

PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
IGREJA PRESBITERIANA BRASILEIRA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING

Call to Order

The organizing meeting of the Presbytery of Southern New England (PSNE) Igreja Presbiteriana Brasileira (IPB) Administrative Commission was held on a video teleconference via the Zoom platform on March 30, 2022. The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, Rev. David Baer, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Rev. Baer led the Session in an opening prayer.

Roll Call:

Commission Members Present:

Teaching Elder, Anne Weirich; Ruling Elder, Gerson Roca;
Teaching Elder, Gregory Keosaian; and Ruling Elder, Peter Cameron;

Commission Members Absent: None

Guests:

Rev. David Baer, PSNE Stated Clerk and
Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo, PSNE General Presbyter

Introductions

The meeting started with those present introducing themselves.

Administrative Commission Purpose and Background

The Stated Clerk and the General Presbyter then outlined the tasks the Presbytery has charged this Administrative Commission (Commission) to accomplish and the background history associated with those tasks.

General Administrative Commission Responsibilities – It was stressed the actions of this Commission are regarded as actions of the PSNE. Commission decisions will be reported at the next Presbytery meeting and can be amended or rescinded. As such, the Commission shall keep records of its proceedings and shall submit them to the PSNE Stated Clerk.

Book of Order – The *Book of Order* (G-1.02) outlines the responsibilities of the Presbytery when organizing a new congregation into Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) membership. The Presbytery has charged the Commission to take on these organizing responsibilities.

Presbytery IPB Commission Charge – The Presbytery has voted to charge the Commission with the following responsibilities:

1. Application - Receive an application from IPB-Hyannis for membership in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to be prepared in both Portuguese and English.
2. Organization Decision - At the discretion of the Commission, declare the IPB-Hyannis an organized congregation of the Presbytery.
 - a. Identify prospective members;
 - b. With leaders of community, explore meaning of commitments; and
 - c. Upon presentation of covenant, at the discretion of the committee, recognize IPB-Hyannis as a congregation of the PSNE.

3. Session - Assume the powers of the IPB-Hyannis session until such time as a duly elected session is installed. These powers shall include:
 - a. Authority to call meetings of the congregation to elect ruling elders, and if the congregation so decides...deacons.
 - b. Authority to train, examine, ordain and install those persons elected by the congregation.
4. Miscellaneous – Work closely with the congregation to:
 - a. Pastor - Formally call installed pastoral leadership;
 - b. Plan for the service and witness of the congregation;
 - c. Provide training and resources to officers, especially with respect to polity and finance (Current Treasurer is the brother of Pastor Dacunha);
 - d. Provide training and resources to the following items are properly created:
 - i. Church Bylaws,
 - ii. Pastor’s Terms of Call that includes in part:
 1. Salary that meets Presbytery standards;
 2. Continuing education reimbursements;
 3. Mandated health, death, disability coverage and pension benefits;
 4. Vacation allowance; and
 5. Family Leave.
 - iii. Sexual Misconduct Policy,
 - iv. Child Protection Plan and
 - v. Manual of Operations
 - e. Counsel concerning incorporation and bylaws for the congregation conforming to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.);
 - f. 501(c)3 – Investigate the disposition of the 501(c)3 status previously formed by the congregation; and
 - g. Insurance – Act as a resource in the establishing insurance protection for the congregation.
5. Organization Worship Service – Conduct a service of organization in which the commission will install church officers, express thanksgiving to God on behalf of the Presbytery for the congregation’s ministry and ask for God’s blessing upon the new congregation. Invitations will be sent to the wider PSNE community and other appropriate individuals.

Organizing Pastor – The Rev. Alonso Dacunha was received by the PSNE as the organizing pastor of IPB-Hyannis in 2010 (relationship with PSNE established in 2008). Pastor Dacunha’s wife, Katia, has been very active in the congregation and in the ministries of the congregation. For example, she was visiting woman in Suffolk County Prison (not sure of the current status).

