

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**  
**Bishop's Committee Meeting and Retreat**

*Sunday, February 24, 2024 @ 10:00 AM*

Meeting held at Sue Hidley's house



Presiding Member: Rev. Daniela Lee (Priest-in-Charge)  
Elected Members: Marilyn Oliver (Treasurer), Rob Jaramillo (Clerk), Sue Hidley, Mary Allen, Jim Meador (Junior Warden), Shaunna Gage  
Ex Officio Members: Taran Bhagat (Senior Warden), Arianne Gage (Scribe)  
Guests: Gidge Sundquist, Lon Young, Samantha Adair, Audrey Butler (via Zoom)  
Absent: None

**Meeting opened at 10:00am (Quorum Established)**

I. Opening Prayer

Rev. Dani gave our opening prayer.

II. Spiritual Practice

*This portion of the meeting was skipped.*

III. Adoption of Agenda

*Motion: Jim moved to adopt the agenda as written. Rob seconded.*

*Vote: All approved*

IV. Truth-telling session

Vulnerable and candid conversations were had.

V. Lunch

VI. Visioning for the future

- Points discussed:
  - Why is St. Mary's Here?
  - Why are you Here at St. Mary's?
  - What Can We Do Better?

- Our Visioning of the Perfect Church
- Please see pages 8 & 9 of these Minutes, or the Bishop's Committee main folder.

## VII. Approval of January Minutes

*Motion: Marilyn moved to approve the January Meeting Minutes. Sue seconded.*

*Vote: All approved*

## VIII. Received Reports

### A. Priest-in-Charge

- Rev. Dani expressed some dismay about how Mardi Gras turned out. She noted that our entertainment for the evening, Ms. Lexi Gold, did not have much to her performance. However, it was also noted that we didn't give her much structure for what we were looking for. Regardless, her performance and presence was well received, and folks had a lot of fun.
- Dani also mentioned that it was not as well attended as she had hoped. This is likely due to not getting the word out well enough in the community.
- Dani asked for feedback about Mardi Gras, Ash Wednesday, and the Lenten Practice.
- Marilyn mentioned that the advertising and marketing for Mardi Gras was not productive. We need to start advertising sooner and get the word out better. Next year, we will also be able to leverage our new Outreach Committee.
- However, Ash Wednesday went very well this year. Good attendance, and some in the parish have mentioned that it was their favorite service to date.

### B. Senior Warden

- Taran gave an overview of his report. He highlighted the need for discussion about Outreach funds, which will be expounded upon later in the meeting.

- He is still working on swapping the signs on the Meditation Garden signs as they are connected by small padlocks on the gates which we don't seem to have keys for.

#### C. Junior Warden

- Jim proposed the following dates for a Spring Cleanup: March 9 and/or March 16.
- Gidge is available on the 9th, but not the 16th.
- Discussion was had and we landed on March 16th at 9am as our Spring Cleanup date.

#### D. Treasurer

- Contributions are well in line with expectations for January.
- Utilities are high, but that is to be expected for the time of year; especially with the continued increase of natural gas.
- The Parish Admin fund is over budget for 2023.
- We are getting a good amount of donations from pledges and open plate. All in all, we're doing pretty good.
- Gidge asked for clarification on the word 'pledge'. She suggested that more education about the nature of the word 'pledge' could be very beneficial for the congregation.

### IX. Approval of January Financials

See discussion in previous section, under Treasurer's Report

*Motion: Taran moved to approve the January Reports. Rob seconded.*

*Vote: All approved.*

### X. Elections

#### A. Junior Warden

Jim agreed that he is up for continuing to be Junior Warden.

#### B. Treasurer

Marilyn agreed to continue on as Treasurer, with the support of Taran and Andrew.

#### C. Clerk

- Rob asked for clarification on his role as Clerk. After brief discussion, it was decided that he will sign the Minutes from the 2023 BC Meetings, as they have all been approved month to month. He and Arianne will work together more closely on this task.

*Motion: Sue moved to approve these three people as Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Clerk, by acclamation. Mary seconded.*

*Vote: Decision made unanimously by acclamation.*

## XI. Unfinished Business

### A. Copier Update

- Our new printer has been purchased and is working well, though it is a little finicky in some ways. Arianne has been in contact with Ricoh and USBank to coordinate pick up of the old printer.
- There will be a, hopefully, not too expensive fee for the pick up of the old printer. Arianne is waiting to hear back from the leasing company for the total cost.
- Discussion was had about the costs and downsides of the old printer, and how our new system will hopefully save us a lot of money going forward, especially for graphics and color prints.

## XII. New Business

### A. Outreach Funds

- There have been a few funds that have begun to blur together. This is likely due to these funds all being able to fall under the umbrella of 'Outreach', without specific structure being in place for what these funds are meant to be used for.
- It was agreed that each of these funds should be used and accounted for separately, especially in the interest of having financial transparency and accountability to the parishioners of St. Mary's.
- Audrey asked for clarification on what the Outreach funds are meant to cover, and how we can ensure these funds are used for the donor's intended purpose.

