica had a serious automobile accident last night. Presbyters are asked to pray for Veronica and Gerson.

The story of the Babcock Presbyterian Church was shared recently at a meeting. The members of the Church are aging, and many are being supported by other members of the congregation, which is struggling to support one another and the church.

He offered an image of the Presbytery as being like a forest of trees. Where 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 trees are spread far apart. The Forest is not what it used to be. Yet, God has planted us here.

As the Presbyter considers the experience of Exile, he realizes it is increasingly difficult to remain engaged to Church. Walter Brueggemann points out that despair and assimilation are two temptations of exile. Is God there? And, why go to the trouble of keeping Christian identity?

It is easy to "lose our saltiness"; to lose our identity. How do we keep our identity as Christians or Presbyterians in this secular society, especially in New England?

We will be hearing much about today's theme of Diversity. In a forest, there are many and various trees, but they are all trees. When we support one another in the forest, we nourish one another. He discussed how the Presbytery is supporting one another through accountability and shared experiences.

MEETING THEME: Growing Christ's Church Wider & Deeper - DIVERSITY

Rev. Jovelino Ramos spoke with the Presbytery. He was asked by the Moderator to discuss the issue of Diversity. He re-read the Book of Corinthians, chapter 12, where Paul speaks about the Body which is the Church. He discussed the way Thomas Jefferson dealt with the Bible. Jefferson would cut out the words of

Jesus to create the "Jefferson Bible." Some of us do not like all the parts of the Bible, just as Jefferson and Calvin did not like some parts.

The Apostle Paul and I Corinthians are difficult to accept. But the letter does address important issues in the Church. We do not like everyone in the Church. We do not know why we experience 'thorns in the flesh'.

Paul writes that God uses the weak to confuse the strong, the foolish to confuse the wise. We need them all. God uses all people.

When Paul discussed power, he changes the concept to discuss the power in weakness, in which God works other power through weakness. That is what makes history and change possible.

To be the church, we have to be in Christ. Bishop Tutu says: "In Christ, we are."

It is more than having unity and diversity. We must be diverse for the world. We have to be more worried about the future of the world than of the Church. The future of the Church is guaranteed. It is the future of the world we need to worry about. "For God so loved the world." The only way we will achieve diversity is by being infused with love. Infused with love, we fulfill God's will for the world.

Faith, hope and love abide. However, all 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.

Rev. Ramos reported that the work of the Immigration Task Force has been completed, and a report is being developed. Gladys Brown, Elder from the Providence Presbyterian Church, brought an introduction to the final report from the Task Force. She highlighted several Biblical references to 'aliens' and immigrants. She issued a call for the Church to work to become more diverse and more loving.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN AWARD

Elders Judy Cunningham and Stephanie Brackett, representing the Presbyterian Women, recognized and honored Elder Penny Webster of the Crossroad Presbyterian Church for her long and dedicated service to the Church through Presbyterian Women. She was recognized and thanked for the many ways she has been involved in the Church at a variety of levels.

Vice Moderator Elder Tom Taylor assumed the Chair of the meeting.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

Elder Bill Schimpf presented the report of the Council. Council minutes are attached (Appendix III).

The Council MOVED that Presbytery elect Rev. John Merz to serve on the Nominating Committee, class of 2011. Presbytery VOTED to elect Rev. Merz.

The Council has sent letters to the Clerks of Session regarding the election of commissioners for weekday meetings as a way of determining the feasibility of continuing weekday meetings with the desired percentage of Elders attending the meetings.

The Council MOVED that the Presbytery adopt "Rules for Appointment of a Special Administrative Review Committee". See Appendix IV.

There were two questions about how a Special Administrative Review Committee would begin, and what would be the situations to warrant an Administrative Review. The first question was about the ecclesiastical standing of anyone who would be able to initiate a complaint. Elder Bill Thomas noted that any member of the Presbytery may initiate a review. The second question asked about the threshold of problem which may trigger a review. Elder Bill Thomas discussed that this Special Administrative Review is an administrative issue, not a judicial or disciplinary action. It may occur at any time when the Presbytery learns of an irregularity or delinquency of a session. Any question of compliance with the Book of Order is the threshold for triggering a review.

This proposed procedure is to help expedite a process to help a congregation through particular issues without waiting for a Presbytery Meeting.

Presbytery VOTED to approve "Rules for Appointment of a Special Administrative Review Committee."
Elder Bill Schimpf concluded the report of Council.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Rev. Bill Showalter presented the report of the Treasurer. The good news is that there is no bad news. He directed the Presbytery's attention to report on Appendix VI, which is a third quarter report. He directed the attention of the Presbytery to report in Appendix VIII showing that the value of investments is increasing. Presbytery VOTED to receive the reports from the Treasurer. See additional Appendices V and VII. Rev. Bill Showalter concluded his report.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Rev. Paul Terry presented the Trustee's Report. The board approved and MOVES approval by the Presbytery of 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. BNC has agreed to contribute \$1,000 per month to Turn of River for use of the church's property and facilities. Presbytery VOTED to approve this agreement.

