

**Good Samaritan Episcopal Church  
Bishop's Committee Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, November 15, 2020**

The Bishop's Committee met via Zoom.

**Members Present:** The Rev. 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 11:30am. Committee members shared the joys and concerns in their lives.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Melinda Sowers noted that October financials will be deferred until December's meeting. She reported that our portion of Father Gray's 2020 salary has been paid to the Diocese. The Lilly Endowment grant for Father Gray's unused sabbatical has been returned to Christian Theological Seminary. We are still working on the final report for the Power of Formation Grant (for Racial Reconciliation) to determine the amount of funds we will return to the Center for Congregations.

Melinda noted that our 2019 audit is in process. Initial feedback from the auditor has been generally positive, with no serious concerns. We expect an initial draft at the beginning of December. After Kevin, Erin and Melinda review the draft, the final report will be available for discussion at either the December 2020 or January 2021 Bishop's Committee meeting.

**Vicar's Report:**

Father Gray noted the following for his monthly report:

- Number of people in "base" (members and regular participants): 228 (153 adults, 75 children/youth)
- Number of newcomers (people in the pipeline yet to go through Newcomer Initiation, 7 adults)
- Rolling attendance last 4 weeks: 117 (120, 102, 127, 118)
- Year-to-date attendance average Sunday attendance: 128.3
- Year-to-date attendance last year at this time: 102.5
- 2020 amount pledged: \$153,074 in 69 pledges
- 2020 amount given: \$157,909 (as of October 31, 2020)

The Bishop's Committee discussed the importance of keeping the congregation informed in regard to both the transition and the Village Hub Strategic Plan. Communication will be offered through the newsletter, website and the Wardens.

The December Bishop's Committee meeting is moved to December 13.

**2021 Stewardship Update:** Gray noted that initial numbers from the 2021 Stewardship Campaign look good. As of today, we have received 59 pledges for \$136,528. 10 of these pledges are new, many households have modestly increased, and only three have decreased. In each of those cases, there is a pastoral circumstance for the decrease (e.g. job change). Gray and Anne Davis are following up with remaining households.

**Transition Planning:** Kevin updated the Committee on the priest transition progress. The Rev. Amy Lindeman Allen, a Lutheran minister authorized by Bishop Baskerville-Burrows to serve in the Episcopal Church, will serve as our guest clergyperson through January 2021. She has expressed openness to staying beyond January if necessary. Farewell activities for Father Gray will include an opportunity to share memories on Zoom following the service on November 29, 2020. A drive-by goodbye event is also scheduled on November 29 in the Messiah Lutheran Church.

**Strategic Planning for Village Hub:** The Village Hub team updated the Committee on the progress made in regard to nonprofit involvement and participation. Marnie Maxwell is already underway with evaluations on the nine nonprofits who have offered letters of interest. Father Gray, Erin Tanner and Ellen Burton will make a presentation to Trinity Wall Street seeking a possible demonstration grant on November 19-20, 2020.

The Committee members shared their thanks and gratitude for Father Gray as he prepares to begin his ministry at Christ Church Cathedral.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Faithfully submitted

Denise C Young