

**Bishop's Committee Minutes**  
Good Samaritan Episcopal Church  
October 15, 2017

Present: The Rev. Gray Lesesne, Lara Dreyer, Tom Gibbs, Wendy Meaden, The Rev. Erin Hougland, Melinda Sowers, Barbie Russell, The Rev. Canon Bruce Gray

Regrets: Tim Kerstein

The Bishop's Committee convened at 11:15 a.m.. Gray presented the proposed agenda for the meeting and the group approved. The Committee welcomed The Rev. Canon Bruce Gray from the Diocese of Indianapolis, who was visiting for our annual Mutual Ministry Review.

The Committee reviewed the minutes of the September 2017 meeting and approved them without amendment.

Treasurer's Report

Lara Dreyer presented a Treasurer's Report as of September 30, 2017. Congregational giving remains consistent, totalling \$50,900 year to date. This exceeds our projected revenue intake for 2017, and indicates a higher level of congregational support than we originally expected. Expenditures are also below budget, thanks in part to the diocesan subsidy of Erin's salary since May 2017 as part of the Pathways to Vitality program.

Lara also introduced Melinda Sowers, a newer member of Good Samaritan, who has volunteered to assist us as we transition to handling our own finances in 2018. Melinda, who heads the Finance Office at Butler University and has extensive account management experience, is willing to serve as our Treasurer when we elect officers in January 2018. Melinda and Lara have been working on initial paperwork for establishing a bank account at Indiana Members Credit Union. They introduced a standardized resolution from the bank authorizing them to open a checking and membership savings account, and the Bishop's Committee approved.

By-Laws Amendment

As part of the bank account opening process, Lara also noted that the bank identified a need in our by-laws to designate how our accounts would be handled should Good Samaritan be dissolved. Lara introduced the following amendment:

ARTICLE XV – PURPOSE AND DISSOLUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION

Using the verbiage prescribed by the [IRS](#), the Bishop's Committee commits that:

- a. PURPOSE: This organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, or scientific purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
- b. DISSOLUTION: Upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

Gray noted that the distributions upon any future dissolution of Good Samaritan, by Episcopal Church Canon law, would go entirely to the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis or its successor. Since Canon law requires this, there was no need to change this proposed amendment. The Bishop's Committee adopted this amendment unanimously.

## Vicar's Report

Measures and Benchmarks as of October 10, 2017

- Number of people in "base": (completed Good Sam's 101 and considered solid): 140
- Number of newcomers (people in the pipeline yet to go through Good Sam's 101): 11
- Our average Sunday attendance has moved from 51.9 (as of week of September 18, 2016, after the launch) to 62.1 (as of week of January 12, 2017) to 73.5 (as of April 26, 2017) to 76.8 (as of June 12) to 76.1 (as of June 26) to 75.3 (as of August 21) to 76.4 (as of September 11) to 76.2 (as of September 25) to **77 (as of October 10)**.
- Average rolling monthly attendance (last 4 weeks): 83.25 (95, 92, 63, 83)
- 2017 Recorded Giving from Good Samaritan people (as of September 24): \$42,625. If current pattern were to continue, annual projected recorded giving would be approximately \$61,674 for 2017. This is an increase of \$26,674 from our 2017 projected giving of \$35,000.
- 2017 Unrecorded Giving from Good Samaritan people (Cash in Plate) to Date: \$3,516.00
- 2017 Nonmember Giving: \$4,765.00

## Mutual Ministry Review and Visioning Work from Cottage Conversations

The Bishop's Committee spent the better part of this meeting reviewing and processing raw data from the Cottage Conversations, compiled by Tim, and an initial draft of a proposed vision, compiled by Tim, Lara, Gray, and Erin. Both documents are attached to these minutes. Bruce also used this time to facilitate conversation about how the congregation is progressing, and he helped the group to identify short and long-term leadership needs and possible areas for vision and new direction. After about 45 minutes of processing, the group agreed to take a week to allow the information and ideas we share to sit for discernment. Gray agreed to reach out to the group via email to schedule an additional work session to compile a more cohesive second draft of a one-year, three-year, and five-year vision document. (The group subsequently agreed online to meet on November 3.)

## Youth Minister Search Update

Gray gave an update about the new candidate who has emerged (who was mentioned in September), and noted that the candidate would soon meet with parents and youth for a "get-to-know-you" trial run.

## Mutual Ministry Review

Gray noted that The Rev. Canon Bruce Gray from Bishop Baskerville-Burrow's staff will be with us at our October 15, 2017 meeting to facilitate a Mutual Ministry Review, which is required by the diocese annually. Gray reported our visioning work will nestle nicely into this review. Our next meeting will likely last two hours as a result.

With no further business, the Committee as a whole approved expenses and check authorizations and adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee (consisting of Wendy Meaden, Tom Gibbs, and Gray Lesesne) remained behind and finalized 2018 slate nominations. They agreed to nominate Jason Addis and Kevin Samples for seats on the Bishop's Committee, and Andrew Baum and Burnie Wilkins as delegates to Diocesan Convention and Lara Dreyer and Karen Farmer as alternates to Diocesan Convention.