IPB-Hyannis Congregation

The General Presbyter provided background on the IPB-Hyannis congregation. Items mentioned included:

1. 2008 marked the beginning of the relationship of IPB with the Presbytery of Southern New England;
2. IPB carries out a “traditional” congregational ministry i.e. worship, pastoral care, Christian education, etcetera;

3. Community mission oriented
 - a. Latinx ministry for women, with the Pastor's wife providing leadership;
 - b. Serve as chaplains for ICE detention centers;
 - c. Take seriously a *Matthew 25* ministry;
4. Membership Demographics
 - a. Largely an immigrant congregation;
 - b. Many members are involved in "hospitality" work on the Cape;
 - c. There is an ESL ministry of some 60-80 persons via Zoom;
 - d. English Language - Open to establishing an English-speaking service of worship, particularly for the 2nd generation members and beyond...
5. Church Building
 - a. They were nesting in a small Church in Hyannis that abruptly *cancelled all rental contract indefinitely* during the pandemic;
 - b. Currently renting a small building owned by the Town of Yarmouth;
 - c. Eager to have their own space.

Cultural Considerations – There was discussion about the attention that must be given to the cultural differences of the IPB-Hyannis congregation. The Presbytery's anti-racism work was highlighted along with denominational resources for working with IPB-Hyannis. Resources discussed included:

1. Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo, PSNE General Presbyter,
2. Rev. David Baer, PSNE Stated Clerk and
3. Rev. Jenny Peek (Jennifer.peek@yale.edu) and Kirk Louis (kirkandshavon@gmail.com), Chairpersons of the Anti-racism and Equity Committee.

There was extensive discussion about providing resources translated into Portuguese. The *Book of Order*, sample policies, bylaws and manuals of operation need to be available in Portuguese so that they are assessable to the congregation. The Stated Clerk discussed the status of General Assembly Portuguese language resources:

1. *Book of Order* - There is a need for a full translation.
2. *Book of Confessions* - It's fully translated, but *not yet* available in a single volume.
3. Rules of Discipline - only the *Preamble* is currently available in translation.

Much work remains in producing these resources. The Committee needs to seek help from Presbytery other congregations and General Assembly for this assistance.

A translator will be necessary for the Commission to carry out its work.

Administrative Commission Budget Question:

The Stated Clerk and the General Presbyter was asked budget questions. What is the budget for the work of the Commission? Is there reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses of Commission members (e.g. travel, meals together, etc.)? There was a general nod to paying for gas, but the Commission members were given no specifics. We will need to receive details on this from Presbytery.

Election of Commission Committee Positions:

There was discussion on who would take on the responsibilities of Administrative Commission Moderator and Administrative Commission Clerk.

General consent of the Committee was given to electing:

- Teaching Elder, Gregory Keosaian as Administrative Commission Moderator and
- Ruling Elder, Peter Cameron as Administrative Commission Clerk.

Next Meeting:

General consent was given to holding the next Committee meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Adjournment:

General consent was given to adjourn with prayer led by Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Cameron
Administrative Commission Clerk

PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
IGREJA PRESBITERIANA BRASILEIRA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING

Call to Order

The meeting of the Presbytery of Southern New England (PSNE) Igreja Presbiteriana Brasileira (IPB) Administrative Commission (Commission) was held on a video teleconference via the Zoom platform on April 6, 2022. Commission Moderator, Rev. Gregory Keosaian, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. He then led the Commission in an opening prayer.

Roll Call

Commission Members Present:

Teaching Elder, Anne Weirich; Ruling Elder, Gerson Roca;
Teaching Elder, Gregory Keosaian; and Ruling Elder, Peter Cameron;

Commission Members Absent: None

Guests: None

It was noted both General Presbyter, Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo and Stated Clerk, Rev. David Baer were invited to our meeting. Neither person was able to attend. It has been communicated that they are welcome at any of our meetings.

Approval of the Minutes

The Commission discussed the minutes from March 30, 2022 meeting.

