



St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Minutes for the Bishop's Committee Meeting
Sunday, April 16, 2023

Presiding Member: Rev. Daniela Lee (Priest in Charge)

Clergy: Deacon Alison Desiderio Peterson

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

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

Absent: Dave Castelli (excused)

Meeting opened at 1:12pm (Quorum Established)

I. Opening prayer

The opening prayer was given by Rev. Dani

II. Spiritual practice

- Deacon Alison led us in a spiritual practice. We practiced Lectio Divina with a lesson from today's principal worship service: 1 Peter 1:3-9.
- Alison called on each member present to share what words or portion of the reading stood out to them.
- Rob and then Gidge read this lesson out loud once more.
- Upon the third reading of this passage, Deacon Alison opened up the opportunity for us to share a few comments on what about this passage stands out to us most.
- "More precious than gold..."
- "Outcome of your faith..." and the joy that can result from your faith.
- "Being protected by the power of God through faith..."
- "Indescribable..." Sometimes the words come to us, but other times, faith is something that can't really be described but felt.

III. Approval of agenda

- Gidge brought up a topic to discuss regarding Common Ground, with the possibility of purchasing a few crock pots for Common Ground and Fellowship hour.
- *Motion: Taran moved to approve the agenda as amended.*
Robert seconded this motion.
All approved, the agenda was adopted.

IV. Approval of March minutes

- Jim asked about the St. Mary's picnic. This topic will be discussed later in the agenda.
- Rob asked about the resolution for the hymn books for the choir as the Minutes from March's BC Meeting were incomplete. This request was previously approved at that meeting, and Sue expressed that this was a great success.
- Add to previous Minutes:
 - Resolution under #10: Existing Hymnals were approved for use by the choir, for tabs and notes. (Done)
 - Resolution under #16: Sacristy renovation: We will wait until Summer to repaint the walls white and then reassess needed renovations. (Done)
- *Motion: Rob motioned to accept March's BC Minutes as amended.
Taran seconded this motion.
All approved. The March Minutes will be approved once amended.*

V. Financial report

Highlights from Andrew:

Actual on Budget

- Pledge and plate contributions were robust for the month of March (and YTD). The income inflow helped offset expenses to create another monthly surplus. And this month includes the priest-in-charge compensation of \$2,750!
- The priest-in-charge pension expense has not yet been charged since it typically takes Church Pension Group a couple of months to set up the account.
- Natural gas expenses are above budget, but I know y'all have had quite the winter.
- The month of March ended with a \$2,166 budget surplus. The year-to-date budget surplus stands at \$6,576. I am very encouraged by these results.

Balance Sheet

- The Diocesan Standing Committee released the \$20,000 due to St. Mary's for the parking lot replacement. This money was deposited to the Central Bank Checking. If you want to transfer it back to Merrill Lynch to "reimburse" the Money Market, you should make this recommendation to the B.C.
- We have monies due to both the Rector's (Priest-in-Charge) Discretionary Fund and the deacon's Discretionary Fund. I will coordinate with Mary and Arianne on this.
- There were questions about whether and/or when the \$20,000 was deposited to the Central Bank account. The date was 3/24/2021.

- Rev. Dani asked where/when the registration cost for Clergy Conference would be posted. These charges will be allocated from the Continuing Education Fund.
- As a side note, all the Godly Play stuff is still missing. The previous administrator, Ashley Haws, may have used some of these materials, but has told Taran previously that she did not take the materials with her, nor does she know where they would be here at SMC.
- Discussion about a Children's Ministry began. With Godly Play being as costly as it is, it has previously been less viable as a ministry. Our membership is growing enough now, especially with Rev. Dani's kids attending, that we are getting more children attending Worship consistently.
- Rev. Dani is 'certified' with Godly Play, and is able to get discounts on the materials, if we'd like to invest in these materials in the future.
- *Motion: Jim motioned that we approve the financial report.*
Sue seconded this motion.
All approved this motion.

VI. Stewardship update

- Arianne will work this coming week on compiling the pledges that have been received and communicate these figures to the Bishop's Committee. This will include the number of pledges and a total dollar amount.
- Rob brought up the pledge envelopes available in the Sanctuary and the ability to mark your digital donation on the pledge envelope as part of the Offertory.
- It was noted that this ability will be announced by Rev. Dani in a future service.

