

**Good Samaritan Episcopal Church
Bishop's Committee Meeting Minutes
Sunday, October 18, 2020**

The Bishop's Committee met via Zoom.

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

Members Absent: Jason Addis

Father Gray called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m. Committee members shared the joys and concerns in their lives.

September Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the September meeting were reviewed. With corrections made, Melinda made a motion to approve the amended minutes. Erin seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Melinda Sowers reported that all accounts are reconciled through September 30, 2020. Current account balances reflect \$142,668 in the checking account and \$123,350 in the savings account. Balances are elevated as our portion of Father Gray's salary has not yet been reimbursed to the Diocese of Indianapolis. Our portion will be sent before Dec. 31, 2020. Melinda will check with ADP to inquire how paystubs can be obtained electronically instead of having paper stubs sent to the diocesan office. Paper stubs are not necessary as all staff is paid via direct deposit. Melinda will contact IMCU about obtaining a business credit card for GSEC. We also are returning unused pilgrimage funds to the Center for Congregations. The Lilly Endowment grant for Father Gray's unused sabbatical will be returned to Christian Theological Seminary. Ministry Liaisons reported no issues regarding ministry budgets. Kevin made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Ellen seconded. Motion approved.

Vicar's Report:

Father Gray noted the following for his monthly report:

- Number of people in "base": (members and regular participants): 226 (152 adults, 74 children/youth)
- Number of newcomers (people in the pipeline yet to go through Newcomer Initiation): 6 adults
- Rolling attendance last 4 weeks: 128 (136, 122, 156, 138)
- Year to date attendance average Sunday attendance: 132
- Year to date attendance last year at this time: 102.6
- 2020 amount pledged: \$153,074 in 68 pledges
- 2020 amount given: \$144,075 (as of October 11, 2020)--94% of pledged annual giving

Transition Planning:

General Check-in. The Bishop's Committee discussed our upcoming clergy transition. Several members noted that parishioners' previous experiences with other transitions and pre-conceived ideas about clergy transitions may be different than this process. Explanations and updates on the progress will lessen confusion and anxiety. Father Gray suggested compiling an FAQ document and a

webpage to explain the process and keep parishioners up to date on the progress. The Committee agreed.

Guest clergy in December: The Wardens are coordinating the procurement of supply priests for December 2020 and January 2021. Good Samaritan will be responsible for supply clergy expenses. Our traditional Christmas Eve service will be pre-taped and presented online at 4:00 p.m. on December 24, and then be available on demand. Kevin Samples is working with the Bishop's Office on the larger aspects of the transition. Keeping the congregation connected to the Diocesan office is a priority.

Collaboration with ministry leaders for leadership, pastoring during the transition season: Father Gray noted that he will ask our ministry leaders to offer periodic check-ins with parishioners who serve in their areas. The Wardens will check in on Bishop's Committee members. The Wardens have also coordinated an on-call clergyperson for pastoral care and will be the primary point of contact if this is necessary.

How to offer transparency and reduce anxiety in the congregation: Bishop's Committee members and ministry leaders agreed to be available to answer questions about the progress of the transition. Open communication will offer transparency throughout the process. Transition information will be posted on the website.

Proposed farewell activities for Father Gray: November 29, 2020 is Father Gray's last Sunday at Good Samaritan. The staff and Father Gray are still planning farewell activities that are in compliance with our regathering guidelines.

Strategic Planning for Village Hub:

Ellen Burton noted that we now have nine letters of interest from nonprofits in Hendricks and Marion Counties, and two organizations are still considering their participation.

Father Gray reported that we are still waiting on formal approval from the Center for Congregations strategic planning grant and anticipate that notification in the next week. This grant will enable us to sign the contract with Maxwell and Associates for nonprofit readiness assessments and development of a business plan.

Father Gray also noted that the Bishop's Committee in August 2020 had set October as a formal date to decide to continue or pivot to an alternative plan. Given the strong interest from the nonprofits, the Bishop's Committee was encouraged at this time and unanimously decided to continue in pursuit of the Village Hub project.

Ellen Burton, Erin Tanner, and Father Gray will participate in Trinity Church Wall Street's Gift of Place conference in November; we hope this is a fruitful first step for pursuing a demonstration grant from them.

Good Samaritan Statement on Racism:

The final draft was reviewed and edited. It is below.

As a community that loves, serves, and includes all people, no exceptions, Good Samaritan Episcopal Church is striving to become a multi-cultural, multi-racial, anti-racist congregation that faithfully reflects our entire community.

We believe we are all called to work against racism, discrimination, oppression, and injustice of any kind. We are all called to work toward a society in which the teachings of Jesus are realized through us. We choose to honor our Baptismal promises to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to strive for justice and peace among all people by going beyond the traditional arenas of Christian charity to change practices and systems that necessitate charity itself.

We provide our congregation and larger community with opportunities to examine and re-create practices, systems, and policies that have enabled discrimination and inequality in an effort to make our community wholly equitable for all people.

Ellen moved adoption of this statement and Melinda seconded. It was unanimously approved.

2021 Budget:

Erin Tanner presented a first draft 2021 budget. The Bishop's Committee offered feedback and suggested amendments. Erin will present a final draft in either November or December 2021.

Reports from Ministry Liaison Areas:

Bishop's Committee shared information and perspectives from their different liaison areas.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,

Denise C Young