Presbytery of Boston Council Minutes

19 May 2022

Present: Kathy Barnes, Rev. Drew Hanson, Ivy Jones, Rev. Trina Portillo, Rev. Jane Wilson, Jill Auger

Non-voting Member: Rev. T.J DeMarco.

Guest: Rev. Ben Black.

The meeting was called to order at 7:09. The Moderator, Rev. Trina Portillo, declared a quorum was present. Rev. Portillo led the body in prayer.

A motion to accept the minutes from the 20 April 2022 meeting of council was made, seconded, and approved.

**Treasurer’s Report**: The Treasurer, Rev. Andy Parmelee, was absent. He submitted financial reports. The Moderator noted on his behalf that our investments were down given the recent volatility of the markets.

**Report from the Administrative Commission for United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville:** Rev. Ben Black provided a letter to the Council and gave a verbal report on behalf of the Administrative Commission.

A motion to recommend to the presbytery that the Administrative Commission be dissolved with gratitude for their work with the United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville was made, seconded, and approved.

**Stated Clerk’s Report**: Rev. T.J. DeMarco, the presbytery’s stated clerk, reported that the Pilgrim Presbyterian Church of Beverly voted at a congregational meeting to request that the Presbytery of Boston dissolve their congregation.

A motion to recommend to the presbytery that the Pilgrim Presbyterian Church of Beverly be dissolved as a PC(USA) congregation was made, seconded, and approved.

**Moderator:** Rev. Trina Portillo provided an update on the Peacemaking program. The Rev. Nta from Camaroon will be able to come to the U.S. this fall. We have no specific dates, but do know that the peacemakers from outside the U.S. will be visiting during 16 September-6 October, 2022. It was suggested that the PoB work with PSNE in hosting Rev. Nta. Trina welcomes any others in PoB who want to work as part of the host committee.

A motion to contribute $1000 from the presbytery to the Mission at the Eastward (MATE) was made, seconded, and approved. MATE has a new director and is currently working towards a three-to-one challenge in the fundraising.

The Council agreed that our Moderator would send a letter to the presbytery responded to the recent mass shooting in Buffalo, NY and the attack by a gunman at the Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church which led to the death of Dr. John Cheng and the wounding of five others. Council expressed it’s support of the Taiwanese Presbyterian Church of Greater Boston and the impact this attack in California has had on its members.

The Council also expressed its sympathy and support for the family of Shelby Dickinson who died suddenly. Shelby is the daughter of Scott and Jennifer Dickinson and the Clinton Presbyterian Church. Our Moderator will offer a letter in support of Shelby’s family.

A motion to contribute $200 on behalf of the PoB to the GoFundMe account that has been established to assist Shelby’s husband Jeremy Vermilyea and their two young daughters was made, seconded, and approved.

**COR:** Kathy Barnes reported it has collected data from all PoB churches and will begin seeking information from pastors who are members of the Presbytery of Boston.

**COM:**  Jill Auger reported that COM is working on a family leave policy that will be submitted for approval by the presbytery later this year. Also COM is updating guidelines for pastoral transitions.

**CPM:** No report.

**Trustees:** No report.

**Nominating:** No report.

**Personnel:** No report.

**Old Business:** A motion to grant the United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville $3000 to assist with funding for mediation training was made, seconded, and approved. The grant request came to Council during it’s April 2022 meeting. Council requests follow-up reports from the church one and six months following the training.

**New Business:** Rev. DeMarco reported that registrations for the Pentecost event have been very low from both PoB and PSNE. Council asked Rev. DeMarco to be in touch with the PSNE exec. and recommend the next steps for this event.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn with prayer at 8:43.

Council will next meet on 16 June 2022 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Wilson