

Good Samaritan Episcopal Church
Bishop's Committee Minutes
March 20th, 2024

Members Present: The Rev. Jim Said, Mike Kennedy, Tim Grino, Katy Hilts, John Morrison, Melinda Sowers.

Barbie joined briefly over ZOOM and shared a daily devotional for Lent, starting with a quiet time and bible verse. We responded to questions about the verse and finished with a prayer.

Approval of Consent Agenda and Meeting Minutes:

Krista moved to approve the minutes, Mike seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Discussion was had about some of the items on the report for the new members. Melinda had a question about an invoice that doesn't make sense; it was determined that it's probably a scam. Melinda states that the Treasurer position has grown as the church has grown so additional help is needed for some of the tasks. Policies are needed for timelines for receipts to be submitted; Lucy and Pat are helping Melinda with this, and they may recruit another individual who has volunteered. Melinda updated who can sign checks to reflect changes in the bishop's committee. One of the warden's needs to confirm each check. The annual audit is scheduled for June 12th, done by a canon at the Diocese. Jim mentioned that we need a system to let ministry leaders know when they are going over budget; Melinda reports that is something they are working on. It was noted that the Bishop's committee is the only group than can approve changing the budget.

Checking	\$ 43,216.31
Savings	\$191,270.03

New Business:

Budget issues: We are over budget for printing; we have created fewer bulletins, but it was noted that there are still many left in the box once all have arrived. Jim is going to see about getting a better deal from the printing company. Many emphasized how important the bulletins are for folks, especially visitors. Tim suggested we survey the congregation to get a better idea what people need.

Parochial report: The parochial report was approved by all last week and submitted.

BC Sunday Attendance Taking: The best way to take Sunday attendance was discussed. It's difficult for people that don't know all the new people; several offered to help others as needed. Jim and Kim double check it every week. It was agreed that everyone on the BC needs to do their part. Jim emphasized how important knowing whether people are coming to gauge how the church is doing in getting folks engaged folks and for Jim to be able to follow up with folks who have not been for a while. Katy suggested that there is almost always more than one BC member present on Sundays so they can work together. Jim stated that Kim is glad to help as well.

Eclipse: It was suggested that we have an eclipse viewing gathering on our property. Parking might be an issue; we need to confirm that there is available parking. Jim will check with the diocese. It was suggested that we send out an email to see who is willing to help. John agreed

that it is important to that we do things on the property for the congregation to be invested in it. However, it may be too late to organize this event.

New budget lines/subsidizing staff technology: A request has been made to add new budget lines. A memorial fund would be a way of recognizing people who want to donate to the church in memory of someone. A discussion was started about whether we can take stock donations; it was agreed that it would be good and a way to do so was discussed. We also need to have someone to instigate planned giving; Jim can't be the one to do so. Another is a line item for the worship technology. We want to have a policy to help subsidize some of the technology used for church business.

Old Business:

Template for reports: Tim has created a form for BC members to use to create reports of the ministries that they are assigned to in order to share with others. We could do that through the google drive through google forms. Tim will investigate creating a google sheet for the data. He asked whether to run the form by the lay leaders to see what they want on it. A discussion was had on which groups need to submit reports; at present, mostly the larger groups are submitting reports. Tim asked for clarification about who he needs to contact for reports. It was suggested that anyone who is doing activities and who have a budget should submit updates.

Vicar's Comments: Jim shared some information about upcoming events. There will be 7 baptisms on Easter and 5 on Pentecost.

Vicar's Report: by the numbers...

Measures and benchmarks as of **March 18, 2024**

- Numbers in "base": (members & reg. participants) **182 adults and 85 children = 267**
- Number of newcomers (people in the pipeline yet to go through Newcomer Initiation): **10**
- Rolling attendance last 6 weeks: **(133, 121, 127, 100, 96, 131)**
- Average Sunday attendance last 6 weeks: **119**
- 2023 Total average attendance: **121**
- 2023 previous year given: **\$150,544**
- 2023 Amount pledged: **\$162,305**
- 2024 Amount pledged **\$184,150**
- 2023 Number of pledges: **57**
- 2024 Number of pledges: **67**
- 2024 Updated Pledged: **\$202,800**
- 2024 Updated pledges: **72**
- Vicar's newcomer connections: **2**

Rev. Jim closed the meeting with a prayer.

The next meeting is April 24th. Tim offered to have it at his house.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lovko, Clerk