

Good Samaritan Episcopal Church
Bishop's Committee Minutes
Wednesday, January 18, 2023

The Bishop's Committee met at the home of Charlee Mitchell at 7:00 PM.

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

Guests: Tim Grino and Mike Kennedy

Opening/Bible Study: Jim announced that David and Melinda would be leaving the Bishop's Committee due to the end of their terms and that Tim and Mike would be joining. Introductions followed.

The group discussed Matthew 4:12- 23, "Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee," or "Jesus Begins to Preach," depending on the translation. Impressions were shared, e.g. the emotional impact of "a light has dawned over the valley of the shadow of death."

Approval of December Meeting Minutes and Consent Agenda: Melinda moved to approve the minutes, Susan seconded, and all were in favor. Melinda asked that Payroll be added to the consent agenda, as part of the treasurer's update. Consent agenda approval: Charlee moved, Katy seconded, and all were in favor.

Treasurer's Update:

- Checking: \$156,546.31
- Savings: \$120,703.88

Melinda gave an overview of the treasurer's reporting processes and reports for the new members. For the remainder of January, 1099s will be issued, along with giving statements. She explained she needs something in writing that states the percentage of pay increases that will be given to employees. Jim stated the information will be confirmed. Susan moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented: Anne seconded, and all were in favor.

Approval of 2023 Budget to present at the Annual Meeting:

Anne wondered if everyone was comfortable with Wendy Meaden's suggestion to have a sign-up option for funding flowers, altar decorations, and hospitality items. The use of Kroger cards or Amazon cards to raise funds for the church was also considered; Wendy will be asked to do the fact-finding. We could create a revenue line for flowers, according to Melinda, and we could call the funds external donations. David suggested that creating the necessary amendment be tabled and taken up at the next meeting. David also suggested that Wendy be informed that the budget would not be cut.

David moved to approve the budget as presented; Charlee seconded and all were in favor. David proposed that The Outreach Social Justice budget item be renamed Social Justice Education/Initiatives. The committee agreed.

New Business:

- Annual Meeting Format: Best participation occurs as part of the Eucharistic service—a little liturgy included, with the Bishop's Committee participating, including something in

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writing from Katy, who won't be able to attend that day. A one-page printed budget will be available with a link to the drive for more detailed information. Father Jim will want each member to talk about their liaison area: short and sweet. Jim will send out an outline of what he has in mind.

● **Village Hub Direction:** Bishop Jennifer has asked for a synopsis of what's going on, due to interest from Trinity Wall Street. Jim explained that she wants to make sure the committee is still in favor of the Village Hub before she reports back to them. David felt we should go back into the idea stage a bit, and then it's the "do phase" in terms of needs-design. Katy suggested that we reengage external partners. David explained that we had asked Trinity Wall Street to hold, and that we would ask them to augment our funds. Jim said that once we're past the design phase we can talk more easily with potential external partners, and that it's time to take a leap of faith: if we don't do anything, nothing's going to happen. Charlee suggested that this be brought up at the annual meeting. Jim noted that Bishop Jennifer seems pleased with where we are right now, and what we need to do is document that the vestry wants to move forward. **David moved that the Bishop's Committee vote to affirm resuming the Village Hub effort, understanding that that involves reestablishing prior work. Katy seconded the motion and all approved.**

A consideration was raised by David: If in 2023 we catch up to where we were, then we will need 15%, which would mean dipping into our reserves. Charlee suggested that we'd need to fundraise, possibly. Melinda said that \$22,500 is less than the total assets we have right now, and added: "To me, with where we are with pledges—higher than last year—I don't think sending out the \$22,500 will keep us from paying our people, or that paying the diocese for Jim, etcetera, would be a problem." The committee agreed that we want to be careful about asking the congregation for money for the Hub, until we have to do that. Jim noted: "David is explaining we just need to realize we'll need to dip into the reserve... We have to show we have skin in the game; for tonight's purpose we need to confirm that the Bishop's Committee is unanimously in favor." The group affirmed this. David suggested that we ask for clarification on the amount that needs to be spent.

● **Ash Wednesday and Holy Week Schedule:** Jim recommended ashes-to-go again this year, with multiple stations available, and he asked what services were wanted during Holy Week. He noted that we've been invited to participate with Messiah Lutheran on Ash Wednesday (February 22nd), using their facility. Jim would prefer to do it with them, if it works out. Observing Ash Wednesday at the flag pole/city steps was also considered, as was doing so at the Cathedral—which belongs to all of us. Susan mentioned that there had been Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at noon, in the past. Jim planned to follow up with the committee, and include ideas and what other Episcopal and local churches are offering.

Introduction of Potential New Wardens: Our Senior Warden will be Anne Davis, and our Junior Warden will be Katy Hilts. Melinda explained she'll need driver's license copies, Social Security numbers and such, because Katy will have check-signing privileges. Anne asked David to continue to help with attendance-taking for a while. Jim has created a PowerPoint with

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newcomers' info, including photos, which will help with the process. David mentioned he recently updated files, removing folks who no longer attend. Anne showed the new members the Realm app used for attendance-taking. Online service viewing is also tracked, Jim noted.

Formation of New Liaisons: This is typically discussed at the first meeting with the new committee members; a Doodle Poll will be sent out to plan the February Bishop's Committee Retreat, including liaison responsibilities. Charlee will handle Communications.

Ministry Liaison Reports: Melinda said that Mary Kay Copeland would serve for the Administrative Committee—she took over for Cal. Anne mentioned we will need a non-committee person for Stewardship, under a committee member.

Bishop's Committee Schedule for Sunday Worship Coverage: We need a committee member in charge each Sunday, with backup help for this big job. A link was included in the packet emailed earlier that day. Bri must be proactively informed. Anne said members should only need to do it once every six weeks. Tim mentioned he can flex his schedule. Jim advised that we double up to train the newer members. Melinda will be able to provide extra help as she cannot prepare deposits, as Treasurer. Written instructions are available for new folks and will be provided. Jim explained that when we bring the money to the altar, it represents the first fruits, and is blessed. Charlee stated the Bishop's Committee schedule is caught up until February 12th. She sent the link to Tim and Mike so they can sign up, probably not starting before the annual meeting; they will be paired with experienced members. They will be added to the committee at the annual meeting by acclamation. In addition, the warden and junior wardens will be presented for acclamation.

Vicar's Report: Measures and Benchmarks as of January 18, 2023

- Number of people in "base": (members and regular participants): **321 (221 adults, 100 children/youth)**
- Number of newcomers (people in the pipeline yet to go through Newcomer Initiation): **7**
- Rolling attendance last **6 weeks: (166, 90, 37, 69, 113, 109)**
- Year to date average Sunday attendance: **89 (Christmas Morning Service was 37)**
- 2022 Total Average Attendance: **86.6**
- 2022 Previous year given: **\$151,616.16** Number of Pledges: **56**
- 2023 Amount pledged: **\$156,262.12** Number of Pledges: **52**
- 2023 Amount given YTD:
- Vicar's newcomer connections: **10**

The meeting adjourned at 9:07.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Lamb, Clerk