

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

Present: Lara Dreyer, Tim Kerstein , The Rev. Gray Lesesne, Melinda Sowers, Jason Addis, Kevin Samples, The Rev. Patrick Burke, Erica Ridderman, Cal Brandenburg, Christa Nierzwick

Regrets/Absent: Wendy Meaden

The Committee meeting convened at 11:20 a.m.

Tim Kerstein moved to approve and Jason Addis seconded the May 2018 minutes, without amendment. Minutes were approved as written.

Visit from Administrative Committee

- Christa Nierzwick and Cal Brandenburg attended the first part of the meeting to share information the Administrative Committee has been working on.
 - The Bishop's Committee reviewed the Administrative Committee's Job Description. Committee provided feedback that the job description is very good. Bishop's Committee agreed with the description and approved it. (Item attached)
 - The Administrative Committee shared a proposed revision to the By-Laws. The Administrative Committee has taken the by-laws utilized by the diocese which the Bishop's Committee initially passed last year and customized them for Good Samaritan Episcopal Church. For example, language regarding real estate/building has been removed, as it is not applicable at this time. Some language specific to Good Sam's has been utilized throughout the document for consistency. As an example, changing parish (a self supporting church) to mission (a congregation supported at some level by the diocese) or congregation. The Bishop's Committee reviewed the document and Cal asked that we discuss and provide our thoughts to the Administrative Committee. A question was raised regarding Article 9 - what constitutes and 'adult'. Suggestion was made that clarification be added illustrating that an adult be defined as active church participant who is 16 years or older.
- Cal and Christa will take the feedback provided and revise the By-laws document. It will be reviewed and voted on at a future Bishop's Committee meeting.

Second-quarter Check In with Priest and Bishop's Committee

- As part of our annual goals, Gray solicited feedback from the Committee regarding how we are working together; what we are hearing; questions we have, etc.
 - Comments included positive feelings that we have had 3 to 5 new families joining us in recent weeks.
 - Someone had asked if there is a reason Gray normally serves communion from the left side. He responded that it just his habit, but is glad to switch sides.
 - Gray reported that New Setup Committee is being formed for Sunday mornings. The Bishop's Committee agreed that Kendall needs to lead the activities of the newly formed Setup Committee, especially with regard to the sound equipment. The sound system equipment needs special care and handling. Members felt it would be good for Kendall, or one or two individuals he has designated and trained, to handle this equipment as it can easily be damaged.
 - There was an inquiry as to how staff are using their designated work hours. From this discussion, it was determined that a 2 to 3 sentence update from each staff member would be helpful for a monthly report, as a way for the staff to help share what they are

working on. Gray has contact with staff and has awareness of their weekly and monthly activities. He also felt it would be helpful to the Bishop's Committee and congregation to have this awareness and will ask the staff to begin reporting.

- There was discussion regarding smaller attendance in summer and how that is impacting us financially as a church. Gray provided that our average attendance figures are actually up by about 20 people from this time last year. He also shared that we are right on track for a new church plant. From all feedback he is receiving from those who have been in our shoes, we are doing well and need to keep forging ahead with our evangelism efforts. He feels our best approach is to keep pressing forward.

Treasurer's Report

- Melinda reported bank balance as of June 30, 2018 was \$88,973.69. Bank account balance as of today is \$91,150.27
- Melinda reported that June 2018 is close to being reconciled.
- Copies of May 2018 and June 2018 Statement of Activities were shared via email and were handed out at the meeting.
 - Question was raised regarding the space rental being paid. It was explained that we are billed and pay the Brownsburg Community School Corporation on a quarterly basis.
- Melinda reported that income is coming in from registration for the August retreat at Waycross.
- Gray reported that GSEC will be getting \$15,000 from St. Paul's and another disbursement of our funds held in trust by the Diocese is forthcoming, as is the final installment of funding from the Episcopal Church grant.

