

**Good Samaritan Episcopal Church**  
**Bishop's Committee Minutes**  
**April 24, 2024**

**Present:** The Rev. Jim Said, Mike Kennedy, Tim Grino, Katy Hilts, John Morrison, Christa Nierzwick, Susan Burt, and Melinda Sowers Treasurer.

**Opening:** The Rev. Jim opened the meeting with a bible study. The group discussed their thoughts about the scripture, which was about baptism. Jim shared his goal of including more scripture in future meetings to strengthen the bonds and spirituality within the group in the face of upcoming decisions.

**Approval of Consent Agenda and Meeting Minutes:**

Christa suggested two minor edits. John moved approving the minutes and consent agenda with the edits, seconded by Tim. All approved, motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report and Budget Discussions:** Melinda followed up on questions from last month and provided updated information concerning a question about the pension, which needs to be adjusted. Melinda will make that adjustment in April. Discussion followed about the money collected through the plate on Easter, with proceeds going to two organizations. Discussion followed about whether the estimate for the plate contribution for the year is realistic.

Melinda proposed some adjustments to the actual budget for this year based on the actual expenses we have in some categories. One is for the money we pay for the use of the Harris Academy, which needs to be adjusted to reflect our actual expenses. Deb is asking about a Library budget line; it is now part of the social justice budget and is earmarked for library. Melinda suggests we discuss making a separate budget line for social justice in 2025.

Susan moved to adjust the Harris academy budget to match the invoice; John seconded. All agree, motion carries. John moves the discussion about a specific library line until the 2025 budget discussion be tabled, Katy seconded. All agree, motion carries.

Melinda asked who conveys to the ministry leaders what their budgets are and what each leader has spent. The question was raised about who is responsible for keeping track of expenses and whether some categories expenses are going over budget.

Jim asked to discuss planning for next year's budget. He is recommending that ministry leaders be asked to start planning the budget needs for next year with a deadline for submitting them to the Bishop's committee. The BC will review and may need to adjust. It is suggested that folks be asked for "must haves" and "wish list" in priority order.

Someone asked who is responsible for the bulletin boards; it is noted that they are way out of date. Steven agreed to help develop a process for this and discuss it at the May 18<sup>th</sup> ministry leaders' meeting.

Checking	\$ 45,078.76
Savings	\$191,318.77

Christa moved that we approve the financial statements ending 3/31/2024, John seconded. All agreed, motion carried

### **Old Business:**

**Policy for subsidizing staff computers:** Jim asked for a discussion about the policy for staff computers. John expressed some concerns including the need to require individuals sign an acceptable use policy. He also expressed concerns about whose computer it is, limits for the cost of the computer and what to do if someone leaves early than the agreement stipulates. The policy suggests that they have to pay for part of it, but it is not clear how this can be enforced. John proposed we table this and discuss more in the future, Jim agreed. Katy suggested we submit questions as they arise to get the discussion started on email.

**Village Hub:** John reports that a lot of things will be happening with respect to the Village Hub. Several contacts with companies have been made to determine which companies are interested in being considered in being part of the planning/construction. John asked whether folks want regular reports on a weekly basis or whether the BC members just want an update next month.

Several members do want updates, discussion was had about the best way to communicate the information. It was discussed that the group doesn't use Realm like it should and that BC members need to be more familiar with the platform. It was suggested that Lara be asked to help ministry leaders and BC members to become more familiar with Realm. Jim pointed out that many people don't know the processes for doing things like scheduling meetings or advertising.

**Ministry Liaison Report:** Christa noted that there were questions about how the new member cards are handled and how the information gets to the office. Jim states that he takes the mail from the box to the office every week. It was suggested that a picture be taken of the card and a copy texted to Nanci, Jim and Bri.

**Vicar's report:** Some discussion followed about the updates.

### **New Business:**

**Discernment:** Rev. Jim met with the discernment committee last Tuesday where members shared the responses they were given. Jim thought they did a very good job at describing what GS is like. John states that they submitted it to Jen Phelps, and it was discussed that it will be shared with everyone at some point. Katy and other members wondered how well the vision of the church aligns with what Jim is called to do in his work. Jim said after reading it he felt more strongly about his call than he ever has. Jim said that the committee asked him several questions and he was very honest in response. Jim states that this was a good process for the church. John pointed out that Jim didn't initially answer the question of "his vision for GS;" he noted that he didn't want to impose his will as it is a community vision. When pressed he did answer the question by stating his desire to build Good Samaritan Church and build the Village Hub. He also said that he likes that we include/welcome all, even if we don't agree with their views.

Rev. Jim asked for feedback about his strengths and weaknesses as our Vicar. Several members discussed that he is very welcoming to everyone, and he excels at pastoral care. Katy asked if he has the support he needs to deal with everything, with the administration piece a challenge. John pointed out there isn't one person everyone can go to for information, such as a full-time parish administrator. Jim pointed out how important it is to pay attention to the needs and goals of everyone, especially as the church grows. Rev. Jim stated that his goal for the future is to create and be a leader of a GS village hub. Members thanked him for taking the leap of faith in joining us.

### **Vicar's Comments:**

**Vicar's Report:** by the numbers...

Measures and benchmarks as of April 22, 2024

- Numbers of people in "base": (members& regular participants) **183 adults and 86 children = 269**
- Number of newcomers (people in the pipeline yet to go through Newcomer Initiation: **2**
- Rolling attendance last 6 weeks: **(146, 104, 116, 226, 133, 133)**
- Average Sunday attendance last 6 weeks: **143**
- Average online viewers: **15**
- 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: **0**

Rev. Jim closed the meeting with the Lord's prayer.

The next meeting is May 29<sup>th</sup> at Susan's house.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lovko, Clerk