There was a motion made that was seconded and voted upon (MSV) to approve the minutes of the March 30, 2022 Commission meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

MSV to approve the agenda.

Review of the March 30, 2022 Meeting

The Committee spent some time reviewing the last meeting. There was a general consensus that our meetings in the future should be about an hour long.

Budget

The Committee considered the budget that will be needed in 2022 to do the work called upon by the Presbytery. At the last meeting, General Presbyter, Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo told the Committee that they should be reimbursed for things such as mileage and translation services. A Google search indicated the current IRS mileage reimbursement rate is \$0.58. The Committee identified three areas in which we might need reimbursement: mileage, translation services and meals with IPB.

MSV to submit a 2022 budget request to the Presbytery for \$1,500. The Administrative Commission Clerk agreed to communicate this request to the Presbytery's Stated Clerk.

Cultural Differences Between the IPB, Committee & Region

General Observations - Gerson Roca provided some generalizations about Brazilian Presbyterians with the caveat that in the end we will have to get to know the IPB

congregation and forget the generalizations. He provided the following experience for consideration:

- Many in the congregation may be very conservative theologically;
- Should there be any undocumented members of the congregation, this will affect this part of the Body of Christ. It will create an atmosphere where members search for safety, feel fear and experience lots of stress. It can also create volatility in the congregation as members leave the area.

Barnstable County Sheriff's Office – Anne Weirich informed the Committee that the Barnstable County Sheriff's Office is the only county in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that has an arrangement with ICE that allows the sheriff deputies to round up undocumented immigrants.

Translation – As there are members of the IPB congregation that have trouble communicating in English, translation will be a necessary part of the work of this committee. Translation will be necessary when meeting with IPB and with documents that are a part of PSNE membership process.

Gerson Roca has unique gifts in translating between the Brazilian and English languages. The other three committee members made it clear to Gerson he should not feel any obligation to be a translator for the Committee. We are prepared to use outside resources to accomplish our translation tasks. Gerson made it clear he wants to use his translation gifts as a part of his committee work. He said he does the type of translation we will need often in other parts of his life. He is glad to do it.

The Committee thanked Gerson and agreed we would ask him to use his translation skills. We will need, in particular, translation of the *Book of Order* provisions having to do with the organizing covenant (G-1.0201) and the constitutional questions when ordaining Ruling Elders and Deacons (W-4.0404).

Anti-racism Resources – The General Presbyter provided the Committee with information to allow us to make use of the PSNE anti-racism consultant, Jessica Vazquez-Torres.

General consent was given to have Anne Weirich schedule a Committee Zoom session with Jessica Vazquez-Torres on April 27, 2022 at 6:00pm.

Next Meetings

General consent was given to holding the next Committee meetings via Zoom as follows:

- Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 6:00pm (to meet with Jessica Vazquez-Torres) and
- Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Adjournment

MSV to adjourn with prayer led by Gregory Keosaian at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Cameron
Administrative Commission Clerk

PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
IGREJA PRESBITERIANA BRASILEIRA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING

Call to Order

The meeting of the Presbytery of Southern New England (PSNE) Igreja Presbiteriana Brasileira (IPB) Administrative Commission (Commission) was held on a video teleconference via the Zoom platform on May 18, 2022. Commission Moderator, Rev. Gregory Keosaian, called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. He then led the Commission in an opening prayer.

Roll Call

Commission Members Present:

Teaching Elder, Anne Weirich; Ruling Elder, Gerson Roca;
Teaching Elder, Gregory Keosaian; and Ruling Elder, Peter Cameron;

Commission Members Absent: None

Guests: None

It was noted both General Presbyter, Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo and Stated Clerk, Rev. David Baer were invited to our meeting. Neither person was able to attend. It has been communicated that they are welcome at any of our meetings.

Approval of the Minutes

The Commission discussed the minutes from their April 6, 2022 meeting.

There was a motion made that was seconded and voted upon (MSV) to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2022 Commission meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

MSV to approve the agenda.

