



St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Minutes for the Bishop's Committee Meeting
Sunday, March 19, 2023

Presiding Member: Rev. Dani Lee (Priest-in-Charge)

Clergy: Rev. Alison Desiderio Peterson (Deacon)

Elected Members: Taran Bhagat (Senior Warden), Jim Meador (Junior Warden), Mary Allen, Gidge Sundquist, and Sue Hidley

Ex Officio Members: Marilyn Oliver (Treasurer), Arianne Gage (BC Clerk)

Absent: Rob Jaramillo (Clerk), Dave Castelli (both excused)

Meeting opened at 1:12 PM (Quorum Established)

I. Opening prayer: Offered by Gidge Sundquist

II. Spiritual practice

Deacon Alison led us through a reading from the bulletin from our Worship Service. Practicing Lectio Devina, we went around and spoke to which parts of the reading stood out to us, with just a few words. The reading was then read twice more, with further space allowed for explanation of what stood out to us.

III. Adoption of agenda

Sue asked to add an item to the agenda regarding the choir and dedicated hymnals for them.

Motion: Taran motioned to adopt the agenda as amended. Gidge seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion was passed unanimously. The agenda was adopted.

IV. Approval of February minutes

Motion: Mary motioned to approve the Minutes from the February meeting. Sue seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion was passed unanimously. The February Minutes were approved.

V. Financial Report

Discussion: Taran read the noteworthy items that were prepared by Andrew Pizzello:

- Pledge contributions exceeded the monthly budget by a pretty healthy margin and are ahead of budget year-to-date.
- Other income is meeting or exceeding budget.
- Priest-in-Charge payroll will not show up for the first time until March reporting. For this reason, you'll see there is still a surplus of almost \$2,800 for the month. This is wonderful news since the budgeted priest-in-charge compensation is \$2,750.
- YTD surplus is \$4,410.

Discussion was had about what has happened to the Priest's discretionary fund. The previous account held by Rev. Susan was closed, by her, herself. This was deemed inappropriate as the nature of this account is meant to stay open and separate. Arianne and Rev. Dani will work together to establish a new account for these discretionary funds.

Motion: Jim motioned to approve the Financial Report. Taran seconded.

Vote: The motion was passed unanimously.

VI. Building & Grounds Committee

Discussion: Jim listed those he had talked to that are interested in helping with the grounds. These people are Robert Redd, Kent Collins, Pat Collins, Taran Bhagat, Gidge Sundquist.

Motion: Sue motioned to establish the Building and Grounds Committee. Taran seconded this motion.

Vote: The motion was passed.

VII. Business completed following BC Retreat

A. Finance Committee - This has been completed.

B. Timp Musicians Choir - These folks have not returned any correspondence to Arianne. So, it is assumed that they have found another venue and will not be holding their concert here.

C. MacyLynn Keller - This event will take place on March 31st.

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Approve December minutes, if available (Shaunna/Arianne)

No new news here. The Minutes are still missing.

Follow-up: Taran will check with Shaunna again.

B. Addendum to Support Group Contract (Shaunna/Arianne)

Follow-up: Arianne and Marilyn will convene on this item after Easter.

C. Parking Lot Grant Status (Shaunna/Taran)

Taran has been in contact with Kurt and Bill at the Diocese and they acknowledged that they have not paid us the 20k. The check is supposed to be written by them this week and should get to us soon.

Follow-up: Taran will continue to watch this.

D. Siding Options

Rev. Dani still needs to talk to Shaunna

Follow-up: Further address of this issue will take place after the Easter Season.

E. Pledge Forms

Pledge forms are coming in! They were distributed in February and have been making their way back in.

F. Land Acknowledgement

The Land Acknowledgement has been added to the email signatures of those who work at the parish. The Bishop has asked that this Acknowledgement be added to our bulletins and other places of visibility.

Mary Allen asked if there are specific places in our area where major events happened for the Native Tribes in our area. Forrest Cuch would be an excellent asset for this.

G. Sound System

Rev. Dani has been in contact with a couple of companies who work on sound systems similar to ours. There are only two companies who do this kind of work. Of the two, only one has responded to her, and they will be coming to the church this following week on Tuesday.

Follow-up: She will share these quotes and information as we find out about them.

