

St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
Agenda for the Bishop's Committee Meeting  
Sunday, December 17, 2023 @ 1:00 PM



Presiding Member: The Rev. Daniela Lee (Priest)  
Elected Members: Jim Meador (Junior Warden), Rob Jaramillo, Dave Castelli, Sue  
Hidley,  
Mary Allen, Gidge Sundquist  
Ex Officio Members: Taran Bhagat (Senior Warden), Marilyn Oliver (Treasurer)  
Arianne Gage (Scribe)  
Guests: None  
Absent: None

Meeting opened at 1:15pm (Quorum Established)

I. Opening prayer

Rev. Dani led us in our opening prayer.

II. Spiritual practice

Rev. Dani led us through a new practice called “Rose, Bud, and Thorn.” This was a neat exercise wherein we listed a Rose: something that has happened in our lives that has brought us joy or happiness, a Bud: something that is blossoming in our lives that we’re excited about, and a Thorn: something that we are experiencing that we could use some prayers or consideration for. We went around the table, each sharing what these moments are for us while listening and empathizing with each other.

III. Adoption of Agenda

Under New Business, we added A. Piano and B. Organ

*Motion: Dave moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mary seconded.*

*Vote: All approved.*

IV. Approval of November Minutes

No discussion and no changes were suggested.

*Motion: Gidge motioned to approve the November meeting minutes. Robert seconded.*

*Vote: All approved.*

## V. Approval of Reports

### A. Priest-in-Charge

- Rev. Dani gave us an overview of her report. She expressed surprise at how fast the time flies by, especially while she's in the office.
- She did a lot of supply work at San Esteban over the last month which was challenging but rewarding.
- Dave asked Rev. Dani how she is doing, how she is feeling about the upcoming budget cuts and the difficulties that could result from that.
- She shared that she has been approached for the position of Standing Committee President, and that she is discerning whether or not that will be something she wants to take on. It could be a difficult task to take on, but she recognizes that the President of the Standing Committee does have a lot of influence, and that she may be able to make a good case for small parishes like us.
- Rev. Dani also spoke to the relationships she has been working to build with the Interfaith Association and other churches and congregations in the Utah County area.
- There was discussion about also keeping a physical sign up sheet for Fellowship Hour.

*Follow-up: Arianne will work on the sign-up sheet in the coming week.*

### B. Senior Warden

- We discussed the siding project that's coming up. Taran has been in touch with Big Game Construction to complete the job, but is still in talks with them.
- Rev. Dani shared that her brother in law may be able to help with the job, and he has a friend Tyson who has done siding for 10+ years. We discussed the possibility of hiring these two instead of going through Big Game.
- This option might be a good fit financially since we are looking at a loan from the Diocese otherwise.

### C. Junior Warden

- Jim gave us an update on fixing the leaky sink in the kitchen. He is working to get his hands on a ‘cartridge’ that is needed to keep the sprayer attachment.
- Dave graciously purchased two different, updated faucets, but unfortunately they will not fit into the sink properly.
- Jim has been to four different stores so far, but will try BJ’s Plumbing Supply who should have the part.

*Follow-up: Jim will continue to work on fixing the kitchen faucet.*

#### D. Treasurer

##### 1. Report

- No additional comments to the report were made.

##### 2. November financials

- We’re ending the year in a surplus, which bodes well for the year ahead.

*Motion: Taran moved to approve the Reports and Financials. Dave seconded.*

*Vote: All approved.*

### VI. Unfinished business

#### A. Siding loan repayment plan

*Follow-up: This point will be tabled until January’s meeting.*

#### B. Digital Bulletins

- We have updated our QR code for the bulletins to one that is able to be edited week to week. Rev. Dani and Arianne had an idea to add a copy of the QR code to each of the pews in a laminated card that can be accessed a little more easily.
- We discussed protocol for the hymns on the hymn board in the Sanctuary and who this task could be completed by. Sue or Samantha may be able to do this.

