**Good Samaritan Episcopal Church**

**Bishop’s Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Sunday, August 21, 2022**

The Bishop’s Committee met via Zoom.

**Members Present:** Melinda Sowers, Anne Davis, David Huang, Katy Hilts, Charlee Mitchell, Susan Burt, and Clerk Tina Lamb

David called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Committee members shared joys (including Father Jim’s upcoming arrival) and concerns.

**July Meeting Minutes:** The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. With no edits or corrections necessary, Susan moved to approve the minutes. Charlee seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. David planned to forward to Bri to post.

**Treasurer’s Update:** Melinda stated that the checking balance was $143,170.50 and savings’ was $120,577.46, for a total of $263,747.96. The reports were dated July 31st. Melinda explained ushers need to be the ones counting the cash and putting the amounts on the sheets; Bishop’s Committee member on duty will verify and prepare the deposit. We will get a new box when Father Jim starts—a more durable one. David agreed, re: getting that duty back with the ushers. We will create a new version of the instructions for ushers and their training. In the meantime, BC members will do it until there are enough ushers and they’re trained. Melinda explained that more than one person must count the cash and both names must be on the verification forms.

**Vicar’s Report:** David is checking with Father Jim every few days; they’ve accepted an offer on their house in Georgia and are in the process of buying a house in Brownsburg, with a positive attitude through in these challenges. Susan is looking into office space and sending photos. The plan is to hold off on signing a contract at this time. If he needs office space before then he will use space at the Diocese. Father Jim will be networking, e.g. with Pastor Eric next door, for occasional use of rooms. There is no need to commit to Elevate right now. We can move funds around in the future if needed.

David expressed gratitude to Barbie and Lucy for the day’s Involvement Fair—a good intro for Father Jim. Melinda mentioned that he expressed interest in participating in Going Deeper in October. David reminded the group that his first day of work at the diocese would be September 12 and that he would first preach on the 18th. Melinda, David and Susan discussed a “warm intro” email right after Labor Day to connect him with Bri, who’s been working from home quite a bit.

David mentioned a message from Bri, sent the week before, from Brownsburg Schools, re: liaising with local churches’ youth ministries. Maybe it would be best to connect Cal and Yvonne about the meetings taking place August 24, November 2, February 1, and April 19 (Wednesdays) from 8 – 9:00, with no online option mentioned. The meetings will take place at the Admin Office at 310 Stadium Drive, Door 7. Charlee offered to talk with Yvonne and Cal and Melinda said she might be able to go if they could not.

David explained that there was an impression that we had to be out of Harris by June 2023, but Brownsburg Community School Corporation explained we are two years into a new five-year use period. They didn’t “keep the clock running” during Covid. He hadn’t yet contacted Reagan but has conveyed to Jim that we have 3.8 years remaining. Katie wondered what to tell people who had signed up to serve on that committee, and David suggested that it’s not as urgent now, but we can keep the committee. Good to have a committee to meet quarterly to develop an activation plan. Katy agreed. Melinda wondered about the timing of sharing the contract news with the congregation and David indicated he would introduce Jim to Reagan and bring it up then. Charlee suggested that the group allow Jim to announce the good news, and Melinda said she’d follow up with Steven Hamner. David proposed that everyone would know mid- to late-September, and Katy offered to let committee members know.

Harris Academy asked that the congregation be reminded that no tobacco use or vaping is allowed on the property, nor candles/flames, or alcohol. The door to the Harris Front Office must always be kept completely closed. It remains ok to enter the office to use copier or the sink in the lounge (for Altar Guild prep/clean up and Hospitality prep/cleanup) but never leave the door open. All BC members and staff are requested to regularly check the door and immediately close if ever seen open. The door is monitored by sensors, and we need to keep that Administrative area secure while we are present.

David cited an issue the Outreach Committee leaders were having with a volunteer. The Bishop’s Committee lovingly asked the person not to serve again with a particular community organization.

David mentioned an email from Deb Samples saying she’s going to end her leadership of Adult Formation, and he explained a new lay leader would be chosen. Melinda explained these activities would include after-church kinds of offerings that were not service activities but Bible studies and the like. David asked for prayers for Deb’s physical challenges.

Susan stated a need for a 2022 budget review after August, perhaps around October 20th, and said she’d start working on 2023 budgets. David expressed a wish to onboard Jim with the process. Susan provided a Welcome Committee update; a gift basket and cupcakes were planned. David recommended setting up a number of weeks for Good Sam’s folks to host Jim and Kim for dinner, picking a time window, once a week, using Signup Genius, for example. Susan offered to talk with Jim about the timing. David committed to getting a Realm log-in for Jim.

Melinda discussed the Admin Committee, saying Mary Kay had everything she needed from Cal and would be getting what is needed in Realm.

Katy, representing Connections, said she did check with Deb re: specific activities, e.g. meal train volunteering. Melinda replied that a person had signed up that day for meal train coordination.

David wondered whether any more communication was needed for the congregation, explaining he was working on another letter with Jim, maybe also a video. The letter would be sent in perhaps two weeks, Labor Day weekend, and an email blast could be sent also. David said, “When we invited Jim, he mentioned a Good Samaritan award.”

**Stewardship Planning:** Anne cited a need to find someone to lead this initiative for 2023’s plan, suggesting an abbreviated timeline that would involve choosing a theme with artwork/graphics, e.g. the “What does love do?” and “Hallelujah Anyway!” themes of the last couple of years. Ideally, two people would lead, but Anne expressed a willingness to take it on, if no one else was in mind, with the Committee’s support. The active time would begin immediately and last through January 1st. She asked if there were any ideas of folks who would be willing. Melinda mentioned a need to purchase “swag” to give out, and Anne explained there will be a timeline with a plan to celebrate on a Sunday around Thanksgiving, along with about three meetings (with a Zoom option) offered, one of which could be lined up with the Oldies But Goodies, one after a service, etc. David suggested “we could divide and conquer as a committee, if need be.”

Anne said that last year a lot of members met at Beth’s house, a couple met on Zoom, a couple of folks attended a morning meeting, and about ten met through Oldies But Goodies. David proposed offering one after church and one on Zoom. Anne expressed a desire to get the congregation as involved as possible: a connection and not just an ask. David commended Q&A and reflection. Anne said that pre-Covid it was a simple one-hour dinner with a slideshow of what we’ve done over the past year. David recommended trimming it down and tackling as a group, since it’s right around the corner. Anne agreed to run point if the BC would be willing to assist, then Father Jim could decide how to handle it in the future. David responded: “We will contribute and follow your leadership.”

Melinda suggested the theme/title “Blessed Beginnings.” David said he would talk with Father Jim about his thoughts, and Anne committed to work with Lucy on dates, explaining it’s usually dictated by the timing of outreach and when it fits, rather than according to Church holidays. David asked the group to “plop in the chat” their ideas for theme and dates. The conversation turned to a delay in the mailing of giving statements, with Melinda explaining the normal quarterly schedule and proposing mailing them in September and at the end of the year, which Anne liked. Melinda could work with Bri because she hasn’t yet done those. However, the decision was made to wait for Father Jim’s arrival and to pen a letter to let people know the statements would arrive in September.

**Prayer Requests/Thank yous:** Prayers were requested for Charlee, whose parents are living with her for a while (“the good with the bad”).

The next meeting was set for September 25th but was later moved up to the 21st at the Huangs’ home. Bishop’s Committee duty sign-ups were handled: Anne, 28th; Melinda, 4th; Charlee, 11th; Katy, 25th.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 pm.