The 2008 Auditor's report on Presbytery finances is available through Dayle Larson. (Appendix IX)

SYNOD COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Rev. Ned Castner brought a report about the Meeting of the Synod of the Northeast, meeting at Stony Point in October. He reported on the Presbyterian Partnership Group. It was established by Synod four years ago, where contingent Presbyteries may work together with funds given by Synod. The funds will support Campus ministries, missions in the Northeast, Camp Wilmot, career counseling for candidates, a summit meeting on immigration, The Early Ministry Institute and partnership meeting expenses. He spoke of the deeply troubling conflict and division in the Presbytery of New York City, which came before the Synod on Saturday. A Special Review committee, the "SARC" group, was charged to consult with New York City Presbytery, to evaluate findings and report back to Council, which would share it with New York City presbytery. However, none of the "SARC" committee members was asked to be a part of that reporting to New York Presbytery. At last Synod meeting, it was moved that an Administrative Commission be established to run New York City Presbytery. James McKellar, former stated clerk of the Synod, made a substitute Motion that the "SARC" recommendation be implemented with a Pastoral approach rather than the Administrative Commission. After lengthy debate, the "SARC" motion was approved, and Rev. Castner was asked to be on the Committee. Rev. Castner "thanked" the presbytery for the opportunity to be a commissioner to Synod.

STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION REPORT

Rev. Susan Pfeil presented the report of the Stewardship and Mission Committee. She spoke of her experience in Cincinnati at the World Mission Celebration, which had over 700 participants. She saw the collective power of Christ in Mission and Ministry. There are many people working in ministry and mission. Being relational and connecting with people is mission. She highlighted the "Mission Crossroads" website. She invited people to speak with her at lunch, to find out more about partnership in God's ministry. She thanked the Stewardship and mission committee for contributing to some of the costs of participating in this conference.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Tom Conboy thanked Rev. Pfeil for attending the Stewardship and Mission conference. He also highlighted the Mission Yearbook for Prayer, and encouraged commissioners to use the yearbook as a reminder of national and global mission.

Rev. Jim Mahon highlighted the table from the Social Justice committee, and asked commissioners to participate in a questionnaire to help the committee. There is also an electronic version available on the PSNE website.

The Vice-moderator reminded commissioners to fill out the meeting evaluations. They are helpful to the planning of Presbytery meetings.

He encouraged Presbyters to go to the interactive Reports available during the lunch recess.

The Presbytery recessed for lunch at 12:07 pm to reconvene at 1:00 pm. A prayer for grace was offered by Vice-Moderator Elder Tom Taylor.

Interactive Reports were available for review in the lunch area.

Presbytery was reconvened with prayer at 1:12 pm by Moderator Elder Judy Babcock, who assumed the Chair of the meeting.

REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Rev. Joan Priest brought the report of The Personnel Committee.

1. It was MOVED that the 2009 Terms of Call for the Rev. Dana Lindsley, Executive Presbyter, be amended as listed below. These changes will amend the 2009 and 2010 budgets, which have already been approved.

	<u>2009 Approved</u>	<u>2009 Amended</u>
Cash Compensation	\$29,828.00	\$29,828.00
Housing	\$29,828.00	\$29,828.00
EFFECTIVE SALARY	\$59,656.00	\$59,656.00
Social Security	\$4,564.00	\$4,564.00
2% Medical Deductible	\$1,193.00	\$1,193.00
Full Pension & Medical Insurance	\$19,090.00	\$19,090.00
Auto/Professional Expense	\$7,400.00 A	\$8,400.00
Continuing Ed	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
TOTAL COMPENSATION	\$92,903.00	\$93,903.00

Annually:

Vacation - 4 weeks at full (3/4 time) pay

Holidays - 14 paid and one floating

Study Leave - 2 weeks annually

3/4-Time definition:

3/4-half time will be 9-10 working time units per week

(For Board of Pensions purposes it will be considered 35 hours per week)

Additional benefits:
Cell phone - \$30 per month

Note A: The Personnel Committee approved this increase based on our executive's participation in a CREDO Conference, the Association of Executive Presbyter's Conference, the Fall Polity Conference, and the Cape Cod Conference for Executive Presbyters in 2009. As well, Dana has been traveling more than anticipated this year, especially in areas of New Church Development.

Presbytery VOTED to approve this motion.

2. The Personnel Committee MOVED that the 2010 Terms of Call for the Rev. Dana Lindsley, Executive Presbyter, be adopted and amended as listed below. This will amend the 2010 Budget, already approved.

	2010 Approved		2010 Amended
Cash Compensation	\$30,126.00		\$30,126.00
Housing	\$30,126.00		\$30,126.00
2% Medical Deductible	\$1,205.00		\$1,205.00
EFFECTIVE SALARY	\$61,457.00		\$61,457.00
Social Security	\$4,609.00		\$4,609.00
Full Pension & Medical Insurance	\$19,359.00		\$19,359.00
Auto/Professional Expense	\$7,400.00		\$7,400.00
Continuing Ed	\$1,000.00	A	\$1,500.00
General Assembly Expenses	0.00	B	\$2,300.00
TOTAL COMPENSATION	\$93,825.00		\$96,625.00

Annually:

Vacation - 4 weeks at full (3/4 time) pay

Holidays - 14 paid and one floating

Study Leave - 2 weeks annually

3/4-Time definition:

3/4-half time will be 9-10 working time units per week

(For Board of Pensions purposes it will be considered 35 hours per week)

Additional benefits:

Cell phone - \$40 per month

Note A The Personnel Committee determined that an additional \$500 for Continuing Education would cover costs expected in this area.