H. Bulletins

- Rev. Dani asked for feedback on our recent changes to how we're distributing bulletins. We have been implementing a QR Code system for digital bulletins to save on paper.
- Sue explained some of the difficulty she's had with being in the choir and having to juggle so many books and papers and her phone as well.

- Rev. Dani gave an explanation about her vision for the bulletins and orders of service. Her main vision is to have one larger page as an Order of Service, about 10 or 12 fully printed versions available for those who are hard-of-seeing.
- Taran suggested that we re-order the response from the congregation after the Prayer List for St. Mary's so the response is not overlapping the reading of the names. It was further emphasized that the majority of people appreciate and enjoy the reading of these names.
- Mary Allen asked that the silent space be added for the congregation to add those they would like to pray for. "Are there others?" This was agreed to by all present.
- Easter Bulletins: These bulletins will be full bulletins, with plenty printed out. These bulletins will be reused for the following years to help save on paper costs.
- Rev. Dani expressed gratitude at the willingness that people have shown to try out a new process for the bulletins. Despite the initial discomfort, it will hopefully translate to better environmental stewardship, as well as savings in the budget.

I. Homeland Security Grant

Dave Castelli may have information on this, but he is absent today.

Follow-up: We will bring this up at our next meeting.

IX. Increase account minimums

- Taran gave us an overview of this topic. He is wondering if we would like to increase the minimum balance goal we have had of \$60,000, especially in consideration of inflation and today's economy. Additionally, he is wondering about upping the minimum balance in our Money Market Cash fund with Merrill Lynch and our Central Bank accounts.
- The \$20k we will receive from the Diocese is intended to go back into our Emergency Cash fund, as it was intended, to repay ourselves from the expenditure of the parking lot
- Taran suggested that the minimum goal of the General Fund be approximately \$50k.
- Deacon Alison asked how these savings would impact the definition of us being considered a 'mission church', a parish that is reliant on the Diocese for funding and sustained monetarily. Her concern is whether the Diocese would look at our 'rainy day' and other saved funds, and consider taking us off of mission status, and change us to a self-sustaining parish.
- Marilyn suggested a minimum balance idea of \$80k in the Money Market would meet half-way from our current goal and Taran's proposal of \$100k. She highlighted that our church building is only getting older, and the costs of things are increasing significantly in our current economic conditions.
- Sue asked where this money would be coming from, if it's already there, or what... Taran explained that these numbers are more like goals and/or benchmarks for future plans and funds coming in.
- These benchmarks and goals will be funded as we gain surpluses in future years.

Motion: Taran motioned to accept these new benchmarks. Gidge seconded this motion.

Recommended Minimum Balances / Savings Fund Goals, in order of priority:

General Fund:	\$50,000
Money Market (ML):	\$25,000
Investment Portfolio:	\$80,000

Vote: All in favor. These will be our new benchmarks.

X. Hymnals for the Choir

Sue requested that a few copies of The Hymnal 1982 be designated specifically for the choir, ones that would be set aside and with the purpose of being marked up and highlighted as needed.

(added 4/18/2023) It was decided that the choir could use a few of our existing Hymnals for tabs and notes.

XI. Lectern Donation

Deacon Alison asked if St. Mary's Church would be willing to donate a lectern to her ministry at The Inn Between for Sunday services that are performed there. If needed, this piece of furniture could be returned.

Motion: Sue motioned to approve this donation. Mary seconded.

Vote: All in favor. A lectern will be donated to Deacon Alison's ministry.

XII. Parish Directory

A public directory is something that can be a very useful tool for parishioners, especially in the case of emergencies or cancellations of events.

Sue suggested that the directory have photos as well as phone numbers and email addresses.

Deacon Alison explained some of the downsides of a public directory, especially in consideration of those parishioners who are attending BYU or the LDS church and could face repercussions from those organizations.

Rev. Dani mentioned a program called Realm that may work for this purpose.

Marilyn suggested the option of a disclaimer, and the option to opt-out of the directory to those who are worried about possible repercussions.

This directory would be on a volunteer, opt-in basis, with only the information they are willing to share.

Follow up: Rev. Dani and Arianne will work together on this.

XIII. Work Party / Spring Cleanup

The date Jim proposed is next Saturday, March 25. This date was shot down as it is too soon to get the word out, and many of those present would be unable to attend.

