MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING
SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND PRESBYTERY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
JANUARY 18, 2003

Convened at West Springfield Covenant Community Church
West Springfield, Massachusetts

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(1) Call to Order and Prayer - The January 18, 2003 Stated Meeting of the Southern New England Presbytery was called to order at 9:10 A.M. by the Moderator, TE Brad Evans, who opened the meeting in prayer and the singing of a hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy ". A quorum (as defined in BCO 13-4) was declared to be present.

(2) Adoption of the Docket - The Clerk presented the docket as published in the call.

THE DOCKET

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18:

9 AM - 11 AM  
Call to Order & Prayer  
Adoption of the Docket  
Formation of the Roll  
Introduction and Seating of Corresponding Brethren  
Appointment of a Committee of Thanks  
Election of a Moderator for 2003  
Stated Clerk’s Report  
Treasurer’s Report  
Executive Team Report:  
   Special Order: Discussion regarding Subscription, Strategic Plan & BCO Amendments  
   Vote on Book of Church Order Amendments  

Commission & Committee Reports:
1. Commission to Ordain & Install Naama Mendes  
2. Commission to organize Christ the King – East Boston  
3. Commission to Ordain & Install John Hardie  
4. Women in Ministry Subcommittee

11:15 AM – 12:45 PM  Worship & Communion Service
12:45 PM – 1:30 PM  Lunch
1:30 PM – 4:00 PM  Conclusion of Presbytery Business

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:
A. Leadership Development Team
B. Missions Team
C. Shepherding Team
ADJOURNMENT UNTIL NEXT MEETING

MSC to adopt the docket as presented.

(3) Formation of the Roll - The roll was formed by signatures of members present.

TEACHING ELDERS PRESENT:

PHIL ADAMS     ALLAN BALDWIN     ROB COX
RICHARD DOWNS   BRAD EVANS       PRESTON GRAHAM
GLENN HOBURG    AL LAVALLEY      STEPHEN LAVALLEY
RICK LINTS      ERIC MOLICKI     MANOEL OLIVEIRA
GREG PILATO     MARK SCHOLTEN    MEL SENSENIG

RULING ELDERS PRESENT:

NAME   CHURCH
CLINT DONNELLY  PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF COVENTRY
ABRAHAM FLOREZ  COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WAYNE BLANDING  COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ALAN PHILLIPS   CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROB HAWKES      CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BILL SCHULTZ    PRESBY. CHURCH OF MANCHESTER
CRIS CAMPELLI   REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WILLEM NIJENHUIS REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DANIEL DEVRIES  TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WALTER MAHLA    TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
RICHARD CONNOR  W. SPFLD. COVENANT COMMUNITY CH.
DAVID EHLE      W. SPFLD. COVENANT COMMUNITY CH.
MICHAEL ERNST   W. SPFLD. COVENANT COMMUNITY CH.
RON HEALD       W. SPFLD. COVENANT COMMUNITY CH.
STU FINLAYSON (EMERITUS) W. SPFLD. COVENANT COMMUNITY CH.
MARK SCHORTMANN W. SPFLD. COVENANT COMMUNITY CH.
JAMES WHALEN   W. SPFLD. COVENANT COMMUNITY CH.

CANDIDATES PRESENT: ED KILLEEN     TONY PHELPS     RYAN WEIMER

VISITORS PRESENT: Rev. David C. Andersen  Todd Murphy  Michael Ra
Erik Larson  Rev. Bill Broderick  Duke Kwon
Suzy Florez  Richard Newton  Carlton Brown
Rev. Robert David

(4) Introduction and Seating of Corresponding Brethren – Visitors were introduced at this time.

(5) Appointment of a Committee of Thanks - The Moderator appointed TE Allan Baldwin and RE Abraham Florez to a Committee of Thanks.


(7) Stated Clerk's Report - The Stated Clerk gave his report at this time.

   A. Presbytery Meeting Excuses:
MSC that Presbytery approve the following excuses:

1. For the January 2003 Stated Meeting:
   TE Stephen Um – in California performing a wedding

B. Correspondence: The following list of correspondence was presented by the Stated Clerk:

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND PRESBYTERY
LISTING OF CORRESPONDENCE IN
SEPTEMBER 21, 2002 – JANUARY 18, 2003

1. (September 21, 2002) Correspondence from TE Stephen Phillips, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of New York and New England (OPC), with draft of minutes of Special Meeting dated 09/04/02. Information

2. (September 23, 2002) Correspondence from RE Bob Sawyer, Clerk of Session for Christ the King PCA, in response to my e-mail dated 09/19/02 (see Correspondence Out item #1 below), with electronic copy of Call to Naama Mendes. Refer Clerk

3. (October 1, 2002) Correspondence from Jim Stewart, Clerk of Session of First Presbyterian Church in Schenectady, NY, indicating that First Pres. Is looking for a director of junior & senior high ministries. Refer Candidates

4. (October 2, 2002) Correspondence from Erik Larsen, member of Trinity Presbyterian Church, requesting to come under care of Southern New England Presbytery. Refer Leadership Development Team

5. (October 10, 2002) Correspondence from TE Stephen Phillips, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of New York and New England (OPC), with Call to a Special Meeting dated 10/20/02. Information

6. (October 25, 2002) Correspondence from TE Philip Ryken, Senior Minister at Tenth Presbyterian Church PCA, seeking an Executive Minister for their church. Information

7. (November 12, 2002) Correspondence from TE Stephen Phillips, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of New York and New England (OPC), with all minutes for 2002. Information

8. (November 14, 2002) Correspondence from TE Rick Lints, with copy sent to RE Clint Donnelly, forwarding letter from TE William Broderick, Assistant Pastor at Inverness PCA Church. Bill has received a Call to serve as Pastor of 2nd Congregational Church in East Douglas, MA, and is requesting to transfer into Southern New England Presbytery. Refer Clerk & Leadership Development Team

9. (November 18, 2002) Correspondence from TE William Broderick, Assistant Pastor at Inverness PCA Church, requesting contact concerning his desire to transfer into Southern New England Presbytery. Refer Clerk & Leadership Development Team

10. (November 19, 2002) Correspondence from Todd Murphy, Licentiate in Nashville Presbytery PCA, seeking to transfer his credentials into Southern New England Presbytery. Refer Leadership Development Team

11. (November 22, 2002) Correspondence from Dudley Reese IV, from Search Committee for Crossroads Community Church, seeking a Senior Pastor. Information

12. (November 28, 2002) Correspondence from RE Bill Schultz, requesting confirmation of the churches in Southern New England Presbytery. Refer Clerk

13. (December 5, 2002) Correspondence from TE Richard Downs, seeking a copy of his Call from December 1999. Refer Clerk
14. (December 5, 2002) Correspondence from Diane Hitzfeld, from PCA Stated Clerk’s office, with revised Presbytery Nominee Biographical Form attachment. Refer Clerk

