

## Council Report:

In December, Council voted by email to approve the nomination of Rev. Paul Rack as Stated Clerk Pro Tem.

Council met via Zoom for our stated meetings in January and February to discuss and take action on various matters. Council met in person at the Newton church on March 1 for a special gathering including brunch, fellowship, worship, and a called meeting about Presbytery staffing transitions.

In January, we received an update from the Needham Task Force, who is bringing a report to the March Stated Meeting of Presbytery.

In response to imminent website vulnerabilities, Council approved the expenditure of up to \$4000 from the operating budget to secure and upgrade the Presbytery of Boston website.

Council approved a scholarship of \$1050 from the East Boston Leadership Fund to Jessi Killilea, Director of Family Ministries at First Quincy, for the APCE conference in Birmingham in late January.

In February, Council received the resignation of Rev. Andrew Parmalee as Treasurer. The Presbytery of Boston gratefully thanks Andy for his post-retirement ministry as the Presbytery's Treasurer as he steps down from this office on February 28 after 12 years. Andy has brought to that work extensive validated ministry experience in finance as well as pastoral skills and dedication reflecting his service to the Presbyterian Church at all levels — as stated supply pastor, commissioner to the 208th General Assembly (1996), chair of the Committee on Ministry, and responsibilities with the presbytery's Board of Trustees helping the presbytery navigate challenges in these changing times.

Council authorized the expenditure of \$2,500 from the 2023 operating budget of the Presbytery for the Massachusetts Council of Churches, and invited our sister Presbyteries in the Commonwealth, Northern and Southern New England, to match our contribution.

Council voted to establish a task force, comprised of representatives of Personnel, Nominating and Trustees, plus the Moderator, to evaluate the engagement of a bookkeeper or bookkeeping service.

Our business at the called meeting on March 1 included topics related to our multiple staffing transitions as well as various financial matters related to the Treasurer's retirement. We received an update from Personnel on the joint Stated Clerk search process with PSNE, and approved a draft job description. We received updates on the Treasurer transition from Personnel and Trustees, including planning for account and file transfers and the implementation of separation of duties.

We anticipate another called meeting in March to continue responding to time-sensitive business related to the Stated Clerk and Treasurer transitions, along with brainstorming discussion around potential staffing options for Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Kate Carlisle, moderator