

# Good Samaritan Episcopal Church

## Bishop's Committee Minutes

09/20/2023

**Members Present:** Rev. Jim Said, Mike Kennedy, Melinda Sowers, Tim Grino, Susan Burt, and Katy Hilts. **Members Absent:** Anne Davis and Charlee Mitchell

Father Jim called the meeting to start at 7:09 with breathing exercise and a prayer.

**Approval of Consent Agenda and Meeting Minutes:** These will be reviewed and approved online in the google drive.

**Treasurer's Report:** The financial reports will be reviewed and approved online in the google drive.

- Checking:	\$ 55,756.55
- Savings:	<u>\$ 109,989.16</u>
- <b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 246,745.71</b>

Jim asked each member to say why they came to GS and what keeps them here.

Jim reports that he came to GS whenever they were in town, he had given up on being able to return to IN, but Courtney sent him the info about the opening when Gray left. What keeps him is that he thinks that what we are creating will be the church of the future.

Mike reports they here as some of their son's rehab from a brain injury was here and he eventually moved here so they moved here to be by him and for the services available here when he retired. They didn't find a church that worked for them until Leisa found GS. What keeps them is the vision of the church and the people.

Melinda came because daughter in law Brittany encouraged her to come. She stays because it's a family of folks who share a lot of her views, the people are important, and her role is important and gives her a sense of purpose.

Tim and Steven came to GS as Steven didn't seem very supported at the church they were going to, so they tried GS and stayed. He stays because of the opportunity to have a role he hasn't had in a church before and being welcomed and celebrated for who he is. The church challenges him to look at his views and to grow. He thinks GS is a beacon in a community that is not progressing.

Katy is a cradle Episcopalian and has been involved in churches wherever she lived. She and her sister tried a variety of churches in the community but didn't find one that she stayed with. When she got married she wanted to do so in a church and wanted to raise her kids in a church and church family like the one she knew growing up. She saw the sign and found the church and was greeted by Erin Hougland, who she knew a little from college, and found everyone welcoming, and the kids were also welcomed.

Susan was also a cradle Episcopalian, raised at St. Timothy. Has been a member of Indianapolis Women's chorus and went to UUI shared the values but God was missing. She ran into Gray at a farmer's market and decided to try it out. She found that God was part of it, and she stays for the people and what we do.

Jim said the last 4 adults who came to GS found us on social media.

### **New Business:**

Jim discussed that as we move forward with Village Hub it's even more important to keep track of both our membership and our finances as sources we ask for funding help will want to know this.

Village Hub Cottage Conversations: Part of a CCD assignment is to have a project/intervention/innovation". The conversations will start with Jim letting people know more about him and what he does on a daily basis. We will ask for input on their ideas about the village hub, knowing that it has changed, and the cost has significantly increased. We are looking at building the "big room" first and some offices to start. The service piece will still be at the core. Jim is also hoping that members of the Bishop's Committee will be able to attend the meetings.

Melinda brought up Bri's maternity leave. She has 48 hours of PTO coming, she is going to work extra hours before her leave to get as much done ahead of time as she can to help us and we are going to pay her for it, and she will do some work remotely after the baby. Mary Kay wrote a letter for Bri to detail this information about payment and what she needs to submit when returning to work to ensure it's approved by her OB. Jim added that the BC talked about the option of giving her a 2-week bonus. Katy requested the vote be through email to include Anne and Charlee. Melinda states that we have the money and Susan pointed out that her salary was planned for the whole year, so the money is in payroll. Jim and Melinda note that whatever is done is setting a precedent. Several members pointed out that it's the right thing to do and Tim added that it's aligned with our values. Melinda sent the letter to the BC and Katy will do an online voting about whether to approve it.

### **Old Business:**

Jim reminded folks that BC members need to finish Safe Church requirements. Canon White is coming on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and this is important to her. Some folks have done it, but it has changed so folks need to do the new version. Bri can send you the information, Barbie put together a list of the ones the BC needs to do.

### **Ministry Liaison Reports:**

**Stewardship – Katy:** The goal of the stewardship campaign is to have as many folks pledge as possible. The name for the campaign wants to align with the Village hub but not appear as a capital campaign. The names proposed are "It takes a village" and "Forward in Faith". Forward in Faith has been chosen by the group informally. Katy may send other materials to get opinions on with the goal to have letters out by the end of October so that Bishop Jennifer can bless them on 11/19. Jim said Bri can help with the letter, Jim suggested that Nat might be good at creating a logo.

**Outreach – Mike:** They are hoping to get a bin in the storage area for items needed for outreach. This last month 7 volunteers worked at Gleaners drive through for 4 hours, 6 people brought 2 meals for family promise, one shopper bought snacks for students at alpha, one volunteer spends 8 hours doing art for alpha students, 25 people attended a session run by a speaker from St. Andrews about how to get involved in food gleaning and the group made a yearly donation of \$365 to Family Promise.

**MH committee – Tim:** They are looking at 4 meetings in 2024 for events. Around 10 people walked in the Suicide Prevention walk. The group is still meeting to try to figure out best steps and plan to send a survey with respect to needs and services. Katy asked if the group is focusing outward or inward, Tim said both with starting internally. Tim noted that Betsy Humphreys is a counselor. Susan pointed out that two churches have lost grief/ministry programs. Tim pointed out that a chaplain has a grief group at Hendricks that we might learn from. **Connections – Tim:** Nothing new, splitting in two. Jennifer is doing outward events, Nancy internal events. Jim asked if BC folks could come to GS 101.

Melinda asked for continued prayers for their family. Susan asked for prayers for a relative Amanda who broke her back. Dave Farmer had a heart attack and Karen is getting surgery so they will be in our prayers. Katy reports that Brandon's uncle passed away, so prayers are including for them.

#### **Vicar's Report:**

Jim reported that he was able to connect with Bishop Jennifer at the Waycross Clergy Day. She wants us to do what we feel called to do but they have already put us into a grant that they have applied for if we choose to put a building on the 56<sup>th</sup> street property. Canon Brendan can help with finding money and there is a grant support individual who can help as well. Jim believes we can get support from a lot of different Episcopal churches if we figure out how to frame it. Jim states that there is excitement in the diocese that we are growing and not closing like a lot of churches, and Katy pointed out that this is unique. Brendan also pointed out that we will need to start increasing how much of Jim's salary GS will need to pay.

Jim shared that Bishop Jennifer invited him to set up an appointment with her and Jennifer Phelps. The appointment is scheduled for October 31<sup>st</sup> in the afternoon. He believes that things are happening quicker than expected with regard to his Letter Of Agreement, he can't vote on things because of his temporary status. Katy and Anne are also going to have conversations with Jen to make sure they are doing what the BC needs to do with respect to Jim's status. Katy pointed out that Charlee is starting the creation of a parish profile, which we will need to solicit funding.

**Jim closed with the prayer attributed to Saint Francis at 8:38. The next meeting is October 18<sup>th</sup> at Tim's house.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Ann Lovko, Clerk**