

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

Present: Lara Dreyer, Tim Kerstein, The Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne, Kevin Samples, Erin Tanner, Melinda Sowers

Regrets: Wendy Meaden, The Rev. Patrick Burke

The Committee meeting convened at 11:40 a.m.

**November Meeting Minutes**

Tim Kerstein moved that meeting minutes for November be approved as written. Jason Addis offered a second. All were in favor. Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

The following documents were reviewed and received by the committee.

- Check Register as of November 30, 2018
- Bank Statement as of November 30, 2018
- Budget versus Actuals Report through November 30, 2018
- Bank Reconciliation for November 30, 2018

Bank balance as of December 9, 2018 was reported to be \$144,310.01. The treasurer asked if there were any questions regarding the following documents. There were no questions.

The Rev. Gray Lesesne reminded the committee that \$15,000 has been received from St. Paul's Episcopal Church and \$30,000 will be coming from Christ Church Cathedral in December. These represent the matching funds they committed.

Payroll processing is transitioning to Good Samaritan Episcopal Church as of January 1, 2019. Melinda Sowers is working with the Diocesan staff on this transition.

Lara Dreyer postponed her presentation of placing funds in laddered Certificates of Deposit in a local and/or national bank until a future meeting.

**Vicar's Report**

Measures and Benchmarks as of November 30, 2018

- Number of people in "base": (completed Good Sam's 101 and considered solid): 166
- Number of newcomers (people in the pipeline yet to go through Newcomer Initiation): 26
- 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 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 91.9 (as of October 29) to 93.7 (as of November 12) to **93.1** (as of November 30).
- A year ago, our average attendance was 77.5. This is an 20% increase.
- Average four-week attendance last 4 weeks: 117 (100, 97, 103, 168)
- Total amount pledged\* as of May 15: \$111,339
- 2018 General Fund Giving (as of November 30): \$91,785.34\* *\*some 2018 pledged but received and recorded in 2017*

The Vicar reported that eating capacity has been increasing and needs to continue to do so. We are consistently reaching the 80% full mark. Growth appears to be coming from families with children.

In addition to illustrating attendance on the Vicar's report, Tim Kerstein asked that a breakdown of kids and adults be added to the that report.

The Vicar then informed the Bishop's Committee that he received a Notification of Renunciation of Vows for James Lowney Jr., a former deacon, from Bishop Baskerville-Burrows. He is canonically required to communicate such notifications to the Bishop's Committee.

### **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 second draft budget to the Bishops Committee with an accurate reflection on predicted expenses and an estimate of income for 2019. She also provided a one page synopsis sheet. The synopsis document will be provided at the Annual meeting in January 2019. The budget document was discussed at length. Erin shared that the full budget document includes detailed information about each of the lay leader budget areas, including any narrative notes the lay leader provided. This information can be accessed by clicking on each lay leader budget lines.

The Bishop's Committee agreed that the approved budget will be revisited in February, pending the outcome of the pledge campaign in January. The lay leaders are aware that budget adjustments could be made in February and have been asked not to plan large purchases during first quarter of 2019.

Father Gray asked for a motion to approve the 2019 budget. Jason Addis offered motion to accept the budget. Lara Dreyer made a second. All were in favor. Budget was approved.

### **Father Gray's 2019 Housing Resolution**

The following Resolution was presented to the Bishop's Committee by Father Gray:

"Whereas, The Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne is compensated by Good Samaritan Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis exclusively for services as a minister of the Gospel; and Whereas, Good Samaritan does not provide Father Lesesne with church-owned housing; therefore it is hereby *Resolved*, that the total compensation paid to Father Lesesne for calendar year 2019 is \$73,183, of which \$34,000 is now hereby designated to be a housing allowance; and it is further *Resolved*, that the designation of \$34,000 as a housing allowance shall apply to all future years unless otherwise provided.

Jason Addis offered a motion to accept the Housing Resolution as presented. Lara Dreyer offered a second. All were in favor. The Housing Resolution was accepted.

### **Approval of participation in Center for Congregations Power of Formation program**

Good Samaritan has been invited by the Center for Congregations to be a part of its experimental Power of Formation program in 2019, which would provide funding for a spiritual formation program. Gray indicated this grant will likely be pursued to further our work in areas around Racial Reconciliation. Jason Addis offered a motion to accept the invitation and pursue the grant. Lara Dreyer offered a second. All were in favor. The motion was passed.

### **Stewardship 2019**

The Bishop's Committee revisited its work on our Stewardship 2019 campaign, which will be in January 2019. Father Gray presented drafts of the material that will be provided to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. He also presented a draft copy of the letter and pledge card from the Bishop's Committee that will be sent to each congregant after the annual meeting. All materials are

utilizing the “Take the Next Step” theme approved by the Committee at the November meeting. The In-Gathering will be January 27, 2019. The congregation will be asked to bring forward their pledge for 2019 during this service. Father Gray has asked that the Bishop’s Committee members be prepared to provide their pledge to him by December 31, 2018. He will be able to announce to the congregation at the Annual Meeting the pledged amount the Bishop’s Committee has committed for 2019.

#### **Application of strategic planning grant from Center for Congregations update**

The Center for Congregations has encouraged GSEC to apply for the grant that will help us determine options for meeting and worship space beyond our lease expiration in August 2021. They suggested two consultants that we could work with regarding the grant. Lara and Kevin and Gray have had conversations with both consultants. From these conversations, it was determined that one consultant has more local expertise and seems like a better candidate to include as part of a grant application. The final draft of the application was presented to the Bishop’s Committee at the meeting for approval. The application was discussed by the group. Seeing no reason to not move forward with submitting the grant application, Jason Addis offered a motion to move forward with the grant application. Tim Kerstein offered a second. The motion to submit the grant application was approved.

#### **Bishop’s Committee Dinner and Orientation for New Members--January 2019**

Father Gray will be hosting a dinner and orientation for all members of the Bishop’s Committee including the new members beginning in January 2019. Calendar dates were discussed and January 20, 2019 was the decided date. Father Gray will send an email invitation/reminder to all Bishop’s committee members.

#### **New Business**

Kevin Samples noted that we need to do an inventory of church assets/durable goods. Gray stated that the Administrative Group will be working on this in 2019.

At the closing of the meeting, Father Gray asked for any prayer requests or anything for the good of the order. He did remind the group that the memorial service for Carol Baum would be on December 15, 2018 at 2 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church. He asked for prayers for the Baum Family.

Check requests were signed and the meeting concluded at 1:12 p.m