

Good Samaritan Episcopal Church
Bishop's Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 17, 2023

The Bishop's Committee met at the home of Tim Grino.

Members Present: The Reverend Jim Said, Anne Davis, Charlee Mitchell, Mike Kennedy, Tim Grino, Susan Burt, Katy Hilts (via Zoom), Treasurer Melinda Sowers, Clerk Tina Lamb, and Barbie Russell, guest.

Father Jim opened the meeting with prayer at 7:18.

Approval of April Meeting Minutes and Consent Agenda: Anne moved to approve them; Tim seconded. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Update:

- Checking: \$132,481.20
- Savings: \$120,822.99

Melinda said she is preparing for the audit, which is set for May 31st. Bri is working on this as well. Father Jim explained that the financials need to be checked and approved monthly. He suggested April's financials be examined and approved via email. Going forward, the information will be delivered electronically monthly for everyone to review and approve.

New Business: Barbie proposed a plan to manage the upcoming space issues. Using the media center for nursery space is an option at \$213.00 per week, but library materials could potentially be damaged. The back half of the cafeteria could be used for \$114.00 per week: more space to spread out; we could use our own toys, and there would be no danger to books or shelves, plus more space. It might be possible to pay \$41.00 an hour to janitor staff to move out some tables. Barbie noted she's not sure if the room dividers are operable, but doors can be closed. We may need to move out nursery kids, depending on after-service programming and activities, possibly to the gym, or the library on occasion. Toys for toddlers would have to be brought in. We already pay for cleaning for the cafeteria.

Anne noted this would provide an equally large space as the library, but more open—a safe space to run around. Mike noted there would not be as many temptations. We can explain to Reagan that we would like to use the cafeteria for two hours rather than one, paying \$71.00 an hour for the media center when needed. This would amount to \$527.00 per month as a rule; \$465.00 is what we pay now—a \$62.00 per week difference.

The need for a storage facility was also discussed. Sacramental items can be stored in the back closet. We could buy another chair rack that puts chairs up high, for additional space. There's a significant cost difference in storage units, depending on whether climate control is needed, according to Anne. Jim has asked everyone to list their ministries' storage needs, specifying which items would require climate control. Barbie has purchased color-coding stickers. Mike explained his research into storage units, which are billed month to month; he has reserved one just north of I-74, two miles from Harris. He has looked at a couple of other storage facilities that are at ground level with garage doors. He reserved two, unpaid, until the next week. We could rent one for \$199.00 a month (a special temporary rate). He

is going to visit one that is kiosk-operated, without an attendant on site. A separate climate-controlled unit would increase the costs. We could rent for a month and determine in June whether to stay or move. Barbie noted that we do have a lot of wooden items that could be damaged if not climate controlled.

Jim recommended that Mike be authorized to make the decision, as he's done the research. The committee agreed. Jim asked about the best strategy for moving the items to the facility. Totes were recommended. Susan and her significant other have a trailer that can be used. Anne suggested that as we identify what we have, we determine what we don't need to keep. The church credit card will be used for the storage costs. Anne wondered whether the committee needed to amend budget. Susan suggested that figures be gathered ahead of that discussion. Jim stated that money would be spent before June 30, hence the need to figure out what that looks like. Anne estimated approximately \$5700.00 per year. There are ample trailers available. The committee agreed to move forward and spend the money to be ready for the storage move. In affirmation to move forward, rent the necessary space and buy containers, the Bishop's Committee agreed, so that the storage move could take place soon. Albs and chasubles will be stored in the back cupboard; two garment wraps will be needed.

Village Hub: Anne said that she had emailed all potential Village Hub committee members she was aware of from before, and everyone wants to continue to be involved in the work, but no one has the capacity to lead at this time. John Drexler reached out to Anne and asked to meet and talk, so she will meet with him next week. He has done lead work as a project manager professionally and is retired now. Anne sits on the board of Outside the Box, a not-for-profit that provides day services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and they want to open a location in Hendricks County within 3 to 4 years. There may be opportunities for different types of grants if we were to work with them. Jim noted that he and Kim toured The Center in Danville, which is a ministry of Northview Christian Church. It had a big playground and an AstroTurf soccer field, as well as a coffee shop, daycare, two worship spaces, and a baptismal font. A daycare is separate but also a ministry of the church. The Center also has conference rooms, with technology, for rent. Jim noted that we should learn more about the talents and passions of our Good Sam's members, e.g., Lisa Kennedy's passion re: mental health care. We could brainstorm ways to learn about these, e.g., Jim's calligraphy skills. We have 14 new people who are going to be at the upcoming newcomers' event. He noted that after we welcome the group, we'll have 37 new attendees since Jim's ministry began at Good Sam's. The hope is that the folks that have been involved a long time have opportunities to connect similarly. Maybe there should be multiple opportunities to have people gather and get to know one another, and to have clergy get to know them. Anne noted that Going Deeper has forged relationships via gatherings that feel more like an informal, get-to-know-you Bible study. Katy proposed more informal social times as Good Sam's family, which might be where these "hidden gems" can be revealed. Barbie mentioned the possibility of a retreat format. Charlee noted that one thing we don't do enough of is Bible study; we could keep it informal but include a spiritual component. Jim mentioned he's been thinking about a series of these whose theme would be the Bible's Good Samaritan scripture, to get to know everyone better: Bishop's Committee, clergy, and congregants. He asked if someone could volunteer to spearhead organizing these, and he would help with marketing and promoting. He said he and Kim could host, and Tim agreed to host, also. Barbie recommended involving Bri in the outreach, so she can be better known by the congregation, and she wondered if we could start in September and "evolve it" into the stewardship campaign. Katy offered to discuss this with Natalie Rodriguez. Jim proposed the end of July or August. Anne suggested starting in August/September. Jim suggested maybe two in a month, with four total; topics can include stewardship and the Village Hub. Barbie recommended one for parents of young children. Anne proposed four or five, with one for families with childcare available—at the park, maybe.

