

**Bishop's Committee Minutes**  
Good Samaritan Episcopal Church  
April 15, 2018

Present: Lara Dreyer, Tim Kerstein, The Rev. Gray Lesesne, Kevin Samples, Melinda Sowers, Jason Addis

Regrets/Absent: Wendy Meaden

The Bishop's Committee convened at 11:30 a.m. by discussing an article entitled, *The Top 8 Reasons Most Churches Never Break the 200 Attendance Mark* by Carey Nieuwhof. It was agreed that this type of activity was helpful and relevant. Gray will send an article to the committee for our May meeting.

Jason Addis moved to approve the March 2018 minutes. Meeting minutes were approved with one change requested. Lara Dreyer's name had been misspelled in one section of the March minutes. This correction will be completed by Melinda Sowers.

Treasurer's Report

- Melinda presented the current March financial statement (attached), which covers all transactions through March 2018 except personnel costs. Payroll is still being handled for now by the Diocese of Indianapolis, and we will receive invoice from the Diocese in April. Melinda stated that the first disbursement of our funds from the Diocese had been deposited to our account in April. The invoices will need to be paid upon receipt.
- Bank account balance as of today is \$55,601.42
- Copy of the check register had been previously sent to committee prior to review. A hard copy was made available for questions at the meeting.
- Melinda reported that March is reconciled. A copy of the reconciliation had been sent to the Bishop's Committee prior to the meeting.
- Gray asked the committee if the reports provided for this month are what the committee want to see. Are there other reports they would like to view? The committee commented that the data being provided in current reports is sufficient.
- First-quarter giving statements were generated as of March 31 and will be sent along with a letter from Gray and the Bishop's Committee thanking the congregants for their generosity toward fulfilling their pledge and will also indicate how funds are being utilized.

Vicar's Report

- Gray asked the committee to hold the date of Saturday, June 23, 2018. This will be a joint lay leaders day with Christ Church Cathedral.
- A review of upcoming calendar dates was completed. The June 17 Bishop's Committee meeting date will be rescheduled as this is Father's Day.
- Gray provided an update regarding the graduating seminarian for whom we had hoped could be hired by Good Samaritan this summer. Gray indicated that the Diocese does not have funds to sponsor the graduating seminarian. Therefore the seminarian will be looking at one of the congregations with the Diocese who has funds to hire him.
- The committee reviewed job description of the Intern for Discipleship and Spiritual Formation position. A Skype meeting will be scheduled for the candidate to meet with Gray Lesesne, Vicar, Lara Dreyer, Senior Warden and Kevin Samples, Junior Warden. A budget adjustment for salary for the internship will be need to be approved in May. Proposed salary is \$10,000 for the Intern for Discipleship and Spiritual Formation position.
- Boy Scout troop that meets at St. Mark's Plainfield has asked to come sell plants to our congregants. Gray has requested to approve this as a one-time activity. The committee

approved. Gray will be working with Calvin Brandenburg to create policy for these types of requests received in the future.

### Check in from Connections Ministry

- Nancy Slagle and Charlee Mitchell met with the Bishop's Committee this morning to provide an update of their current and future activities. They provided a comprehensive report which illustrated the purpose of the Connections Team, a calendar of 2018 events and activities and an update of the Marketing activities utilizing the billboard on I-74.

### 2018 Strategic Plan Implementation

- Deliverables and progress were discussed at today's Bishop's Committee meeting.
- Each focus area shared progress made to date and committee members asked targeted questions regarding progress. Deliverables and progress will be discussed at the May Bishop's Committee meeting
  - Our Regional Presence & Growing Diversity - Lara Dreyer stated that while we are in an explorative state, some activities have taken place and proving successful. There was a great turnout for the viewing and discussion of the Black Panther movie. Over 20 attendees were present for this activity. The goal is to create 6 micro-experiments which all focus on racial diversity. From these micro experiments, macro targets can be defined for the future.
  - Children and Youth Ministry - Gray Lesesne reported that our Youth Minister, Erina Ludwig, is trying out a variety of activities with the high school and middle school youth. Her goal at this point is to determine what activities seem to resonate/stick with the youth. From there she will be developing a plan of activities to share with parents/families in August. Gray indicated there is a focus to partner with 2 outside groups as well. Jason Addis commented on how drawing youth will draw families to Good Samaritan.
  - Serving Our Community - Tim Kerstein indicated that Lucy Karam and Outreach are doing a great job. He indicated that he is available for anything they may need assistance with. He did talk about speaking opportunities, such as the Brownsburg chief of police talking with congregation about personal safety, both physically and on-line security.
  - Spiritual Development - Melinda Sowers stated that she and Wendy Meaden were not able to meet in April due to conflict Melinda had arise. They will meet prior to the May meeting. It was requested by the group that our first goal date focusing on Aligning current formation offerings... be moved up to June 30, 2018. This will be a good foundation that Melinda and Wendy will have to work with the Intern for Discipleship and Spiritual Formation.
  - Congregational/Community Culture - Kevin Samples indicated that he had been approached by a congregant regarding Gray not having office space for private meetings. The congregant suggested we ask if St. John's Speedway would allow Gray Lesesne to have office hours at their location. Gray asked Kevin to contact both Messiah Lutheran and St. John's, Speedway and determine if they have space they would be willing to share and what amount of donation Good Samaritan would need to make to secure the space. There was also a concern raised that the congregation doesn't have a mechanism to know of prayer concerns (e.g. parishioner in hospital, family in need of meals). Two ways to address this were briefly discussed. First, this could be added to the newsletter that is sent on Fridays to the congregation. Second, an e-new email with just these types of concerns could be sent to the congregation. This concern and an appropriate method on how to resolve will be discussed between

Kevin, Jason, and Gray. Jason Addis brought up the discussion of asking Lay Leaders to provide feedback about their ministry. This led to a broader discussion of what data, if any, are lay leaders needing and what is the best mechanism to collect the data. This question will be posed at our next Lay Leader retreat day.

With no further business, the Committee approved expenses and check authorizations, and stuffed the giving statement and letters for mailing. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.