15. (December 9, 2002) Copy of correspondence from David O’Steen, Stated Clerk of Chesapeake Presbytery PCA, to TE William Broderick, detailing the process for TE Broderick to be transferred to Southern New England Presbytery. Information

16. (December 9, 2002) Correspondence from Olin Coleman, with The Puritan Project, offering Puritan and Reformed books available in Portuguese. Refer Portuguese-speaking Presbyters

17. (December 9, 2002) Copy of correspondence from Ed Killeen, Candidate of Southern New England Presbytery, to RE Clint Donnelly, Chairman of Leadership Development Team, indicating that he desires to complete his ordination exams in order to be examined at the January Stated Meeting. Information

18. (December 10, 2002) Correspondence from Michael Ra, member of Trinity Presbyterian Church, requesting to come under the care of Southern New England Presbytery. Refer Leadership Development Team

19. (December 10, 2002) Correspondence from TE Mel Sensenig, with Recommendation Letter for Eric Larsen. Refer Leadership Development Team

20. (December 10, 2002) Correspondence from Kris Popovitch, Candidate of Southern New England Presbytery, inquiring as to the process for applying for scholarship funds at Covenant Seminary for the 2003-2004 academic year. Refer Clerk

21. (December 17, 2002) Correspondence from David R. Langdon, President & General Counsel for Law and Liberty Institute in Cincinnati, OH, requesting the Presbytery to sign on to a brief to be filed on 12/19/02 with Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Refer Clerk

22. (December 17, 2002) Correspondence from Duke Kwon, member of Trinity Presbyterian Church, requesting to come under the care of Southern New England Presbytery. Refer Leadership Development Team

23. (December 19, 2002) Correspondence from Skip Gillikin, Stated Clerk of Western Carolina Presbytery PCA, with letter from a commission of their Presbytery offering advice in regard to the proposed BCO Amendments. Refer All Presbyters

24. (December 24, 2002) Correspondence from RE Clint Donnelly, Chairman of Leadership Development Team, indicating that TE William Broderick will not be seeking reception into Southern New England Presbytery at its January Stated Meeting. Information

25. (January 3, 2003) Correspondence from the Session of Christ the King PCA in Cambridge, to “reiterate our desire to have the presbytery help us arrange the leadership in our congregation to be in line with both our convictions and our standards.” Refer Executive Team and Women in Ministry Subcommittee

26. (January 4, 2003) Correspondence from RE Clint Donnelly, Chairman of Leadership Development Team, with Leadership Team Report. Refer Clerk

27. (January 4, 2003) Correspondence from RE Clint Donnelly, Chairman of Leadership Development Team, with Call for Ed Killeen from Christ the King PCA. Refer Clerk

28. (January 6, 2003) Correspondence from TE Tom Morrison, with new e-mail address and inquiring how to proceed in that he is no longer a member of the PCA. Refer Clerk

29. (January 6, 2003) Correspondence from Kris Popovitch, Candidate of Southern New England Presbytery, inquiring about matching grant program from Covenant Seminary. Refer Clerk
30. (January 6, 2003) Correspondence from TE Stephen Um, requesting excuse from January Stated meeting. Refer Clerk

31. (January 6, 2003) Correspondence from TE Tom Morrison, with information about his new denomination & Call. Refer Clerk

32. (January 7, 2003) Correspondence from TE Mark Scholten, Chairman of Shepherding Team, with Shepherding Team Report. Refer Clerk

33. (January 7, 2003) Correspondence from TE Preston Graham, Chairman of Missions Team, with Mission Team report. Refer Clerk

34. (January 8, 2003) Correspondence from RE Bob Sawyer, Clerk of Session for Christ the King PCA, with update of its Sessions plans to particularize the East Boston mission work as Commissioned by Presbytery at the January 2002 Stated Meeting. Information

35. (January 8, 2003) Correspondence from TE Tom Morrison, in response to my correspondence (see Correspondence Out item #19 below) with information to contact Stated Clerk of his new Presbytery. Refer Clerk

36. (January 10, 2003) Correspondence from Rev. Bradd L. Nymeyer, Stated Clerk of Classis Southwest U.S. (URCNA), in response to my correspondence (see Correspondence Out item #22 below), referring me to Ontario United Reformed Church of Ontario, CA, Rev. Morrison’s calling church. Information

37. (January 10, 2003) Correspondence from Mr. David Nutting, Licentiate of Pacific Presbytery, inquiring about open pulpsits & other pastoral positions in our Presbytery. Refer Missions Team Chairman & Redeemer PCA

38. (January 13, 2003) Correspondence from Rev. Randal Lankheet, confirming Rev. Tom Morrison’s Call from their Church council dated 10/07/02. Refer Clerk

39. (January 13, 2003) Correspondence from David Choe, Candidate of Southern New England Presbytery, with updated address. In addition, David indicated that he has come under the care of the KAPC as a candidate & requested to be removed from care of SNEP. Refer Clerk & Leadership Development Team

40. (January 13, 2003) Correspondence from TE Eric Molicki, requesting excuse from the January Stated meeting due to his wife’s recently having had a baby. Refer Clerk

41. (January 14, 2003) Correspondence from RE Walter Mahla, Clerk of Session for Trinity Presbyterian Church, with a Call to Tony Phelps as well as character reference for Tony Phelps. Refer Clerk & Leadership Development Team

42. (January 15, 2003) Correspondence from RE Bill Schultz, with Resume of Dr. David Christian Andersen. Information


44. (January 17, 2003) Correspondence from RE Clifford Bogue, Clerk of Session of Christ Presbyterian Church, with minutes of Commission to Install John Hardie. Refer Clerk
1. (September 19, 2002) Correspondence to RE Bob Sawyer, requesting an electronic copy of Christ the King’s Call to Naama Mendes.

2. (September 21, 2002) Correspondence to RE Bob Sawyer, informing him of Presbytery’s decision concerning his request for the change of date of January Stated Meeting.

3. (October 2, 2002) Correspondence to Eric Larsen, member of Trinity Presbyterian Church, in response to Correspondence In item #4 above, referring him to Leadership Development Team for his request to come under care of SNEP.

4. (October 19, 2002) Correspondence to Candidates of SNEP, forwarding request from Jim Stewart, Clerk of Session of First Presbyterian Church in Schenectady, NY (reference Correspondence In item #3 above).

5. (October 21, 2002) Correspondence to Kris Popovitch, Candidate of Southern New England Presbytery, with information regarding Covenant Seminary’s policy regarding the application of scholarship monies.

6. (November 7, 2002) Correspondence to all Presbyters, informing them of details of ordination service for John Hardie.