VII. Feedback

A. Bulletins

- Jim and Rob both liked today's new tri-fold Order of Service bulletin.
- Taran expressed frustration that there are no rubrics or directions for when to stand, kneel, or sit in our recent bulletins.
- Rev. Dani would like to issue these instructions verbally, rather than having them in the bulletin, especially considering that some will be using the BCP versus the full bulletin.
- Rob expressed that he has looked to Sue as an example of when it is appropriate for parishioners and guests to kneel as opposed to standing.

- Deacon Alison asked the room what their sense of comfortability was with the current state of the bulletins and rubrics.
- Sue explained how, with the QR code, there are less instances of the papers of the bulletin falling out and going flying. Less papers to shuffle around.
- Marilyn expressed disdain for there being phones and water bottles in the Sanctuary, and that they can be very distracting. Her perspective is that these items bring too much distraction into the Church, especially during Worship.
- Deacon Alison highlighted the importance of having access to water, considering how, climate-wise, we live in a desert.
- Rev. Dani brought up that she is interested in holding an instructional Eucharist some time in the summer, so people can get more familiar and comfortable with using the BCP.
- Gidge expressed that it's very important to be welcoming and accommodating, especially to those people who are new or are visiting.
- Deacon Alison and Marilyn both expressed a desire for there being less chatter and talking prior to the start of the service. This time is traditionally meant to be for reflection and preparation for the worship ahead.
- Rob brought up a resource called 'how2charist' that is very educational regarding the proper practices and procedures for the Eucharist.
- Options and ideas for a Healing Prayer Circle were discussed, to possibly be held by the baptismal font, during Communion.

B. Work party

- We had about 10 people for our previous Work Party, but another work party is needed for the labyrinth and back yard area.
- The proposed date for this second Work Day is Saturday, April 29th.
- Deacon Alison suggested that it may be helpful to ask (or ponder), 'Why are people not participating?'. There may not be one clear-cut answer, but understanding the what's and why's could make a big difference in getting involvement from parishioners going forward.

C. Holy Week and Easter

- Easter Sunday was PACKED!! Rev. Dani will do two services next year to combat overcrowding.
- Tenebrae was HARD. It was like work to get through it! But, turns out, that's likely the point. Rob pointed out that when it gets tedious and tiresome,

that's what leads to the "wait with me" sentiment that Jesus called for.

Generally, the feedback was very positive.

- Maundy Thursday was well received too. The ability to wash the feet of other parishioners was striking to many, leaning into the vulnerability of getting so personal with such an act. We, as Christians, are called to be like Jesus, in ways such as this. The general feeling of this service was very positive, with many people expressing that being able to have their feet washed, and in turn washing the feet of others was very moving and impactful.
- Deacon Alison asked if anyone missed the Hand Washing like we had in the year 2022. Some people did. Discussion was had about the difference between washing hands and/or washing feet, and that theologically, the washing of the feet is of greater importance.
- Good Friday: The Veneration of the Cross was well received. Marilyn liked the cross (that Deacon Alison's husband Michael Peterson built) so much that she'd like to see it displayed regularly.
- Next year, Rev. Dani would like to include The Great Easter Vigil in the services offered, with the Paschal Fire.
- 2024's Easter Sunday services will be held at 9am and 11am to help combat overflowing and crowding.

VIII. Unfinished business

A. November minutes - last call

- Taran checked in with Shaunna about the November Minutes. They are still missing, so we're going to move on...

B. Addendum to support group contract

- Arianne will send out the current Church Use Policy to the Bishop's Committee for review, and then further discussion can take place.

C. Parking lot grant status

- Yay!! The money has been received! As of 3/24/2023, the \$20,000 from the Diocese was deposited.
- *Motion: Taran motioned to move \$16,000 of the \$20,000 parking lot grant from the Central Bank general fund to the Merrill Lynch Money Market fund.*
Sue seconded this motion.
All approved. This move will be made by either Taran or Marilyn.

D. Siding options

- Rev. Dani will be in touch with Shaunna Gage to look at options from the insurance company.