*Follow-up: Arianne will get the QR codes added to the pews ASAP.*

#### C. Copier

- Taran was able to find a very nice printer that could be a good replacement for the one we have currently. With the lease and the pay-per-page, our copier budget is way over for the year, and more than we can afford.

- The cost on this printer (Epson EcoTank ET-15000) is approximately \$700.  
*Follow-up: Arianne will work to find the contract with Ricoh, or just stop payment entirely after December.*

#### D. Preliminary budget

- Rev. Dani spoke to some of the changes she has worked through with our previous preliminary budget. She has been able to find spaces where we could save about \$4800.
- Jim suggested leaving the budget as we previously figured, and re-assessing in June or July to see how we're doing.
- Rev. Dani had an idea that folks who want to use our Sanctuary might be willing to do supply for a service in return for the use of the building.
- Sue does not like this idea because oftentimes the folks who put on a recital may not have the talent or know-how to do a full service, and could be more distracting than beneficial.

#### E. Common Ground

- There is a lot of confusion with the Common Ground budget it seems. Mary has concerns about there being an income and an expense account, but there aren't numbers for them.
- Rev. Dani would like to keep the budget at \$500 and hope for an income of \$250 to offset it.

*Follow-up: Taran will make sure The Food and Care Fund will be merged with the Common Ground line item, and that line will be moved into the General Fund. Income will remain \$250 and the expense will remain \$500.*

### VII. New business

#### A. Piano

- The piano is still being finicky, and the professional tuner has let us know that they recommend that it gets tuned 3 times a year.
- A discussion was started about what we could do with the baby grand piano. Due to the recent growth we've been experiencing, there was a suggestion that we could take the grand piano out of the sanctuary and put some of our old pews back in.

- Sue did not like this plan, as it is her opinion that the baby grand piano offers so much to our services and community. This piano was donated and is a source of joy and pride to many in our congregation.
- Dave does not like the idea of getting rid of the piano either. He is of the opinion that it is a parish heirloom and should not be sold.
- Rob expressed his opinion that the piano is not an heirloom, especially considering that the space that the piano takes up now was once inhabited by a pulpit, which was a big deal to take out, and even caused a few people to stop attending St. Mary's.
- This is a topic that we will continue to explore at a future meeting. We may include a poll at the Annual Meeting regarding this subject.
- Rob asked if St. Mary's was considered for its musical attributes BEFORE we had the piano; and many people in the room reminisced about how musical St. Mary's has been through the years, even before we had this piano. He made the point that the piano is not what's drawing people into the church, and that we can still be a thriving musical church without it, especially considering that we were before; so we know it's possible.

#### B. Organ

- Rob says he knows about 5 people who are organists who would likely be more than happy to do supply organ work for us for free. Rev. Dani likes this idea because our current go-to substitute plays rather slowly and it kinda drives her crazy.
- Sue mentioned that it could possibly have its pitch changed and that would help it properly be accompanied by other instruments.
- Samantha had an idea about getting the organ tuned. She is going to work out an estimate and report back to the BC.

*Motion: Dave moved to approve the tuning of the organ and bringing it up to pitch.*

*Rob seconded.*

*Vote: All approved.*

#### VIII. Next meeting and next year's schedule

- Our next meeting will take place January 21st.

- Our Annual Meeting will be held on January 28th.
- The Bishop's Committee Retreat will be held Saturday, February 17th
- Future meetings have tentatively been planned for the following dates:
  - March 17th
  - April 28th
  - May 19th
  - June 9th
  - July 21st
  - Stewardship Campaign plans should begin here instead of in August.
  - August will be skipped
  - Rev. Dani will not be available any of the Sundays in August.
  - September 15th
  - October 20th
  - November 17th
  - December - to be determined
- Lessons and Carols will be held on December 1st.

IX. Closing prayer

Gidge led us in a closing prayer.

**Meeting closed at 4:12pm**

Minutes taken by Arianne Gage

Clerk Signature

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