Barbie noted that our cottage conversations were similar in the past, at Arbuckle, with Rachel playing with the kids so parents could participate, to talk about Village Hub. Katy, as the stewardship person, agreed to reach out to the appropriate parties.

Safe Church Requirements: Barbie noted that: we are out of compliance; they've revised the program; and we are not different from other churches, but we need to get on top of this. She distributed copies of the policy, which explained the types of training needed by various employees, leaders, and committee members, with steps to be taken, including reporting processes. She presented documents that must be maintained and made available to all congregants, displayed at church. We can also update ministry job descriptions, as applications now must be completed for all workers. Logins must be created for everyone who needs to take the courses. Jim noted that we are hiring Greta Barron to take Charlie's place working in the nursery. It is a requirement that the Bishop's Committee takes the universal Safe Church training, Jim explained: an online course with a certificate available immediately upon completion, which can be downloaded as a PDF and saved and/or submitted. We need a designated lay person to oversee this, which will be Mary Kay Copeland, who oversees administrative work; Bri will manage it. The Diocese has stopped paying for background checks, Jim noted; this is a mandatory requirement, at \$22.00 per person. He said that Barbie and Greta should be CPR and AED certified, and maybe some Bishop's Committee members, too. Tim or Katy can help arrange this for free. Barbie noted that our Safe Church, Safe Communities policy is available through the diocesan site. The course deadline is July 28th, and records will be stored in the diocesan office. Barbie stated there will be an annual audit which will be included in the parochial report.

Lost sheep: Nanci and Jim are still calling people who haven't been attending; it's a time-consuming process. Some people have been watching online.

Ministry Liaison Reports:

Tim noted that he's having trouble finding people in Realm who Nanci says should be there. They need to be added in the Sunday Worship group, Jim explained: if there's trouble adding people, email Bri and copy him. Katy said that Nanci has added some people; we might want to double check with her. Jim will take ownership of this, including going through the whole database.

Jim noted that we had over 35 people stay for the recent mental health discussion spearheaded by Lisa Kennedy.

Mike, reporting for Outreach, mentioned a recent Alpha field trip, Teacher Appreciation efforts; Family Promise meals; Sheltering Wings outreach, and much more. He said that Beth Hannon Penny will be stepping down in September, and that Lucy still does outreach work with the school. We may want a co-leadership to replace Beth, not wanting anyone to get burned-out.

Charlee asked that the Bishop's Committee members on duty snap a couple photos of the service as part of their duties. They can be sent to Jim, Nanci, or Charlee.

Jim reported that diocesan listening sessions took place that day regarding congregation websites, and ours was praised.

Anne mentioned a need for a Bishop's Committee member to sign up for duties on one remaining Sunday in August. Otherwise, we're now covered through October.

Barbie noted that there must be a release signed before kids' photos can be posted on socials. "Live-Streaming in Progress" signage is now posted, also.

Jim announced an upcoming baptism, Pentecost Sunday, and the Anderson's last Sunday at Good Sam's.

Vicar's Report

Measures and Benchmarks as of May 16, 2023

- Number of people in "base": (members and regular participants): 329 (227 adults, 102 children/youth)
- Number of newcomers (people in the pipeline yet to go through Newcomer Initiation): 14
- Rolling attendance last 6 weeks: (100, 87, 110, 87, 126)
- Year to date average Sunday attendance: 105
- 2022 Total Average Attendance: 86.6
- 2022 Previous year given: \$151,616.16 2022 Number of Pledges: 56
- 2023 Amount pledged: \$162,305 2023 Number of Pledges: 57
- 2023 Amount given YTD: \$44,112 ● Vicar's newcomer connections: 4 (Susan & Don Noeller, Susie Main, Mike Diener)

Tim Grino closed the meeting with prayer at 8:50.