

**Presbytery of Boston
Council
October 19, 2023
Draft Minutes**

Present: Kathy Barnes, Katie Cole, John Sweet, Trina Portillo, Lisa Carlin (Treasurer), Ivy Jones Turner (Acting Moderator), Kate Carlisle (Stated Clerk)

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Presbytery of Boston was called to order on Zoom on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 7:03 pm, with prayer by the Acting Moderator, Ivy Jones Turner. A quorum was electronically present.

An item of new business was proposed, Council **approved** the agenda without objection.

Approval of minutes

Motion made, seconded and **approved** to sustain the August 17 Council minutes.

Personnel Report

Meagan reported. The personnel committee wants to recommend that we ask Jen Slater to form an advisory board to provide support in seeking funding and other support; this will be addressed later in the meeting.

Personnel meetings have been doing check-ins with staff, and the joint personnel team with PSNE recently met with Kate. Meagan updated Council on Donnie Dick's return from leave and other matters related to his position, including new tracking and reporting mechanisms.

Meeting with Corey Schlosser-Hall

Corey Schlosser-Hall, Deputy Executive for Vision & Innovation at the Presbyterian Mission Agency, joined the Zoom and introduced two main areas for our discussion: seeking mutual understanding and clarifying details around the LSAT focus areas shared after our last meeting, and identifying one or two Council members to work with Corey on a draft covenant.

Council and Corey discussed the four areas of potential LSAT work:

- supporting, centering, building relationships with, and equipping our NWCs and other immigrant communities
- ministry with youth and young adults, including New England GLOW and a potential YAV regional reinvention
- identifying, training, equipping more leaders and volunteers for presbytery work and increasing both enthusiasm and bandwidth
- putting longer-term discernment processes into place, including potentially calling a transitional presbyter with synod grant money, and seeking collaboration with the other Presbyteries in New England.

CPM Report

Drew was not present, but sent a written report. Drew provided an update from recent ordination exams. There are two new Inquirers under care of CPM.

Treasurer's Report

Lisa reported. A Profit and Loss statement is now available and will be distributed to Council. She is asking for budget information from everyone between Nov. 1-Nov. 3.

Trustees Report

Lisa reported. Ken sent a written report.

The prior New England GLOW funds have been depleted. Expenses for the final quarter will be paid by Presbytery of Boston. Contributions from PNNE and PSNE would be very helpful. Ben Chicka has been helping to provide information sent earlier in the year to congregations regarding per capita.

Council **approved** the following **motion** from the Trustees, with enthusiastic thanks to all parties: Whereas Ruling Elder Ken Dewar and Ruling Elder Lisa Carlin have worked together to transition access and responsibilities to the new Treasurer; and

Whereas Elder Dewar has provided Interim Treasurer services starting in March and ending as of September 30, 2023; therefore:

1. The Trustees of the Presbytery ask the Council to thank Elder Dewar for his excellent and timely service; and
2. Authorize the Treasurer if the way be clear to disburse to Elder Dewar a stipend of \$333.33 per month starting March 1 and ending September 30.

Whereas First Presbyterian Church, Quincy, is providing services as the Point of Entry for the Presbytery's Treasury Services; therefore

1. The Trustees of the Presbytery ask the Council to thank the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Quincy, its pastor, the Teaching Elder Drew Hanson and office administrator, Karen Keenan for their support; and
2. Authorize the Treasurer if the way be clear to disburse to First Presbyterian Church, Quincy, a stipend of \$200 per month starting March 1, 2023.

Whereas Ruling Elder Lisa Carlin has been elected Treasurer of the Presbytery; therefore:

1. The Trustees of the Presbytery ask the Council to thank Elder Carlin for guiding the Presbytery as it established a new model for treasury services; and
2. Authorize the Treasurer if the way be clear to disburse a stipend of \$333.3 per month for her work as Treasurer starting March 1, 2023; further

The above actions shall correct and supersede actions taken at the March Council meeting.

Council **approved** the following **motion** from the Trustees:

Whereas, Elizabeth Pultz has established a fund in the Presbytery's Endowment for the purpose of encouraging continuing education for Teaching Elders; and

Whereas, the Rev. Tom Reid has participated in the Early Ministry Institute earlier this year, a program that meets the stipulations of the Elizabeth Pultz fund; therefore

The Council to authorizes the Treasurer to disburse to the Rev. Tom Reid \$125 from the Elizabeth Pultz fund for costs incurred in his participation in the 2023

Early Ministry Institute.

COR Report

Kathy reported. She shared about the upcoming Presbytery Organizing Day this coming Saturday at Newton Presbyterian, in hopes of equipping and energizing leaders. About 22 have registered.

