

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

Present: Kathy Barnes, Katie Cole, Ken Grant, Beverly Shank, 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 7:06 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 January 11, 2023.

Stated Clerk's report

Kate reported.

Kate, Ivy, and Ben have been meeting to discuss the anti-harassment policy. Rather than putting a boilerplate policy in place, we hope to use the opportunity to develop a community covenant that invites the Presbytery to consider who and how we want to be as community, and to set positive goals for our conduct in addition to spelling out prohibited behavior.

A draft docket has been distributed for the Presbytery meeting at KCB on March 9. Kate gave an overview of the docket.

This will be the first in-person Presbytery meeting in four years, to the day. Because there is not a large amount of business for Presbytery to handle, the docket makes ample time for worship, fellowship, and sharing a meal. Council discussed options for community building during this time. Katie Cole will offer an introduction to relational

meetings, and there will be time for relational meetings during and immediately following lunch.

Rev. Dr. Sung-Joo Park from PILP is visiting the Presbytery at the March meeting, and will be presenting rebate checks to three congregations. He will be presenting more information to churches during the meeting and will be available for further conversation.

The location for the June gathering and the September stated meeting are not yet set. The September meeting location will need to be in one of the churches that has a strong hybrid setup. Council will begin planning the June gathering at the April meeting.

Personnel Report

Beverly reported. Annual reviews have been in process, and Personnel has been considering how to support action or resolution on topics that come up in the course of annual reviews.

Personnel has worked with Lisa on some templates and forms for staff use. Personnel is also attending to CORI checks, boundary training, etc.

Treasurer's Report

Lisa reported. We are continuing to fine tune our systems. Lisa walked Council through the January reports. Lisa has created a new per capita form and has distributed that to the congregations, with more than one way to submit per capita.

Trustees Report

Ken reported, and a written report has been distributed.

Upon recommendation of Trustees, Council **voted** to authorize that:

1. Presbytery of Boston act as a fiscal agent under an agreed upon Memo of Understanding for a period extending from a date in 2024 until the funds received are distributed by action of the Trustees of the John Gloucester Memorial Presbyterian Church Scholarship Fund for the charitable and educational purposes defined in a Trust document amended as of February 25, 2009; and
2. The Trustees of the Presbytery invest the funds in short term fixed income instruments guided by the policies of the Trustees of the Presbytery; and note

3. The Trustees of the Presbytery have appointed Teaching Elder Kenneth Grant as a Trustee ad interim for the John Gloucester Memorial Presbyterian Church Scholarship Fund; and further note
4. The Communications Officer of the Presbytery will be asked to, upon receipt of new information from the Trustees of the Fund, update the Presbytery website on the scholarship's availability.

Upon adoption of this motion, the Stated Clerk certifies, to the Trustees of the John Gloucester Memorial Presbyterian Church Scholarship Fund Trust, the action of the Trustees of the Presbytery concerning the appointment of Teaching Elder Grant is "by vote of the Board of Trustees of the Presbytery duly taken in accordance with its procedures."

Ken offered updates on a number of other items, including the inspection and repair needs of the Needham building.

CPM Report

Drew is away but a report has been distributed.

Upon recommendation of the CPM, Council **approved** reimbursing an Inquirer under care of \$350 for the tuition on an online worship course, to be withdrawn from the Robie Fund.

COR Report

Kathy reported. Annual Statistics collection is coming to an end. Kathy and Kate are meeting next week to begin work on the administrative manual project, and to consider the balance of ruling elder and teaching elder attendance at Presbytery.

COM Report

No report.

Nominating Committee

Nominating is still working to fill a number of open positions.

Shekinah Task Force

The Shekinah Task Force will be distributing its final written report for the Presbytery in March, with four recommendations for the Presbytery moving forward. The central question is, how do we do things that support our new worshiping communities that also strengthen the ministry of our chartered congregations?

Moderator's Report

Ivy reported.

Ivy spoke with Lisa Baker, synod moderator and elder at MLK Community Presbyterian in Springfield. There is a process by which all state Councils of Churches have the opportunity to apply for grant funding from the synod. Lisa also noted that there may be an opening for additional synod funding for GLOW.

Potential members for the Transitional Presbyter search team are being assembled, to start working on a job description and application process.

Ivy shared information about the upcoming Agape Gala for the rebuilding effort at the MLK church.

Motion approved to designate the offering at the March 9 Presbytery meeting to be split between the MLK Community Presbytery Rebuilding fund and GLOW.

Old and New Business

The LSAT contract was approved at last month's Council meeting, but the team still needs two group members.

No new business.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn **approved** without objection. Katie closed the meeting with prayer at 8:46 pm.

The next regular Council meeting is April 25.

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery is March 9.