

Good Samaritan Episcopal Church

Bishop's Committee Minutes

10/18/2023

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

Father Jim called the meeting to order at 7:10 with a prayer for our neighbors in Israel and Gaza/West Bank.

Approval of Consent Agenda and Meeting Minutes: No discussion on the minutes, Tim voted to approve, and Charlee seconded. All voted "aye", none voted no.

Treasurer's Report:

\$ 45,614.80	Checking Account
<u>\$191,031.25</u>	Savings Account
\$236,646.05	Total

Credit card information is a work in progress, Melinda will have the information for the November meeting but suggests they need to find a better way to gather the data for the report. There is no central place to gather the information, she is working on a way to compile the data. Jim suggests each person who uses the credit card attaches a receipt.

Jim asks if GS is regularly adding money to the bank account; Melinda says that is likely variable depending on the expenses. December has higher expenses including renting the stage for the pageant, insurance for that, vicar-in-charge payment. The diocese does not give a bill for the 30% of the vicar's salary GS is responsible; half has been paid so far. Melinda takes the responsibility of contacting them for it. Jim will ask Kim to send the bill to her. Jim noted that the amount GS pays for his salary will be gradually increased by 10% a year for the next 7 years unless things change.

Anne moved to approve the treasurers report, Mike seconded. All approved.

New Business:

Jim reminded the group of the Bishop's visit 11/19. Jim is asking for information about her schedule and plans for the day so we can be prepared. Two baptisms are planned, and several people are going to be received into the church. There is also an opportunity for folks to renew their vows. Jim will share more information about her visit.

Christa Nierzwick has agreed to join the Bishop's committee next year. They are looking for another person. The tradition is to do a day long retreat in January to include the outgoing

and new members. Meeting at the Diocesan office January 27th is being penciled in as a possible day, probably around 9-3 with an hour lunch. The regular January meeting will be January 17th. All agreed that getting a younger and/or new member would be good. Several folks were suggested.

Jim states that the cottage conversations are going well and include information about the importance of stewardship. It is hope that the letters can be done before Bri stops working. Barbie will be taking over a lot of Bri's duties while she is out.

Jim reports that he is trying to contact members who haven't been coming any more. He also reported that Realm shows the actual number of parishioners as quite high, and many stopped coming. Jim and others are going to go through the list, so it is accurate. This is important so that the stewardship report is accurate as well.

Old Business:

Following up on the policy for Bri's maternity leave plans: Jim reports that the plan is now to do a caesarean next week. She is concerned about finances as this changes how much she is able to make ahead of time. Jim proposed giving her standard bimonthly pay through payroll as a bonus. Charlee moved to accept this, Tim seconded. Anne states that we need to develop a policy for part time employees who take family leave. Mary Kay is working on it. All approved this.

Ministry Liaison Reports:

Tim – none. Mike – none.

Anne: Katy and she had a talk with Jen Phelps about discernment. They discussed the need to move forward with the Holy Conversations. There are 3 Holy conversations, held in person. Jen will lead them sometime after the new year. Usually on a series of Sundays and the information is added to the website. Churches should do it every 3-5 years; it is necessary strategic planning. Some of the issues might be covered in cottage conversations. Katy will summarize the information from them and share it with the discernment committee and with Jen with plans to have a meeting between thanksgiving and Christmas. Both Anne and Charlee will stay on the discernment committee. Jim discussed that the parish profile is an important part of what need to seek partners for the village hub. Charlee has been looking at other church's parish profile. It was suggested that we look at the original GS parish profile to see it is still relevant.

Holy Conversations: 1. Values, strengths, why people come 2. Why people have been disappointed by the church (in a broader sense) – it has a service to let them go. 3. How do we envision the future? What are you willing to do to make that happen?

Charlee asked about some things Jim sent her about the website after his brother and a friend looked at the website with some suggestions. Charlee states that big changes will need someone from the outside. Jim asked if she could get someone to give a quote about how much it would cost to update it. It needs to be fluid, could we find someone (possibly Lisa Anderson?)

who can maintain the site. Charlee states that people will do that for an annual fee. Mike suggested we reach out to a college web design program to see if a student would do that for the experience, but Jim wants someone who will be with us for a while. Anne notes that we do need to keep it fairly consistent once we get it completed. Jim is going to try again for a grant that he didn't get last year; Anne is willing to look at it as she has had great success with writing grants. Charlee can write an RFP and solicit quotes. Jim notes that the Bishop complimented how GS does well with social media.

Jim reports he was asked to do a funeral for two individuals who have been involved in the diocese. He discussed the meeting for the Wabash neighborhood this week. Leaders of the neighborhood are elected at the meeting; Jim agreed to be the leader for the next term. He was also asked to be on the Waycross board and to be considered to be a member of the bishop's executive council.

The diocese has a youth coordinator for the whole diocese. She is very motivated to help churches with their youth. There are 3 open positions for the Diocesan convention, and she is encouraging churches to have their youth apply. This year will be important as we are welcoming "The Table" to the diocese from the Anglican church. He approached Greta and Montana Baron about going and they both agreed to be youth delegates for the convention.

Tim closed with a prayer at 8:30.

Next meeting: Nov 15 Charlee's house

December 20: Mike's house

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lovko, clerk