



## Presbytery of Boston Council Minutes

April 23, 2020

### Attendance:

Voting: Jane Wilson, Katie Cole, Mark Wells, Ivy Turner, Kristin Rinehimer, Sarah Hathaway, Suyoung Kim, David Dorer, Thatcher Freeborn

Non-Voting: Cindy Kohlmann, T. J. DeMarco, Andrew Parmelee

### Convene

This meeting was convened electronically via Zoom and opened with prayer. The chair opened the meeting with prayer and declared that a quorum was present. The council approved the minutes from its meeting held on March 26, 2020.

### Treasurer

Andrew Parmelee

Financial Reports: The treasurer submitted financial reports to the council for the end of March 2020. The treasurer noted that two congregations paid their per capita for 2019, although it came in 2020. The income will be moved from the 2020 to the 2019 column.

### Budget Task Force

Ivy Turner

The chair highlighted two items. First, the COVID 19 crisis interrupted the timeline for the budget task force.

She presented proposed dates for conversations with congregations. The Budget Task force will send these dates out to congregations. Another item that would be helpful would be to have members of council present for these gatherings. These meetings will allow for members from multiple churches to attend, given that we are not currently able to meet in person.

The budget task force will also be contacting committee chairs asking them to complete the “Area of Activity” worksheet. The chair expects the draft budget for 2021 to be completed in June.

## Moderator

David Dorer

COVID-19 Guidelines: The council reviewed the proposed guidelines for the COVID-19 grants. The moderator asked that the clerk include in the minutes that applicants should indicate if they are receiving funds from other sources.

The council **approved** the guidelines submitted by the moderator, which were created by an ad-hoc group convened by the moderator.

Council, or a sub-committee of council, will receive and approve grant requests that will then be referred to the Presbytery trustees for review to ensure that requests match the guidelines of the disbursed funds.

## Stated Clerk

T. J. DeMarco

The council approved the following charge for a sub-committee of three members, Katie Cole, Cindy Kohlmann, Andrew Parmelee of council with the following charge:

1. Consider grant requests related to COVID-19 emergencies. The sub-committee is dissolved effective on December 31, 2020 but may be extended by a vote of council. Grants must comply with the existing guidelines of these funds.
2. The grants that this group may approve are to support needs of congregations relative to the COVID 19 pandemic.
3. The total amount that this sub-committee is allowed to approve is: \$3,000. Larger sums must be approved by the council.
4. The sub-committee may not approve more than one grant per congregation.
5. Approval of a grant requires a vote of approval from 2 of the 3 members.
6. The sub-committee may deliberate and vote electronically.
7. All actions must be submitted to the council and the Presbytery trustees through the Stated Clerk and the chair of the Board of Trustees.

## Resource Presbyter

Cindy Kohlmann

The Resource Presbyter submitted a draft letter to the council for congregations to review as they consider re-opening. She will provide opportunities for members of congregations and pastors from the Presbytery to have conversation about this.

## Committee on Ministry

Jane Wilson

COM made edits to the Pastor Emergency Fund application and submitted to COM for approval. The council **approved** of the new guidelines.

## Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Kristin Rinehimer

The chair reported that this is ordination week and that three individuals under care of the Presbytery of Boston are taking exams.

## Committee on Mission and Congregations

Katie Cole

The chair has been in conversation Community Purchasing Alliance who may be able to help congregations purchase goods and services at lower rates.

## Trustees

Thatcher Freeborn/Sarah Hathaway

The Trustees met this week. They continue to plan for the Needham congregation in planning for the closing date of that congregation. There have been few requests for resources. The trustees will remain accessible to congregations as well as the new council sub-committee charged with approving grant requests.

The treasurer has applied for a government PPP loan for the Presbytery. He expects the application to be submitted to the SBA.

The council **voted** to apply for the PPP loan for roughly \$35,000. This is a loan that is forgivable if certain requirements are met.

## Nominating

Sarah Hathaway

There is a need for co-chairs for COM for 2021.

## New Business

The chair of the Board of Trustees agreed to serve as a resource person for members of the Presbytery who have had difficulty accessing the Payroll Protection Program.

## Adjourn with Prayer

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 9:00 PM.