Note B. The Personnel Committee determined that a major expense for 2010 would be Dana's participation at the General Assembly Meeting in Minneapolis and expenses for that trip were calculated to the best of our ability.

Presbytery VOTED to approve this motion.

3. The Personnel Committee MOVED that the Continuing Education Compensation for Office Manager Pam Garner be increased by \$300 for 2010.

The Personnel Committee previously approved Pam to work toward her Certification in the Administration Personnel Association and to attend the regional conference each year. Her Continuing Education Budget needed to be increased from \$200 to \$500 to cover the expenses for this conference in 2010.

Presbytery VOTED to approve this motion.

4. The Personnel Committee MOVED that the Presbytery establish a Contingency Plan to move Dayle Larson, our Financial Secretary, from contract to employee status with health insurance benefits if necessary in 2010. The maximum increase would be a total of \$6,808.56 if this plan needs to be implemented.

Dayle Larson works part-time for our Presbytery as contract staff, as well as two other congregations. The Personnel Committee has formed a task force to be in conversation with the other congregations to begin the process of moving Dayle to employee status with benefits. The above package is only a Contingency Plan to take effect in the unlikely event that Dayle finds she is in need of health insurance in 2010 and before all details have been completed with the other congregations. She will currently stay as contract staff until all details have been approved or unless this becomes necessary.

Presbytery VOTED to approve this motion.

Rev. Joan Priest concluded the report of the Personnel Committee.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Rev. John Webster presented the Committee on Ministry report.

1. Presbytery VOTED to grant Rev. William Lover's request for Honorable Retirement effective October 1, 2009
2. Presbytery VOTED to grant Rev. Carl Holt's request for Honorable Retirement effective January 1, 2010.

Rev. John Webster offered prayers for the Honorable Retirement of Rev. Bill Lover and Rev. Carl Holt.

3. The Committee on Ministry MOVED that the background checks conducted by the Stated Clerk be expanded to include a credit check and request that each candidate contribute \$20.00 toward the cost of the background check.

The committee discussed the scope of the background checks conducted by the EP and the Stated Clerk on all inquirers, candidates, and ministers seeking membership in PSNE. The current background check service provider has the option to conduct a credit check as well; to date, we have not done this. It was decided by consensus this would be an appropriate and necessary thing to do. The result credit check is

to go to the Stated Clerk, EP and COM co-chairs only; if there appears to be a serious issue, the matter(s) will be brought to the full committee. It was decided by consensus that we would request each candidate to contribute \$20 for the cost of the background check.

Following several questions of clarification, Presbytery VOTED to approve this Motion.

4. The Committee on Ministry recommends that the Presbytery receive the draft policy for Members at Large, Appendix X, for first reading. The committee feels that the draft policy concisely delineates an adequate PSNE working policy for Members at Large. He asked Presbyters to review this draft and send comments to the Stated Clerk or John Webster.
5. The committee is working on a document regarding Validated Ministries. It is not yet complete for review by Presbytery.
6. He highlighted a document which gives guidance to Candidates about their Statement of Faith. Candidates are advised about their Statements of faith, and if a Statement is asked to be revised, the Statement will be reviewed by a member of the Committee after revision. See Appendix XI.
7. Rev. John Webster announced that the Committee on Ministry has decided that in interviewing of candidates, they would be invited to voluntarily disclose anything that might adversely affect their ministry, e.g. financial difficulties, sexuality issues, addictive problems.
8. Rev. John Webster introduced Rev. John Nesbitt to speak to Presbytery. He is a member of the United Church of Canada. He will be a part of the Presbytery as a Corresponding Member with voice, but no vote. Rev. Nesbitt spoke briefly to the Presbytery about his move to Rhode Island with his wife, who teaches at Bryant College.
9. Rev. Susan Pfeil spoke about her work as a Specialized Clergy in Interim Ministry. She has served five interims in eleven years. She likened it to a Mission Trip, where one learns the culture of the country to which you are going. There is an interim ministry network. There is training, especially the 60 hour 2 part Interim Ministry training, which Rev. Pfeil took at Princeton Theological Seminary. She discussed how she perceives the process tasks of the Interim.

REPORT OF THE CHURCH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Rev. David Watermulder brought the report of the Church Development Committee. He discussed the Tumaini Fellowship building celebration on November 22, 2009. He discussed the new building of the Granby Fellowship, which has been dedicated. He also discussed the "House Church" in Amherst, MA that has been started, and it is being supported by the CDC. Representatives from the Hyannis Brazilian Fellowship are at the meeting.

Rev. Watermulder concluded the report of the committee.

ECCLESIASTICAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Barbara Hager brought the report of the Ecclesiastical Relations Committee. This committee has been discussing the question: "Why does the Presbytery review Church Minutes?" Barbara did some research. It is a part of the nature of the "Connectional Church." She referred the Presbytery to the Book of Order, and the section "On the Unity of Governing Bodies" (G-9.0103). In many cases, minutes were scrutinized almost too zealously, with any minutes found faulty. In a ruling, the General Assembly comments said: "The review of the minutes is not to be overly technical, but based on common sense." Rev. Hager pointed out that there are five regular guidelines in the Book of Order for the review of minutes: that the proceedings have been correctly recorded, that the proceedings have been regular and in accordance with the constitution, that the proceedings have been prudent and equitable, that the proceedings have been faithful to the mission of the whole church; and that the lawful injunctions of a higher governing body have been obeyed. (G-9.0409)

Rev. Hager commented on two overtures, Overture 10-01 and Overture 10-02, from the Wilton Presbyterian Church which has come to the Presbytery for review and for a vote. (Appendices XII and XIII) These overtures are presented for reading and review by Presbyters. These will be voted upon by Presbytery at the February 2010 meeting.