7. (November 19, 2002) Correspondence to Todd Murphy, in response to his correspondence dated 11/19/02 (see Correspondence In item #10 above), referring him to Leadership Development Team for his request to come under care of SNEP.

8. (November 25, 2002) Correspondence to Clint Donnelly, Chairman of Leadership Development Team, referring request from TE Bill Broderick to be received into SNEP (reference Correspondence In item #9 above).

9. (November 28, 2002) Correspondence to RE Bill Schultz, in response to his correspondence dated 11/28/02 (see Correspondence In item #12 above), with information concerning churches on the rolls of Southern New England Presbytery.

10. (December 9, 2002) Correspondence to TE Bill Broderick, with copy to TE David O’Steen, Stated Clerk of Chesapeake Presbytery, with telephone number of Leadership Development Team chairman.

11. (December 11, 2002) Correspondence to TE Richard Downs, in response to his correspondence dated 12/05/02 (see Correspondence In item #13 above), indicating that SNEP does not possess Terms of Call for him (which pre-date the formation of Southern New England Presbytery)

12. (December 11, 2002) Correspondence to all Brazilian presbyters along with Christ the King Clerk of Session and Pastor, forwarding information regarding correspondence received offering Puritan and Reformed books available in Portuguese (reference Correspondence In item #16 above).

13. (December 17, 2002) Correspondence to David R. Langdon, President & General Counsel for Law and Liberty Institute in Cincinnati, OH, in response to his letter dated 12/17/02 (reference Correspondence In item #21 above), expressing our Presbytery’s concern for the issues they seek to address in the court, expressing disappointment that our Presbytery was not given sufficient time to give consideration to their petition and asking that they keep us apprised of future matters of a legal nature which they may be involved in.

14. (December 20, 2002) Correspondence to Kris Popovitch, Candidate of Southern New England Presbytery, in response to his e-mail dated 12/10/02 (see Correspondence In item #20 above), with the process for applying for scholarship funds at Covenant Seminary for the 2003-2004 academic year.

15. (January 6, 2003) Correspondence to TE Tom Morrison, requesting information regarding his new Call & denomination.
16. (January 7, 2003) Correspondence to all Presbyters, reminding them of SNEP Missions Conference scheduled for Friday, January 17th.

17. (January 7, 2003) Correspondence to all Presbyters, with BCO Amendments & PCA Strategic Plan document attached. These documents will be discussed and BCO Amendments voted on at the January meeting.

18. (January 8, 2003) Correspondence to Kris Popovitch, Candidate of Southern New England Presbytery, in response to his e-mail dated 01/06/03 (see Correspondence In item #29 above).

19. (January 8, 2003) Correspondence to TE Tom Morrison, requesting information to contact the Stated Clerk of his new Presbytery.

20. (January 8, 2003) Correspondence to all Presbyters, with Call to the January Stated Meeting in Word format.

21. (January 9, 2003) Correspondence to all Presbyters, with Call to the January Stated Meeting in Rich Text Format.


23. (January 13, 2003) Correspondence to all Presbyters, with addition to the docket for Stated Meeting.

24. (January 16, 2003) Correspondence to all Presbyters, with G.A. Committee positions for nomination at the January Stated Meeting.

**MSC that the correspondence be received and referred as indicated.**

C. **Approval of Minutes:** The following minutes were presented for approval.

1. September 20-21, 2002 Stated Meeting  **MSC to approve the minutes of the September 20-21, 2002 stated meeting.**

D. **General Assembly Nominations:** The following men were nominated to General Assembly committees:

Teaching Elders were nominated for:

- COMMITTEE OF COMMISSIONERS for Christian Education: TE Rob Cox
- COMMITTEE OF COMMISSIONERS for Covenant Seminary: TE Eric Molicki
- MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA PERMANENT COMMITTEE: TE Manoel Oliveira
- REFORMED UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES PERMANENT COMMITTEE: TE Mel Sensenig

Ruling Elders were nominated for:

- COMMITTEE OF COMMISSIONERS for Bills & Overtures: RE Clint Donnelly
- FLOOR CLERK: RE Clint Donnelly

**MSC to approve these nominations.**

In addition, Stated Clerk will clarify TE Richard Downs' membership on the General Assembly Nominating Committee.

E. **Host Churches for Upcoming Meetings:**
May 2003: It was noted that the May 2003 stated meeting on May 17, 2003 will take place at Presbyterian Church in Manchester. Presbyterian Church of Coventry had offered to host the May meeting, but will be unable to.

September 2003: It was noted that the September 2003 stated meeting on September 19-20, 2003 will take place at Presbyterian Church of Coventry, which has graciously offered to host.

F. Rev. Tom Morrison
There are a number of items on the Clerk’s correspondence list which relate to TE Tom Morrison. Tom was serving as an Associate Pastor of Christ Church in New Haven. This past summer, Tom moved to California, where he accepted a Call from a United Reformed Church North America member church and was installed.

There are 2 issues in regard to Tom that would need to be addressed, one being his Call from Christ PCA, and the other being his membership in our Presbytery.

1. MSC to dissolve the Call from Christ Presbyterian Church to TE Tom Morrison.
2. In regard to his membership, BCO 38:3a, which says “When a member or officer in the Presbyterian Church in America shall attempt to withdraw from the communion of this branch of the visible Church by affiliating with some other branch (BCO 2:2), if at the time of the attempt to withdraw he is in good standing, the irregularity shall be recorded, his new membership acknowledged, and his name removed from the roll.”

Recommend that, in regard to the reception of TE Morrison by United Reformed Church North America, the irregularity be recorded, his new membership acknowledged, and his name removed from the roll. Adopted.

G. David Choe: Shortly after he became a Candidate of our Presbytery at the May 2002 meeting, David moved to California, where he is serving as a pastoral intern at New Life Korean Presbyterian Church and has come under the care of the KAPC (part of NAPARC) as a candidate for ordination.

David has requested to be removed from care of the SNEP. (BCO 18:7 says that “a Candidate shall, at his request, be allowed to withdraw from the care of the Presbytery” and that “The Presbytery may also, for sufficient reasons, remove the name of the candidate from its roll of candidates.”

Recommend that Presbytery remove David Choe from it’s roll of candidates, as per BCO 18:7 and per David Choe’s request. Adopted

Recommend that the Stated Clerk’s Report be Approved. Adopted.

(8) Treasurer’s Report: Presbytery’s Treasurer, Wayne Blanding, gave the report.

1. Wayne presented the Treasurer’s Report for 2002 at this time (See Attachment “A”).
MSC for the Christ the King donation sent in 2002 but not issued until 2003 to be applied in the 2002 formula for distributing donations.
Recommend that the Treasurer’s Report for 2002 be Approved. Adopted.

