

Bishop's Committee Minutes
Good Samaritan Episcopal Church
October 28, 2018

Present: Jason Addis, Lara Dreyer, Tim Kerstein, The Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne, Kevin Samples, Erin Tanner, The Rev. Patrick Burke

Regrets: Wendy Meaden, Melinda Sowers

The Committee meeting convened at 11:15 a.m.

September Meeting Minutes

Jason Addis moved and Lara Dreyer seconded that meeting minutes for September were to be approved as written. All were in favor. Minutes were approved.

2019 Budget

Erin Tanner met with the Bishop's Committee to provide an update to her work on the preparation of the 2019 budget. She presented a draft budget to the Bishops Committee with an accurate reflection on predicted expenses for 2019. The Bishop's Committee asked some questions, provided some feedback, asked her to revisit a few areas with ministry leaders, and invited her to begin work predicted income for 2019. The goal is to have the budget finalized in December and ready to present to the congregation in January 2019.

Consent Calendar

The following items on the Consent Calendar were taken:

1. Diocese of Indianapolis alcoholic beverage policy: approved as our own policy.
2. ***Safe Church & Institution Policies of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis (Adopted by Executive Council 6/13/09), including: Policies for the Protection of Children & Youth from Abuse, Policies for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Adults, Policies for the Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Adults, Policies and Procedures Concerning Allegations and Incidents of and Response to Sexual Misconduct:*** approved as our own policy.
3. Pathways final ministry diagram: approved.
4. Pathways Ministry job descriptions: approved.
5. Annual Staff Member Evaluation Form: approved.
6. Policy for Emergency Preparedness: approved.
7. Employee handbook first draft: received.

December 2018 Meeting Change

The Bishop's Committee moved the December 2018 meeting date to December 9, 2018.

Treasurer's Report

The following documents were reviewed and received by the committee, moved by Kevin Samples in the absence of the treasurer:

- Check Register as of September 30, 2018
- Bank Statement as of September 30, 2018
- Budget versus Actuals Report through September 30, 2018
- Bank Reconciliation for September 30, 2018
- Lara Dreyer noted that a cash balance in excess of \$100,000 exists in the accounts, and asked the Committee's permission to return with a proposal in November to place this balance in laddered Certificates of Deposit in a local and/or national bank.

Vicar's Report

Measures and Benchmarks as of October 22, 2018

- Number of people in "base": (completed Good Sam's 101 and considered solid): 154
- Number of newcomers (people in the pipeline yet to go through Newcomer Initiation): 32
- Our average Sunday attendance has moved from 81.6 (as of December 30, 2017) to 100 (as of February 13, 2018) to 82.8 (as of March 4, 2018) to 84.6 (as of April 1) 90.9 (as of May 15) to 92 (as of June 11) to 89.4 (as of July 30) to 89.1 (as of August 19) to 91.6 (as of September 25) to to **91.1** (as of October 22).
- A year ago, our average attendance was 76.7. This is an 19.6% increase.
- Average four-week attendance last 4 weeks: 85.5 (84--fall break, 68--fall break, Gray away, 100, 90)
- Total amount pledged* as of May 15: \$111,339
- 2018 General Fund Giving (as of October 18): \$77,805

**some gifts received and recorded in 2017*

Approval of Amended By-Laws

Upon the advice of the Administrative Committee, the Bishop's Committee approved the amended By-Laws we reviewed in July. Lara Dreyer made the motion, Jason Addis seconded it, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Next Steps from Ministry Leaders Retreat

Kevin Samples and Lara Dreyer reported that they, along with Gray Lesesne, met with a representative from the Center for Congregations and received initial approval to apply for a ministry planning grant in 2019 that will help us come up with tangible options for space use once our lease with Brownsburg Community School Corporation expires in August 2021. The Wardens and Gray are working on the application and asked for the Bishop Committee's advice regarding the challenge and deliverables sections, with draft language inserted below:

Project Description:

Good Samaritan is a new Episcopal congregation that just celebrated our second birthday. We are a community focused on outreach and have been intentionally building-less for the first portion of our life together, meeting in places where we can serve and be with our neighbors. We have experienced significant growth because of our focus and enjoy the public nature of our ministry, but several practical considerations (including expiration of our short-term lease with Brownsburg Schools in August 2021 and the lack of a public space that could regularly accommodate our growing congregation) are challenging us to begin to look for more permanent space use options for ministry and worship in the near future.

We are hesitant to jump into a traditional church building project on the eight acres in Brownsburg that the Diocese of Indianapolis holds in trust for us as the only default option. Instead, we wish to discern and explore as many options as possible for the next chapter of our life together that will help us continue our mission of serving our neighbors while accommodating future growth and promoting long-term sustainability.

Deliverables: We seek a grant from the Center for Congregations to engage a consultant who can lead us in a process to explore a variety of practical options for space use, to engage our congregation in conversation with our neighbors around us about our community's needs, and to lead us in a

discernment about where our gifts, our needs, and our neighborhood's needs all intersect to show us God's call for our next chapter in ministry together. This includes:

- Explore a variety of very different future space-use options and models for ministry and worship and have practical information about the real expenses of each of those options/models (e.g. construction costs for a new building and maintenance costs afterwards, annual costs for a retail rental space, costs of partnering with a neighboring ELCA congregation in renting their space).
- Engage in a real estate market analysis to determine actual value of 56th Street property and options for selling/trading this property should we choose not to use it.
- Prepare a list of advantages/disadvantages and practical considerations for each option.
- Engage with at least X number of residents that live in the neighborhood adjacent to the Episcopal Church property on 56th Street and Y number of community leaders to inquire about their perceptions for long-term community needs.
- Purchase an in-depth demographic analysis from FaithX to examine long-term population trends and demographic predictions for our ministry area.
- Present viable finalist options to our congregation in a series of discernment gatherings for feedback and input.
- Assist Bishop's Committee in evaluation of discernment/discussions and frame next steps needed toward making a decision.

The Bishop's Committee offered edits and asked the Wardens and Gray to continue in the application process.

Nominating Committee

In the absence of Wendy Meaden, Gray reported that the Nominating Committee met on October 11. After careful consideration, the Nominating Committee suggests that the Bishop's Committee elect a class of two persons in 2019 instead of one to replace Wendy Meaden. The Committee agreed and approved the following: The nominees for Bishop's Committee (in order) are: Robyn Fean, Erin Tanner, Ellen Burton, and Steven Hamner. The nominees for Diocesan Convention delegates are: Heidi Morris-Cass and Andrew Baum. Gray and the Wardens will pursue conversations with two nominees at a time until a slate is ready.

2019 Stewardship

Fr. Gray presented an expanded draft of a 2019 stewardship theme, which led to a healthy Committee discussion about what it is we are expecting and inviting our congregation into in 2019. The tension the Committee noticed is around being transparent with our congregation about our 2019 ministry funding needs without overwhelming people with a significant ask as we step out of start-up grants. At the same time, the Committee wrestled with how we approach this as a spiritual task and explored how this could be an opportunity to invite our people into act of faith. As well, the Committee noted that we have grown significantly in 2018 and noted the opportunity to invite our newcomers into giving. The Committee asked Gray to rework the draft and to return to the next meeting with an updated version.

Check requests were signed and the meeting concluded at 12:45 p.m.