Anti-racism Training

The committee was unable to discuss the anti-racism materials assigned to us during the April 27, 2022 anti-racism training with Jessica Vazquez-Torres. This is because she has not yet provided them to us. We were informed during the meeting that the General Presbyter will be following up with Jessica for the materials.

Anti-Racism Next Steps

1. Review assigned anti-racism materials; then
2. Schedule a meeting date with Jessica on her website.

Discussion on Meeting with Igreja Presbiteriana Brasileira of Hyannis

Ordination Questions – It was noted Gerson has translated the constitutional questions into Portuguese.

Committee Philosophy on Process – There was a general discussion on what the critical issues were that would enable the commissioning of the congregation into the PSNE and those issues that would point to a better fit elsewhere. Some of the items discussed included:

- The need to understand jointly and severally the positions of the congregation and the leadership team.
- Polity – Understanding of PCUSA polity and acceptance of the differences that this polity allows in theology and style.
- Finances – It was agreed there needs to be a discussion about the leadership team’s thoughts on how their finances will work and the need to adopt PSNE financial practices. The committee discussed everything from how we can be problem solvers to help the congregation address financial issues to discussing those issues that create challenges.
- Cultural Differences – We discussed in several different ways the care we need to take to ensure good communication with the cultural differences between the congregation and the committee.

Question - There was general agreement that a good way to get at many of the issues we discussed was to ask the leadership team and the congregation the question:

“Why do you want to be Presbyterian?”

This question and variations of it will allow us to delve into many of the issues that must be explored.

Next Meeting

By acclamation the committee agreed the Rev. Alonso Dacunha and his wife, Katia, should be invited to the next committee meeting to discuss and receive their advice on how to speak to the Igreja Presbiteriana Brasileira of Hyannis congregation. The moderator will offer an invitation both Alonso and Katia to attend the next meeting.

General consent was given to holding the next Committee meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Adjournment

MSV to adjourn with prayer led by Peter Cameron at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Cameron
Administrative Commission Clerk

PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
IGREJA PRESBITERIANA BRASILEIRA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING

Call to Order

The meeting of the Presbytery of Southern New England (PSNE) Igreja Presbiteriana Brasileira (IPB) Administrative Commission (Commission) was held on a video teleconference via the Zoom platform on June 15, 2022. Commission Moderator, Rev. Gregory Keosaian, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Rev. Gregory Keosaian led the Commission in an opening prayer.

Roll Call

Commission Members Present:

Teaching Elder, Anne Weirich; Ruling Elder, Gerson Roca;
Teaching Elder, Gregory Keosaian; and Ruling Elder, Peter Cameron.

Commission Members Absent: None

Guests:

Rev. Alonso Dacunha (Pastor of Igreja Presbiteriana Brasileira); Ms. Katia Dacunha (wife of Alonso and important leader in the IPB congregation); and General Presbyter, Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo.

It was noted our Presbytery's Stated Clerk, Rev. David Baer, was invited to our meeting. He was unable to attend.

Approval of the Minutes

The Commission discussed the minutes from their May 18, 2022 meeting.

There was a motion made that was seconded and voted upon (MSV) to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2022 Commission meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

MSV to approve the agenda.

Introductions

The meeting started with introductions by all attendees. The discussion then moved to Rev. Alonso Dacunha and Ms. Katia Dacunha educating the committee on who they are and providing information on the IPB congregation. Pastor Alonso and Katia stated on numerous occasions that both they and the congregation are Presbyterians. In fact, Pastor Alonso has been a Presbyterian since his birth.

Each Commission member asked questions to both Alonso and Katia. The following bullet points are a sampling of the information provided during this Q & A time:

- The congregation has a new home in South Yarmouth, MA. They are renting space from a Baptist church.
- Currently there are two weekly services 10:00am and 7:00pm along with various Bible studies, and outreach activities.