2. Wayne presented the Draft budget for 2003. It was indicated that churches are being asked to contribute 1.5% of its income to the Presbytery, all of which will be allocated to the Missions Team unless otherwise designated. Recommend that Presbytery adopt the budget for 2003 as presented. Adopted
Recommend that Presbytery approve the report as a whole. Adopted.

(9) Executive Team Report
A. Executive Team brought a proposal to appoint a liaison from Portuguese-speaking congregations to be a voting member of the Executive Team. This would be a Amendment
change to the Standing Rules of our Presbytery, and would require a 2/3 vote at the January and May Stated Meetings.

The specific recommendation from the Executive Team is to:

"revise 2.1 by adding "liaison to Portuguese-speaking congregations."

add a 2.10 which will read: "The Liaison to Portuguese-speaking congregations is elected for a two-year term by the Presbytery at the May stated meeting. The Liaison is responsible for caring for the participation of their congregations in the work of the Presbytery."

IN FAVOR: 24   OPPOSED: 1   ABSTAINING: 0

B. Special Order: Presbytery entered into a time of spiritual deliberation, with TE Brad Evans led a Discussion regarding Subscription, the Strategic Plan document & the 2003 BCO Amendments

C. Vote on Book of Church Order Amendments: The Presbytery recorded the following vote on the 2002-2003 BCO Amendments:

2002-2003

**BCO AMENDMENTS SENT DOWN TO PRESBYTERIES FOR VOTING, and for ADVICE AND CONSENT**

August 2002

(NOTE: In accordance with RAO 13-6(e), additions are indicated in **bold**, deletions by strike outs [------]. Further, the page number on the cross references to the Minutes of the 30th General Assembly may be subject to change.

**ITEM 1:** Amend the *Book of Church Order* by changing the words “two other” in *BCO* 34-1 to “at least ten percent of all the Presbyteries.”

M30GA, 30-50, III,1, p. 209

Therefore, to ensure that a small minority of presbyteries or churches does not exercise inordinate influence over other churches, presbyteries and the General Assembly in pursuing the discipline of ministers; and

To ensure that there is a significant indication of a likely consensus in the denomination that the GA must assume original jurisdiction in such a case for the sake of the purity and testimony of the church,

Ohio Valley Presbytery / Metropolitan New York Presbytery / Illiana Presbytery / Missouri Presbytery / Piedmont Triad Presbytery / North Georgia Presbytery / Evangel Presbytery / Fellowship Presbytery / Tennessee Valley Presbytery / Rocky Mountain Presbytery / North Texas Presbytery / Nashville Presbytery / Susquehanna Valley Presbytery / Northern California Presbytery / North Florida Presbytery / Heartland Presbytery / Central Florida Presbytery / Northern Illinois Presbytery / South Texas Presbytery / Southeast Alabama Presbytery overtures the General Assembly to amend the *Book of Church Order* by changing the words “two other” in *BCO* 34-1 to “at least ten percent of all the Presbyteries.”
34-1. Process against a minister shall be entered before the Presbytery of which he is a member. However, if the Presbytery refuses to act in doctrinal cases or cases of public scandal and at least ten percent of all the Presbyteries request the General Assembly to assume original jurisdiction (to first receive and initially hear and determine), the General Assembly shall do so.

ITEM 2: Amend the Book of Church Order by inserting the paragraphs in bold below as new paragraphs of BCO 21-4 between the following sentences, as indicated:

Therefore, to clarify and support the original ordination standards of the PCA, Ohio Valley Presbytery overtures the General Assembly amend the Book of Church Order by inserting the paragraphs in bold below as new paragraphs of BCO 21-4 between the following sentences, as indicated:

“Whenever a Presbytery shall omit any of these parts, it shall always make a record of the reasons for such omissions and of the trial parts omitted.

[Insert new paragraphs here]

“The Presbytery being fully satisfied of his qualifications for the sacred office....”

While our Constitution does not require the candidate’s affirmation of every statement and/or proposition of doctrine in our Confession of Faith and Catechisms, it is the right and responsibility of the Presbytery to determine if the candidate is out of accord with any of the fundamentals of these doctrinal standards and, as a consequence, may not be able in good faith sincerely to receive and adopt the Confession of Faith and Catechisms of this Church as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures (cf. BCO 21-5, Q. 2; 24-5, Q.2).

Therefore, in examining a candidate for ordination the Presbytery shall inquire not only into the candidate’s knowledge and views in the areas specified above, but also shall require the candidate to state the specific instances in which he may differ with the Confession of Faith and Catechisms in any of their statements and/or propositions. The court may grant an exception to any difference of doctrine only if in the court’s judgment the candidate’s declared difference is not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine because the difference is neither hostile to the system nor strikes at the vitals of religion.

TE Eric Molicki requested that his No vote be recorded here.

(10) Worship Service - the Presbytery engaged in a Worship Service, including Celebration of the Lord's Table and the Preaching of the Word by TE Greg Pilato, which was followed by lunch.

(11) Vote on BCO Amendments (Continued)
Following prayer by TE Mark Scholten, the Presbytery continued its work of voting on the Book of Church Order Amendments:

ITEM 3  Amend the Questions for Ordination of Teaching Elders found in Book of Church Order 21-5, by adding the words “and unity” to the sixth question, so that the question would now read:

\[ M30GA, 30-53, III, 6, p. 240 \]

**Therefore Be It Resolved**, that the Western Carolina Presbytery petition the General Assembly to amend the Questions for Ordination of Teaching Elders found in Book of Church Order 21-5, by adding the words “and unity” to the sixth question, so that the question would now read:

“Do you promise to be zealous and faithful in maintaining the truths of the Gospel and the purity and peace and unity of the Church, whatever persecution or opposition may arise unto you on that account?”

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<th>AGAINST 10</th>
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ITEM 4  Amend *BCO* 14-1.12.b.4 by replacing the words “Insurance, Annuities and Relief” with “PCA Retirement and Benefits, Inc.”

\[ M30GA, 30-62, III, 15, p. 294 \]

12. The Assembly permanent committees are the Administrative Committee of General Assembly, Committee on Christian Education and Publications, Committee on Mission to North America, Committee on Mission to the World, and Committee on Reformed University Ministries.

The Administrative Committee of General Assembly shall consist of twenty (20) members:

a. Eleven Members in classes elected through the standard nomination and election procedure,

b. One member each from the following program committees or agencies:

1. Christian Education and Publication;
2. Covenant College;
3. Covenant Theological Seminary;
4. Insurance, Annuities and Relief, PCA Retirement and Benefits, Inc.

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<th>FOR 19</th>
<th>AGAINST 0</th>
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Attest: _Ron Heald_                     Date _01/18/03_

Stated Clerk of Presbytery

Name of Presbytery: _Southern New England_

(10) Commission & Committee Reports:

A. **Commission to Install Naama Mendes**. It is my understanding based on correspondence I received from TE Richard Downs that Naama Mendes has not yet arrived from Brazil, and that he has not yet been installed.
B. Commission to Organize Christ the King East Boston: Presbytery has received an update from the Session of Christ the King that they will be examining elders shortly, and that they will be proceeding with the organizing of that church once the elder examination is concluded.