The Session record report was voted upon in the Consent Motion.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Elder Stephanie Brackett presented the report from the Presbyterian Women.

She announced the Jan 29-30, 2010 Annual Retreat for PW, to be held at the Immaculate Conception conference center in Putnam, CT. The leaders are Rev. Marilyn McNaughton, and Rev. Lori Hedlund. The theme of the Retreat is "Journeying with a Cup of Blessings."

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

The Stated Clerk presented his report. The action items in the Clerk's report were included in the Consent Motion.

The Stated Clerk concluded his report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to come before the Presbytery.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the Presbytery.

The Moderator announced that the next regular meeting of the Presbytery of Southern New England will be called to order at 9:30 am on Saturday, February 6, 2010 at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Hartford, CT.

Presbytery VOTED to adjourn.

The Moderator Elder Judy Babcock led the Presbytery in prayer to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 pm.

Attested:

William G. Thomas

Stated Clerk

139th Stated Meeting of the
 Presbytery of Southern New England
 Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian
 Warwick, RI
 Saturday, November 14, 2009

PROPOSED DOCKET

- | | | |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 | Registration | |
| 9:30 | We Gather in God's Name | |
| | Call to Order by the Moderator | Elder Judy Babcock |
| | Presbytery constituted with prayer | |
| | Forming of the Roll | |
| 9:45 | Worship | Rev. Joseph Kimatu
Rev. Virginia Smanik
Rev. Adele Crawford
Rev. Stephen Clark |
| ,, | | |
| 10:30 | We Continue Gathering in God's Name | |
| | Adoption of the Docket | Elder Judy Babcock |
| | Report of the Committee on Arrangements | Rev. Stephen Clark |
| | Enrollment and Introductions | Elder Judy Babcock |
| | Consent Motion | Elder Bill Thomas |
| 10:45 | Mission and Ministry of the Presbytery | |
| | Executive Presbyter (Ref. D) | Rev. Dana Lindsley |
| | Growing Christ's Church Wider & Deeper: Diversity | Rev. Jovelino Ramos |
| | Council Report (Ref. A) | Elder William Schimpf |
| | Treasurer's Report (Ref. C) | Rev. Bill Showalter |
| | Trustee's Report (Ref. P) | Rev. Paul Terry |
| | Synod Commissioner's Report | Rev. Ned Castner |
| | Stewardship & Mission Report | Rev. Susan Pfeil |
| 12:00 | Recess for Luncheon | |
| | Interactive Reports (available during and after the luncheon) | |
| 1:00 | Mission and Ministry of the Presbytery | |
| | Personnel Committee | Rev. Joan Priest |
| | Committee on Ministry (Ref. H) | Rev. John Webster |
| | Validated Ministries/Members at Large | |
| | Committee on Nominations | Rev. Jim Glenn |
| | Church Development Committee | Rev. David Watermulder |
| | Ecclesiastical Relations Committee | Rev. Barbara Hager |
| | Presbyterian Women (Ref. T) | Elder Stephanie Brackett |
| | Stated Clerk's Report (Ref. B) | Elder Bill Thomas |
| | Old Business | |
| | New Business | |
| 3:30 | Adjournment | |

Ecclesiastical Relations Committee
November 14, 2009
Review of Session Records

CHURCH	REVIEWER	RECOMMENDATION	EXCEPTIONS
Fall River: Calvary	Arthur Shippee	No report	
Cranston	Eileen Epperson	No report	
Warwick: Woodbury	Sam Chung	Approved	2
Barrington	Georgia Ann Snell	No report	
Milford	Abraham Hunter	No report	
Cumberland	Rick Porter	No report	
New Canaan	Barbara Hager	Approve	0
Hartford, CT: First	Barbara Hager	Approve—report due 9/09	0

For signing at Sept. 2009 meeting, but not presented:
Old Greenwich

Due for review at Sept. 2009, but not received:
New Haven: CT Korean

Due for signing in May 2009, but not presented:
Groton: St. Andrew
Darien: Noroton
Hamden: NH Korean
Fall River: Calvary

Minutes Presbytery Council 10/08/09

The stated meeting of the Presbytery Council was held on October 8, 2009 at the Old Saybrook office. Moderator Bill Schimpf spoke about diversity within the Presbytery and then read from First Corinthians 12 starting at verse 12 – “one body, many parts”.

Bill opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was present.

Present:

Elder Judy Babcock, Elder John Berman, Elder Stephanie Brackett, Elder Diane Gilliam, Rev. Jim Glenn, Rev. Barbara Hager, Rev. Tracy Johnson, *Rev. Dana Lindsley, Rev. Joan Priest, Rev. Paul Terry, Elder Bill Schimpf, Rev. Chris Tate, Elder Tom Taylor, *Elder Bill Thomas, and Elder Pat Wales.

Excused: Rev. Beth Appel, Rev. Jim Mahan, *Rev. William Showalter, Rev. Mary Marple Thies, Rev. David Van Dyke, Rev. David Watermulder, and Rev. John Webster.

