

Bishop's Committee Meeting

Date: Sunday, January 8, 2023

Start Time: 12:46pm

Executive Session: 3:21pm

End Time: 4:06pm

Location: SMC Library

Those in Attendance:

Elected Members: Shaunna Gage (Senior Warden), Jim Meador (Junior Warden), Dave Castelli, Marilyn Oliver, Robert Jaramillo

Absent: --

Ex Officio Members: Taran Bhagat (Treasurer) and Arianne Gage (Clerk)

Clergy: Rev. Alison Desiderio Peterson (Deacon)

Guests: Gidge Sundquist

Zoom: Andrew Pizzello (Accountant)

Minutes taken by: Arianne Gage (clerk)

Opening Prayer: Deacon Alison Desiderio Peterson

Closing Prayer: Marilyn Oliver

Agenda Item:	Discussion:	Vote:	Follow-up:
1. Message from the Senior Warden – Shaunna Gage	<p>Shaunna shared her thoughts regarding the meeting with the Consultant in December 2022, especially concerning the heated, pointed, shouted discussions that took place, particularly aimed towards Marilyn.</p> <p>She expressed regret that she did not stand up sooner, to defend Marilyn and put a stop to the inflammatory language that was directed at her.</p> <p>She is disallowing this kind of behavior to take place at parish meetings and at Bishop's Committee Meetings, at least on her watch.</p> <p>She asked the BC to make a vow to speak with each other with civility and with kindness, to respect the dignity of every human being.</p>		

<p>2. Spiritual Practice – Deacon Alison Desiderio Peterson</p>	<p>Dcn. Alison led us through a portion of today’s bulletin from Worship Service: The Baptismal Covenant.</p> <p>In Lectio Divina style, the Baptismal Covenant was read out by members of the BC, responding at the congregational response points.</p> <p>Dcn. Alison read through the entire Baptismal Covenant one more time.</p> <p>Going around the table, Alison asked which parts stand out to each person present, what those parts mean to them, or how they interpret that portion of the Covenant.</p> <p>She highlighted the portion that stands out to her: “Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? ... Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?” and shared her thoughts about today’s society and its tendency to reject these kinds of notions.</p> <p>The Baptismal Covenant was read again, with those present participating at the response.</p>		
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<p>3. Use of the Building</p>	<p><u>Initial Discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Edward with NA request: February 11th. * Melinda with NA request: March 18th. <p>Marilyn brought up some concerns about how Support Groups behave and/or feel entitled to the space.</p> <p>Taran feels like the current contract that Support Groups sign should be sufficient for extracurricular activities such as a dance or social.</p> <p>Gidge brought up concerns about things for Common Ground coming up missing.</p> <p>Shaunna suggested that she and Arianne will add an addendum to the contract that those using the kitchen and building respect the donated items and not take what isn't theirs.</p> <p><u>Secondary Discussion:</u></p> <p>Jim brought up a group that he would like to house here at the church. This group would meet once a month on the second Saturday of the month.</p>	<p><u>Initial Discussion:</u></p> <p>Shaunna moved that these two events be approved</p> <p>Robert seconded</p> <p>Vote: The ayes have it. These two requests are approved</p> <p><u>Secondary Discussion:</u></p> <p>Marilyn moved to approve this group</p> <p>Shaunna seconded</p> <p>Vote: the ayes have it. This group will be allowed to use the parish hall on the second Saturday of the month, through the winter months.</p>	
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<p>4. Financial Reports – Andrew Pizzello</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking lot is fully paid for. Hooray! • Andrew asked if the Diocese has issued the \$20k to replenish the budget for the parking lot. Taran has tried to follow up with them with no success. Shaunna declared that she will bring this up with the Bishop, with Arianne on deck to support, if needed. • The Deacon’s discretionary account is owed \$60 previous to December. This number will increase by \$140 (to \$200 total) due to deposits made in December from donations. • Pledges are looking good. • Though some budgets are overdrawn, there are funds available in other budgets to cover. With this in consideration, we ended the year with a surplus. • Andrew suggested that the budget would support another part-time priest coming on at the same rate that Rev. Susan was paid, and under the same conditions in 2022, we would still end with a surplus for the year. • Dave asked for clarification about whether SMC can afford a part time priest, given the funds that we receive from the Diocesan Grant, and Andrew confirmed that we would be able to, at Rev. Susan’s previous rate. • Discussion was had about the possibility of having a priest here 3/4s time. SMC would potentially need to find about 20k-30k more per year to cover that. <p>Marilyn publicly thanked Andrew for his thorough and dependable work, highlighting the benefit we have in knowing exactly where each dollar is and what it’s doing. The feeling was unanimous among those present.</p>		
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<p>5. Leak in the Kitchen</p>	<p>Dave found a leak in the kitchen / puddle on the floor and contacted Taran.</p> <p>Taran has sent a request to Big Game Construction for a quote on patching/repairing.</p> <p>The leak is due to damage to the siding/shingles/shake on the exterior of the building.</p> <p>Taran will share these quotes with the BC when they become available.</p>		
<p>6. Annual Meeting</p>	<p>Discussion was has about potential dates for this year's Annual Meeting</p> <p>There are 4 seats to fill on the Bishop's Committee.</p> <p>Nominees to Date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taran Bhagat • Gidge Sundquist • Mary Allen Redd <p>Shaunna had asked the Bishop what the definition of 'member' meant, especially in conjunction with being eligible for a seat on the Bishop's Committee.</p> <p>Robert highlighted a few concerns regarding the guidelines and 'requirements' for a Bishop's Committee member, and how there are discussions happening outside of the BC that the BC is not being included in.</p> <p>Dave highlighted the importance of 'joining the club' (by being confirmed, etc.), so to speak, in order to hold an elective office, such as being a BC Member.</p>	<p>Jim made a motion to have the Annual Meeting on February 19th and the next Bishop's Committee Meeting on February 26th.</p> <p>Dave seconded that motion</p> <p>Vote: the ayes have it.</p>	<p>Annual Meeting: February 19, 2023</p> <p>February BC Meeting: February 26, 2023</p> <p>March BC Meeting: March 19, 2023 (back to our usual pattern)</p>

