

Moderators Report

Presbytery of Boston Council

March 9, 2024

- Council approved to move forward with the Locally Situated Action Team (LSAT), partnering with PMA to form a team that would assess the leadership and organizational structure of Boston Presbytery to right-size for the actual scale and scope of the presbytery's need and the needed training; support, center, build relationships with, and equip new worshipping communities, other immigrant communities and their leaders; and to begin a longer-term discernment processes regarding the future of Boston Presbytery in consultation with neighboring presbyteries. Members are being identified to serve on the LSAT with Trina Portillo.
- Council approved to reimburse an Inquirer for course tuition costs using the Robie Fund.
- Council approved to allocate the March Stated Meeting worship offering to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Presbyterian Church in Springfield, MA Rebuilding Fund in support of rebuilding the church building from a 2020 racially motivated arson fire; and New England Glow as an early launch to Pentecost offering within PoB in support of youth ministries.
- Council voted, upon recommendation of Trustees, to authorize that Presbytery of Boston serve as fiscal agent for the John Gloucester Memorial Presbyterian Church Scholarship Fund; establish a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fund Trustees for distribution of the scholarship funds while PoB invests the funds for the short-term according to PoB policies; and PoB update the Presbytery website on availability of the scholarship once announced by Fund Trustees; and with the appointment of Teaching Elder Kenneth Grant as a 'Trustee ad interim' for the John Gloucester Memorial Presbyterian Church Scholarship Fund by the Board of Trustees of the Presbytery, according to its procedures. These actions reestablish the relationship between the John Gloucester Memorial Presbyterian Church Scholarship Fund and PoB.
- Council approved a draft of the contract for a Locally Situated Action Team (LSAT) from the Presbyterian Mission Agency to explore the future of the presbytery, presbytery leadership and organizational design for ministry, and are in relationship with neighboring presbyteries. The LSAT, including members of the PoB, will advise PoB on equipping leaders and an organizational structure to support presbytery-level ministry; further building relationships with and equip new worshipping communities, other immigrant communities and their leaders; and beginning a discernment process regarding the future of Boston Presbytery in consultation with neighboring presbyteries. Council is now working to identify members for the LSAT working group.

Council Updates

- Moderator has spoken with Synod of NE Moderator Lisa Baker about how PSNE, PNNE and PoB might provide a coordinated donation in support of the Massachusetts Council of Churches. Councils of Churches may apply for a grant from SNE; this giving would be in addition to any such submission and be an opportunity for collaboration and building relationships.
- Council has formed a Search Committee for the Transitional Presbyter position funded by the Synod of the NE grant. Current members of the Search Committee include Personnel Chair Beverly Shank, Stephen Rose, Sang Kang (RE KCB), Vice-moderator Ben Black and Moderator Ivy Jones Turner, and met Thursday March 9 to begin crafting a job description. We would like to

have at least one member with experience serving in an interim role on the search team. Please let Ivy or Beverly know if you have any suggestions of individuals.

- The Council discussed strategies to financially support NE Glow, a collaboration of PoB and PNNE, offering youth ministry and fellowship (<https://newenglandglow.org>; <https://www.facebook.com/NewEnglandGlow>). Council discussed presbytery-wide participation in the PCUSA Pentecost Offering to nurture young people and the development and sharing of their faith, with 40% of funds remaining within the local congregation. Council invites congregations to partner with us using these local funds to support NE Glow. Resources for the 2024 Pentecost Offering at: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/resource/2024-po-m4m-i-am-coming-to-you/>