

Presbytery of Boston Council Minutes

June 16, 2022

Attendance: Trina Portillo, Kathy Barnes, Meagan Manas, Drew Hanson, Ivy Jones Turner, Su Young Kim, T. J. DeMarco

Convene

The duly elected moderator, Trina Portillo, called this meeting of the council to order at 7:00 PM and declared that a quorum was present.

Prayer concerns included prayers for Andy Parmelee who had emergency surgery on 6/15. emergency surgery (heart valve replacement 6/15)

The council **approved** the agenda.

The council **approved** the minutes from the May meeting.

Meagan Manas expressed appreciation of Dickinson family, Meagan, and Clinton on outreach after a recent unexpected death of Shelby Dickinson.

Treasurer's Report

No report -

New Business

September Presbytery Meeting

- Meeting Date 9/22
- Meeting format (hybrid, virtual); church location that can provide tech set-up for hybrid meeting. Not clear how voting would take place
 - Questions:
 - What has been attendance with virtual meetings?
 - Can identify group to review setup for hybrid meeting?
 - What are equity and access issues for hybrid setup? (equal voice and vote) What are legal or polity requirements?
 - MSA Host Sept Presbytery meeting on Zoom, form small focus group to begin planning how to host a hybrid Presbytery meeting as early as December 2022.
- Worship Service & Planning team
 - invite PCUSA Minister of Gun Violence Prevention Rev. Deanna Hollis to lead worship. Honorably Retired Clergy will be invited to

lead worship service via Zoom if Rev. Deanna Hollis not available.
Trina will reach out to invite

- Where to designate special offering?
 - Potentially invite PCUSA Minister of Gun Violence Prevention Rev. Deanna Hollis – Trina will reach out to invite to share pre-recorded sermon or speak to actions churches can take or be involved
 - Options: Presbyterian Peace Fellowship and designate to gun violence prevention; latest
 - MSA Designate September special offering to gun violence prevention ministry to Presbyterian Peace Fellowship designated fund.

Synod Commissioners (Oct 21-22, Albany NY)

- Planned as in-person event, at this point for Synod of Northeast. Meeting is bi-annual (every 2 years)
- To elect 2 Teaching Elders, 2 Ruling Elders, and 1 YAD and 1 YAD Alternate
- Please identify anyone to nominate by August meeting, to vote during Sept Presbytery meeting. Prefer individuals with interested or experienced with PCUSA (ideally not new person)

Stated Clerk's report

No report

Moderator's report

No report

Anti-Racism task force presentation

- Joined by Colleen Sharka & Beth Wieman,
- Reviewed Spiritual Direction Group proposal. This would be a small group (8-12 people), expanded the group of people within Presbytery to understand the presence and be able to identify how white supremacy is present within personal experiences. After the small group members can (if desired) explore how this applies within the Presbytery.

- Who would be target participant? Leaders (TE, RE, committee members, task forces, administrative commissions, working groups) within Presbytery who identify as white.
- Would sections be open to BIPOC? This pilot would be closed group for the 8 sessions. After pilot could explore designing and hosting sessions for others, including training others to lead similar sessions. Many anti-racism groups provide for affinity groups (based on racial identity). Anti-Racism Task Force considering emerging conversation for how this might progress. Recognize challenge with initially hosting for white members of PoB.
- Could launch with funds not from Presbytery, but from white members of Presbytery? Balancing Presbytery leadership and prioritization of anti-racism work, with limited personal funds of TE.
- Cost would be \$2,000 for Colleen, including retreat
- Colleen hosting these as individual, outside of role and work through RPCSIC.
- Council **voted to approve** a budget of 2,000 for this program and the anti-racism task force will ask participants to contribute to the program as they are able.

Report from COR

COR sent out an email inviting all clerks and pastors to a lunch on Saturday June 18.

Report from COM

Report from CPM

The committee certified one member under care as ready to receive a call.

Another received a green card for himself and his wife.

Report from Trustees

First, the trustees have voted to engage the Presbyterian foundation in the management of its investment portfolio. In so doing we will ensure that we have a fossil fuel free portfolio as directed by the Presbytery. That transition is in the very beginning stages. One additional note regarding the transfer of the management is that while the foundation has minimum fee requirements and a tiered pricing structure, as a result of our relationship, member congregations within the

Presbytery will be able to get a discounted price if they choose to have the foundation also manage their investment portfolios, regardless of size. The trustees intend to convey this to the churches in due course.

Second item is that the trustees have recently learned more about the possibility of using solar panels on the Needham property. In conversations with a solar advisor, resident energy, who has worked with many religious organizations in the state, the property has a unique significant capacity to generate solar energy based on the exposure of the roof and its size, well in excess of the current energy usage. That extra energy could be utilized to be sold to churches also on the same utility provider at a discounted rate, should we so choose. It is an interesting and unique opportunity that we have just learned about and are continuing to investigate and analyze. Obviously An additional important consideration would be the future use of the property so we will have an open dialogue with the task force and will keep Council apprised of our findings.

Report from Nominating

No report.

Report from Personnel

No report.

Old Business

The moderator reported that she is coordinating with the Presbyterian Mission Agency on the plan to bring a Presbyterian peacemaker to the Presbytery.

Adjourn with Prayer

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 8:50 PM.

Next Presbytery Meeting: Thursday, September 22, 2022, 6 PM

Next Council Meeting: August 18, 2022 at 7 PM