



St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
Agenda for the Bishop's Committee Meeting  
Sunday, August 27, 2023 @ 1:00 PM

Presiding Member: Rev. Daniela Lee+ (Priest-in-Charge)  
Elected Members: Mary Allen, Sue Hidley, Rob Jaramillo (Clerk),  
Jim Meador (Junior Warden), Dave Castelli, and Gidge Sundquist  
Ex Officio Members: Taran Bhagat (Senior Warden), Marilyn Oliver (Treasurer), and  
Arianne Gage (Scribe)

**Meeting opened at 1:10pm (Quorum Established)**

I. Opening prayer

- Rev. Dani gave the opening prayer and went right into our practice.

II. Spiritual Practice

- Rev. Dani and those present shared in a collective, collaborative prayer.

III. Adoption of agenda

- No additions were made to the agenda.
- The agenda was adopted as written.

IV. Approval of July Minutes

- After brief discussion, there were no amendments to the July Minutes.  
*Motion and second to approve the July Minutes?*  
*Vote: All approved.*

V. July Reports

A. Priest-in-Charge report

- Rev. Dani will be starting a Confirmation Class, beginning on September 3, 2023.
- We have 4 baptisms lined up for September 17, 2023. These will take place in the Sanctuary.
- Rev. Dani also shared details about an Instructive Eucharist service she will be holding on September 22, 2023 for a World's Religion Class at BYU. She hopes that this work with the class helps shed some light on our faith and traditions, in an inviting, instructional setting. Oftentimes, when a student attends our service, and they are unfamiliar with our liturgy, they may leave with more questions than answers, and she hopes that this will be beneficial to them.
- Rev. Dani will also share an instructional eucharist with the parish of St. Mary's on October 1, 2023.
- In regards to the Bishop's visitation on October 15th, we discussed a few options for a short hike that day. These were: Stewart Falls, The Grotto, The Hot-Pots.  
*Follow-up: Gidge and John will go to The Grotto and see if it is a good hiking option.*

B. Senior Warden's report

- Taran shared a few points about his report. He highlighted the work that the Financial Committee did in July regarding the full chart of accounts and more.
- Dave asked a question about the chart of accounts for our budget. He shared a concern that if we condense accounts, what will we be losing?
- Discussion took place about the exterior siding project. The Standing Committee is changing the way they give out funds for projects like this, and we may need to reassess how to fund this project.
- Jim and Taran have both received quotes for the project.
- One more bid/quote is needed before we can approach the Standing Committee.

*Follow-up: Rev. Dani agreed to find a third quote.*

C. Junior Warden's report

- September 16, 2023 was proposed as our next work day for exterior clean up.

D. Treasurer's report

- Mary shared an update about the Meeting and Workshops account and two charges that were made in that category. The first transaction was for the lunch we had with the Diocesan consultant in December 2022. The second was for a lunch the BC held during the BC Retreat.
- Printing fewer bulletins has resulted in a bit of savings, so that's nice!

*Motion, second, and vote to approve submitted and supplemental reports?*

VI. Approval of July financials

- The July financials were not available in enough time for those present to familiarize themselves with the report. We will revisit this in September.  
*To-do: Taran will make sure all financial reports get uploaded next month.*

VII. Unfinished business

A. Bulletins

- Rev. Dani requested that those on the BC use either the digital version of the bulletin, or bring their Books of Common Prayer so the printed, full-size bulletins will be available for newcomers, guests, and those who have poor eyesight. She hopes that this practice will help set an example to others to use their Books of Common Prayer as well, and make the bulletins more available for others.

*Informal: This request was well received, and those present agreed to it.*

VIII. New business

A. New Support Group Request

- There is a group who would like to meet here, SAA. They will be meeting upstairs in the classrooms.

*Motion and second to allow This group to meet in the classrooms?*

*Vote: All were in agreement.*

B. Stewardship campaign

- Rev. Dani shared that a Stewardship Training will be taking place soon, at the request of +Bishop Phyllis. This training will be required training for Bishop's Committees and Vestries in the Diocese.
- Ideas were discussed on ways to encourage and spur stewardship, and how to communicate and display it to the parish.
  - Thermometer - may be difficult to determine the top-most goal, and what if we go over?
  - Horizontal 'Runner' - easier to add onto the goal, based on amount donated
  - Mile markers for Expenses - 'this much to heat the building', 'this much to repair our roof', 'this much to pay our priest for a year', etc.

*To-do: Rev. Dani will be asking a few of the frequent pledgers to share a reflection about why they pledge and donate to the mission of St. Mary's. Hopefully this inspires more giving from the congregation, which will help immensely with the costs and projects here.*

C. Child care

- Rev. Dani is interested in hiring a babysitter to sit with the kids during Worship. She hopes that this attendant will be able to help the kids with an activity such as making a drawing on the day's lesson, or something similar, and that this would help keep the noise and distraction down during the service.
- Discussion was had about if this person would need to take the Safeguarding Training, and if they would need a referral from someone who we trust as a congregation.

- This person would be paid \$15 per hour, for a minimum of two hours per week, totaling \$30 per Sunday.

*Motion and second for the permission to hire and fund a babysitter?*

*Vote: all were in agreement.*

#### D. Becoming a Parish

- As a mission church, we rely heavily on Diocesan grants and funding to operate day to day. If we were to become a Parish church, we would need to become self-sustaining through fundraisers and stewardship drives, etc.
- Discussion was had about fundraising events and initiatives that we could hold during different parts of the year, to help drive donations and giving, with exciting new things so the campaign doesn't get stale or forgotten.
- Marilyn highlighted that these events would have lasting and more measurable power if we could make these annual events, have them set on the calendar, and do them each year. Programs like this will typically become more profitable with age and recurrence.
- Rob shared information about Project Rainbow, an initiative in SLC that installs Pride flags in people's yards, much like the LDS wards that plant American flags in a similar fashion. They have had a difficult time establishing their roots in Utah county because of the distance, and this may be viable if we can get it started.

*Follow-up: Rev. Dani requested that people come to the next meeting with 3 ideas of times during the year we could do a fundraiser.*

### IX. Calendar items

#### A. Blessing of the Animals

- Blessing of the Animals will take place on Saturday, October 7th
- Mary suggested the idea of printing some calling cards with information about service and an invitation for their pet to be blessed.

*To-do: Rev. Dani will meet with Mary on Thursday to go over details and draw up the invitation card and Arianne will work to put these cards together.*

#### B. Support Group Leaders Gathering

- This meeting will take place on September 30th at 12:00pm
- Ideas were shared about incentivising attendance to this social.
- It was then decided that this meeting would be mandatory for all leaders of the support groups, in order to share the updated contract and expectations and take an inventory of keys.
- Many people shared instances of things going missing from the kitchen like food and other supplies.
- Discussion was had about revoking kitchen access to the groups. This is especially important to make things equal with all of the groups, considering that many of the groups will not be in the kitchen and therefore do not have access to the kitchen anyway.
- The addition of a coffee cart could be a viable option for them to still have coffee without getting into the kitchen.
- Taran suggested a print out checklist for group leaders to go through at the close of their meetings.
- An idea of adding a pop/soda/coffee machine was discussed. This could be a great way to raise extra funds for the parish.

*To-do: Who's going to communicate this with the leaders?*

#### C. Chart of Accounts (FC)

- The next Finance Committee Meeting will be on November 5th

#### D. Next meeting

- Our next Bishop's Committee meeting will be on September 17, 2023

X. Closing prayer

- Gidge led us in the closing prayer.

**Meeting closed at 3:40pm**

Minutes taken by Arianne Gage.

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Clerk's Signature