

The Presbytery of Boston
(PCUSA)
Special Meeting
May 30 MMXXIII

DRAFT MINUTES.

A Special Meeting of the Presbytery of Boston was held on May 30, 2023, for the purpose of receiving the report of the Search Team and electing a new Stated Clerk. This was a joint meeting held with the Presbytery of Southern New England. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm with a prayer by Ivy Jones Turner, the Vice-Moderator. The meeting was on Zoom and recorded.

A quorum was present electronically.

Rev. Erika Plank Hagan gave an excellent introduction to the Zoom format.

The presbytery **VOTED** to approve the distributed Docket for this meeting.

Rev. John Merz presented the report of the Joint Stated Clerk Search Team. He thanked the members of the team and introduced them by name. He explained the process used in their deliberations. Rooted in relationship, they took time to get to know each other first. The process was unbiased. They did interviews before they even knew the candidates. Five stellar candidates applied. All were interviewed. The top 2 were invited to second interview. All in all it was a Spirit-filled process, and they unanimously agreed on the top candidate.

Rev. Kevin White, the Moderator of PSNE invited questions for the Search Team. There were none.

The nominee, Rev. Kate Carlisle, introduced herself. They responded to questions from presbyters. While they will stay in their home near Boston, a balance will be struck to establish personal relationships. But their work will have a large remote component. They expressed their love for the Presbyterian Church as a lifelong Presbyterian. They know the flaws, but has seen so much transformation and growth in our churches, even though they recently served a church that closed. They have always had an interest in polity, beginning from confirmation class. This is a unique moment of history and Jesus calls the church to respond. We can get in our own way or run out of energy. But the challenge of this job is to prioritize. We will have to rely on the Holy Spirit, which can be really neat. There are similarities between the two presbyteries. We do not have many Presbyterians here in New England. Boston is very diverse; less white than any presbytery they have been a part of. Money and resources will be constant issues. Their role right now is to be a student of both places. Boston has no General

Presbyter; Shannan serves in that capacity in SNE. They see their role as supporting the mission of the church in constitutional ways. It is a gift to be invited into majority-minority spaces as a white person. We need to support our New Worshiping Communities more robustly and include them fully into the life of the presbytery. Anti-racism work is exciting and life-changing.

They left the room while the motion was made, discussed, and voted on.

Both presbyteries will count votes separately, if necessary.

The presbytery **VOTED** to elect Rev. Kate Carlisle to serve as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Boston and the Presbytery of Southern New England.

The body proceeded to a service of Installation led by the Moderator of SNE and Vice-Moderator from PoB.

Then presbytery **VOTED** to adjourn at 7:47 pm with prayer.

Attest:

Rev. Paul F. Rack
Interim Stated Clerk