

**Presbytery of Boston
Council
January 18, 2024
Draft Minutes**

Present: Kathy Barnes, Katie Cole, Drew Hanson, Ken Grant, Beverly Shank, John Sweet, Lisa Carlin (Treasurer), Ivy Jones Turner (Moderator), Ben Black (Vice 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, January 18, 2024, at 7:03 pm, with prayer by Moderator Ivy Jones Turner.

A quorum was electronically present.

Council **approved** the agenda without objection.

Approval of minutes

Council **approved** its minutes from the regular meeting on November 16, 2023 and the special meeting on December 4, 2023.

Stated Clerk's report

Kate reported, and a written report has been distributed. Kate met with Erin Hogan and Christian Calawa, who are leaders of Kindred, a New Worshiping Community in Cambridge affiliated with Peace House at HDS. The Kindred leaders have connections with NWC leadership at the PMA level but are seeking more involvement and connection with Presbytery. Kate also met with Rev. Paulo Lima and two of the leaders at Shekinah Brockton/Abington.

Kathy asked about the possibility of an overture or other ways of seeking change regarding the "racial ethnic" categories listed in annual statistics. Kathy will reach out to OGA to learn more.

Personnel Report

Beverly reported. A written report has been shared. Annual staff evaluations are being planned.

Treasurer's Report

Lisa reported. A 2023 Statement of Activity and a Needham breakout have been distributed; these are almost final as January 15 was the deadline for 2023 transactions. We are moving into 2024 with a clean slate and with things in good shape in the new Quickbooks setup. Some of our Balanced Bookkeeping staff contacts have changed; all is going well with that.

Lisa is going to take the lead in sending out per capita information to congregations this year. There will be options for people to return their per capita forms electronically as well as on paper.

Trustees Report

Ken reported, and a written report has been distributed. The endowment balance at the end of the year was about \$1.8 million including Trustee reserves; return on endowment last year just over 8% (11.9% on NCTC), which is ahead of inflation for the year.

Trustees have been involved in a discussion about the John Gloucester Memorial Scholarship fund, and Ken has a meeting on January 26.

Trustees has reviewed the inspection of property conditions at the Needham building, including substantial immediate repair needs. There is a pool of approximately \$76,000. There is a large gap between Primera Iglesia's available funds and the overall deferred maintenance situation. Trustees has narrowed its focus on capital expenditures to repair of the flat roof and gutters, to keep water from basement, and to repair the heating system hydronics.

Additional parties not involved in the management of funds are needed to participate in the financial review.

CPM Report

Drew reported. He has spoken with Ken about the possibility of financial assistance available to an Inquirer for necessary coursework. Drew will be on sabbatical this summer.

COR Report

Kathy reported. She has reached out to all clerks and Sessions, and clerks are in the process of submitting annual statistics to OGA.

COM Report

COM did not meet in January and has nothing to report this month.

Nominating Committee

Katie reported. Nominating is continuing to work to fill the many remaining open slots. The committee has had significant turnover and Katie is beginning to train a new co-chair.

We might consider a Presbytery-wide relational meeting campaign, perhaps from March through June.

LSAT Planning Team

Trina Portillo joined the meeting to offer an update on the LSAT conversations she and Katie Cole have been having with Corey Schlosser-Hall. To move forward, Council needs to vote yes on the draft covenant and appoint a team of at least three folks to work on the LSAT.

The main foci are:

- Identify, train, equip leaders and volunteers for presbytery-level ministry and assess the leadership and organizational structure of Boston Presbytery to right-size for the actual scale and scope of the presbytery's need. This assessment will include attention to providing stable leadership for shared youth and young adult ministry such as GLOW.
- Support, center, build relationships with, and equip new worshipping communities, other immigrant communities and their leaders.

- Establish and commence longer-term discernment processes regarding the future of Boston Presbytery in consultation with neighboring presbyteries.

We are looking at about a six month timeline to get the process started, at which point we will re-evaluate and set goals and timeline moving forward.

Trina is no longer on Council, but is willing to serve on this team as the point person. Council discussed potential other people to invite to serve on this team.

Motion approved by Council to partner with PMA to form and move forward with the LSAT.

Moderator's Report

Ivy is working to connect with Synod moderator, Lisa Baker, for a conversation about a coordinated effort to support Mass Council of Churches

Beverly and Ivy have begun identifying potential members for the Transitional Presbyterian search team. Members of that search team would be part of a work group as the new presbyter comes on board.

Ivy is continuing conversations with Glow's Jen Slater and Trina Portillo to consider how to organize an advisory committee that would lead or support participation and fundraising.

New Business

No old or new business.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn **approved** without objection. Katie closed the meeting with prayer at 9:00 pm.

The next regular Council meeting is February 22.

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery is March 9.