

Presbytery of Boston Council Minutes

18 August 2022

Present: Kathy Barnes, Rev. Drew Hanson, Rev. Trina Portillo - Moderator, Rev. Jane Wilson, Jill Auger, Rev. Su Young Kim

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:01. The Moderator, Rev. Trina Portillo, declared a quorum was present. Rev. Portillo led the body in prayer.

The meeting agenda was adopted by consent.

The minutes from the 16 June 2022 meeting of council were adopted by consent.

Treasurer's Report: There was no treasurer's report due to our treasurer's recent hospitalization. Council discussed the need for an assistant treasurer for situations such as this.

Stated Clerk's Report: Rev. T.J. DeMarco, the presbytery's stated clerk, drew members' attention to the presbytery calendar provided in advance of the meeting. He also reported that he intends to establish a google drive for Council documents. T.J. recommended establishing a Minute for Mission at our presbytery meetings. A congregation could speak of mission work it is doing, or a validated minister member could speak of the work they do. Regarding the upcoming presbytery meeting (29 September), T.J. brought up the possibility of Deanna Hollas, our worship leader, doing a pre-meeting presentation. Our Moderator will reach out to Rev. Hollas.

Moderator: Rev. Trina Portillo provided an update on the Peacemaking program. The Rev. Nta from Cameroon will be with us during 27 September-4 October pending the granting of his visa. Council discussed some ideas around scheduling meetings while Rev. Nta is with us as well as participating in our presbytery meeting. Trina will meet soon with the planning committee.

A motion to sent \$475 to the Presbyterian Peace Program in support of our Peacemaker, Rev Nta was made, seconded, and passed.

COR: Kathy Barnes reported another luncheon will be held on 17 September to bring together congregations in the presbytery for fellowship and to thank them in supporting COR's collection of congregational data.

COM: Jill Auger reported that COM has updated guidelines for pastor transitions. They decided to hold off on creating a family leave policy as the PC(USA) currently is working on such a policy.

CPM: Rev. Drew Hanson reported that So Jung Kim has been certified ready to receive a call. Also, Yan Wang will be certified as soon as the committee has created and administered a special ordination exam.

Nominating: Rev. Katie Cole submitted a written report. The committee has assigned 4 congregation to each committee member in the hopes of finding more ruling elders to serve on presbytery committees. Katie is speaking with some people who can work together to support the work of our lay pastors and others who are engaged in mission work in our presbytery.

Shekinah Task Force: Rev. Cole reported on behalf of the task force. Rev Amy Fowler brings vast experience working with immigrant congregations over more than 20 years within the PC(USA). Rev. Tom Reid speaks Portuguese. Debbie Green has been through the process of chartering a congregation (Primera Iglesia). Katie has forged a strong relationship with Shekinah Natick since becoming Interim Pastor at Hartford St. church. The task force is off to a fine start.

Personnel: Rev. Meaghan Mannas reported that the Personnel Committee plans to meet with staff members during the month of September to check in with them.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn with prayer at 8:25.

Council will next meet on 20 October 2022 at 7PM.

Errata: The minutes for the 19 May 2022 Council meeting failed to record the following email vote. On 7 May 2022, the Moderator presented to the following motion for email vote to members of Council: to endorse a grant application to the Presbyterian Mission Agency in the amount of \$1,166. The First United Presbyterian Church in Cambridge is seeking this grant to support the resettlement of an Afghan refugee family. The church will be working with the organization Crossroads Connections. The motion was seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Wilson