	<p>Discussion was had about the by-laws and the requirements outlined within.</p> <p>Discussion was had about what it means to be a member, how Confirmation fits into that concept of membership... The difference between participation and inclusion, confirmation and being received, etc.</p> <p>Discussion had about "Confirmation is preferred preferable, but not required"</p>		
7. By-Laws – Taran Bhagat	<p>Taran led us in reading portions of the current by-laws, specifically <u>Article II: Membership</u></p> <p>Taran has drafted potential revisions to the by-laws citing specific wording that is found in The Canons and Constitution of the Episcopal Church and led us through discussions.</p> <p>Deacon Alison read out Canon I.17.1-3(C), outlining what is expected according to the Canon. Robert celebrated this, stating that it clarified the whole concept of Membership for him.</p>	<p>Shaunna motioned that we hold a special BC meeting to go over revisions and changes to the By-Laws</p> <p>Dave seconded</p> <p>Date and time proposed: <i>Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 6:00pm</i></p> <p>Vote: the ayes have it.</p>	<p>Arianne will revise the bullet points that were listed in last week's newsletter advertisement and submit revisions to the BC before posting in the newsletter.</p>
8. Executive Session – Potential Options for a New Priest	<p>Session began at 3:21pm</p> <p>The executive session was concluded at 4:04pm</p>	<p>Shaunna motioned that the plans will move forward as discussed.</p> <p>Dave and Robert seconded the motion simultaneously.</p> <p>Vote: the ayes have it.</p>	<p>Shaunna will relay this information to the Bishop.</p>
9. Closing of January's BC Meeting	<p>Closing Prayer: Marilyn Oliver</p> <p>BC Meeting was adjourned at 4:06pm</p>		