- The congregation currently serves Portuguese speaking members (most of the congregation) and Spanish speakers. It is leadership's goal to serve English speakers in the future. They want to be bilingual. They told us they have to be bilingual if they are to serve the children of the membership.
- The Cape Cod community is aware of the IPB congregation and what they are doing on the Cape.
- Alonso has identified about 50 retired pastors living on Cape Cod and has tried to create relationships with them. There has been very limited success.
- Congregation has experienced some racial animosity.
- Financial support is important. Their members provide very good support in the summer, but outside support is necessary in the winter months. (Presbytery currently has an annual budget line item for support of the IPB congregation of \$22,000.)
- IPB is working with Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary to create an intern opportunity for a seminary student to serve at IPB.
- Both the leadership of IPB and the IPB congregation are more conservative than PSNE as a whole. Woman in leadership roles and their positions on LGBTQ individuals in their congregation were specifically discussed. There will be further discussions on these topics.

It was agreed after Alonso and Katia Dacunha left the Zoom meeting that as a next step the Commission should meet in person with them.

Anti-racism Training

The committee has received the training materials from Jessica Vazquez-Torres. The next step is to set up a meeting with Jessica on her website. To this end, Anne Weirich will send Commission members a *Doodle* email so we can provide dates that we are available. Anne will use this information to schedule our next anti-racism training.

Next Meeting

General consent was given to holding the next Committee meeting in person on Cape Cod. To this end, Anne Weirich will send Commission members a *Doodle* email so we can provide dates that we are available for a Cape Cod meeting. Anne will use this information to schedule our time together in Hyannis.

Adjournment

MSV to adjourn with prayer led by Rev. Anne Weirich at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Cameron
Administrative Commission Clerk

PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
IGREJA PRESBITERIANA BRASILEIRA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING

Call to Order

The meeting of the Presbytery of Southern New England (PSNE) Igreja Presbiteriana Brasileira (IPB) Administrative Commission (Commission) was held on a video teleconference via the Zoom platform on August 3, 2022. Commission Moderator, Rev. Gregory Keosaian, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Gregory Keosaian led the Commission in an opening prayer.

Roll Call

The Administrative Commission Clerk reported a quorum present.

Commission Members Present:

Teaching Elder, Anne Weirich; Ruling Elder, Gerson Roca;
Teaching Elder, Gregory Keosaian; and Ruling Elder, Peter Cameron;

Commission Members Absent: None

Guests Present: General Presbyter of the PSNE, Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo

It was noted our Presbytery's Stated Clerk, Rev. David Baer, was invited to our meeting. He was unable to attend.

Approval of the Minutes

The Commission discussed the minutes from their June 15, 2022 meeting.

There was a motion made that was seconded and voted upon (MSV) to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2022 Commission meeting as corrected.

Approval of the Agenda

MSV to approve the agenda.

Anti-racism Training

Shannan Vance-Ocampo moderated the anti-racism training. She started with a brief history of our Presbytery's anti-racism work. There followed a brief discussion on the anti-racism materials the commission read prior to this meeting. We then started a discussion of the IPB congregation as a case study in the practical use of anti-racism tools.

It was acknowledged the inclusion of the IPB congregation into PSNE could be a great benefit to both parties and to the holy catholic church. At the same time, it was acknowledged there are issues, that if not handled with love and wisdom could cause pain and injury to all parties. Some of the issues highlighted for discussion were:

- Authority of the pastor;
- The priesthood of all believers...pastor, elder and congregation;
- *Book of Order*;
- The role of LGBTQ individuals in the congregation;
- The role of women in the church; and
- The meaning and practical application of baptism.

There was a discussion on how to address these issues with love and wisdom.

Ideas – The group threw out different ideas for consideration to help facilitate our conversation with the IPB congregation. Ideas mentioned included:

- Commissioning of a lay pastor;
- Using a satellite ministry; and
- Leveraging wise outside third parties

Next Steps

The Rev. Vance-Ocampo will research options for help with our future communication. For example, she will look at the practicality of receiving help from the Rev. Jupiaci Carneiro (www.millenniumchurch.org).

