

St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
Agenda for the Bishop's Committee Meeting  
Sunday, September 17, 2023 @ 1.30 PM



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

**Meeting opened at 1:38pm (Quorum Established)**

I. Opening prayer

Rev. Dani invited Deacon Alison to offer our opening prayer. Alison deferred to Taran, who offered our opening prayer.

II. Spiritual practice

Deacon Alison led us in a spiritual practice wherein she offered us a lesson in listening. She highlighted the importance of really *hearing* each other, by being present to who is speaking, etc. She cautioned against making assumptions or guessing at what the person is trying to say, and adopt a mindset of curiosity.

III. Adoption of Agenda

Two items were added: Concerts and Recitals from Samantha and a 'Situation Comment' from Gidge

*Motion: Taran motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Mary seconded.*

*Vote: All present approved the motion.*

IV. Approval of August Minutes

- Taran highlighted the absence of motions and seconds from August's BC Meeting. It was discussed that we missed many of Robert's Rules of Order.
- Sue confirmed that there were not many times that a motion was asked for. Rob agreed with this, that we tried to plow through the meeting.
- Arianne expressed her need for communication from the BC as a whole, and as much for-notice as possible, in order to get things ready for our monthly meetings.
- Mary asked for communication about the financial reports ahead of time as well.
- Rev. Dani suggested that someone motion to approve the August Minutes as they are, in their current state.

*Motion: Rob motioned to approve the August Minutes as-is. Sue seconded.*

*Vote: All approved.*

*Follow-up: Rev. Dani will write an email to Andrew, asking him to share the financials with the entire committee.*

## V. Approval of August Reports

### A. Priest-in-Charge

- Rev. Dani gave a brief overview of her Priest in Charge report.
- The Stewardship revival, in her opinion, was a waste of time. She expressed that she has been feeling overwhelmed with all of the curriculum and requirements that +Bishop Phyllis has asked us to attend to. She called for a few volunteers who may be willing to attend these sessions as Taran can only attend a couple of them.
- The funeral for Steven Frank Briggs this past Friday went well, and marked the first funeral for her here at St. Mary's. Steven's service included military honors, and she was glad to witness that.
- Rev. Dani is looking forward to October, our new Thursday events, and the upcoming season of Advent.

### B. Senior Warden

- Taran did not have much to add to his report and, if they haven't already, invited those present to read through his report at their leisure.

### C. Junior Warden

- Jim told us a bit about the Work Day we had at St. Mary's on 9/16/23. We had a few volunteers from BYU who helped us clean up our grounds and weed the gardens.
- We have pomegranates growing as well as grapes and figs!
- There was a call for those with garden boxes to weed and care for their boxes soon.

### D. Treasurer

- Marilyn gave us a few highlights from Andrew's financial report.
- Dave asked why the July and August beginning balances are the same figure. He is unsure why the balances would be the same figure after two months of activity.
- Deacon Alison gave us her input, from her background in accounting. She says that the activity will show in our P&L (profits and losses) statement and that the figure in question is from the beginning of the fiscal year.

#### 1. July financials

No questions or discussion had

2. August financials

No questions or discussion had

*Motion: Taran motioned to accept these financial reports as discussed. Mary seconded.*

*Vote: All present approved.*

*Follow-up: Make an announcement to prepare garden boxes for winter.*

VI. New business

A. Warming stations presentation - Kena Matthews

- Rev. Dani introduced Kena Matthews, who works for the City of Orem
- Kena informed us that there is not a homeless shelter here in Provo or in Utah County; and she highlighted the need for support of the unhoused communities, as people are dying in the streets from exposure and other issues.
- There is a new County measure called “Code Blue” wherein the county is required to provide shelter to unhoused people when the outside temperature drops below approximately 15-20 degrees.
- Kena told us about a church near the Food and Care Coalition that has been instituting a sort of “Code Blue” measure, under the radar until now, for the last 7 years to help keep these people from freezing to death.
- They are looking to collaborate with other nearby churches to enact similar measures.
- Community Action will be staffing these nights with trauma-informed staff who will offer security measures and more to help keep people, buildings, and other assets safe. No food will be offered.
- This measure would start in December of this year.
- There would also be a shuttle that would help to transport people from the warming station to the Food and Care Coalition for breakfast the next day to help deter loitering or other possible nuisance.
- They are looking to find a place for each of the seven days of the week, though we would not be required to take on all seven days. There is another church nearby who has already offered to take on two nights.
- As of this meeting, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday are eligible for us to take on.
- The funding has already been provided by the State of Utah.
- There will also be a counsel formed to address issues that may arise and all participating churches would get to be involved in that.

- Kena expressed frustration with the unwillingness there has been to help unhoused people and shared a story about her friend Dave who died on the streets, having frozen to death, just one block from Food and Care.
- There is a Homeless Campout being scheduled for November 16 for the stakeholders. More information to come.

These guests were excused.

- Rev. Dani opened the floor to conversation, if we'd like to take a vote, etc.
- Gidge highlighted the importance of those who would attend the Warming Shelter not loitering at the church before the warming station is 'open'.
- Rev. Dani suggested that if we were to take on Friday and Saturday, it would be a benefit to the program and their funding, because they are required to provide insurance for the facilities they use.
- Deacon Alison shared how this kind of initiative was the genesis for The Inn-Between, the shelter that she ministers at in SLC and that she supports many of the initiatives to help people. She highlighted our Baptismal Covenant, and how it emphasizes honoring the dignity of every human being.
- Rob shared a scripture: Matthew 25: ".....as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it unto me."
- Dave shared a few comments regarding 'scope creep'...
- Gidge shared a story about a presumably homeless person who she and John interacted with today.

