

**Good Samaritan Episcopal Church**  
**Bishop's Committee Meeting Minutes**  
Sunday, May 17, 2020

The Bishop's Committee met via Zoom.

**Members Present:** The Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne, Jason Addis, Ellen Burton, David Huang, Kevin Samples, Melinda Sowers, Erin Tanner, Denise Young

**Guest Present:** Barbie Russell, Director of Children's Ministries

Father Gray called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. Committee members shared joys and concerns in their lives.

**April Meeting Minutes:** The minutes from the April meeting were reviewed. With no edits or corrections to the minutes, Melinda made a motion to approve the minutes. Ellen seconded the motion approved.

**Treasurer's Update:** Melinda noted that the funds from the Payroll Protection Loan/Grant in the amount \$11,400 were deposited. Those funds will be tracked and accounted for in Realm. All accounts have been reconciled through the end of April. Current account balances reflect \$120,274.78 in the savings account and \$111,624.08 in the checking account. An inquiry was made as to the money in the line designated for the Curate's Discretionary Fund. This was a collection made at The Rev. Patrick Burke's ordination in 2019, and he has graciously insisted that we keep it, as his budgetary needs for pastoral care are covered at his current position at St. Paul's, Indianapolis. Melinda, Erin and Father Gray will discuss where to move those funds and make a recommendation before the end of this year. Ellen made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Kevin seconded the motion. The report was approved unanimously.

**Vicar's Report:** Father Gray reported on April Measures and Benchmarks:

- Number of people in "base": (completed Good Sam's 101 and considered solid): 176 (118, adults, 58 children/youth)
- Number of newcomers (people in the pipeline yet to go through Newcomer Initiation): 50 (35 adults, 15 children/youth)
- Rolling attendance last 4 weeks: 179 (145, 211, 170, 190)
- Year to date attendance average Sunday attendance: 151
- Year to date attendance last year at this time: 107.5
- 2020 amount pledged: \$152,834 in 67 pledges
- 2020 amount given: \$72,310 (as of May 12, 2020)--47% of annual giving
- Contact with community leaders since last time:
  - Natalie Brake, Hendricks County Alliance for Diversity (twice: once to discuss Village Hub, second time to discuss racism incident in Brownsburg)
  - Vicki Murphy, Brownsburg Community School Corporation (racism incident in Brownsburg)
  - Clergy meeting with Dr. Jim Snapp, Brownsburg Community School Corporation

Gray noted that Erina Ludwig's departure from her position as Director of Youth Ministries at Good Samaritan has been announced. She will assist with the transition of her position until June 30, 2020. Barbie increased her hours from 10 to 14 hours per week beginning May 1 to assist with the

transition of the ministry. Barbie is reaching out to other volunteers for participation in the youth ministry area.

Gray also noted that Astrid Caruso-Lynch, parish administrator, has been accepted for her graduate degree at Indiana University for the Fall 2020 semester, and has asked if she can adjust her work hours to accommodate her classes. Her graduate program will last for three semesters, after which she will begin looking for a full-time position. Discussion followed about looking ahead to the end of her academic program, and what that may mean for us. All agree that keeping Astrid on staff for as long as her schedule will allow is a priority.

Gray reminded the Bishop's Committee that the next Bishop's Committee will be moved from June 21<sup>st</sup> to June 14<sup>th</sup>, as the former is Father's Day.

Father Gray has also met with community leaders from Hendricks County Alliance for Diversity and Brownsburg Community School Corporation in regard to the racism incident in Brownsburg.

**Strategic Planning Update:** Father Gray invited members to offer comments or response to our May 3 meeting with The Rev. James Clark from Trinity Wall Street. Kevin Samples reminded the group that we are still looking at August as our pivot point as to whether we will go forward with our plan to pursue building a Village Hub on the 56<sup>th</sup> Street property. Father Gray and Kevin Samples and David Huang will meet with the Strategic Planning Committee tomorrow for additional

### **Coronavirus Responses:**

**Mid-year Budget Adjustments:** The Bishop's Committee discussed the impacts of the Coronavirus and economic recession on our 2020 budget and reviewed a draft of an amended budget for comments and changes. Erin Tanner reminded the Committee of a few important factors in the amended budget.

- The current salary for the Director of Youth Ministry position will cease with Erina Ludwig's departure on June 30, 2020 and can be revisited. With Barbie Russell working on volunteer recruitment for youth ministry, we do not yet know what sort of staffing we will need for this position. It is possible that this position could be eliminated, but it is too soon to tell.
- Kevin Samples has spoken with representatives at Elevate and has negotiated a small decrease in rent for April and May. If social distancing continues, the Wardens and Gray have discussed considering terminating our lease there, which we can do with three months' notice. The primary benefit of the Elevate space is the conference room usage. If we will not be gathering in conference rooms for the foreseeable future, Father Gray and Astrid Caruso-Lynch are amenable to working from home, and the Diocese can offer them office space as well. This could save Good Samaritan more than \$500 monthly.
- With the cancellation of the pilgrimage, funds from the Racial Reconciliation grant for Growing Courageous Neighbors will likely have to be repurposed or returned to the Center for Congregations. The Bishop's Committee reviewed three possible options and asked Gray to reach out to the Racial Reconciliation team and to the Center for Congregations to determine what is possible.

**Re-entry guidelines from Bishop Jennifer:** Father Gray noted receipt from Bishop Baskerville-Burrows of Diocesan Re-Entry Guidelines, which were distributed in the Bishop's Committee packets. He also noted that according to Indiana state regulations, Brownsburg Community Schools and Harris Academy will remain closed until at least July 1, and will not accept reservations for the spaces until after those dates. The Bishop's Committee discussed the guidelines and upon discussing the expectations of the Bishop, decided that, for now, gathering at Harris Academy would not be productive or fruitful given the restrictions imposed. (For example, given the

limit of 25 people, multiple services would be required, with cleanings required between each service, which we cannot afford to do under our current two-hour window and limited janitorial access.) Several members noted that online Sunday services are going well with robust attendance. The Committee agreed to not return to in-person worship until the experience could be positive, welcoming, and include almost everyone. The consensus of the group was that we do not wish to create two classes of individuals at Good Sam's. The Bishop's guidelines require a re-entry team to produce a draft regarding our plans to address issues surrounding re-entry. The Committee appointed the Wardens, Brian Dixon, and Father Gray to prepare a draft and submit it for approval at our June meeting.

**Ministry Liaison updates:** Melinda noted an upcoming stewardship meeting with Anne Davis and Gray. Ellen intends to have a more in-depth meeting with Outreach.

**Stewardship:** Gray asked Bishop's Committee members to commit to doing mid-year follow up for stewardship pledges, with either pastoral calls or notes from Bishop's Committee members to all those who have pledged with thank-yous. Committee members agreed and Gray will send them materials for following up sometime in late May or early June.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:57 p.m..

Faithfully Submitted,

Denise C Young