Next Meeting

General consent was given to holding the next Committee meeting via Zoom on Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Adjournment

MSV to adjourn with prayer led by Shannan Vance-Ocampo at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Cameron
Administrative Commission Clerk

PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
IGREJA PRESBITERIANA BRASILEIRA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING

Call to Order

The meeting of the Presbytery of Southern New England (PSNE) Igreja Presbiteriana Brasileira (IPB) Administrative Commission (Commission) was held on a video teleconference via the Zoom platform on September 22, 2022. Commission Moderator, Rev. Gregory Keosaian, called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. Gregory Keosaian led the Commission in an opening prayer.

Roll Call

The Administrative Commission Clerk reported a quorum present.

Commission Members Present:

Teaching Elder, Anne Weirich; Ruling Elder, Gerson Roca;
Teaching Elder, Gregory Keosaian; and Ruling Elder, Peter Cameron;

Commission Members Absent: None

Guests:

General Presbyter, Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo.

It was noted our Presbytery's Stated Clerk, Rev. David Baer, was invited to our meeting. He was unable to attend.

Approval of the Minutes

The Commission discussed the minutes from their August 3, 2022 meeting.

There was a motion made that was seconded and voted upon (MSV) to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2022 Commission meeting as distributed.

Approval of the Agenda

MSV to approve the agenda.

Meeting Business

The meeting started with a reminder of the original charge given to it from the PSNE.

The Commission discussion then focused on the issues highlighted in the August 3, 2022 Commission meeting.

There was consensus that a good next step for the Commission is to initiate regular prayer with Rev. Dacunha and Commission members.

Committee Personnel

At the end of the meeting the Rev. Gregory Keosaian announced he was no longer able to continue on the Commission. His resignation is effective immediately.

Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo will take responsibility for finding a replacement for Rev. Keosaian.

Next Steps

Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo – She will contact both Rev. Jupiaci Carneiro and Rev. Gerson Annunciacao to see if they can be of help in communicating to the Rev. Alonso Dacunha and to the Commission what it means to have Rev. Dacunha lead a Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation.

Rev. Anne Weirich – She will contact Rev. Ron Minor to see if he can provide some background on the initial communication between the Igreja Presbiteriana Brasileira de Hyannis fellowship and the PSNE.

Peter Cameron – He will contact Rev. Dacunha to find times that are convenient for him to pray with the Commission.

Next Meeting

General consent was given to holding the next two Committee meetings via Zoom on:

- Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 7:00pm; and
- Tuesday, November 22, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Adjournment

MSV to adjourn with prayer led by Anne Weirich at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Cameron
Administrative Commission Clerk

PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
IGREJA PRESBITERIANA BRASILEIRA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING

Call to Order

The meeting of the Presbytery of Southern New England (PSNE) Igreja Presbiteriana Brasileira (IPB) Administrative Commission (Commission) was held on a video teleconference via the Zoom platform on November 22, 2022. PSNE Stated Clerk, David Baer, called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. The meeting opened with prayer.

Roll Call

The Administrative Commission Clerk reported a quorum present.

Commission Members Present:

Teaching Elder, Anne Weirich; Ruling Elder, Gerson Roca;
and Ruling Elder, Peter Cameron;

Commission Members Absent: None

Guests: PSNE Stated Clerk, Rev. David Baer.

It was noted our Presbytery's General Presbyter, Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo was not able to attend.

Moderator

Rev. Gregory Keosaian stepped down from the Administrative Commission at our last meeting. Rev. Anne Weirich agreed to serve as the Commission moderator.

There was a motion made that was seconded and voted upon (MSV) to approve Rev. Anne Weirich as the Commission moderator.

Approval of the Minutes

The Commission discussed the minutes from their September 22, 2022 meeting.

MSV to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2022 Commission meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

MSV to approve the agenda.

