**Good Samaritan Episcopal Church**

**Bishop’s Committee Minutes**

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

The Bishop’s Committee met at the home of Tina Lamb in Speedway.

**Members present:** Reverend Jim Said, David Huang, Melinda Sowers (remotely), Charlee Mitchell, Anne Davis, Katy Hilts, and Clerk Tina Lamb. Susan Burt was absent.

Opening prayer and Check-Ins, 7:15

Father Jim led the group in a discussion of Luke 23 and invited the personal and professional sharing of each attendee.

Jim mentioned his family is glad to be together in Indiana, and that there are lots of new people at Good Sam’s recently. He asked that greeters ask attendees to put last names on tags with first names, and pronouns if desired.

**Approval of October Meeting Minutes & Consent Agenda:** Adjustments were requested, discussed, and agreed upon. With these changes, Charlee moved and Anne seconded; the motion was approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

* Checking: $150,225.73
* Savings: $120,643.38
* Jim asked about the deposit protocol and reconciliation, and Melinda reviewed.

Katy moved to approve the October financial reports: Anne seconded; all approved.

**Vicar’s Report:** Jim noted there would be a Christmas music service on Christmas Eve, a 4:30 chorale event that would be worked out with Kendall and Ann. People will be able to submit requests for songs. He clarified that the service itself would begin at 5:00. On Christmas Day there will be a regular 10:00 AM service. December 21st is the winter solstice, and Jim noted that he wanted to keep simple and meaningful. Ideas were touched on.

The Administrator and Youth Minister job postings were briefly discussed.

Employee Handbook update: every employee needs a letter of agreement and Barbie needs an updated one for her new role.

Pastoral care has been busy; people needing lots of care, which requires a great deal of time. Jim stated he would be taking off the next week to take care of his mother in Florida but would work on some things from afar. The group pointed out that Cal and Yvonne Brandenburg have helped in the past. Jim noted Cal would be having surgery soon and Von is recovering from an injury. Jim wondered about having a point person to decide how to handle each pastoral care need, maybe someone on the Bishop’s Committee that Bri could turn calls over to in Jim’s absence, to decide to whom the case should be delegated, for a week, with an episcopal priest lined up for needs of an escalated level. Melinda volunteered to help, but Jim will check with Von first.

Jim shared he is exploring the idea of creating unpaid roles and titles for up to three of our Good Sam’s members who are ordained clergy. He is in contact with the Bishop and will update the Committee with what he learns to be possible.

**Ministry liaisons:** Katy mentionedNanci Slagle wants to increase the budget for newcomer/hospitality meals. Melinda asked that this be pointed out to Susan Burt, who would be working with Jim on the budget in a couple of weeks. David recommended that inflation be factored in.

Good Sam’s 101 will be handled by Jim and Nanci. We have many new people, Jim explained: 30 were invited. Melinda stated she would attend on December 11th.

Charlee said Kristen Drake will not be able to be involved with the church website, but Bri and Charlee are going to do a general audit of its content. Jim requested permission to put newcomers’ pictures on the wall to encourage members to interact with them, as a getting-to-know-you measure; he has a good camera, but many pictures are available on Facebook. It was decided that people can be invited to submit photos to Charlee via Google Form. Jim will provide a list of new people and Charlee will contact them. Permission will be requested by Charlee.

**Stewardship Campaign:** The upcoming gratitude lunch was discussed: fifty RSVP’d and food for eighty was already ordered. Discussion ensued. Anne has checked on plates, flatware, etc. Cake for Rachel and cupcakes for kids have been ordered, per Jim. Water, lemonade and coffee will also be offered.

**Profile and Holy Conversations:** David will work on this initiative and partner with Charlee.

Barbie and Jim are currently handling the **closing of the church on Sundays**, which the committee can revisit later. If members join the rotation, it would be imperative to keep track of the key. Anne emphasized the heavy responsibility of this job and the potential consequences if a mistake would be made. Melinda wondered about paying a staff person who was charged with this on Sundays. David wondered about offering a stipend. A staff person would have to go through payroll, explained Melinda. Jim suggested tabling the matter until next time, and he and Barbie would continue to do it.

Jim noted that the following Sunday would be Rachel’s last and mentioned he would like to give her a cash gift or gift card. Discussion followed, and Anne suggested consistent policies for those who serve us. Individual church members could be invited to contribute, per Katy. Anne noted that maybe we should determine a formula for such future situations. David said that $200 felt meaningful and budgetarily safe. The group agreed to the wisdom of having a policy in place for years of service when a person leaves. Individuals/families are welcome to give gifts, also. Katy planned to invite Barbie to let the congregation know of this opportunity for Rachel, and the committee agreed on $200.

Closing prayer and adjournment: 9:02

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Lamb, Clerk