

**Good Samaritan Episcopal Church
Bishop's Committee Minutes
November 15, 2023**

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

Father Jim called the meeting to order at 7:11 with a prayer.

Approval of Consent Agenda and Meeting Minutes: Charlee moved to accept the minutes with two edits; all agreed with the changes. Susan seconded. Charlee moved to accept the consent agenda; Susan seconded.

Treasurer's Report:

- Checking: \$42,357.98
- Savings: \$191, 079.92

New Business:

Discussion was had concerning some questions about the categories/funds in the budget. Anne suggested that the issue be reviewed at the next meeting when we have more information. The preliminary budget for next year will be discussed in December, passed by the BC in January and presented at the full church meeting at the end of January.

Bishop's visit Sunday 11/19/2023: There are 23 people being received and 2 people are re-affirming. The bishop will sign prayer books for all. Both of Bri's daughters will be baptized. Jim discussed the schedule for the day, including a reception and a meeting with the BC afterward. The Bishop is supporting our village hub plans and wants to get to know us more. Jim encouraged BC members to ask any questions they might have. One possible question is about the potential merger of the two dioceses in Indiana.

Holy conversations/discernment. Holy conversations 11-12:30 during 3 Sundays in January-March. Jen Phelps will facilitate all; the broader sessions include how the church failed us, and what we want to do/who do we want to be. After the 3 Sundays, the discernment committee will meet. BC/discernment committee will meet with Jen on January 14, the larger meetings will be February 4th, 25th and March 3rd. The process will determine whether we need to do any more search for our plans going forward.

BC Retreat: Jim suggested putting off the retreat given the business of the schedule. New members will be welcomed at a meeting, but the retreat is postponed until later.

Realm/website updates: They updated realm with those who haven't attended or donated in 13 months moved to inactive status. Lisa Anderson is excited to help with the website. The plans are for her to help with both technical and creative aspects of the website. We would also like to have her continue to help us maintain it. Charlee can make updates on forms and has added the minutes.

Jim reports that he has given 3 communion kits to folks who can't attend so they can take communion with us, and they were all very pleased.

Staffing increases/budget will be discussed in a subcommittee and presented with the budget information.

Old Business:

Jim asked if everyone had completed the safe church requirements and encouraged those who haven't completed it to do so before Sunday as the Bishop is likely to ask about it.

Jim asked for additional requests for folks who might be good for BC as one of those being considered is not able to do so at this time as he has not been baptized. Some folks were suggested, Jim will ask for any interested people from the congregation and in the newsletter.

Anne reports that GS received a request from a youth baseball team for a \$250 donation for his little league team. We have been donating to his team for years, but it was when they were active members. We did donate last in May. It is a for-profit league so is donating consistent with our mission? The group agreed that this is not the best choice for our donations since it is a for-profit group, not in our community and not from a current member.

Ministry Liaison Reports:

Mike listed all of the outreach activities that were done in the last few months.

- Assembled 90 fall food to go bags for all BCSC elementary schools and Chapelwood Elementary
- Wrote 42 letters for veterans at Brownsburg Meadows and Brownsburg Health Care
- Dinners were provided by 11 volunteers on 4 different dates for residents of Family Promise (2 dates in October and 2 in November). Meals were provided each time to over 20 people.
- 2 shoppers bought snacks for students at ALPHA for October and November
- 1 volunteer spent 10 hours planning and teaching art to ALPHA students in October and 4 hours in November.
- 52 hams and turkeys and 31 boxes of instant potatoes were collected and donated to BCSC food pantry.
- 11 volunteers raked leaves at 2 homes in Brownsburg.

Tim reported on updates for the MH committee. They decided on some dates for 2024 activities after church, are thinking of a name change, want to bring back pub theology with a MH speaker, and want to put MH information in the newsletter.

Jim had coffee with 6 newcomers as part of connections.

Susan has an update from administration. A discussion was had about ways to acknowledge our volunteers and giving "Love your neighbor" awards was suggested.

Charlee followed up with plans to look at other platforms for communication such as Teams. It was suggested that it be discussed with the folks who use Google the most. This will be reviewed after Bri comes back.

Village Hub: Katie reports that Nat did a great job contributing to the cottage conversations. Jim reports that Kevin has decided to step down as co-chair so will be looking for another partner. Jim asks for messages with any suggestions. Katie Dixon is analyzing our data and will share it with Jim and John on November 26th. An architect needs to be chosen by February per the grant with hopes that we can get the first installment of money by April.

Vicar's Report: by the numbers

Measures and Benchmarks as of November 14, 2023

- Number of people in "base" (members and regular participants) 340 - 231 adults and 109 youth/children, currently being updated.
 - Number of newcomers (have yet to go through newcomer initiation): 6
 - Rolling attendance last 6 weeks: 117, 89, 97, 100, 131, 115
 - Average Attendance from the last 6 wks.:
 - 2022 Total average attendance: 86.6
 - 2022 Previous year given: 151, 616.16
 - 2023 Amount pledged: 162, 305
 - 2023 Amount given YTD: 116,125.45
 - Vicar's newcomer connections: 6
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| 2022 Number of pledges: 56 |
| 2023 Number of pledges: 57 |
| 2023 Non-pledged gifts: 34,222.42 |

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lovko, Clerk