*Motion: Rob motioned to open our church to the Warming Station for Friday and Saturday nights. Jim seconded.*

*Vote: All approved.*

Supplemental notes from group discussion via text message:

- Rev. Dani asked someone to volunteer as coordinator and attend meetings.
- Gidge offered and expressed that it could be good for experience and networking; just as long as she didn't have to do overnights.
- Rev. Dani said that it would be more of a liaison role between our organizations.

Gidge attended a meeting and had concerns.

- She took detailed notes and many of her issues surrounded preparedness, unknowns, and lack of communication.
- Rev. Dani was disappointed, but said we would find out more and reconvene.

St. Mary's Zoomed with Fr. Jason and his Wardens, who are from St. John's Episcopal Church in Logan; who have participated in this program and chose to continue. Many of our BC couldn't attend, so it was recorded. Gidge also attended another volunteer meeting the following day and offered additional notes.

- Dave expressed his discomfort with pets and smoking on the property, but especially with not being able to check people's belongings because of past experiences. He was also wondering about us providing laundry tokens.
- Gidge explained that we aren't going to allow pets, but wondered if we already allowed smoking on the property. She also added clarity, that the laundry tokens would not be offered or fulfilled by St. Mary's.

*Motion: Rob motioned to withdraw our offer to volunteer St. Mary's for now; understanding that once we have seen how it has gone with other churches, we may choose to reconsider next year. Mary seconded.*

*Vote: All offered their word of agreement and unanimously approved the motion.*

#### B. Concert and Recitals - Santos Chamber Singers

- Samantha shared information about a benefit concert opportunity that has been presented to her. There is a choral group who is looking for a space to rehearse their program, and in exchange for the time needed, they offered to perform a benefit concert as a fundraiser.
- The date proposed is October 19th in the evening, beginning at 7:30 or 8pm.
- That Thursday will fall on our Contemplative Practice night, but we can work around that pretty easily.
- Samantha would like to post advertising in the parish and around town to hopefully bring in more people and more funds.
- Turns out, that evening is also Rob and Travis's wedding day!

*Follow-up: Samantha is going to follow up with the choir director to see if they could offer a different day, either later in October or possibly in November. Once we have more information, we will vote by email.*

#### C. Community garden

A few of SMC's leaders and parishioners attended the nearby community garden called "Esther's Garden". This garden was small but bountiful!

- Rev. Dani has been looking into ways to make our own community garden more inviting and welcoming, while also making it more water and resource efficient, so we can continue being better stewards of creation. Dani would like for us to be able to grow more vegetables and crops so we can have a more plentiful and nutritious garden.
- Our parishioner, Luka Romney, has a friend who is majoring in landscaping and who has offered to help us make a plan for a new community garden. We could take out the current garden boxes, convert our sprinkler system into a drip system, and truck in some quality topsoil.

- We may be able to convert our park strip as well, but may have to work with the city as they own it.

*Follow-up: Rev. Dani will be in contact with this volunteer to work up a couple ideas or plans, and we will discuss by email or at a future meeting.*

#### D. Changing tables

- Discussion was had about the changing table in the women's room. This was brought up due to someone changing their baby on a table in the parish hall, previous to fellowship hour.
- It was suggested to install a new changing table in both hall bathrooms.

*Motion: Sue motioned to approve the expense of two new changing tables. Rob seconded.*

*Vote: All approved. We will fund the purchase of these new tables using the 'Building Special' fund.*

### VII. Unfinished business

#### A. Stewardship campaign

- This September has been very busy, and we have not been able to put together a stewardship plan just yet.
- The deadline for Stewardship/Pledge cards will be November 1st.
- Jim shared that there used to be Stewardship Dinners where we would have a dinner and then collect pledge cards at the dinner itself.
- The dinner idea was a hit!! We are looking at October 28th in the evening.

*Follow-up: We will come up with a theme for the dinner and make sure the pledge cards and stewardship letter is ready in time for the event.*

#### B. Fundraiser ideas

- Rev. Dani has had discussions and it's been suggested that we have three fundraiser events per year. These could be held during Mardi Gras in February and other times of the year.
- Other ideas:
  - Drag Show (Mardi Gras)
  - Fancy, high tea party (possibly in May)
  - Benefit Concerts (possibly two or three in the fall, Oct-Nov-Dec)
  - Pie-N-Beer Day (though, this may step on a few toes with our surrounding communities in Provo)
- Discussion was had about selling tickets, and if this would be allowed in the Canons of the Diocese.

*Follow up: Taran will contact Steve Hutchison to check on this.*

C. Support group and recital contracts

- This will be discussed further via email as contracts are finalized.

D. Blessing of the Animals

- Arianne made some business cards to hand out. These were a hit!
- Samantha will be available to play music that day too.

*Follow-up: Sue will get in contact with Genelle Pugmire at the Daily Herald to get an announcement in the paper.*

E. Nominating Committee

- We will put together a BC Member Nominating Committee in November. We will have three spots open as a few of our current members are rolling off.

VIII. Next meeting

- Rev. Dani's month of October is getting very, very full, and she proposed that we skip that month for our regular BC meeting. This was accepted by those present.
- Our next meeting will be on November 19th. We will also have our budget meeting that day.
- The Finance Committee meeting will be held November 12th.

IX. Closing prayer

Rev. Dani led us in our closing prayer.

**Meeting closed at 4:19pm.**

Minutes taken by Arianne Gage.  
Supplemental notes added by Taran Bhagat.

Clerk Signature

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