New Commission Member

Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo indicated at the last meeting she would work on finding a replacement for the commission member vacancy created by the Committee resignation of Rev. Gregory Keosaian. It is understood the Presbytery Nominating Committee is now looking for a replacement.

IPB History with PSNE

Rev. Weirich contacted Ron Minor to discuss the initial communication between IPB and PSNE. She was unable to talk with him at the time because he is recovering from back surgery.

Rev. Alonso Dacunha

The Rev. Alonso Dacunha has gone back to Brazil for about three weeks to be with his brother who is very sick. Gerson Roca has been in contact with Rev. Alonso's wife, Katia, (as have others in PSNE) to offer support. Gerson will be preaching at IPB on December 4, 2022. He will find out when Alonso should be getting back in town. Anne has and will be in contact with Katia to offer her assistance.

Prayer for and with the IPB Congregation

We are organizing joint prayer with IPB and PSNE. Pastor Alonso has indicated we should come up with a time for the prayer and he will participate. There are others in the PSNE who have shown interest in joining this prayer group. Gerson has indicated that Monday's around 7:00pm work best for him. Anne will determine what time works best for the people who have shown interest in praying with us.

IPB Lay Leadership

It was agreed upon by the Commission that it would be a good idea to identify the IPB congregation leadership. We should be getting to know and understand this part of the congregation. Leaders could be invited to be a part of the prayer group.

PSNE Funding for IPB

The 2023 PSNE budget for IPB support is \$20,000. It is understood this support is approved on a year-to-year basis.

Next Meeting

General consent was given to holding the next Committee meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Adjournment

MSV to adjourn with prayer led by Gerson Roca at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Cameron
Administrative Commission Clerk

PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
IGREJA PRESBITERIANA BRASILEIRA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING

Call to Order

The meeting of the Presbytery of Southern New England (PSNE) Igreja Presbiteriana Brasileira (IPB) Administrative Commission (Commission) was held on a video teleconference via the Zoom platform on December 20, 2022. Commission Moderator, Rev. Anne Weirich, called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. Rev. Weirich led the Commission in an opening prayer.

Roll Call

The Administrative Commission Clerk reported a quorum present.

Commission Members Present:

Teaching Elder, Anne Weirich; Ruling Elder, Gerson Roca;
and Ruling Elder, Peter Cameron

Commission Members Absent: Teaching Elder, Tiffany Nicely Holleck and Teaching Elder, Lin Grace Rohr

Guests: PSNE General Presbyter, Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo. (PSNE Stated Clerk, Rev. David Baer was on the Zoom feed for a short while prior to the meeting.)

Approval of the Minutes

The Commission discussed the minutes from their November 22, 2022 meeting.

There was a motion made that was seconded and voted upon (MSV) to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2022 Commission meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

MSV to approve the agenda.

New Commission Members

It was established that both Tiffany Nicely Holleck and Lin Grace Rohr have been confirmed by the Presbytery Roundtable as members of the Commission.

Reports on Visits with IPB

Shannan, Gerson and Anne reported on their recent meetings with IPB over the past month. A sampling of points made from these reports include:

- There is a real question as to whether there is any leadership in the congregation outside of Pastor Alonso and his wife Katia.
- Gerson was able to preach at IPB on December 4, 2022 while Pastor Alonso was out of town ministering to his brother.
- Baptism is an issue that must be addressed.
- IPB understands that it must include English in serving its community or it will lose long-term commitment to the church community...especially the youth in the church.
- Pastor Alonso is now back in the country.

Focus Issues

Baptism – This is the most important issue identified to date. Pastor Alonso and the Commission must delve into this topic more deeply to fully appreciate how all parties understand this sacrament of the church. A suggestion was made that we might want to try a book study as a way of starting this conversation. The book, *Christian Doctrine, Revised Edition*, by Shirley C. Guthrie, Jr. was suggested.

IPB Leadership – Leadership from the congregation needs to be identified and nurtured in its leadership of this faith community.