Covenant between Diocese of Indianapolis and Good Samaritan

Gray presented a draft of a document that outlines the financial agreement between Good Samaritan and the Diocese of Indianapolis, particularly as it relates to the Diocese's financial support of Good Samaritan in the next four years. The document had been emailed to the group for review prior to the meeting. Discussion questions were solicited, and the document will be reviewed in more detail at next Bishop's Committee meeting

Vicar's Report

Measures and Benchmarks as of July 1, 2018

- Number of people in "base": (completed Good Sam's 101 and considered solid): 148
- Number of newcomers (people in the pipeline yet to go through Good Sam's 101): 17
- Our average Sunday attendance has moved from 81.6 (as of December 30, 2017) to 100 (as of February 13, 2018) to 83.6 (as of February 20, 2018) to 82.8 (as of March 4, 2018) to 84.6 (as of April 1) 90.9 (as of May 15) to 90.5 (as of May 29) to 92 (as of June 11) to 90.9 (as of June 18) to 90 (as of June 24) to 89.9 (as of July 1).
- Average four-week attendance (last 4 weeks): 87 (82, 65, 108, 88)
- Total amount pledged* as of May 15: \$111,339
- 2018 General Fund Giving (as of July 1): \$49,911

**some gifts received and recorded in 2017*

Bishop Committee and Ministry Leaders Retreat - August 17 and 18

The Committee spent time discussing its upcoming Ministry Leaders Retreat in August. Canon Brendan O'Sullivan Hale from the Bishop's Office will be leading the retreat. Gray solicited topics or areas to be covered at the retreat, which included: exploring additional funding streams, review of 3-5 year plans for GSEC, review of how we have grown in the last year, discuss questions surrounding

the future of a building on the property on 56th Street, youth programming and our mission as a church, what God is calling us to do/be?

2018 Strategic Plan Implementation

- Each focus area shared progress made to date and committee members asked targeted questions regarding progress. Deliverables and progress were discussed at this Bishop's Committee meeting
 - Our Regional Presence & Growing Diversity: Lara discussed Map project - phase one is complete. Will revisit in August. This project generated a lot of conversation between folks. Going deeper 3 group is being formed with funds from grant received. It will be 8 to 9 week group focusing on racial reconciliation
 - Children and Youth Ministry: Gray reported that our Youth Minister, Erina Ludwig, will have three youth groups. She has defined them as: Tween - 5th and 6th graders; Middle School - 7th and 8th graders; High School. Both Erina and Barbie are working on planning activities/classes and have identified group leaders. Both children and youth have curriculum identified for Fall 2018.
 - Serving Our Community: Tim reported that things are going well. Lucy Karam and Anne Davis are very active in their role with Outreach. Core service areas have been identified. The Committee discussed a need to figure out best practices for handling various needs that arise in order to meet goal regarding handling unplanned outreach activities (e.g. emergencies and special need situations that may arise, including a response to larger community need such as a tornado).
 - Spiritual Development: Melinda reported that she and Wendy are working with Erica to develop additional spiritual programming and potential bible study opportunities. We have defined three clear pathways for folks to become engaged with GSEC on a deeper level
 - Congregational/Community Culture: Kevin has completed the congregational survey and is anxiously awaiting results; initial deadline is July 30. Kevin is working on finding meeting space for Gray that is more private for pastoral meetings. Gray reported that he has had a conversation with the new pastor coming to Messiah Lutheran. There will likely good collaborative efforts will be happening with Messiah Lutheran.

Stewardship 2019

Question was raised by Gray regarding timing of the next pledge campaign. Most congregations complete pledge campaigns in mid to late fall. We started ours for this year in January. What should we do going forward? The consensus of the Bishop's Committee was to do the next campaign in January 2019. This decision will come with the realization that budget for 2019 may need to be revised based on pledge outcome.

With no further business for discussion, the check requests were reviewed and approved by Bishop's Committee members. The meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.