C. Minutes of Commission to Install TE John Hardie: The Report of the Commission to install TE John Hardie was read at this time (see Attachment “C”).

The Presbytery noted the irregularity that only one Teaching Elder was present at this Commission meeting.

MSC to approve the minutes of Commission to install TE John Hardie, and to dismiss the Commission.

(11) Shepherding Team - Report was given by TE Mark Scholten, who opened with prayer.

A. Clerk seminar on Recording Sessional Minutes in April. The Shepherding Team will be sponsoring this seminar on April 26th.

B. The Shepherding Team is reviewing the Pulpit exchange for May

Recommend that Presbytery receive the Shepherding Team’s Report as a whole. Adopted.

(12) Report of Women in Ministry Subcommittee: RE Clint Donnelly gave the report of the Committee at this time.

RE Donnelly reported that the Committee did meet, but that it did not complete the second portion of their work, that being to report back on the role of women in ministry within this Presbytery.

In regard to the matter of whether Christ the King violated the Constitution, the Committee brought the following motion:

Whereas CTK is a congregation of the PCA whose confessional standard is articulated by WCF and BCO, and especially as related to the matter of ordaining deacons and the role of women in the office of deacon: BCO 7-2, BCO 9-3; 9-7, BCO 17-1; 17-2; 17-3

Whereas the BCO defines "deacon" to be both limited to "men" and to those men "ordained" to the office by the laying on of hands (BCO 9-3 and 17-1),

Whereas CTK minutes indicate that the office (or position) of deacon at CTK appears to have been redefined to mean something other than what it is in CTK's own confessional standard (BCO 7-2, BCO 9-3; 9-7, BCO 17-1; 17-2; 17-3, BCO 9-3 and 17-1) and therefore creating a situation wherein CTK would be affirming two contradictory things by the same term (e.g. "deacon" is affirmed as both being an ordained man in CTK's confessional standard (BCO) and is practiced as a non-ordained man and/or woman.).

Therefore,

MSC that, by having a board of non-ordained men and women called "deacons," Christ the King is in violation of BCO 9-3 and 17-1 and should seek to remedy this in the most expeditious and wise way possible given the local issues involved, in so far as the men serving under the title of "deacon" according to the CTK minutes have not been ordained to the office of "deacon" and the "women" serving under the title of "deacon" are not distinguished from the office of "deacon" according to BCO.
MSC to separate the Committee's responsibility into 2 parts:

1. CTK
2. Role of Women in Ministry within this Presbytery

MSC to extend the time of the Study Committee until September 2003, in order to complete it's business.

Amend: allow a representative of CTK to be added to this committee MSC TO MAKE THIS AMENDMENT THE MAIN MOTION.

MSC to extend the time of the study committee until September, including a member of CTK’s Session.

MSC to approve the recommendation of the committee contained in their report, finding the Session to be in violation of the Book of Church Order.

MSC to refer letter from CTK to the Shepherding Team

(11) Leadership Development Team Report: The Leadership Development Team was given by RE Clint Donnelly, who opened his report with prayer.

(A) Candidates coming under care of SNEP. Four men came before Presbytery for Candidacy at this time:

1. Eric Larson. Erik Larsen comes with the endorsement of Trinity Presbyterian Church. He has been a member at Trinity Pres.Ch. for three years. Currently, he is a student at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and has a vision to plant churches in the Northeast.
2. Michael Ra. Mike comes with the endorsement of Trinity Presbyterian Church. He has worked closely with Erik Molicki in the RUF ministry for the past seven months.
3. Duke Kwon. Duke Kwon comes with the endorsement of Trinity Presbyterian Church. He has worked closely with Erik Molicki in the RUF ministry for the past seven months.
4. Todd Murphy. Todd is a licentiate with Nashville Presbytery, and is seeking to transfer his credentials to Southern New England Presbytery

These four men were each examined by the Presbytery on experiential religion and on his motives for seeking the ministry.

MSC to arrest the examinations of Eric Larson, Michael Ra, Duke Kwon and Todd Murphy
MSC to approve the examinations of Eric Larson, Michael Ra, Duke Kwon and Todd Murphy

Recommend that Eric Larson, Michael Ra, Duke Kwon & Todd Murphy be received under the care of Southern New England Presbytery. Adopted.

RE Jim Whalen, the Moderator, proposed to the three men the 2 questions found in BCO 18:3, to which all four men answered in the affirmative.

TE Richard Lints gave a charge to all four men from Acts 17:29-31 at this time.

(B) Presentation of Internship Proposals 3 Internship proposals were presented.

1. Mike Ra has been serving as seminary interns for the past 8 months. Eric Molicki will be Mike’s mentor. Focus of internship is RUF ministries, public prayer and worship and occasional sermons.
2. Duke Kwon have been serving as seminary interns for the past 8 months. Eric Molicki will be Mike’s mentor. Focus of internship is RUF ministries, public prayer and worship and occasional
sermons.
3. Erik Larsen has been at Trinity for 3 years, working with the youth & developing the Study Center. He will be developing expositional skills, occasional sermons & leading small groups.

Recommend that Presbytery approve these Internship proposals. Adopted.

Moderator RE Jim Whalen led in prayer for these men, and addressed the applicants with the declaration found in BCO 19:10.

(C) Examination of Ed Killeen for Ordination

Ed Killeen has received a call to Assistant Pastor at Christ the King Presbyterian Church in Cambridge, MA. Ed was licensed and his internship experience and sermon found acceptable by Presbytery at the September 2002 meeting. He was graduated from Covenant Theological Seminary with and M.Div. and a MA in Counseling conferred May 22, 2000 with a cumulative GPA of 3.53. Our committee found his written exam to be very good.

Ed Killeen was examined thoroughly in the areas spelled out in BCO 21;4

Several motions were entertained at this time relating to Ed Killeen:

1. Recommend that Presbytery approve Ed's examination in Experiential religion, especially personal character and family management. Adopted
2. Recommend that Presbytery approve Ed’s examination in Knowledge of Greek and Hebrew languages. Adopted
3. Recommend that Presbytery approve Ed's examination in Bible content based on his Licensure examination. Adopted
4. Recommend that Presbytery approve Ed's examination in Theology based on his Licensure examination. Adopted
5. Recommend that Presbytery approve Ed's examination in The Sacraments. Adopted
6. Recommend that Presbytery approve Ed's examination in Church History. Adopted
7. Recommend that Presbytery approve Ed's examination in The History of the Presbyterian Church in America. Adopted
9. Recommend that Presbytery accept Ed's exegesis on Genesis 4. Adopted
10. Recommend that Presbytery accept Ed’s thesis on The Lord's Supper. Adopted

During Ed’s licensure examination, Ed indicated that he took exception to the Westminster Standards in 3 areas:

1. WCF 21:8 "words, and thoughts about their worldly employments and recreation."
2. WCF 21:5 "singing of psalms..." Ed believes that we should not be limited to just singing Psalms.
3. WCF 24:3 "... papists..." Ed takes exception to the prohibition of believers marrying "papists," as he cannot consider a Roman Catholic to be necessarily among unbelievers.