* Ex-officio members

Approval of Minutes

Council voted to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2009 Council meeting.

The draft minutes of the September 16, 2009 Presbytery meeting were approved for posting on the web page.

Executive Presbyter’s Report

Dana Lindsley reported on the evaluations of the September 16th Presbytery meeting:

- The “Discipleship” discussion was good, but the small groups need specific questions to discuss.
- The possible causes of poor attendance by elder commissioners were discussed. Dana will survey clerks of sessions as to interest in weekday meeting and reasons for not sending commissioners.
- Paul Terry asked if the evaluations had comments on the COM report, specifically, the concerns about terms of call and the examination of candidates. After Council had discussed the issues, Dana suggested that the concerns be referred to CPM and COM and that both committees report back to Council with their comments.
- The Discernment Task Force continues to meet and conduct interviews.
- The Synod will meet on Friday, October 16th. Establishment of a Administrative Commission for the Presbytery of New York City and the organization of the Synod are two of the major topics.
- The Presbytery office is negotiating with an Episcopal church and a United Church of Christ church so that the PSNE can hire Dayle Larson as an employee. The Episcopal and UCC churches would then pay PSNE for Dayle’s financial services.
- Dana was at the Association of Executive Presbyters meeting and the Fall Polity Conference last week. The discussions indicate that the Form of Government (FoG) should be an issue at General Assembly.
- Dana reported that a committee has been appointed to discuss congregational and financial concerns at the Connecticut Korean Presbyterian Church in New Haven. The committee consists of John Webster and Lori Hedlund as co-chairs plus Jim Phillips, Susan Frew, and Ralph Jones. This committee would operate or function along the lines of a Special Administrative Review Committee (SARC). Questions were raised as to the accountability and the authority to appoint SARC. After the discussion, it was decided to have the committee be a sub-committee of the Committee on Ministry.
- Dana provided a hand-out concerning church conflict.

Moderator’s Report

Judy Babcock reviewed the Synod sponsored meeting of representatives from the three presbyteries of the New England PPG – Northern New England (NNEP), Boston, and Southern New England (PSNE). One of

the primary issues was how to deal with the loss of the Synod \$60,000 annual subsidy to both Boston and NNEP.

- Dana offered financial and administrative support by PSNE as a means to reduce costs within NNEP and Boston.
- It was suggested that a “small tent” meeting of the Executive Presbyters, Stated Clerks, and financial persons to discuss possibilities and options.

The theme for Growing Christ’s Church Deeper and Wider in November will be ‘diversity’. Rev. Joseph Kimatu and Rev. Jovelino Ramos will be speakers.

Judy said that the worship task force consists of Rev. Maria LaSala, Rev. Adele Crawford, and Rev. Jinny Smanik.

Docket for the November Presbytery Meeting

Bill Thomas presented a proposed Docket and Call for the November Presbytery meeting. After discussion, several items were added, moved, removed, and/or shortened. The Docket and Call were approved, as modified.

Bill Schimpf asked that the proposed Special Administrative Review Committee (SARC) policy be added to the Council Docket.

Nominations Committee

Jim Glenn reported that Rev. Matthew Braddock resigned from the Stewardship and Mission Committee and that Elder Gerald Fickenscher resigned from the Trustees.

Personnel Committee

Joan Priest reported on proposed changes to Dana Lindsley’s terms of call which she will present at the November Presbytery meeting.

Joan also announced to the Council that October 13th was the 35th anniversary of Dana’s ordination. Council celebrated with prayer and cake.

Trustees Report

Paul Terry reported on the negotiations on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. The negotiations are preliminary with no major development. Bill Showalter did receive an offer and Bill responded that the offer was inadequate.

Treasurer’s Report

In Bill Showalter’s absence, Paul Terry reported that the Presbytery’s finances are good. Giving is in line with previous years. There are no red flags.

Old Business

None

New Business

Barbara Hager offered two suggestions:

- That Council consider name tags for the members
- That a speaker phone be set up in the center of the room for those who are unable to attend the meeting in-person

No action was taken on the suggestions.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am with prayer by Dana Lindsley.

Respectfully submitted,

William Thomas, Secretary for Council

“Rules for Appointment of a Special Administrative Review Committee”

Occasionally the Presbytery will learn of some particular irregularity committed (or omitted) by a session. In such cases the Presbytery may undertake Special Administrative Review (G-9.0408). In undertaking such a review, the Presbytery may determine whether:

- The proceedings have been correctly recorded; (G-9.0409a.(1))
- The proceedings have been regular and in accordance with the Constitution; (G-9.0409a.(2))
- The proceedings have been prudent and equitable; (G-9.0409a.(3))
- The proceedings have been faithful to the mission of the whole church; (G-9.0409a.(4))
- The lawful injunctions of a higher governing body have been obeyed. (G-9.0409a.(5))

A Special Administrative Review is appropriate for a wide range of situations. It may be utilized when Presbytery learns a session has taken an action that exceeds its authority or fails to carry out a constitutionally required action.

Upon receipt of the written statement of an alleged irregularity or delinquency by a session, in order to expedite the process, the Executive Presbyter with the Stated Clerk shall appoint a Special Administrative Review Committee (SARC).

The SARC shall have no more than five but no less than three members. The membership of the SARC should as appropriate and practical for the circumstances.

An inquiry shall be made by the SARC to determine if an irregularity or delinquency has occurred. The appointment of the SARC shall be reported and approved by the Presbytery at the next stated meeting.

