

**Presbytery of Boston
Council
April 13, 2023**

Draft Minutes.

Present: (PFR), Meagan Manas, Ken Grant, Kathy Barnes, Kate Carlisle, Drew Hanson, Ivy Jones Turner, Lisa Carlin (Treasurer), Trina Portillo, SuYoung Kim, John Sweet.

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Presbytery of Boston was called to order on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 7:05 pm, with prayer by the Moderator, Kate Carlisle.

A quorum was electronically present.

The Council **VOTED** to approve the distributed Minutes of February 16, March 1, March 15 February, and March.

The Council **VOTED** to approve the distributed Agenda for this meeting.

Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk gave a brief report of various activities

Moderator

Kate reported that they presided at the ordination of Maeve Hammond to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on March 26.

Personnel

Meagan reported. There are several applicants for the joint Stated Clerk position with SNE. The committee is also working with Ben on clarification of a website issue. The main concern for the committee is coming up with a leadership plan; what do we want? What would be really cool to have? What can we afford? Personnel has worked on developing a Transitional Leader plan. There is a synod grant available that we could develop an application for. Someone with interim/transitional training and experience would be good. Perhaps we could reach out to Shannan and Scott to gauge their interest in working together more, possibly towards merger. Trina, Kate, and Ivy can work on this.

Treasurer

Lisa reported. She is now on all the bank accounts and trying to get on-line access. There was trouble with 2 accounts that were mis-titled; the solution was to open new

accounts and close the old ones. The Bookkeeper search is progressing; there are 3 proposals that have been received from services. Karen at First Quincy is handling deposits.

Trustees

Ken reported. The Council **VOTED** to approve a revised corporate resolution, giving authority to officers to open and close accounts, and enter into contracts.

He also gave an update on the Needham church building, and Tobin school lease. We are almost ready to sign.

The Council **VOTED** to authorize the Trustees to spend \$500 from the operating budget for a printer/scanner, to be delivered to Karen Keenan at Quincy First. A note of appreciation will be sent to those who made in-kind donations.

The Council **VOTED** to approved a motion to welcome Karen to the position of Administrator, asking the Personnel Committee to conduct an annual review, with a stipend \$2400/year beginning March 9, 2023. The Trustees have been working on the beginning of a job description.

The Council **VOTED** to welcome Lisa to the position of Treasurer, asking Personnel to develop a position description, including annual review, with a stipend of \$4000 per year, starting March 9, 2023.

Ken Dewar should be compensated for his work doing transitional Treasurer work, by taking the \$4K annual stipend and dividing it according to the time he spent. He is not doing what the Treasurer did, but in other ways he is doing more. The Council **VOTED** to compensate him for the first quarter of 2023, which comes to \$1K, and to give him a gift card for a favorite local restaurant.

Ken asked for prayers for the implementation of the Needham Task Force report.

CPM

Drew reported. They have a candidate who is also interested in the CP(CRE) process. We want to make sure their educational requirements match what the church (Roxbury) requires. He has fulfilled his requirements for ordination except for CPE, a polity course, and a couple of ordination exams. He will stay in the ordination process. There was a discussion of developing a CP(CRE) policy and giving CPM the authority to act on behalf of the presbytery in this regard. Perhaps a pause until we develop a policy and process.

COR

Kathy reported. They have collected year-end data from most of the churches. Several did not submit. They will work with Nominating with this information to encourage more attention to taking representation issues into account in the presbytery.

COM

John reported. COM has just met, and re: Samuel they discussed the several things COM should have done about his covenant. They addressed those 2 delinquent issues: term and Mentor. The term will be 6 months and Amy Fowler will serve as Mentor with him, with a start date of May 1, 2023. We originally wanted to have a Special Meeting to basically redo correcting the action taken in March. But Samuel felt attacked and put upon by the prospect of a second exam. John has been in conversation with Patricia the clerk at Primera, to clarify that this is about correction of some errors on the part of COM. But we have not heard back from Samuel. We are now assuming he will be willing to serve, but we don't know for sure. There were concerns about insensitivity towards a community-of-color in the presbytery. So basically we're not where we thought we were a month ago. There were also segments of the statement of faith that came across as homophobic and transphobic; so the feeling of being attacked was not one-sided. John recognized that we are a big tent denomination and conservatives are included. CPM has approved the term and mentor and start date. What we don't know is whether Samuel is willing to stay in this process. We will need to explain why a Special Meeting of the Presbytery wasn't called for next week. If and when Sam is to be commissioned the Council needs to have a strong presence at the service. It is important to maintain community in the midst of this.

The presbytery remains committed to handing the Needham property over to PI and moving forward with the solar project on the building. We are probably looking at needing to come back to the presbytery for a borrowing authorization of up to \$400K, drawing 100K off of our reserves. The presbytery does not have the bandwidth to do this on our own. We will have to hire someone, which will be another \$100K for a project manager.

Old Business

- Kate: a Presbyterian Mission Agency locally situated action team is a possibility. Trina is willing to be part of the conversation about what it might look like; but we need to know more about what is required from us. How would it help us? Katie Cole would be great at this.

New Business

- Should we have a June/summer presbytery gathering? Pre-pandemic we were scheduling connectional gatherings in the summer months; we tried to revive it last year but it didn't work out. Maybe this year it might take off? Can we bring some ideas to the May Council meeting? Drew volunteered. Katie also might want to be involved.
- John is going to Atlanta for the BoP consultation and will report in May.

- The Korean Church of Boston is having an anniversary symposium over April 24-26.
- Ken is working on a program to learn about "lower cost money."

Adjourn

The Council **VOTED** to adjourn with prayer by Trina at 8:59. She read a piece by Kate Bowler, from her book, *Good Enough: 40 devotions for a Life of Imperfection*. A blessing for people who are bring planted.

Attest:

Paul F. Rack
Interim Stated Clerk