English – IPB’s lack of English spoken outreach to its own church family is a critical weakness identified by this community.

Commission Onboarding – There needs to be conversations with all five Commission members present to “level set” where the Commission is at the moment.

Next Meeting

It was agreed that we will invite Pastor Alonso to attend the next meeting.

General consent was given to holding the next Committee meeting via Zoom sometime in January at 7:00pm. The Administrative Commission Clerk will communicate with all the Commission members to determine and organize the best day and time to meet.

Adjournment

MSV to adjourn with prayer led by Gerson Roca at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Cameron
Administrative Commission Clerk

PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
IGREJA PRESBITERIANA BRASILEIRA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING

Call to Order

The meeting of the Presbytery of Southern New England (PSNE) Igreja Presbiteriana Brasileira (IPB) Administrative Commission (Commission) was held on a video teleconference via the Zoom platform on January 25, 2023. Commission Moderator, Rev. Anne Weirich, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Anne Weirich led the Commission in an opening prayer.

Roll Call

The Administrative Commission Clerk reported a quorum present.

Commission Members Present:

Teaching Elder, Anne Weirich; Ruling Elder, Gerson Roca;
Teaching Elder, Tiffany Nicely Holleck; and Ruling Elder, Peter Cameron;

It was noted that the Rev. Lin Rohr will not be able to join our Commission at this time. We will welcome her if circumstances allow her to join in the future.

Commission Members Absent: None

Guests: PSNE General Presbyter & Acting Stated Clerk, Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo

Approval of the Agenda

There was a general consensus on the meeting agenda.

Introductions

The newest member of the Commission, Tiffany Nicely Holleck, was welcomed. Time was spent with everyone introducing themselves.

Background

History - A quick synopsis of Commission's history along with the identified issues that need to be addressed was discussed. Baptism is a "bright line" issue that requires discussion with Pastor Alonso and the IPB congregation.

Gerson Roca's Conversation with Alonso – Gerson spoke with Alonso after Alonso sent the December 27, 2022 notice to the Commission. Among the items discussed was Pastor Alonso's request for an English-speaking pastor to work with the congregation.

Funding – Currently the IPB congregation is receiving \$22,000 in annual support from the PSNE. The Immigrant Ministry funding that Pastor Alonso and his wife Katia were receiving in the past is no longer available.

Early PSNE History – Anne related Rev. Ron Minor was one of the original PSNE IPB Fellowship liaisons. At the time, Ron was asked to be a companion with Alonso. Ron tried to connect with Alonso for a number of years, but found it difficult to get together with him.

Tiffany Nicely Holleck's Perspective – Tiffany was a PSNE liaison to the IPB Fellowship about 15 years ago. She feels the recap she just heard from the rest of the Commission sounds very much like where things were 15 years ago...leadership, funding and needing PSNE help. It is Tiffany's understanding that Pastor Alonso left the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in 2007.

Next Steps

Agreement - The Commission agreed we should continue our work. We should be working alongside the IBP in helping them meet their goal of joining the PSNE. Pastor Alonso should not be left alone to work on this by himself.

Action Item – Communication - Commission will respond to Pastor Alonso's December 27, 2022 letter indicating it is our intention to continue the activities of the Commission based on the rationale in the above paragraph. Anne Weirich will create a first draft of the letter and send it around to the Commission for revisions. Peter Cameron will send our letter to Pastor Alonso once the letter has been finalized.

Action Item – Shannan Vance-Ocampo will meet with Pastor Alonso and share the PC(USA) Book of Order Portuguese resources. This will give them an opportunity to discuss polity, baptism etc.

Approval of the Minutes

The Commission discussed the minutes from their December 20, 2022 meeting.

There was a motion made that was seconded and voted upon (MSV) to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2022 Commission meeting.

Next Meeting

General consent was given to holding the next Committee meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Adjournment

MSV to adjourn with prayer led by Tiffany Nicely Holleck at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Cameron
Administrative Commission Clerk