The SARC shall report its progress and/or conclusion of its inquiry to the Presbytery in a timely manner.

Presbytery of Southern New England - Statement of Financial Position

	Balance as of 12/31/2008	Balance as of 9/30/2009	Difference
Assets:			
<i>Cash</i>			
Petty Cash	100.00	100.00	-
Debit Card Account - Postage	1,230.44	1,125.64	(104.80)
Capital Reserve	6,552.42	-	A (6,552.42)
Contingency Fund	5,000.00	-	A (5,000.00)
Equipment Reserve	6,408.16	-	A (6,408.16)
Maintenance Reserve	4,402.41	-	A (4,402.41)
Operating Cash	267,355.55	168,642.29	B (98,713.26)
ING Direct Savings Account	100,434.41	101,522.38	1,087.97
Ministerial Relief Cash	15,131.97	15,097.46	(34.51)
Simsbury NCD - ING Savings Account	-	98,735.28	C 98,735.28
<i>Investments</i>			
New Covenant Mutual Funds	116,095.13	133,403.25	17,308.12
Merrill Lynch	23,307.70	23,425.32	117.62
Accounts Receivable	8,847.21	6,002.77	(2,844.44)
<i>Loans Receivable</i>			
Loans Receivable	464,350.46	454,914.31	(9,436.15)
Personnel Loans & Exchanges	-	1,200.00	1,200.00
Prepaid Expenses	-	-	-
Fixed Assets	43,160.44	43,160.44	-
Accumulated Depreciation	(66,577.45)	(66,577.45)	-
Office Condo	202,853.54	202,853.54	D -
Total Assets	1,198,652.39	1,183,605.23	(15,047.16)
Liabilities:			
Allowance for Bad Debt	452,915.18	454,592.00	1,676.82
Accounts Payable	9,720.00	-	(9,720.00)
Loan Payable to GA (MLK)	235,494.27	231,384.03	(4,110.24)
Loan Payable to Synod (MLK)	35,049.20	31,248.50	(3,800.70)
Total Liabilities	733,178.65	717,224.53	(15,954.12)
Net Assets	465,473.74	466,380.70	E 906.96
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	1,198,652.39	1,183,605.23	(15,047.16)

- A) Reserve accounts combined with Operating Cash Balance, listed separately under Dedicated Accounts Report
 B) Of the \$183,349.11 Operating Cash Balance, \$110,472.91 is designated income, see Dedicated Accounts Report.
 C) Simsbury dismissal agreement settlement of \$105,000 minus \$7,204.69 payment of 2008 Per Capita, designated for New Church Development, see Dedicated Accounts Report.
 D) Represents purchase price not market value.
 E) Does not include the value of Church properties or charges against them.

Presbytery of Southern New England - Statement of Activities

OPERATIONS	Mission/Ministry	Admin.	Annual Budget	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget Bal.	YTD 75%
Income						
General Mission	140,000.00		140,000.00	77,883.81	62,116.19	56%
General Mission - prior year			0.00	161.45	(161.45)	
Interest on Operating Cash		5,000.00	5,000.00	2,665.73	2,334.27	53%
Presbytery Per Capita		245,026.00	245,026.00	178,421.74	66,604.26	72%
Donations			0.00	5,010.00	(5,010.00)	
Interest on Church Loans		270.00	270.00	55.71	214.29	21%
Merrill Lynch dividends minus fees			0.00	(8.94)	8.94	
Merrill Lynch market changes			0.00	107.52	(107.52)	
New Covenant Funds dividends			0.00	2,461.42	(2,461.42)	
New Covenant market changes			0.00	17,327.16	(17,327.16)	
Total Income	140,000.00	250,296.00	390,296.00	284,085.60	106,210.40	69%
Expense						
Committees:						
Church Development	67,705.00	1,195.00	68,900.00	59,545.36	9,354.64	86%
Committee on Ministry	2,500.00	6,500.00	9,000.00	6,197.36	2,802.64	69%
Committee on Preparation	7,000.00	3,480.00	10,480.00	3,363.44	7,116.56	32%
Ecclesiastical	6,905.00	134.00	7,039.00	5,797.82	1,241.18	82%
Nominations		418.00	418.00	150.51	267.49	36%
Permanent Judicial		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Personnel		500.00	500.00	517.33	(17.33)	103%
Presbytery Council		5,000.00	5,000.00	3,681.15	1,318.85	74%
Representations		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Resources for Congregations		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Social Justice	720.00		720.00	295.77	424.23	41%
Stewardship & Mission	10,351.00	116.00	10,467.00	319.93	10,147.07	3%
Trustees	2,500.00	7,500.00	10,000.00	9,008.94	991.06	90%
Youth Ministries	1,000.00		1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0%
MLK Loan Repayment	17,824.00		17,824.00	13,367.70	4,456.30	75%
Office Operations		36,400.00	36,400.00	21,766.53	14,633.47	60%
Salaries & Benefits	23,495.00	200,484.00	223,979.00	159,535.70	64,443.30	71%
Travel		11,900.00	11,900.00	7,335.31	4,564.69	55%
Bldg. Maint/Equip. Replacement		5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0%
GA Travel		1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	
Honorariums		3,100.00	3,100.00	2,325.00	775.00	75%
Miscellaneous		5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0%
Total Expense	140,000.00	288,227.00	428,227.00	293,207.85	135,019.15	68%
Net Income/Expense				(9,122.25)		