It was MSC by the Presbytery to not note the 2nd item as an exception, and to note Ed’s 2 exceptions (#1 & #3 above)

Recommend that Presbytery arrest the examination of Ed Killeen. Adopted
A Call for Ed has been received, which reads as follows:

Christ the King Presbyterian Church  
Cambridge, MA

Terms of Call for Ed Killeen.

The Session of Christ the King Presbyterian Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts is pleased to extend this call to Ed Killeen to serve our church as an Assistant Pastor. This action was taken by the Session at its stated meeting on May 16, 2000.

Responsibilities: Our primary desire is for you to have an effective outreach ministry to the community of artists in the Cambridge and Boston area. Other avenues of ministry may include counseling and working with our small group.

Supervision: Rick Downs will have the primary responsibility for overseeing your work here. The Session expects that Rick will formally evaluate your work with you after the first three months, six months and 12 months that you are on staff. Formal evaluations will continue on an annual basis after the first year. Rick will report the results of these evaluations to the Session.

Timing: The expectation is that you will stay in St. Louis until May, 2001. During the interim, we hope to have you come to Cambridge periodically to meet with our artist community to begin planning and praying for the ministry.

Finances: In the first year with the Church your total financial package will be $75,000. How much of this will be salary, housing allowance, insurance and retirement will be worked out with you after you know more about your living situation. Our understanding is that you will be working to raise support to fund your position here. The expectation is that, God willing, you will raise the entire amount of your support for the first year. In the second year our budget, as God enables us, will pick up 33% of your financial package. We will be responsible for 66% in the third year, and 100% in the fourth year. It is expected that this arrangement will be re-evaluated regularly to discern the degree to which our plans are being blessed by God. Reasonable moving expenses will be reimbursed from the money raised from outside sources.

Vacation and Study Leave: You will have four weeks vacation and one week of study leave each year.

Ed, we are excited about your willingness and desire to minister in our midst. We are eager to see how God blesses all of us during the fund raising stage of this exciting adventure.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

John Truschel  
Clerk of Session

It was requested that the Session of Christ the King update the information on Ed’s Call and forward it to the Stated Clerk.

Recommend that Presbytery approve the sermon preached before the Presbytery at the September stated meeting as having met the requirement of BCO21:4 that Ed preach a sermon before the Presbytery.  
Adopted

Recommend that Presbytery erect a Commission to Ordain & Install Ed Killeen at a time to be determined. The Commission shall consist of TE’s Richard Downs, Glenn Hoburg & Stephen Um and RE’s Bob Sawyer, Iraci Soares and Clint Donnelly, with a quorum of 2 + 2. TE Richard Downs was appointed to be the Convenor. Adopted
Stated Clerk will have Ed Killeen sign "Ministerial Obligation" form as per BCO 13:7.

(D) Examination of Tony Phelps for Licensure and Ordination

Tony Phelps has received a call to Assistant Pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Tony completed his M.Div studies at Gordon Conwell Theological in January 2003. His internship at Trinity was approved by Session. He worked with students for three years prior to RUF starting. Developing a church launch team with a well thought Philosophy of Ministry. Tony is a candidate under care of Southern New England Presbytery, and he came before the Presbytery for examination for Licensure and ordination.

At this time Tony Phelps preached a sermon before the Presbytery on Ephesians 2:1

Tony was examined thoroughly in the areas for examination found in BCO 19;2 (Licensure) and in BCO 21:4 (Ordination).

1. **Recommend** that Presbytery approve Tony's examination in Experiential religion, especially personal character and family management. **Adopted**
2. **Recommend** that Presbytery approve Tony’s examination in Greek and Hebrew. (have seminary transcript from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary) **Adopted**
3. **Recommend** that Presbytery approve Tony's examination in Bible content. **Adopted**
4. **Recommend** that Presbytery approve Tony's examination in Theology. **Adopted**
5. **Recommend** that Presbytery approve Tony's examination in The Sacraments. **Adopted**
6. **Recommend** that Presbytery approve Tony's examination in Church History. **Adopted**
7. **Recommend** that Presbytery approve Tony's examination in The History of the Presbyterian Church in America. **Adopted**
8. **Recommend** that Presbytery approve Tony's examination in The Principles and Rules of the Government and Discipline of the Church. **Adopted**
9. **Recommend** that Presbytery approve Tony’s exegesis on 1 Corinthians 11. **Adopted**
10. **Recommend** that Presbytery accept Tony's thesis on the topic of "Clark Pinnock's views." **Adopted**

Tony Phelps expressed one exception to the Westminster Confession of Faith:

In regard to the Sabbath: The nature of the Lord's Day has continuity with the Sabbath. Principal concerns are worship (public and then private) and rest. Some activities (e.g., going for a walk) do not violate but should not trump the priorities of worship and rest.

11. Recommend that Presbytery note these exceptions. **Adopted**

The Call to Tony Phelps has been received, and reads as follows:

**Call to the Office of Associate Pastor of Church Planting**

*Trinity Presbyterian Church*, 12 Thomas St., Providence, RI 02903, being on sufficient grounds well satisfied of the ministerial qualifications of you, **Tony Phelps**, and having good hopes from our knowledge of your labors that your ministrations in the Gospel will be profitable to our spiritual interests, do earnestly call you to undertake the office of **Associate Pastor of Church Planting** in said congregation, promising you, in the discharge of your duty, all proper support, encouragement and obedience in the Lord. That you may be free from worldly cares and avocations, we hereby promise and oblige ourselves to pay you the sum of **$40,000** a year in regular monthly payments, and other benefits, such as, retirement, insurance, vacations, moving expenses etc., during the time of your being and continuing as Associate Pastor of Church Planting at Trinity Presbyterian Church.
In testimony whereof we have respectively subscribed our names this 12th day of January, A.D. 2003.

(Signature on file)  (Signature on file)
Rev. Melvin Sensenig  Rev. Eric Molicki
Pastor  Associate Pastor

(Signature on file)  (Signature on file)
Mr. Walter Mahla  Dr. Daniel DeVries
Ruling Elder  Ruling Elder

(Signature on file)
Mr. James Mignone
Ruling Elder

Attest: I, having moderated the congregational meeting which extended a call to Tony Phelps for his ministerial services, do certify that the call has been made in all respects according to the rules laid down in the Book of Church Order, and that the persons who signed the foregoing call were authorized to do so by vote of the congregation.

