

Presbytery of Boston
Council
November 16, 2023
Draft Minutes

Present: Kathy Barnes, Katie Cole, John Sweet, Drew Hanson, Ken Grant, Meagan Manas, 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, November 16, 2023, at 7:03 pm, with prayer by the Acting Moderator, Ivy Jones Turner. Council members shared some words of gratitude. A quorum was electronically present.

Because there are a number of items to handle before the end of the year, we anticipate calling a special Council meeting in the coming weeks for any agenda items we don't have time to cover in detail tonight, particularly related to Trustees and financial matters.

Council **approved** the agenda as amended.

Approval of minutes

Council **approved** the October 19 Council minutes.

Stated Clerk's report

Kate reported. They have distributed a written report with several items including a proposed 2024 Presbytery calendar and the proposed December 14, 2023 Presbytery docket.

One or two volunteers are needed to work with Kate on an anti-harassment policy, to bring to Council in February for discussion and to Presbytery in March for a first reading.

Kate is working with Shannan Vance-Ocampo and the PoB COM to schedule boundary training, offered jointly with PSNE, in early 2024. The most likely dates are January 21 or 28; more details will be available by the December meeting.

There will be a Session minutes review gathering via Zoom on November 30, and other options for clerks who can't make that meeting in December and/or the new year. We will have an in-person gathering of Session clerks

in early 2024. This will include some guidance on the policies Sessions need to be implementing as well as time for fellowship, and minutes review as needed.

The Presbytery email system is now on Google for nonprofit, many thanks to Jody and Ben!

Kate distributed a list of items for committee chairs to be gathering by the end of January, as we move toward the administrative manual update.

Motion made, seconded, and **approved** to ask Presbytery to approve the following suggested calendar of Stated Meetings for 2024:

- Saturday, March 9, 10am
- Thursday, September 19, 7pm
- Thursday, December 12, 7pm - including celebration of the Lord's Supper

Locations for these meetings are to be announced, but Council tentatively plans to hold the March meeting in person, the September meeting in a hybrid format, and the December meeting on Zoom only.

Council **approved** additional 2024 calendar items without objection:

- We will hold an in-person all-Presbytery gathering on Saturday, June 15, and will hold spots on the calendar for a called Presbytery meeting, if necessary business arises, on Thursday, June 13, or following the gathering on June 15.
- Council's schedule of meetings, on Zoom but with locations and dates subject to change:
 - January 18
 - February 22
 - April 25
 - May 16
 - June 20 (if needed)
 - August 22
 - October 17
 - November 21

Council also discussed the proposed agenda for the December Presbytery meeting.

Personnel Report

Meagan reported on year-end staff matters.

Treasurer's Report

Lisa reported. Most of the budget matters will be taken up at the called Council meeting. Current progress is looking good. We have purchased a gift to share our thanks with Ken Dewar.

Trustees Report

Ken has distributed a written report.

Tobin Beaudet is moving forward with the fence, and we are close to moving forward with next steps with Primera Iglesia.

CPM Report

Drew reported, including an update on a Candidate's internship.

COR Report

Kathy reported. The Organizing Day offered in collaboration with Nominating was a great success. COR will be working to support congregations in putting together annual statistics reports for OGA.

COM Report

John reported. COM has met with both of PoB's CREs this fall to review their commissions. Presbytery will vote on approval of this review in December. COM is also working on 2024 Minimum Compensation Standards to bring to Presbytery next month.

Nominating Committee

Katie reported. There is still an open seat on Nominating for a partial term, and Council is the body that nominates members to Nom Com. Some potential names for open spots were discussed.

Acting Moderator's Report

On November 7, we received notice of the approval of a \$40,000 Presbytery Support Grant from the Synod. We are committed to providing \$10,000/year for up to three years, should the grant be renewed for the full potential length. The first report is due July 1, 2024.

November 9-11 was the PC(USA) Moderator's Conference. Ivy attended in person and Ben attended the online option. OGA is asking moderators to highlight the process of identifying GA commissioners and the upcoming Matthew 25 conference in January.

Going into 2024, we will focus on building capacity and offering support to congregations and other ministries of the Presbytery.

Katie and Trina agreed to meet with Corey and work on a covenant for the Boston Action Team. The draft is in process and will be available for Council review soon.

Old Business

Katie, Drew, Ken, and Kate met today to discuss possibilities for identifying and/or raising the matching funds for the New Worshipping Communities Investment grant of \$30,000 received by the Chinese Christian Fellowship. The original grant proposal anticipated 2/3 of the matching funds would come from the Synod, but no additional Synod funding is available for CCF at this time. Similar funding issues also exist with the anticipated funding needs for GLOW, Shekinah, and the transitional Presbyter position. We see four general areas for this funding: gifts from individual donors, gifts from Sessions, offerings at Presbytery gatherings, and endowment funds. Ken is distributing a written report with more details of our discussion for Council's information before we consider this in more detail.

We will seek to strengthen the relational and community-building work that is an important priority for the Presbytery, for these and other purposes. This will include asking congregations to consider contributing directly to these specific ministries.

New Business

Council called a **special meeting for Monday December 4, 7pm**, to discuss the 2024 budget, other Trustees business, and items related to the Needham building transition.

Ivy offered an update on GLOW funding, but we will discuss it in more detail at the December called meeting. Council is very enthusiastic about GLOW and committed to building more robust support for the structure and funding of GLOW's work.

Adjournment

As part of our work of strengthening how we shape our meetings and do our work together, Katie led us in an evaluation. Motion to **adjourn** approved without objection. Katie closed the meeting with prayer at 9:00 pm.

The next called Council meeting is December 4. The next stated Council meeting is January 18.

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery is December 14.