PER CAPITA PASS-THRU

Designated Income:

GA Per Capita

35,684.40

Synod Per Capita	<u>23,789.63</u>
Total Designated Income	59,474.03
Designated Expense:	
GA Per Capita	26,549.54
Synod Per Capita	<u>16,231.92</u>
Total Designated Expense	42,781.46
Net Per Capita Pass-Thru	<u><u>16,692.57</u></u>

MISSION PASS-THRU			
GA General Mission	31,769.49	Total Revenues for the year	439,063.80
Synod General Mission	11,649.32	Total Expenditures for the year	431,493.48
GA Special Mission	47,493.13		
Synod Special Mission	22.73		
Grants	4,569.50		
Total Mission Pass-thru	<u>95,504.17</u>	Net Gain/Loss	<u>7,570.32</u>

OPERATING CASH DEDICATED ACCOUNTS:

	Balance 12/31/2008	Year to Date Receipts	Year to Date Expenses	Balance 9/30/2009
<u>Reserve Fund Accounts:</u>				
Capital Reserve Fund	6,552.42	-	-	6,552.42
Contingency Fund	5,000.00	-	2,435.00	2,565.00
Equipment Reserve Fund	6,408.16	-	-	6,408.16
Maintenance Reserve Fund	4,402.41	-	-	4,402.41
Total Reserve Fund Accounts	22,362.99	-	2,435.00	19,927.99
<u>Church Development:</u>				
Church Development Reserve	27,994.75	-	-	27,994.75
Pioneer Valley Synod Grant	-	6,000.00	4,500.00	1,500.00
Total Church Development	27,994.75	6,000.00	4,500.00	29,494.75
<u>Living into the New Church</u>	38,461.95	1,460.00	9,784.60	30,137.35
<u>Stewardship & Mission</u>				
Designated Donations	5,000.00	-	-	5,000.00
Next Year Mission Pledges	3,150.00	-	3,150.00	-
Total Stewardship & Mission	8,150.00	-	3,150.00	5,000.00
<u>Social Justice:</u>				
Peacemaking Donations	1,900.36	249.70	-	2,150.06
Synod Grant for NEPII	10,000.00	22,500.00	22,500.00	10,000.00
Total Social Justice	11,900.36	22,749.70	22,500.00	12,150.06
<u>Pass-thru Accounts:</u>				
End of Year Carry Over	2,000.00	500.00	2,500.00	-
GA Per Capita	(4,047.14)	35,127.30	26,549.54	4,530.62
Synod Per Capita	(871.73)	23,418.22	16,231.92	6,314.57
GA General Mission	-	31,649.49	31,649.49	-
Synod General Mission	-	11,589.32	11,589.32	-
GA Special Mission	-	46,618.13	46,618.13	-
Synod Special Mission	-	22.73	22.73	-
Total Pass-thru Accounts	(2,918.87)	148,925.19	135,161.13	10,845.19
<u>EP Events:</u>				
Genesis Center	-	505.00	505.00	-
Cape Cod	-	5,364.00	5,364.00	-
Total EP Event				-
Total Operating Cash Dedicated Accounts				107,555.34
<u>ING Savings Account</u>				
Simsbury /NCD Reserve	97,795.31	939.97		98,735.28
TOTAL DEDICATED ACCOUNTS				206,290.62

Presbytery of Southern New England
Investment Summary as of 9/30/2009

	December 2008 Balance	Fees	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Unrealized Gain(Loss)
Merrill Lynch - Cash Account	23,101.90	(80.45)			71.51
Equities	205.80				126.56
New Covenant Funds - market value					
acct.#10001030716	103,186.02			(2,204.38)	A 17,524.35
acct.#0001036710 Endowment	12,909.11			(257.04)	A 2,245.19
ING Direct Savings Account	100,434.41				1,087.97
Simsbury NCD-ING Savings Account	97,795.31				939.97
Totals	337,632.55	(80.45)	-	(2,461.42)	21,995.55

Restricted Investment Funds:

Endowment	14,897.26
Simsbury NCD-ING Savings Account	<u>98,735.28</u>

Total Restricted Funds 113,632.54

Unrestricted Investment Funds:

Merrill Lynch	23,425.32
New Covenant	118,505.99
ING Savings Account	<u>101,522.38</u>

Total Unrestricted Funds 243,453.69

A) Dividends transferred to Operating Cash

October 11, 2009

Independent Accountants' Review Report

Board of Trustees
The Presbytery of Southern New England
Old Saybrook, Connecticut

We have reviewed the accompanying statement of financial position of The Presbytery of Southern New England (a nonprofit organization) (the Presbytery) as of December 31, 2008, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. All information included in these financial statements is the representation of the management of the Presbytery.

A review consists principally of inquiries of Presbytery personnel and analytical procedures applied to financial data. It is substantially less in scope than an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Our review was made for the purpose of expressing limited assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The information included in the accompanying Schedule I is presented only for supplementary analysis purposes. Such information has been subjected to the inquiry and analytical procedures applied in the review of the basic financial statements and we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made thereto.

As discussed in Note 1, certain conditions indicate that the Presbytery may be unable to continue as a going concern. The accompanying financial statements do not include any adjustments to the financial statements that might be necessary should the Presbytery be unable to continue as a going concern.