(Signature on file)
Rev. Melvin Sensenig
Moderator of the Meeting

12. **Recommend** that Presbytery approve the Call as presented. **Adopted.**

Testimonials Paperwork concerning Tony Phelps have been received from the Session of Trinity Presbyterian Church.

13. **Recommend** that Presbytery approve Tony’s sermon preached at this meeting on Ephesians 2:1 & provided to Leadership Development Team as meeting the requirement of BCO 21:4d and BCO 19:2d **Adopted.**

14. Recommend that Presbytery arrest the examination of Tony Phelps. **Adopted**

15. Recommend that Presbytery approve the examination of Tony Phelps. **Adopted**

16. Recommend that Presbytery License Tony Phelps. **Adopted**

17. Recommend that Presbytery Ordain Tony Phelps. **Adopted**

18. Recommend that Tony Phelps’ internship be approved. **Adopted**

The Moderator asked Tony Phelps the questions for Licensure found in BCO19:3, to which Tony answered in the affirmative.

**RE Clint Donnelly** prayed for Tony Phelps at this time.

19. Recommend that Presbytery erect a Commission to Ordain & Install Tony Phelps at a time to be determined. The Commission shall consist of. TE’s Mel Sensenig, Eric Molicki, Rob Cox and Al LaValley and RE’s Ron Heald, Bill Schultz, Walter Mahla, Jim Mignone & Dan DeVries, with TE Mel Sensenig appointed to be the Convenor. **Adopted**

Stated Clerk will have Tony Phelps sign "Ministerial Obligation" form as per BCO 13:7.

The Moderator read BCO 19:10 to Tony Phelps at this time.
(E) **SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND PRES-WIC**

Pres-WIC has suffered the loss of their top two officers. Kristy Heald and volunteers are holding together the organization and still plan to hold a April luncheon which usually includes the election of officers, and a October retreat tentatively scheduled for October 3-4.

Recommend that the Leadership Development Team report be received in full. **Adopted.**

(13) **Missions Team** - Report was given by RE Bill Schultz, who opened with prayer.

A. **Report of Mission Works:** Re Bill Schultz distributed an update on various mission works.

B. **Report on Youth Retreat**

Preston noted a slight revision on previous action concerning youth retreat policy: **Rec.** to add the words "preliminary budget" to the Youth Retreat Policy Guidelines established at the 8/27 meeting. So it now reads:

There be a called worship service of presbytery on Sunday morning with at least two ruling elders present and an approved preacher, with the service planned by those elders/preacher; that the following deadlines be followed: venue, date and **preliminary budget** should be set a year in advance and approved at the May missions team meeting; the key leader report to the mission team meeting in August of the plans with a brochure ready by the September presbytery meeting; guidelines were given to recommend finding a gifted youth speaker from the denomination. Any suggestions for gifted youth speakers should be forwarded to Mike Ernst.

**Note:** The cost of the Youth Retreat has been raised to $85 per person in order to cover the proposed budget by sub-committee.

Mission team would like to invite local sessions to the Youth Retreat worship service.

C. **Report on Conference:** The mission team held a conference last night on "Being the Missional Church in New England."

D. **Budget Proposal:** Preston presented the budget proposal for 2003 from the Missions Team (as approved in the 2003 budget presented by Treasurer Wayne Blanding. **(See also Treasurers Report)**

**Mission Team Askings:** Mission Team is asking that each church in presbytery fund SNEP Missions through Missions team 1.5% of total church budget in 2003 or the next budget cycle of your particular church (up from 1% in 2002).

**Note:** Allocation of MNA budget will be as follows:

80% for RUF and Church Plants as according to the following formula:

Where "x" = 80% of total MNA budget divided by number of mission works sponsored by Mission team.

80% will be allocated as such:

Each RUF work will get 1X;
Each Church Plant in year one will receive 2X;
Each church plant in year 2 or 3 will receive 1X.

For the year 2003:
Church Plants are: Southern RI and Western Hartford County (year 1); City Life, Springfield,
Brazilian (year 2).
RUF campuses are: Yale, Brown/RISDI, Harvard

20% to Discretionary. (recruitment, strategic conferences, youth retreat, MTW, etc)

Recommend that the Missions Team report be received in full. **Adopted.**

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 5:40 p.m. by TE Steve LaValley.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Heald, Stated Clerk

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**ATTACHMENT “A”**

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND PRESBYTERY

Treasurer’s Budget Report

1 January – 31 December 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category Description</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fund:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian Church of Manchester</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offerings from Presbytery Meetings</td>
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<td>Checking Account Interest</td>
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<td>Total General Fund</td>
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<td>Christ the King Presbyterian Church (Cambridge)</td>
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<td>3,500.04</td>
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<td>Covenant Presbyterian Church (Groton)</td>
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<td>Presbyterian Church of Coventry</td>
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<td>2,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Missions Fund</td>
<td>12,000.00</td>
<td>11,334.03</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>12,350.00</td>
<td>12,254.47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Expenses               |        |        |
| Executive Committee:   |        |        |
| Stated Clerk Stipend   | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 |
Clerk Operating Expenses  400.00  248.86
Travel  500.00  484.86
Insurance  500.00  0.00
Miscellaneous  100.00  0.00
Total Executive Committee  2,700.00  1,933.72

Missions Team
Church Planting (50%)  6,000.00
    Brazilian church Planting  2,337.34
    City Life Pres. Church (Boston)  5,609.58
    Springfield Church Plant  1,402.40
Reformed University Ministries (30%)  3,600.00
    RUM—Brown  1,133.35
    RUM—Harvard  2,053.98
    RUM—Yale  2,053.98
Discretionary (20%)  2,400.00  200.00
Total Missions Team  12,000.00  14,790.63

Shepherding Team  400.00  0.00

Leadership Development Team  0.00  0.00

TOTAL EXPENSES  15,100.00  16,724.35
Note: Unless otherwise designated, all church contributions to the SNEP will be directed to the SNEP Missions Fund. SNEP has asked each church to contribute 1% of its income to the Presbytery.

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND PRESBYTERY
Treasurer’s Cash Flow Year to Date 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Missions Fund</th>
<th>Total Funds on Hand</th>
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<tr>
<td>Balance as of 1/1/2002</td>
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<td>7,365.00</td>
<td>11,285.72</td>
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<td>Income</td>
<td>920.44</td>
<td>11,334.03</td>
<td>12,254.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>1,933.72</td>
<td>14,790.63</td>
<td>16,724.35</td>
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<td>Balance as of 12/31/02</td>
<td>2,907.44</td>
<td>3,908.40</td>
<td>6,815.84</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The $3,908.40 in the missions fund is set aside for discretionary missions expenses. Missions fund expenses reflect distribution of both 2001 and 2002 income.

