



St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Agenda for the Bishop's Committee Meeting
Sunday, June 11, 2023 @ 12.30 PM

Presiding Member: Rev. Daniela Lee+ (Priest in Charge)
Clergy: Rev. Alison Desiderio Peterson (Deacon)
Elected Members: Taran Bhagat (Senior Warden), Jim Meador (Junior Warden),
Gidge Sundquist, Robert Jaramillo, Dave Castelli, Sue Hidley,
Mary Allen
Ex Officio Members: Marilyn Oliver (Treasurer), Arianne Gage (BC Clerk)
Absent: None

Meeting opened at 1:01pm (Quorum Established)

I. Opening prayer

- Deacon Alison lead us in our opening prayer

II. Spiritual practice

- Rev. Dani led us in a spiritual practice. She invited us to close our eyes and focus on any points of tension in our bodies and acknowledge those parts. She instructed us to put that information aside mentally, and move through those discomforts into a place, whether real or imagined, that brings us peace. This could be a place we've visited before, or an imaginary place, just somewhere that helps us to feel peaceful.
- She then instructed us to imagine meeting God there. And to imagine Jesus being there with us. Perhaps they are embodied, or maybe we only feel their presence.
- We were invited to calm our minds, and to listen for God.
- She then read a scripture: James 1:22-25 - "Be doers of the word, and not just hearers of the word...."
- "Ask God what he is trying to tell you through this piece of scripture."
- We were then invited to return to the room once we were ready.
- Rev. Dani invited anyone to share what they heard or experienced during this meditation.
 - Gidge shared that she has often thought to herself that she needs to set some time aside to meet and get to know her God, and that she has tried to set time for that, but that it's difficult when she gets busy. She determined that this can still happen in small ways, instead of only in appointments and specific times.
 - Rob shared that he felt an acceptance of himself with God, and that he has received inspiration and a call by Bishop Phyllis to be an evangelist. He said he has been surprised in how he has found evangelism working in his life, and that it's often those who he does not expect to attend that decide to join us.

III. Adoption of agenda

- We added a couple points to the agenda: Discussion about an upcoming guest speaker, a schedule of the BC meetings coming up.
- *Dave motioned to approve the agenda as amended.*
- *Sue seconded this motion.*
- *All approved. Agenda has been adopted.*

IV. Approval of May minutes

- No discussion took place.
- *Dave motioned to approve the Minutes for May's meeting.*
- *Jim seconded this motion.*
- *All approved. The Minutes were approved.*

V. Financial report

- As our meeting was moved up a week earlier than usual, we do not have a formal report available.
- Rev. Dani mentioned that we had previously discussed the possibility of receiving a chart of accounts. This would come from Andrew.
- We will be inviting Andrew to our next meeting on July 16.

VI. Building and grounds committee

- Dave shared a few comments regarding the maintenance of the building and grounds and how we should have a comprehensive plan for maintenance and upkeep. Deacon Alison asked what this might look like, and Dave was unsure, but open to input.
- Taran highlighted that the placement of the Community Garden does make it more difficult to mow the surrounding grass, but that they were placed there in an effort to not disturb or interrupt the sprinkler system.
- Marilyn expressed frustration that this is a topic that keeps coming up and gets tossed around. Her suggestion was that we have a one time landscaper come in and give us an idea of what would be good to grow and easy to maintain.

VII. Business completed since April meeting

A. Work party

- Our last work party went well, but there is still some weeding to do in the labyrinth. The weeds have been sprayed, but persevere!
- We may decide to hold another work day in early July or August.

B. Changes to Deacon Alison's office

- Taran highlighted that we have forgotten to move the closet downstairs, as well as moving the piano out of her office.

Discussion was had about where to place the piano, especially to make sure that it's not abused or mishandled.

- Rob suggested that we put it in the Fellowship Hall with the keyboard turned to the wall

C. Document for the priest's discretionary account

- Arianne will be writing this up this week and email it to the BC for approval at the next meeting.

VIII. Unfinished business

A. Duties of the BC person of the day

- Arianne is going to find the previous list of BCMOD responsibilities. She will share this with the BC once found.
- Gidge may have a copy that she can share with us as well.

B. Phone and internet

- Arianne gave an overview of the meeting she had with First Digital, our current phone and internet supplier.
- Unfortunately, our account with First Digital was set up on auto renewal back when the service first started in 2014, and the account just renewed for a new three year term as of 2/20/2023. During her meeting with First Digital, Arianne expressed frustration that there was no heads-up or confirmation when the contract was renewed.
- First Digital would require some hefty termination fees if we were to cancel this contract early, to the tune of \$3,148.61.
- Rev. Dani asked if we could swap our contract to a one year contract without changing any of our services, at which point we would cancel and switch to a cell phone, like through TMobile.
- Arianne will follow up with the account manager at First Digital and bring more information to the next meeting.