Kathy raised the need for an administrative manual. A task force exists but its work was paused by the pandemic and Presbytery staff turnovers. Council discussed the possibility of assembling a working manual that describes and guides our work as it exists, without using more of Council's extremely limited bandwidth to work on a perfectly exhaustive document.

Motion made, seconded, and **approved:** That every committee submit a description of how their committee works. Kate will create a Google folder for gathering documents from the task force and prior clerks as well as committee submissions.

Committees and other groups should work towards submitting information by January.

COM Report

John reported.

COM met with a CRE and mentor at the October meeting, and is meeting with the other CRE in November. Both will be recommissioned at the December meeting. COM welcomed an HR member to the Presbytery.

Council discussed ways that information about new members of Presbytery can be relayed to Nominating and COR.

Nominating Committee

Katie Cole reported.

Nominating is working to fill numerous open positions, and will circulate info about GA nominations.

Acting Moderator's Report

Ivy discussed issues of how we find support for the Presbytery for the work that needs to be done. We submitted the synod grant proposal for the transitional presbyter role; we are awaiting a response. We need to continue conversations about seeking funding for solar work and roof repair at Needham, including but not limited to the synod innovation grant, which doesn't have a deadline until the spring. A plan including both a project manager and full roof repair is beyond the original anticipated funding needs. We will also be considering loan possibilities.

The PC(USA) Moderator Conference is November 9-11 in Louisville, with both in-person and virtual options. Ivy is attending in person, and Ben is attending online. This is a Presbytery expense that wasn't budgeted; we will need to clarify which funds are best for this use.

Ivy updated Council on the effort to pull together a Budget Planning Team for 2024, and has reached out to committee chairs to ask for any people interested in joining. The Budget Team will aim to bring drafts to the Nov 6 Trustees and November 16 Council meetings, in advance of the December Presbytery meeting.

Ivy and Kate have discussed sending a letter to the Presbytery regarding the ongoing violence in Israel and Palestine. Rather than writing something new the plan is to share statements from PC(USA) and ecumenical/interfaith signatories, especially since we don't have Presbytery leader in place. We may also share some of these links on the website.

Council discussed the format of the December meeting - whether to have an in person, hybrid, or Zoom meeting. We discussed various ways of holding Presbytery meetings next year, including the benefits and drawbacks of each. Accessibility remains a priority. Finding opportunities for in-person fellowship, whether at Presbytery meetings or other Presbytery events, is also very important. Council noted that multiple churches have hybrid capabilities, including HSPC, Clinton, Church of the Covenant.

Motion made, seconded, and **approved** to hold the December 14 Presbytery meeting fully on Zoom.

Council will discuss the format of 2024 Presbytery meetings next month.

Clerk's Report

The work group supporting the solar project and Primera Iglesia's stewardship of the Needham building should plan to meet a couple of times in the near future. The team to brainstorm possible funding for NWC grants needs to meet as well.

Motion made, seconded, and **approved** to adopt the Revised Corporate Resolution concerning financial transactions as distributed to Council, and to give the Stated Clerk, Treasurer, and President of Trustees permission to add a Presbytery address to the document as needed.

If there are items for Presbytery *consideration* or *action* at the December 14 meeting, please let Kate know no later than **Monday, November 12**. Written reports and other materials for the Presbytery packet should be to Ben Chicka and Kate no later than **Wednesday, November 29**.

The Shekinah Task Force met on September 26. The task force information and suggested next steps, to Council over the fall, and to Presbytery in December.

The Anti-Racism Task Force met on September 26 and October 17. The task force is also organizing two Zoom gatherings next week called "Pastor's Pause" for prayer and holding space for pastors and other teaching elders, primarily in response to the war in Israel/Palestine.

Kate distributed a 2024 proposed calendar for Presbytery meetings to Council but, due to lack of time at this meeting, will be discussed in November. Kate hopes to begin some conversation on how we structure business at Presbytery meetings, and to shape our docket differently over the coming year, so that we use our business time intentionally and make room for fellowship, worship, formation, mission, etc in the life of the Presbytery.

A date for Session minutes review will be announced to Clerks next week.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

In November, need to consider options for more collaborative funding for GLOW, as well as recruiting members for a GLOW council/support team. There is enthusiastic consensus that Jen Slater's work and the ministry happening through GLOW have been a wonderful addition to the Presbytery's ministry.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn **approved** without objection. Ivy closed the meeting with prayer at 9:38 pm.

The next regular Council meeting is November 16.

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery is December 14.