Sean Kelley
Survivor
My Life Story...

- Live in Massachusetts (born and raised...)
- 49 years old
- Married to Julie (since 1995)
- Father of three: Neil, Max and Maryn
- Graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Worked in the computer industry since 1995. VP of Operations at a cloud provider for many years (all throughout my diagnosis and transplant and years of GVHD)
- Always been active: family and kids activities, coaching, fly-fishing, golf...
My Cancer Story…

- Diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) September 2011
- Went to ER for faintness and fatigue. Told by ER doc that he thought I had Leukemia(!?)
- Rushed to U Mass Medical Center (by ambulance).
- Began chemo treatment the next day (30 days Induction. 5 days Consolidation a month later.)
- Received allogeneic stem cell transplant in December of 2011 (another month-long stay in the hospital)
- Started experiencing GVHD symptoms in May 2012: lungs, eyes, and skin
Coping with cGVHD...

- Lots of doctor appointments! Learn a lot. Stay on top of everything. Manage your own treatment...

- Tried many(!) different treatments, drugs, trials. Not everything will work for you. But something will.
  - *(PROSE lenses! Life-changing, for me.)*

- Talk to people. Anyone, everyone. Doctors, patients, nurses... That’s how we learned the most. Don’t be afraid to ask.

- Family!! I focused on my family (tried to stay engaged!). The more I think about others, the less I can dwell on my own problems.

- Lots of support from loved ones, friends, church (and even strangers!)
Living with cGVHD...

- Trying to stay active (walking, fishing).
- Working (to the extent my body allowed). It helped to still feel relevant/involved.
- Focus on the positive... what you can do, not what you can’t. Being thankful for what you do have, not what you don’t.
- Online Support: Facebook, support groups, podcasts, webinars
- Music. Audiobooks. Dogs!
- Just remember: It’s hard! There are no easy answers. Everyone’s different. It’s OK to be tired... to hurt...
- Keep trying things. Keep fighting!