

Bishop's Committee Minutes
Good Samaritan Episcopal Church
August 18, 2018

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

The Committee meeting convened at Waycross Camp and Conference Center in Brown County at 11:06 a.m. at the end of the Ministry Leaders Retreat.

Approval of the July meeting minutes was deferred to the September meeting.

Vicar's Report

Measures and Benchmarks as of August 12, 2018

- Number of people in "base": (completed Good Sam's 101 and considered solid): 147
- Number of newcomers (people in the pipeline yet to go through Newcomer Initiation): **28!!**
- 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) to 88.8 (as of July 16) to 89.4 (as of July 30) to 89.7 (as of August 12).
- A year ago, our average attendance was 75.3. This is an 19% increase.
- Average four-week attendance (last 4 weeks: 96.25 (91, 98, 98, 98)
- Total amount pledged* as of May 15: \$111,339
- 2018 General Fund Giving (as of August 1): \$59,955 **some gifts received and recorded in 2017*
- Hospitality, Newcomers and Greeters are now together as a single mission. Kyle Addis, Steven Hamner and Gray are meeting to discuss how this new committee will function as a unit.

Treasurer's Report

- Melinda Sowers reported the bank balance as of today is \$128,868.53
- Payroll for second quarter has not been paid out to diocese as we are awaiting an invoice
- Melinda reported that July 2018 has been reconciled. Copies of July 2018 and August 2018 Statement of Activities will be shared via email prior to the September Bishop's Committee meeting
- Melinda and Lara Dreyer met to update the June and July budget document figures and have provided this information to Erin Tanner. Erin is assisting the Bishop's Committee in establishing the 2019 budget.
- Lara reported that the year to date pledged amount is \$111,179.60. Received to date is \$70,673, which puts us ahead of schedule.

Covenant between Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis and Good Samaritan Episcopal Church

There were a few amendments to the Covenant introduced at the June meeting:

- Remove item under number 3 - health insurance will be deleted
- Updated number 6 - have our own office space by 2021

With these amendments, Lara Dreyer made motion to accept the covenant and Wendy Meaden made a second to the motion. Motion was carried.

Letter of Agreement- Patrick Burke

In May, Fr. Gray Lesesne had provided the Letter of Agreement between him and Curate, Patrick Burke to the Committee via email and asked for an electronic authorization from the Committee to sign it, which was granted unanimously by the Committee at that time. This item of business memorializes that action and records the hiring of Patrick Burke as Curate in the official Bishop's Committee minutes. The Letter of Agreement outlines the responsibilities, expectations, time commitment, compensation, handling of expenses and performance evaluation of the Curate. Fr. Gray highlighted the compensation of \$500 for the six month period of the Curate's employment (July to December 2018) to be paid bi-weekly at the appropriate increment. The Curate role consists of 10 hours weekly. Motion was made by Wendy Meaden and second to motion was made by Lara Dreyer to accept the Letter of Agreement as written.

Harris Academy - Rent and Lease

The Bishop's Committee then considered the renewal of the lease agreement with Brownsburg Community School Corporation for September 2018 through August 2019. Fr. Gray Lesesne stated that renewal of lease for use of space at Harris Academy includes an increase of approximately \$2,000 annually. He noted that the contract now includes a 10% premium added for years four and five and that the lease is for five years maximum. A question was raised as to whether the Brownsburg School Corporation would consider extending the lease beyond the five year period. Fr. Gray will draft a letter explaining how Good Samaritan Episcopal Church has added value to the community and Harris Academy. He will request an extension of the lease time frame and that we have the years four and five premium waived since it was not in our previous contract agreements. It was suggested by committee that we also seek a letter of support from Lynn Lockwick, Director of Harris Academy.

The Bishop's Committee approved the renewal of the lease. Fr. Gray Lesesne will sign existing contract with amendment for a typographical error.

2019 Stewardship

Fr. Gray and Bishop's Committee revisited our discussion from last month's meeting regarding Stewardship, and the Committee confirmed we will conduct our pledge campaign for 2019 in January 2019. Tim Kerstein suggests using the same income budget figures for 2019 that we used in 2018, since budgeting will be completed by December 31, 2018. We can always adjust upward or downward after the pledges are received.

Bishop's Official Visit

Gray reminded the group that Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows will join Good Samaritan Episcopal Church for worship and her official visitation on Sunday, September 9, 2018. She would like to meet with the Bishop's Committee afterward for informal conversation.

Calendar item

The December Bishop's Committee meeting will need to be moved because it conflicts with the Christmas pageant. The Committee will discuss at the next meeting.

Discussion Regarding Ministry Leader Retreat

Kevin Samples expressed disappointment in the activities at the retreat we attended yesterday and today. He believes we need to spend more time focusing on education and empowerment. He used the budget as an example. We need to help them understand their budget and how best to utilize it.

Fr. Gray responded that Erin Tanner is meeting with each of the Lay leaders in an effort to better understand their needs for their mission area.

The Bishop's Committee had a short debriefing about the retreat. Several of us felt that looking at the church and its missions from the 30,000 foot level is necessary, but that this does not get us to a point of practical application of the vision we have for the church. "How do we determine a sustainable model" for future growth is a question that was asked several times. It was also agreed that we need to meet with Lay leaders and to determine needs and provide practical steps in helping fulfill those needs.

Bishop Committee Nomination Committee

Wendy Meaden reminded us that her term on the committee ends in January 2019. Fr. Gray indicated we will form a nominations committee in September 2018.

Check requests were signed and the meeting concluded at 11:55 a.m.