

**Good Samaritan Episcopal Church**  
**Bishop's Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Sunday, August 16, 2020**

The Bishop's Committee met via Zoom.

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

**Guests:** Anne Davis, Barbie Russell.

Father Gray called the meeting to order at 10:57 a.m. Committee members shared the joys and concerns in their lives.

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

**Treasurer's Update:** Melinda Sowers reported that all accounts have been reconciled through the end of July. Current account balances reflect \$135,652.23 in the checking account and \$120,320.26 in the savings account. Melinda will add a new line item in the budget to track the outreach funds as outlined in Resolution 2020-3, which will be considered in the Consent Agenda. Gray noted that we have ordered 1,000 disposable face masks and other PPP equipment, including hand sanitizer, in preparation for return to in-person worship for Good Samaritan; these lines will come from the worship supplies section of the budget. Melinda noted that she is requesting the year-to-date amount owed to the diocese for reimbursement of our portion of Father Gray's salary. This will help us to have a clearer picture of actual personnel costs incurred for 2020. Jason made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Erin seconded. Motion approved.

**Consent Agenda:**

**Resolution 2020-2: Authorization for hiring Youth Ministry Coordinators** was approved.

*Note: This resolution memorializes an emergency vote taken electronically on July 20, 2020.*

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bishop's Committee, in accordance with the by-laws of the congregation, authorizes the Vicar to employ Nan Miller and Rowan Squire-Willey as Youth Ministry Coordinators for positions of no more than 5 hours per week each, effective August 1, 2020.

**Resolution 2020-3: Authorization to establish a temporary COVID-19 Outreach Fund** was approved. Melinda noted that a line item in the budget will be added for this fund through December 31, 2020. She will coordinate with Lucy Karam, chairperson of outreach, to ensure that we spend all allocated funds.

**Formation of 2021 Nominating Committee:** Following the By-Laws, the Nominating Committee is composed of Father Gray, the Senior and Junior Wardens, as well as Jason Addis and Kevin Samples as the outgoing members of the Bishop's Committee. The Bishop's Committee approved the formation of the Nominating Committee.

**Stewardship 2021 Planning:** Anne Davis led a discussion on Stewardship Planning for 2021. COVID-19 has affected our original stewardship plan, and we have changed our theme to “Hallelujah, Anyway: Unexpected Times, Unexpected Faith.” The theme mirrors a book written by Anne LaMott, an Episcopal lay person, about resilience, gratitude, and trust in God’s mercy in times of hardship and challenge. Committee members echoed the appropriate theme, given all of 2020’s happenings.

Anne identified a timeline for activities supporting the stewardship drive throughout the month of October, which include a book discussion group, video interview vignettes to be shared with members, and a dropping of “Hallelujah, Anyway” stewardship kits the last week of October, which will have Good Samaritan face masks, hand sanitizer, blank notes of gratitude, and pledge cards. Since we will not likely have in-person worship on November 1, the campaign will culminate in a Parade of Gratitude after the 10 a.m. virtual service, where members can share their pledge cards in a drive-by setting. Anne is moving forward with the design logo for our stewardship drive, working with graphic designers.

Father Gray noted that the same videographer who will record the stewardship messages will also work with Barbie Russell to record a virtual Christmas pageant in a socially distanced and safe way.

The Committee approved the proposed campaign and thanked Anne for her work.

**Strategic Planning Update:** Ellen Burton reported that she and Father Gray met with representatives from non-profits that have indicated an interest in our Village Hub project at a joint meeting on June 26, 2020. Twelve organizations were in attendance, and these organizations are presenting proposals to their respective boards to seek a formal Letter of Interest by October 1, 2020. Family Promise has already sent a letter of intent, and while there is no financial offer at this time, they will assist us with grant-writing. She reported that our goal is to receive at least five and likely seven or eight letters of intent from other organizations.

The Committee then discussed moving our originally planned deadline for continuing or pivoting from August 2020 to October 2020, when we would have a clearer indication of how many nonprofit partners can join us. After a discussion about this change, the Committee agreed that this change posed no substantial risk to the project. Father Gray continues to communicate with Trinity Wall Street and other potential donors. He noted that the new direction coming from Trinity Wall Street indicates that possible granting will be strategic in nature, covering preparatory aspects of the project (for example, architectural renderings and site surveys). Father Gray expects to learn more in November 2020, when Trinity will likely reveal this information at a virtual conference that both he and Erin Tanner are planning to attend. Father Gray noted several other funding possibilities, including a new possibility from a private family trust that owns land in Hendricks County and has a particular interest in inclusion and the Episcopal Church.

Erin Tanner and Kevin Samples shared with the Committee that we have submitted a draft grant request to the Indianapolis Center For Congregations. This grant would cover legal fees to get clear opinions on zoning, the preparation of 501c3 paperwork to form a shared entity between nonprofits and Good Samaritan, and a consultant to help us perform readiness assessments with the nonprofit partners and to help us prepare several scenario-based business plans. Father Gray indicated that he would send a draft of the grant application for review via email in the week that followed this

meeting, and that we would approve the grant at September's Bishop's Committee meeting.

**Regathering 2.0 Plan Draft:** Father Gray presented an updated Regathering Plan draft that had been approved by the Wardens. This draft allows for the possibility of outdoor Sunday worship services at Harris Academy in September and October 2020 and weeknight outdoor formation gatherings, assuming that diocesan COVID protocols continue to be followed. The plan indicates that the first in-person, indoor gathering at Harris Academy would not occur until at least November 1, 2020, and would be capacity limited at 25 people, following current diocesan guidelines. Father Gray noted that this was a placeholder for now, and that prior to the resumption of any indoor worship services, he would like to have another discussion with the Bishop's Committee. The Committee approved the Regathering Plan 2.0; Gray will submit it to the Bishop for approval.

**Authorization to begin 2021 budget process:** The Bishop's Committee approved the beginning of the 2021 Budget Preparation process. Erin Tanner noted that the 2021 budget will look very similar to the originally proposed 2020 budget; following the expected diocesan recommendations, we are not anticipating increasing either staff salaries or programmatic expenses.

**Reports from Ministry Liaison Areas:** Bishop's Committee members shared information and perspectives from their different liaison areas.

**Feedback for Father Gray:** Bishop's Committee members offered feedback to Gray about the status of the congregation.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,

Denise C Young