

**Good Samaritan Episcopal Church  
Bishop's Committee Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, September 20, 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.

Father Gray called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. Committee members shared the joys and concerns in their lives.

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

**Treasurer's Update:** Melinda Sowers reported that all accounts have been reconciled through the end of August. Current account balances reflect \$145,065.42 in the checking account and \$120,335.59 in the savings account. Balances are elevated as the reimbursement to the Diocese for our portion of Father Gray's 2020 salary has not yet been paid. (It will be sent later this year.) As well, a portion of the grant from the Center for Congregations must be returned by December 31, 2020. As well, the Lilly Grant for Clergy Renewal will be used next year. Ministry Liaisons reported no issues regarding ministry budgets. Ellen made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Erin seconded. Motion approved.

**Vicar's Report:** Father Gray reported continued good attendance numbers. Outdoor services at 11:15 a.m. have drawn 22 and 25 parishioners over the previous two Sundays, respectively. Participants are compliant with COVID restrictions. Pledged giving year-to-date is at 92%. Father Gray continues with Village Hub work and has a meeting planned soon with The Rev. James Clark from Trinity Wall Street.

Father Gray proposed the date for the Annual Meeting for January 31, 2021. Without objection, the Committee approved this date.

Specific details for the Vicar's Report are provided in an attachment to these minutes.

**Nominating Committee Update:** Erin reported that the Nominating Committee met and proposed two parishioners to nominate for open Vestry positions, Ann Davis and Charlie Mitchell. After conversation with Ann and Charlie, both have agreed to serve. Sally Cassidy and Heidi Morris-Cass have agreed to serve as delegates for the Diocesan Convention. Kevin made a motion to approve the appointments for Vestry and Delegate positions. David seconded. Motion approved.

### **Regathering Update:**

- **In-person Formation Activities:** Father Gray reported that driveway gatherings for adult formation are well-attended, with 5-7 participants participating in each and observing all COVID restrictions. Online Pub Theology has also been successful.
- **In-Person Worship Services:** The Bishop's Committee discussed the possible continuation of in-person worship services, which are still being held outside at 11:15 a.m. While outdoor services are acceptable to the Committee for now, there is considerable concern about resuming indoor worship once the weather turns cooler for several reasons. The current diocesan capacity limit of 25 makes the possibility of in-person worship inside rather cost prohibitive.
- **Request to Add Communion to Outdoor Worship in October:** Though we are not currently offering Communion at outdoor worship, the Diocese has approved it for services as long as guidelines are followed. Father Gray asked the Committee for permission to amend our Regathering Plan and to submit it to the Diocese to allow for Holy Communion. The Committee approved.

**Statement on Racism, First Draft:** Bishop's Committee members reviewed and discussed the first draft of Good Samaritan's Statement on Becoming an Anti-Racist Congregation. Changes in verbiage were suggested. The final document is expected for approval in October.

**Approval of Center for Congregations Grant and Contract with Marnie Maxwell:** Bishop's Committee members discussed the draft grant application for the Center for Congregations. The grant application requests three areas of assistance:

- Legal assistance from Fred Cline, a Hendricks County local zoning attorney, to ensure that we have an opinion letter on the religious zoning designation of the 56th Street property. Fred comes recommended to us by Family Promise, who assisted them in succeeding when they had a tough zoning battle at their property in Avon. He knows all of the Hendricks County zoning players and how to navigate landmines. We don't necessarily anticipate any at this point, but better to have someone with prior experience.
- Legal assistance from Charitable Allies, a local legal service that works with nonprofits, to help us establish a 501c3 for the Village Hub that could receive secular grants. The 501c3 would be structured in a way to offer accountability and legal protection both to Good Samaritan and the Diocese. It's still unclear if this entity would need to own the property on 56th Street or if it perhaps could lease the property from Good Sam's or the Diocese for, say, \$1 per year.
- Employment of Marnie Maxwell of Maxwell and Associates in a contracted position for the purposes of vetting the nonprofit partners we're considering for financial and missional readiness and then writing several versions of a business plan, assuming several scenarios.

Ellen Burton updated the Committee on her ongoing conversations with representatives from nonprofits who are interested in partnering with us in the Village Hub. As many as nine nonprofits are expected to return letters of interest by our October 1, 2020 deadline. Melinda made a motion to approve the grant application, and Jason seconded the motion. Motion approved. The grant application will be considered in mid-October. Budgets for our cost-share of the grant will be included in the 2021 budget.

The Committee also considered the contract approval for Marnie Maxwell, which would be concurrently signed once we receive approval from the Center for Congregations. Jason Addis made the motion to approve, and David Huang seconded the motion. Motion approved.

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

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,

Denise C Young

## **Vicar's Report**

Measures and Benchmarks as of Sep 15, 2020

- Number of people in “base”: (completed Good Sam’s 101 and considered solid): 181 (119, adults, 62 children/youth)
- Number of newcomers (people in the pipeline yet to go through Newcomer Initiation): 49 (35 adults, 14 children/youth)
- Rolling attendance last 4 weeks: 135.5 (149, 124, 127, 142)
- Year to date attendance average Sunday attendance: 141
- Year to date attendance last year at this time: 102.6
- 2020 amount pledged: \$153,074 in 68 pledges
- 2020 amount given: \$142,125 (as of Sep 8, 2020)--92% of pledged annual giving

Community Conversations/Activities since last meeting:

- Attended part of Restorative Communities Practices workshop at Peace Learning Center
- Met with Brownsburg Older Adult Alliance Board for Village Hub Conversation
- Attended Hendricks County Alliance for Diversity’s semi-annual meeting
- Met with John Cazares & Lynn Morris, Bethel United Methodist Church Early Learning Center for Village Hub Conversation
- Met with Apple House Preschool Board for Village Hub Conversation
- Met with The Rev. James Clark from Trinity, Wall Street for Village Hub update
- Met with The Rev. Larry Vinson, Community Transformation Partners, a new organization forming in Hendricks County to minister to men struggling with addiction
- Met with The Rev. C. Davies Reid (St. Francis, Zionsville) and The Rev. Christopher Beasley (St. Peter’s, Lebanon) to discuss future evangelism in Whitestown area.
- Met with Natalie Brake, Hendricks County Diversity Alliance, for Village Hub Conversation

**Good Samaritan Episcopal Church  
Bishop's Committee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, October 8, 2020**

The Bishop's Committee met via Zoom for a special called meeting at 6:30 p.m..

**Members Present:** The Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne, Jason Addis, Ellen Burton, David Huang, Kevin Samples, Melinda Sowers, Erin Tanner, Denise Young, The Rev. Canon Kristin White from the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis

The Committee entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue and adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,

Denise C Young