

**Good Samaritan Episcopal Church
Bishop's Committee Meeting Minutes
Sunday, October 17, 2021**

The Bishop's Committee met via Zoom.

Members Present: Ellen Burton, Melinda Sowers, David Huang, Erin Tanner, Charlee Mitchell, Susan Burt, Reverend Beth Scriven. Guests: Courtenay Murakowski

Mother Beth called the meeting to order at 1:38 PM. Committee members shared the joys and concerns in their lives.

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

Treasurer's Report: Melinda reviewed account activity from September. Current balances reflect in \$186,237.61 the checking account and \$120,473.95 in the savings account. Discussion about September's Treasurer's report concerning pledge fulfillment. Erin made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Ellen seconded. Motion approved.

Endorsement Policy: Draft Policy attached in the agenda of this meeting. Discussion ensued. Some wording changes were made. Ellen made motion to accept policy after changes. Melinda seconded. Motion carried.

Bishops Committee Obligations: Bishop's visit is next week. BC has a meeting with the bishop from 1pm to 1:45pm in person at Harris. Plans made for next week's meeting. Member on Duty sign-ups: - Discussion ensued for doing this for virtual and in person.

COVID next steps: Discussion of the survey and what outcomes might be.

College for Congregational Development: Program for teams from congregations for organization of such. Because we are receiving aid we should attend. Discussing who will go with Beth and Deb Samples. July 17-23, 2022

Warden Selection: How wardens are selected previously: Vicar selects the Senior Warden, and the Junior Warden is chosen at the BC December meeting then presented at the January Annual Meeting. Discussion of the election and appointment of the new BC committee minutes.

Stewardship Update: Anne not at meeting, Beth did update. Everything is moving along for the gatherings. Stewardship Sunday is November 14, 2021.

Budget Process: Erin discussed how the budget process will happen. Once ministries are complete with their parts then we must put the income and expense together to make the budget complete. Discussions of grants and if anyone has any please let us know.

Village Hub Update: Things are moving forward. Rob Cullen is going to help as co-chair to make sure things are moving along. Meeting with partners soon. Should hear from Trinity Wall Street within a month or so. Synopsis of the IndyDio meeting from October 16.

Vicar's Report:

By the numbers...

Measures and Benchmarks as of October 17, 2021

- Number of people in “base”: (members and regular participants): 252 (173 adults, 79 children/youth)
 - Number of newcomers (people in the pipeline yet to go through Newcomer Initiation): 8 adults
 - Rolling attendance last 4 weeks: (75, 90*, 73, 101) avg. 85 - *for 9/26 we have the sign-in but not the screenshot, so this is a guess based on similar weeks
 - Year to date average Sunday attendance: Astrid and I are both up to our eyebrows at this point and Realm won't auto-calculate this now that we have two services a week. We promise to figure out how to get this back in the mix as soon as we clear some breathing space.
 - Year to date average Sunday attendance last year at this time: 131.5
 - 2021 amount pledged: 72 pledges for \$162,783
 - 2021 amount given: \$110,431.42
 - Vicar's community connections: September - 5.5 external, 4 internal, 6.5 Episcopal. External: Joseph Eldridge (local parent and pastor), introduction to Austin Inge (new Harris director), Bow Wow festival, BHS Equality Alliance, Brownsburg Resident Academy; 0.5 is Jim Lemler, executive director of Clowes Foundation and also an Episcopal priest, and the lunch was about Village Hub funding and Episcopal connections, so it's hard to classify.
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- We have missed a couple of Sunday attendance screenshots this summer/fall but have a better plan now for making sure someone is taking them going forward.
 - Average Sunday attendance is harder to track right now but definitely down across 2021. This is true for most congregations, especially those who maintained energy through 2020 as we did, but still [something we want to pay attention to](#) - both in terms of who we need to reach out to and keep connected with, and in terms of boosting our publicity as we get back to weekly indoor in-person worship and are better equipped to welcome new folks in person.
 - Number of folks in base has held steady around 250 since I started. We have lost the Millers, Burnhams, and Ehrenmanns to distance and two members to having a female vicar. (N.B. this is actually pretty good for a church calling its first female pastor.) We've welcomed enough newcomers to hold steady, but I hope we can get back into a pattern of more growth as our patterns become more consistent.
 - I was surprised to see I'd kept community connections that high in September. The day-to-day running of the congregation has picked up considerably this fall, as have Episcopal connection expectations, and it would be easy to let community connections get squeezed out right now. I consistently have a longer list of folks I want to connect with right away (both internally and externally) than I can actually connect with right away. I'm not sure anything can be done about this in the short term, but it's [something we need to watch](#). Over the long term it will hurt us if the Vicar's work is not well

balanced between running the congregation and connecting with people directly, both inside and outside Good Sam's.

- Everyone is overwhelmed and exhausted right now, at all levels of society and therefore all levels of church. That's both a pastoral concern (we want all our folks to thrive, including being able to rest) and an organizational concern (we need all our folks to help). We've done a great job this summer rotating folks out of old responsibilities and getting new folks in, but it's still ongoing, and it's getting harder to find folks who can take on anything more. This is likely not a technical fix, and is at odds with the current need to do two Sunday services. It's not anything to try to fix this month, but it's [another thing to watch](#), big-picture-wise.

Reports from Ministry Liaison Areas: No reports for this meeting.

Prayer Requests/Thank yous – Prayer requests for family members. Thank yous scheduled to be written for ministry leaders. Beth will get with Anne to work on these.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Faithfully submitted,
Susan Burt