C. Guest speakers

- 1.) Today's guest speaker: Kurt Cook, Diocesan Historiographer
 - His reflection was well received! Dave appreciated that he was able to share information for St. Mary's specifically, which made it more engaging to listen to.
 - Rev. Dani is hopeful that someone will feel called to help us organize our archives in the way that Kurt has done for the Cathedral. Kurt has also offered to lend a hand with this project at St. Mary's, if someone was willing to head it up.
 - Next month's guest speaker will be Dr. Shannon Burke

2.) Concerns regarding Future Guest Speakers

- A member of the BC expressed deep concern regarding one of our choices for guest speaker. They believed the person to have poor character and to be very manipulative.
- Robert asked if there were other options and even offered a suggestion of who could speak instead.
- Rev. Dani expressed why she thought this person was unique and would still be our best choice, but said she, along with others, would look into it further.
- Deacon Alison expressed a concern about whether one of our speakers, Camilie Biexi, would be coming here to bash the LDS faith. Other members also wanted to make sure that wasn't the case.
- Rev. Dani emphasized that this is NOT what she wants to hear or have discussed during this guest's reflection. She is hoping for an academic approach to this subject of theological deconstruction, rather than something that would come across as bashing or bad-mouthing of another faith tradition. She is also hoping that someone in our congregation would be inspired to do similar work for the parishioners here at St. Mary's.
- *Follow-up: Rev. Dani and a few impartial members of the BC will help to assess these concerns further.*

D. Contract for building use

- Arianne will share the Church Use Policy with the BC. This contract needs to be divided and separated. The deadline for this revision will be September 2023.
- Rev. Dani highlighted that those who perform a recital in the Sanctuary will not necessarily need to receive the information about the kitchen or library, etc.

E. Parish directory

- Rev. Dani has been looking into Realm, which they use at The Cathedral. This system is very comprehensive, and could even replace the Church Windows program we have used for directories and information.
- This system allows for both public and private information to be inputted by parishioners and the admin. This would

allow people to select which of their information is shared and/or kept private, only viewable by admins and clergy.

- Rev. Dani has reached out to them for pricing and is waiting to hear back.

F. Music for outdoor services

- Samantha Adair is going to look into some options for a keyboard and/or speakers to use for annual meeting and outdoor services.

G. Copier replacement

- Arianne has reached out to Ricoh, who we lease our printer from, for a copy of the contract we have with them. Ricoh was not able to produce a contract.
- Taran and Arianne are going to research new printer models

H. Columbarium expansion

- Rev. Dani got a quote from a local contractor who quoted us \$30,000 for an exterior granite columbarium that we could put in the labyrinth.
- She has reached out to a number of other parishes and clergy people who have shared their solutions with her. These include literal holes in the ground that could hold either temporarily or permanently hold the remains in ground.
- Options were discussed for a Memorial Garden rather than an installed, fixed, and costly Columbarium.
- Three options for the Memorial Garden were presented, all of which could fit simultaneously: a no-cost option for spreading of ashes, a general 'plot' with no plaque where the ashes would biodegrade over time, and a space with a memorial plaque for future visitations.
- *Robert motioned to approve the investigation and installation of a Memorial Garden, rather than an exterior Columbarium.*
- *Mary seconded this motion.*
- *All approved. Rev. Dani will explore options and present them at a future BC Meeting.*

I. Written instructions for the coffee pot and for the dishwasher

- There was much discussion about the coffee process! 😊
- It was highlighted that there are already written directions posted near the coffee machine and the dishwasher.

J. Standing Committee grant request for siding

- The Standing Committee requires three competitive quotes for projects like this. Rev. Dani has tasked Taran with arranging for these quotes. We have received one quote so far for \$26,450.
- The siding project was decided to be a higher priority project (versus the Memorial Garden), especially with the potential for winter weather in the future.
- Rev. Dani emphasized that St. Mary's should try to only offer to pay for a quarter of this renovation, and that we should petition for the Standing Committee to cover the rest.

IX. New business

A. A Big St. Mary's Day - Gidge's idea

- Gidge shared a few ideas of what a larger event could look like here on the grounds at St. Mary's, with a fundraiser, mini-ministry fair, building/historical tours, etc.
- Dave suggested the possibility of setting up a booth while the July 4th parade is taking place, and charging for parking.
- Bam! A big discussion about the July 4th parade started. So much information to catch...!
- Possibilities for paid parking, free waters, SMC balloons, and more. These ideas will need to be organized further.
- Ideas were discussed for The Blessing of the Animals as well.

B. Support Group Event - N.A. BBQ on Saturday, July 1 from 4-7pm

- *Rob motioned to approve this event.*
- *Sue seconded this motion.*
- *All approved. This event is approved.*

C. Bishop's Committee Meeting Schedule through January 2024

- July's Meeting: July 16th
- August's Meeting: moved to August 27th
- September's Meeting: September 17th
- October's Meeting: October 8th
- Extra Meeting: October 15th - this is the day of the Bishop's visitation. It was suggested to have a short meeting with her here and then go on a hike or to lunch after.
- November's Meeting: November 19th
- December's Meeting: December 17th
- January 2024: January 21st
- Annual Meeting: January 28th

X. Next meeting

- Our next BC meeting will be held on Sunday, July 16, 2023.

XI. Closing prayer

- Taran offered a closing prayer.

Meeting closed at 4:20pm

Next BC Meeting will be held on **Sunday, July 16, 2023.**

Minutes taken by Arianne Gage.

Clerk's Signature