E. Sound system

- Rev. Dani spoke with some sound system professionals who gave her a few recommendations. These include: 2 lapel microphones, 1 gooseneck microphone for the pulpit, 1 all-around microphone for the room. Our current sound mixer is still viable and able to be used with the new equipment.
- Total cost for these upgrades would be \$2163.86
- Taran asked which line item this would come from in our budget. Mary expressed that, no matter which line item the funds come from, we can bill this to “Building Special” and account for it from other lines in the budget.
- *Motion: Jim motioned to approve this purchase.
Rob seconded this motion.
All approved this motion. Rev. Dani will make a call to these contractors and get the ball rolling.*

F. Homeland security grant

- Dave and Arianne worked to finish the paperwork for this grant application.
- Rev. Dani received an email back that our grant application requires an extensive amount of further background information and other info in order to resubmit the grant application.
- Rob highlighted that the lighting in the parking lot at night is quite a bit better now, thanks to the newer buildings in our neighborhood.
- The case for video cameras is still valid, and could be useful.
- With Dave’s absence, and his dedication to this project, it was decided to table further discussion on this subject until next month, when he may be able to join us.

G. Parish Directory

- Arianne and Deacon Alison are looking to update Church Windows directories during the summer time.

H. Community Garden Plans

- Shelly Mulkern was interested in heading this up, but is no longer able.
- Jim volunteered to head up this ministry.
- A lot of discussion was had about planting, maintaining, watering, donations, etc.

- Rev. Dani proposed an idea to border off a section of the South yard to grow things like raspberries and blackberries. This would allow for easier maintenance and containment of these crops.
- Jim suggested the possibility of planting strawberries on the outside edge of the fence on the south end.

I. Meditation Garden Sign

- This sign will be put back up after our next clean up day on Saturday, April 29th.

J. Sacristy renovation

- Brighter, better lighting should likely be the first step for renovation. With brighter lights, the whole room may look a lot better, before the need for paint on the walls or cabinets.
- Teddi Reeves may have a connection to Boshard Electric, who we have used here at St. Mary's before.
- Arianne will call Boshard Electric for a consultation and quote for this project.

K. Outdoor services

1. Ascension

- Riverview Park will be renovating this summer and is not allowing reservations for their pavilion.
- Deacon Alison highlighted that, if we are interested in having the community join us, perhaps we have the service here in our labyrinth.
- This idea could work, but Rev. Dani is interested in being in a more public area for evangelical purposes.
- Rev. Dani decided to forgo this service in the interest of planning further ahead next year.

2. St. Mary parish picnic

- The Feast of St. Mary is on Tuesday, August 15th this year.
- Would we want to have this picnic/service on the day of, or on a Saturday instead?
- Tuesday vs Sunday was discussed.
- The date was decided as Sunday, August 20th at South Fork Park at 11:00am.

3. Blessing of the animals

- Mary motioned to move this service to Saturday instead of Sunday. In many years previous, it's been held on Saturday for ease of inviting members of the community to join us.
- The proposed date is Saturday, October 7th at 11:00am
- It could also be fun to invite local animal shelters and foster families to fashion a sort of adoption event as well.
- The Daily Herald may even like to do a story about it.
- *Motion: Mary motioned to hold The Blessing of the Animals Service on October 7th at 11:00am*
Rob seconded this motion.
All were in favor. This date and event are approved.

IX. Easter plate money for EYE

- The donation counters will work to get all the donations counted and Mary will work on cutting a check to go to the youth.

X. Copier replacement

- Arianne will look at the printer contract details, and the possibility of ending the contract early.
- She will also research what the cost would be for a similar copier, or one that would meet our needs.
- Research points: equipment cost, toner cost, maintenance and/or repairs, possibility for toner refills, speed of printing, cost per page/copy

XI. Bishop's Visitation

The Bishop will have her visitation at St. Mary's on October 22nd.

A. Have the BC meet with her

- Rev. Dani would like to have our regular BC Meeting on the Sunday previous to that, October 15th.

B. Other activities for her

- Possibly a hike or something similar, or perhaps something to include her dog, Samson.

XII. Common Ground

- Gidge shared a few viewpoints about how Common Ground has been going, and that there has been interest expressed in opening it up to parishioners and guests as a luncheon in addition to preparing lunches for Food and Care.
- The possibility of having an evening event was discussed as well. This may be a little easier for Rev. Dani to attend if it is held after June this year.
- Theologically, Rev. Dani is a big proponent of having an evening dinner where we feed people a hot meal and welcome people into our space, and respect the dignity and humanity of those who attend.
- Gidge requested to purchase one or two crock pots to go towards this ministry.
- *Motion: Rob motioned to approve the purchase of one crock pot.
Sue seconded this motion.
All approved. Gidge is authorized to purchase a crock pot for Common Ground.*

Meeting closed at 4:59pm

Next BC Meeting will be held on **May 21, 2023**.

Minutes taken by Arianne Gage.

Clerk's Signature