The next date proposed is Saturday, April 1st at 9:00am. This date seems much more manageable.

Things to bring: rakes, shovels, clippers, gloves, big black garbage bags, etc.

XIV. Seeds and Other Plants

Community Garden Ministry: Shelly Mulkern

Deacon Alison suggested that Rev. Dani should reach out to Shelly to discuss plans for the seeds and other plants she is interested in planting.

Follow Up: Deacon Alison will get in touch with Shelley for further plans.

XV. Replace No Trespassing with Original Welcome Sign

- Taran suggested that we reinstate the Meditation Garden sign that we used to have in place. This sign was removed around the time that Covid started because there was less supervision available, and people were camping and using the space inappropriately (including vandalizing and defecating, etc).
- The sign we had up before does state "No Trespassing After Dark"

- Marilyn explained that there have been a number of issues with people camping overnight, both in the labyrinth and in front of the red doors. Her concern is that folks who are camping and squatting are not respectful of the space or property, and use it in ways that discourage others from using these spaces for wholesome/meditative purposes.
- “There is a difference between being safe and being paranoid” -Deacon Alison
- Taran feels optimistic that once boundaries are established, and signage is in place, the rules will be followed without much issue. When issues do come up, a call can be placed to the non-emergency police dispatch service.
- Deacon Alison suggested dropping our own paranoia and fear, and trying to see unsheltered folks as PEOPLE FIRST. Meet them where they are, treat them as human beings, regardless of their background or current situation.
- There may be funds available through the Homeland Security Grant. Dave Castelli may have more information about this at a future date.

Proposed Motion: To replace the No Trespassing sign with the Meditation Garden sign after the Spring Cleanup date. The West gate near the parking lot will be unlocked and the East gate will remain locked (no change)

Motion: Sue motioned to accept this motion as proposed. Mary seconded.

Vote: All in favor. The motion is passed.

XVI. Sacristy Renovation

Rev. Dani explained how the Sacristy is very dark and dim. Painting the cabinets as well as updating lighting could make a big difference. There are swatch cards taped up in the Sacristy for consideration/ideas.

Follow Up: (added 4/18/2023) We will wait until Summer to repaint the walls white and then reassess needed renovations.

XVII. Pride Flag for June

The current pride flag we have is color inclusive, but not the updated progressive style. Deacon Alison suggested that when flying the pride flag, the Episcopal flag should still be hung up and visible.

Follow up: Arianne will look into purchasing an updated flag, the one with the triangle/trans inclusive design.

XVIII. Parish picnic and Other Outdoor Services

The Book of Occasional Services lists a few occasions when outdoor services are appropriate (i.e. Ascension Day, Blessings of the Animals, etc).

- Ascension Day is Thursday, May 18, 2023 this year.
- The Feast of St. Mary is on Tuesday, August 15, 2023
- Blessing of the Animals would fall near October 4, 2023

Ideas of parks to hold the picnic and/or outdoor services:

- Riverwoods Park, near the entrance to the canyon
- South Fork Canyon is where we've typically held the St. Mary's Parish Picnic.

Most parks are unwilling to reserve pavilions on Sundays, but are able to schedule for weekdays and Saturdays.

Discussion took place, weighing the pros and cons of a weekday vs a weekend picnic/service.

In consideration of Jim's schedule, where he usually works from 7am-7pm on weekdays, it would be tough to have him get there in time to participate. This may also be the case for other parishioners.

Proposed: Outdoor Service for Ascension Day on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at Riverwood Park.

XIX. Easter Egg Hunt

Arianne will place eggs during the service for the kiddos to find afterwards. These eggs would be filled with candies and such.

Marilyn has bunches of eggs we can use.

Arianne will build a flier for posting on Center Street posts, Facebook, etc.

XX. Meditative Group looking to Hold a Group Meeting Here at St. Mary's

A person named Jon Ogden is looking to hold a once-a-month meditative meeting, possibly here at St. Mary's. His curriculum is based on the teachings of an Episcopal

Motion: Sue motioned to approve this group to meet here. Gidge seconded this motion.

Vote: All in favor. Arianne will follow up with Jon this week.

XXI. Closing prayer: Offered by Dcn. Alison

Meeting closed at 4:28 PM

Next BC Meeting will be held on April 16, 2023.

Minutes taken by Arianne Gage

Clerk's Signature