Mahoney Sabal & Company LLC

Certified Public Accountants

MEMBER-AT-LARGE POLICY
DRAFT 10/14/2009

A member-at-large is a minister of the Word and Sacrament who has previously been admitted to the presbytery or another presbytery as an active member, and who now, without intentional abandonment of the exercise of ministry, is no longer engaged in a ministry that complies with all the criteria in G-11.0403. A minister may be designated a member-at-large because he or she is limited in his or her ability to engage in a ministry fulfilling all the criteria for a validated ministry because of family responsibilities or other individual circumstances which presbytery recognizes as important. A member-at-large shall comply with as many of the criteria in G-11.0403 as possible and be encouraged to become a parish associate in a congregation.

*A member-at-large is entitled to take part in the meetings of presbytery and to speak, vote and hold office. The status of each member-at-large may be granted by the presbytery upon the minister's application and shall be reviewed annually. (G-11.0406b)**

The Presbytery of Southern New England, being guided by the Book of Order, takes seriously the responsibilities of continuing membership in the presbytery, specifically those defined by G-11.0403e which states, "The ministry shall include responsible participation in the deliberations and work of the presbytery and in the worship and service of a congregation."

Responsibilities of the Committee on Ministry:

The Committee on Ministry shall annually review the status of members-at-large using the guidelines of the Book of Order and the presbytery's current policy statement. Recommended changes in membership status shall be reported to the presbytery for consideration and action.

Minister Responsibilities:

Ordinarily, a minister granted member-at-large status will be expected to be involved in a PC(USA) congregation or a Formula of Agreement congregation, to attend presbytery meetings, and to demonstrate active involvement in the mission of the presbytery (such as, for example, serving on a Presbytery committee) with the intention of returning to active member status.

Each member-at-large will report annually to the Committee on Ministry which "shall ... make a recommendation to the presbytery as to whether the member should continue in the present category, be assigned another category, or be released from the exercise of ordained office. Such action may be initiated by the presbytery or at the request of the minister." (G-11.0413)

*COM Handbook, Office of the General Assembly

**Committee on Ministry's
Guidelines on Statements of Faith
Presbytery of Southern New England**

One of the tasks of the Committee on Ministry is to help individuals as they prepare for coming before the Presbytery to be examined for ordination and/or membership. The Committee on Ministry seeks to get to know you, the ordinand or potential member, both personally as well as from a faith perspective. We will meet with you and verbally learn from you about your call to ministry and your particular ministry in this Presbytery. At the same time we will learn about your beliefs by reviewing your printed statement of faith. Our review and discussion with you about your statement of faith will prepare you for your formal examination on the floor of Presbytery (cite BOO).

Your statement of faith is one opportunity to communicate your faith to the members of the Presbytery of New England who have the responsibility of examining you for ordination and/or membership into this Presbytery. Sharing your statement of faith is one way in which you share yourself with members of the Committee on Ministry and your colleagues in the Presbytery. It is a requirement for those seeking ordination within our Presbytery as well as for those who have been ordained elsewhere and are seeking membership in our Presbytery. Your statement should be personal and heartfelt while at the same time being declarative and Confessional/creedal. We want to know what you believe with passion. While we encourage you to express yourself in the format and words that are most meaningful to you, we have found in our Presbytery's recent history that addressing the following core areas of theology in a roughly one-page statement is expected. When these are not present in the written statement, which is circulated to the Presbytery before the meeting where your ordination/membership is voted on, often you are asked to verbally present your views on these theological foundations to the members of the Presbytery at the meeting where you are examined.

Creator/God
Jesus Christ
Holy Spirit
Trinity
Atonement and Salvation
Sacraments
Scripture
Church's ministry and mission

Additionally you may want to address: creation; sin and evil; nature of humanity; the role of the Church/Ecclesiology; and, Responsibility to Society/Response to the Gospel.

These guidelines are for your consideration only. We have received statements of faith that do not conform to these parameters. Ultimately, it is your right to present your own unique statement of faith before your brothers and sisters in Christ on the floor of the Presbytery.

Additionally, when you meet with the Committee on Ministry, you will be asked if you have any scruple(s)* to declare before the Presbytery and you will be asked the ordination questions found in the Book of Order. If you have a scruple, you will share that with the Presbytery during your examination on the floor of Presbytery.

*An overview of scruples, titled Scruples 101, will be forwarded to you by the Stated Clerk.

November 14, 2009
Presbytery of Southern New England

Overture #10-01

Wilton Presbyterian Church overtures The Presbytery of Southern New England to send the following overture to the 219th General Assembly:

The Presbytery of Southern New England respectfully overtures the 219th General Assembly (2010) to send the following proposed amendment to the Presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall the present paragraph G-6.0106b be replaced in its entirety 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

The Session of Wilton Presbyterian Church overtures The Presbytery of Southern New England to send the following overture to the 219th General Assembly:

The Presbytery of Southern New England respectfully overtures the 219th General Assembly (2010) to issue the following Authoritative Interpretation of *The Constitution of The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*:

Since several states have recognized that marriage is a fundamental right for all persons, and since the definition of marriage in *The Directory for Worship* can be interpreted as descriptive and therefore does not mandate that a marriage contract must be only between a man and a woman, the 219th General Assembly declares that, in those states which authorize same-gender marriage, Pastors may officiate at such marriages in the context of Christian worship.