

**Good Samaritan Episcopal Church**  
**Bishop's Committee Regular Meeting Minutes**  
Saturday, February 26, 2022

**Vicar's Report:**

*By the numbers...*

Measures and Benchmarks as of February 24, 2022

- Number of people in "base": (members and regular participants): 244 (181 adults, 63 children/youth)
- Number of newcomers (people in the pipeline yet to go through Newcomer Initiation): 15 adults
- Rolling attendance last 4 weeks: (106, 111, 98, 86) avg. 100.25
- Year to date average Sunday attendance:
  - 2021 in person ASA: 56
  - 2021 online ASA: 88
  - 2021 total ASA: 77.6
  - 2022 YTD ASA: 85
- Year to date average Sunday attendance last year at this time: 126.5
- 2022 amount pledged: \$151,616.16
- 2022 amount given: \$21,107.94
- Vicar's community connections: January: External - 1; Episcopal - 5; February: External - 4 (Village Hub architects, joint Ash Wednesday planning, Brownsburg police commissioners, Indiana Statehouse w/ACLU); Episcopal - 5; Newcomer coffees - 2
- January focus was very much on internal conversations and processes: RFQ prep, BC/Vicar conversations and the follow-up, staff evaluations, Annual Meeting and new warden prep. February has focused on in-person/livestream and Lenten planning, but also more community connections.

**The Bishop's Committee met at Elevate, Brownsburg.**

**Members Present:** Reverend Beth Scriven, David Huang, Anne Davis, Melinda Sowers, Charlee Mitchell, Susan Burt, Katy Hilts, Clerk Tina Lamb and guest Courtenay Murakowski

Mother Beth called the meeting to order at approximately 8:20 AM. Committee members shared joys and concerns. David encouraged the group to think about the congregation's needs, to try to get a good sense of the pulse of the congregation—what to keep, what to change. Mother Beth led the committee in a Wisdom Meditation.

**January Meeting Minutes:** The minutes from the January meeting were reviewed, and with no edits or corrections to the minutes, Charlee made a motion to approve; Katy seconded. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Update:** Melinda offered a brief update, discussing Thursday's audit which was moved due to weather. David Huang and Anne Davis were appointed as authorized check signers for Good Samaritan. Ellen Burton and Erin Tanner remain check signers, but will be removed as such when David and Anne

are added. Tina was asked to send Melinda the draft of the minutes so they might be presented to Indiana Members Credit Union. Katy moved to approve and Charlee Seconded. Motion approved.

Discussion ensued regarding “breaking up” 2022 for cash flow purposes. Since we’re not paying that much percentage-wise, David opined that it was not worth pursuing now, but okay to get to it eventually. Mother Beth felt it might be a good pattern to get into, over time, looking ahead. Susan moved to approve the treasurer’s report and Anne seconded: motion approved.

**Orientation/Re-Orientation to Bishop’s Committee** (as last year’s was a “meet the vicar” event): A one-page official job description for new members was reviewed, focusing on the general role and responsibilities. Indiana Members Credit Union accounts were discussed (free business checking, business membership savings).

Committee members were invited into this role based on the balance between whole brain, whole nature, and whole heart—and their role in the community. They are expected to support the priest, staff and warden in providing leadership for the parish, “not to be a rubber stamp to what I [Mother Beth] think.”

Ten Rules of Respect were reviewed for this level of leadership. Various communication styles were discussed, with guidance to avoid triangulation. David noted: “We aren’t here to solve things per se, but can offer suggestions or coaching.” Mother Beth encouraged: “If you have a problem with me, come to me, and I will do the same. I’ll be careful how I interpret and ask you to do the same.” Assume good intent; proceed with that assumption. Help to interpret truthfully but generously. If it’s confidential, don’t tell.

David briefly discussed mandated reporting; diocesan training on safe-guarding must be taken. Mother Beth noted that new modules were supposed to come out but things are behind, so they’re still not out. Better modules are about to drop. All vestry/BC members will be expected to do some safeguarding training.

David noted: “If one of us became aware of something that needs reported, it would usually go through the vicar.”

Mother Beth elaborated: “Go through Canon Kristin White if the complaint is about the vicar...For the church, the vicar has ultimate responsibility that things are followed through correctly. There might or might not be much in the way of official updates, but feel free to go to the vicar to discuss. When in doubt, just say so.” She then distributed copies of the Vestry Resource Guide, and a brief discussion followed.

**Ministry Liaison role descriptions** were discussed, with the understanding that each member will have a primary and a secondary area of responsibility, and will report back to the committee accordingly and briefly to represent their areas.

The following liaisons were assigned:

*Katy*: Connections, Communications

*Susan*: Budget and Finance, Worship and Music

*David:* Village Hub, Sr. Warden Role

*Melinda:* Admin. Communication, Adult Formation

*Charlee:* Outreach, Children and Youth Ministry

*Anne:* Stewardship, Pastoral Care

Mother Beth plans to follow up with all regarding contacts.

**Member on Duty:** David gave detailed instructions for Sunday worship or any time donations might be received. This included tips for creating a welcoming environment.

**Parochial Report:** Mother Beth presented and no questions arose. Melinda moved that the committee accept the RA report at the end of the meeting. Katy seconded, and all approved.

**PO Box discussion:** Anne moved that a post office box be established, and Charlee seconded. Motion approved. Mother Beth mentioned that the Cathedral's address could be used as a backup.

**Vicar's Report:** No additional commentary.

Charlee presented a motion to adjourn. Anne seconded; so moved.

Faithfully submitted,

Tina K. Lamb