- The broader category is not as necessary (such as the heading of 'Outreach') as much as it's important to make sure that the categories are respected and maintained individually/independently.
- Samantha expressed her availability in being a consultant for the Outreach Committee, but would not necessarily want to be the head or go-to for this project/ministry, especially considering her role as a paid employee of the parish.
- Audrey Butler has been approached and is interested in being the head of this committee, and already has been generating ideas for fundraising and events that can help bring more money into the parish.
- Audrey expressed the wealth of resources we have with J O'Day, a parishioner that has a number of connections and contacts with Utah Valley University (UVU) as he is well connected in the Interfaith communities and more.
- Audrey suggested that a partnership with UVU could be mutually beneficial for both of our communities.
- Shaunna praised Samantha for her fantastic work with our current music program and offerings, with the support of Sue and others.
- Rev. Dani expressed the love she has for our small chancel choir and that she appreciates that our choir is made up of our congregation. She emphasized that our choir's aim should be to amplify worship, not provide a performance. We are in the business of worshipping, not performing.
- Sue emphasized the importance of having an option for hiring musicians. She highlighted that musicians can help provide a rich experience when layered with liturgy and worship. This was agreed to by many of those present. Discussion was had about the benefits of occasionally hiring musicians for services, but how this can adversely impact our annual budget if we do it too often.
- Rev. Dani assured those present that she has full trust in Samantha and her ability/discretion when hiring musicians for a service, and

that the musicians Samantha has brought to us so far are good at fitting into our programs and don't just overtake the service. Those who were present were in agreement that Samantha does this very well.

- A basic roster for the Outreach Committee was suggested as such:
  - Audrey Butler (Committee Chair)
  - J O'Day (Interfaith and Community Connection)
  - Brittany Martin (Advertising and Publications)
  - Kelly Cannon (Advertising and Marketing)
  - Hailey (Marketing)
- Rev. Dani emphasized the need for more help in communicating and coordinating these events, especially with marketing and advertising. This has been a major difficulty for Rev. Dani and Arianne, as there are just too many things to do and, as a result, a lot of things seem to fall through the cracks. It is hopeful that the Outreach Committee could take a lot of this off the plate of Dani and Arianne to help get more accomplished.

#### B. Gidge as Aspirant

- Guests were asked to leave the room.
- Rev. Dani read the beautiful letter that Emily Crofts and the Discernment Committee prepared for the Bishop's Committee regarding Gidge Sundquist and her pursuit of Ordination to the Diaconate.

*Motion: Jim moved to recommend Gidge to the Commission on Ministry.*

*Shaunna seconded.*

*Vote: All present approved.*

- Guests were welcomed back into the room.
- Rev. Dani shared the news of the vote with Gidge. The BC congratulated her on her steadfastness and dedicated spirit throughout her journey so far, and that she has been willing to continue her pursuit despite a number of obstacles and impediments that had previously been put in her way.

XIII. Next Meeting

March 17, 2024

XIV. Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was skipped for this meeting due to time.

**Meeting closed at 5:32pm**

Minutes taken by Arianne Gage

Clerk Signature

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# Visioning for the Future

*2024 Bishop's Committee Retreat - February 24, 2024*

## Why is St. Mary's Here?

- Safe place
- Worship space
- Blend of tradition and inspiration
- Loving community
- Safe place for the other communities who meet here
- Sanctuary for those who are different
- Beloved community
- Freedom to explore spirituality while still having structure
- A foundation rooted in tradition
- Welcoming the stranger
- Place for people to connect with God through liturgy
- Women in clergy
- Queer people in clergy
- Symbol of safety as counterculture
- A challenging entity to the predominant culture in our area

## Why are you here at St. Mary's?

- Lovely place to worship
- Connection with God
- A force of change in the world
- Led by the Divine
- The people of God
- Love for people, liturgy, tradition
- Freedom to be who God called us to be
- Holding space for others
- Fully welcoming
- There's a ripple effect of the goodness
- Familiarity
- Liturgy
- Connected with people, past and present
- Nourishing place
- Acceptance of differences and life's uncertainty
- Opportunity to serve in all and any role



## What Can We Do Better?

- Encouraging New Volunteers
- Renovation
- More seats
- Bell tower (new design in the safe room)
- New flag
- More hymnals & BCPs
- More space
- More help for Arianne
- Updated website
- QR codes in pews
- Rebuilding trust
- Ministry fair
- “Ministry Minute” in newsletter or during announcements?
- Formation
- BCP literacy
- Pamphlets about how to understand liturgy
- Children’s ministry
- Support for all of life’s stages
- Spanish liturgy
- Meditative spot
- Clean up the labyrinth area
- Be welcoming to visitors
- Volunteers for the kitchen
- Stewardship
- More self-reliance financially
- Marketing, advertising, planning
- Clean out drawers in vault room
- Clean out archives downstairs
- Better use of space upstairs
- Community garden
- Blessing box
- ESL classes

## Our Visioning of the Perfect Church

- Diverse
- Welcoming
- Full participation
- All ages present
- Nourishing to the least among us
- Peace and Justice
- Rooted in baptismal covenant
- Accepting
- Liturgically rich
- Rooted in tradition
- Interconnected lives
- A tangible bond of unity
- People finding what they need
- Provides a way for all people to feel closer to God
- Nourishing liturgy
- Respect for tradition and liturgy
- Harmony
- No gatekeeping
- All are authentic
- A well used church
- Quiet time before the service
- No gossip or hateful talk