ATTACHMENT “B”
SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND PRESBYTERY
2003 Budget

Category Description

Income
General Fund:
Offertory from Presbytery Meetings  300.00
Checking Account Interest  50.00
Total General Fund  350.00
Missions Fund Contribution from Churches 12,000.00

TOTAL INCOME 12,350.00

Expenses
Executive Committee:
- Stated Clerk Stipend 1,200.00
- Clerk Operating Expenses 300.00
- Travel 500.00
- Insurance 500.00
- Miscellaneous 100.00
Total Executive Committee 2,600.00

Missions Team
- Western Hartford Church Plant (16%) 1,920.00
- Southern R.I. Church Plant (16%) 1,920.00
- Brazilian Church Plant (8%) 960.00
- City Life Presbyterian Mission (8%) 960.00
- Pioneer Valley Reformed Mission (8%) 960.00
- Harvard RUM (8%) 960.00
- Yale RUM (8%) 960.00
- Brown/RISD RUM (8%) 960.00
- Discretionary (20%) 2,400.00
Total Missions Team 12,000.00

Shepherding Team 100.00
Leadership Development Team 100.00

TOTAL EXPENSES 14,800.00

Note: Presbytery has asked each church to contribute 1.5% of its income to the Presbytery, all of which will be allocated to the Missions Team unless otherwise designated.

ATTACHMENT “C”
Minutes of the Commission of the Southern New England Presbytery to Ordain John Hardie to the Office of Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church in America
November 10, 2002
Christ Presbyterian Church, 135 Whitney Ave, New Haven, CT

The meeting was opened with prayer by RE Graham at 3:45 pm. Members present – TE Preston Graham, RE’s Bogue, Hawkes, Levesque, Phillips and Stark.

MSC: To appoint RE Bogue as clerk for the commission.

MSC: To approve the order of service as presented (see below).

The commission proceeded with the following service of worship and ordination.

A SPECIAL SERVICE
ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

November 10, 2002  4 PM

Prelude & Heart Preparation

Worship through Invocation and Adoration

*Call to Worship: Psalm 84  George Levesque
Pastor: How lovely is thy dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!
People: My soul longs, yea, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.
Pastor: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at thy altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
People: Blessed are those who dwell in thy house, ever singing thy praise!
Pastor: Blessed are the men whose strength is in thee, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
People: As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.
Pastor: They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.
People: O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!
Pastor: Behold our shield, O God; look upon the face of thine anointed!
People: For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
Pastor: For the LORD God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly.
People: O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in thee!
Pastor: Alleluia! Praise the Lord!
People: Praise the Lord! Alleluia!

* Doxology (#733)
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost;
O Praise Him! O Praise Him! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Hymn: I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord  #353

*Invocation and Prayer of Adoration

*Hymn: Be Thou My Vision  #642
Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!
People: Thanks be to God!

Worship through Confession and Absolution

Leader: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
Unison: Lord God, eternal and almighty Father, we confess and acknowledge unreservedly before your holy majesty that we are sinners, conceived and born in iniquity and corruption, prone to do evil, incapable of any good relative to your character, and that in our depravity we transgress your holy commands without end or ceasing, wherefore we purchased for ourselves, through your righteous judgment, our ruin and punishment. Nevertheless, O Lord, we are grieved that we have offended you and we condemn ourselves and our sins with true repentance, asking for your grace to relieve our distress. O God and Father most gracious and full of compassion, have mercy upon us in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. And as you blot out our sins and stains, magnify and increase in us day by day the grace of your Holy Spirit, that as we acknowledge our unrighteousness with all our heart, we may be moved by that sorrow which shall bring forth true repentance in us, putting to death all our sins and producing in us the fruits of righteousness and innocence which are pleasing to you through Jesus Christ. Amen!
(Adapted from John Calvin, Geneva 1542)

Private Confession

Leader: Hear now God's assurance of pardon:
You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.
1Pet. 1:18-19

Songs of Thanksgiving:

Thy Mercy My God Is the Theme of My Song

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song, the joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue. Thy free grace alone from the first to the last hath won my affections and bound my soul fast.

With out thy sweet mercy I could not live here; Sin would reduce me to utter despair; but through thy free goodness my spirits revive and he that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart which wonders to feel its own hardness depart; dissolved by thy goodness I fall to the ground and weep for the praise of the mercy I've found.

Thy father of mercies thy goodness I own and the covenant love of thy crucified son; all praise to the spirit whose whisper divine
seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine!

Hymn: Amazing Grace                   #461

Worship through Word

New Testament Reading: 1Timothy 3:1

Ordination To the Ministry of The Gospel


Questions to Pastor
1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
2. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will on your own initiative, make known to your Presbytery the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?
3. Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the general principles of Biblical polity?
4. Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?
5. Have you been induced, as far as you know your own heart, to seek the office of the holy ministry from love to God and a sincere desire to promote His glory in the Gospel of His Son?
6. Do you promise to be zealous and faithful in maintaining the truths of the Gospel and the purity and peace of the Church, whatever persecution or opposition may arise unto you on that account?
7. Do you engage to be faithful and diligent in the exercise of all your duties as a Christian and a minister of the Gospel, whether personal or relational, private or public; and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your manner of life, and to walk with exemplary piety before the flock of which God shall make you overseer?

Questions to Members
1. Do you, the people of this congregation, continue to profess your readiness to receive John Hardie whom you have called to be your assistant pastor?
2. Do you promise to receive the word of truth from his mouth with meekness and love?
3. Do you promise to encourage him in his labors, and to assist his endeavors for your instruction and spiritual edification?
4. Do you engage to continue to him while he is your assistant pastor that competent worldly maintenance which you have promised, and to furnish him with whatever you may see needful for the honor of religion and for his comfort among you?

Laying on of Hands
Prayer              Clifford  Bogue
Extension of Right Hand of Fellowship
Pronunciation of Ordination and Installation Rev. Preston Graham, Jr.
Charge to Pastor Rick Stark
Charge to Congregation Allen Phillips

*Closing Hymn: The Church's One Foundation #347

Prayer of Thanksgiving Rev. Preston Graham, Jr.

*Gloria Patri (# 735)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen!

*Benediction and "Amen" Rev. John Hardie
Leader: Now may the Lord bless you according to the riches of his glory and
strengthen you with the power of his Spirit that you may be filled with all
the fulness of God in Christ. Amen. Eph. 3:16
People: Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!

MSC: To note that all vows were answered in the affirmative.
MSC: To approve the minutes of this commission.
MSC: To adjourn the meeting of the commission.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer RE Levesque at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Clifford W. Bogue, M.D.
Clerk