

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Bishop's Committee Meeting
Sunday, March 24, 2024 @ 1:00 PM
Meeting held at St. Mary's Library



Presiding Member: Rev. Daniela Lee+
Elected Members: Jim Meador (Junior Warden), Shaunna Gage,
Marilyn Oliver (Treasurer), Sue Hidley, Mary Allen,
and Robert Golding-Jaramillo (Clerk)
Ex Officio Members: Taran Bhagat (Senior Warden) and Arianne Gage (Scribe)
Guests: Gidge Sundquist (Zoom), Joe Peterson, and Kaden Call (BYU
Students observing for a class assignment)
Absent: None

Meeting opened at 1:12pm (Quorum Established)

I. Opening Prayer

Rev. Dani opened our meeting with a collaborative prayer

II. Spiritual Practice

Our spiritual practice today was a collaborative prayer, where everyone present added their hopes and goals for today's meeting.

III. Adoption of Agenda

Marilynn added 'Water Bottles' to the agenda

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

Vote: All approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Annual Minutes

Of those present, many had not been able to review the Minutes from the Annual Meeting. This discussion will be moved to next month's meeting.

B. February Minutes

- Add note that the Spiritual Practice was skipped.
- Add in the notes on the Visioning portion of the retreat.

Motion: Sue moved to approve February's Minutes as amended. Taran seconded.

Vote: All approved.

Follow-up: The Minutes will be amended in the weeks after Holy Week.

V. Received Reports

A. Priest-in-Charge

- Rev. Dani outlined her idea for a proposition that will be prepared for next year's Diocesan Convention (2025). This proposal would be written to instigate a change in St. Mary's regional affiliation. She is hoping that this change will help us to connect with other parishes in the Diocese that are of similar size, scope, and mission to St. Mary's, given that we are a mission church instead of a parish at this time.
- She also shared with us that she has selected a new mentor who is within the region that we would potentially be moving to.
- Rev. Dani's goal is to draft this proposal over the course of the summer this year to get it ready for next year.

Motion: Shaunna moved to approve the writing of a proposal to change St. Mary's regional affiliation. Rob seconded.

Vote: All approved.

B. Senior Warden

Taran shared a brief overview of his report.

C. Junior Warden

- Jim gave us a short overview of his report.
- We had a great turnout for our Spring Clean up day.

D. Treasurer

- Marilyn gave us an overview of Andrew's financial report.
- Support Group giving is way up so far. This is likely due to Community of Christ sending in their rent check for 2023. Our donation counters let us know that the other groups are giving at a decent rate, though it does seem a little low compared to this time last year.

- Marilyn highlighted a concern about the Tithely donations that are being added to the plate. It was decided that Arianne will make a paper slip for these donations, so those who pledge that way can still add something to the plate.

Follow-up: Arianne will have the new slips made within the month.

VI. Approval of February Financials

Rob observed that our natural gas budget is still quite low. This figure has been adjusted and will be kept through the year, under observation.

Motion: Marilyn moved to accept the February financials. Shaunna seconded.

Vote: All approved.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Kitchen

- Gidge shared a few concerns with us regarding some recent activity in the kitchen. There have been a few instances of parishioners getting into the supplies for Common Ground and the kitchen for people who have arrived very early or very late for Fellowship Hour. This is causing some difficulty for Common Ground as our donated food items are scarce and very needed for this ministry.
- She highlighted concerns for safety as well.
- Mary expressed that she would be willing to talk to the Sunday morning group about this problem.
- It was proposed to add labeling to the cabinets and refrigerator drawers to label those items designated as Common Ground.
- Discussion was had about training a couple other people to run Common Ground in the event of Gidge's absence. Marilyn, Lynn, and Emma were suggested for this.
- Marilyn expressed happiness that people actually missed getting to do it! This ministry is growing, and more and more people are enjoying participating.

- Rev. Dani suggested that Gidge and Marilyn be in charge of the kitchen.
- Rob added his thoughts, that there shouldn't be just one or two people who are in charge of the kitchen. He expressed that the Bishop's Committee should be in lock-step with decisions like this, as a united front. This would give Gidge and Marilyn greater authority to tell people what they can and cannot take from the kitchen space.
- Rev. Dani will draft an article for the newsletter regarding the kitchen, Common Ground, etc.

Follow-up: Gidge and Arianne will work on labeling cabinets and drawers after Holy Week.

VIII. New Business

A. Community garden

- Rev. Dani doesn't love how the Community Garden is laid out right now. She would like to completely renovate it.
- She would like to remove the boxes that are in place right now, take out the grass, add in much more dirt, and more. Maybe add some pavers or gravel paths.
- Shaunna suggested contacting Habitat for Humanity to see if they would like the grass we would be removing.
- Rev. Dani proposed April 27th for this work.
- Many ideas were shared for the vision of the garden:
 - Grape vine arbor with a bench underneath
 - Fruit trees
 - More areas for vegetables, raspberry bushes, blueberry bushes, etc.

Follow-up: Taran and Jim will head up plans for the community garden and Shaunna will contact Habitat for Humanity.

B. Seasonal bulletins

- Rev. Dani shared her vision for seasonal bulletins. She showed us some of the seasonal bulletin covers she found in her office.

- Her goal is to get these in place for Ordinary Time.
- The things that change week to week will be added to the bulletin as an insert, such as the music and/or readings.
- Rev. Dani asked if people prefer having the readings in the bulletin or if they would prefer to just hear them read. The room had mixed feelings on this point.
- Rev. Dani and Arianne will work on this task after Holy Week and bring a prototype to the next meeting.

C. The Chosen screening

- Rev. Dani has secured the ability to screen The Chosen for free to our parish/community. Those present were excited for this!
- Discussion was had about when we could start this screening, whether it would be once a week, once a month, etc.
- Rob suggested that we carefully consider how many other things we add into our schedule, citing the tendency for some folks to feel obligated or required to attend events. Sue agreed with these points; especially as someone who has limited energy/availability.
- Shaunna highlighted the success of the Thursday ministries we've had; that more and more people are attending those meetings. Adding in another event may be too much all at once.
- It was suggested to do a movie night in the summer for this instead, and do a few episodes or something.

D. Date for parish picnic

- Rev. Dani will be out of town for pretty much all of August. Alternate dates were discussed for the picnic.
- September 8th was discussed as a possible date.
- After further discussion, September 8th was confirmed.

E. Speakers for Ordinary Time

- Rev. Dani outlined her ideas for who could speak during Ordinary Time. She noted that we have a number of people in our parish who are Lay Preachers (or who are becoming Lay Preachers), or who are in discernment for ordination.

- Shaunna shared her opinion that with as many of these folks in our parish, we won't need as many outside sermons from others.
- Taran suggested that we try to arrange up to three people from outside the parish for this to offer talks that highlight their specific callings.

F. Community Requests for Time in Sanctuary

1. Family Talent Show (Brita Sorensen)

They no longer need the space.

2. Music Video Recording (Nathan Judd)

- Arianne gave an overview of the project, based on the information she received from Nathan.
- Marilyn is against these kinds of projects, highlighting that the space is sacred and that items being moved or covered up, for their own comfort or aesthetic, does not feel respectful or reverent.
- Rob expressed that his problem is with the marketing aspect, people making money off of projects like this, at the expense of our sacred space.
- Rev. Dani highlighted that she would like to draft a contract for events like this, specifically for filming or other large/intensive projects. This contract will further emphasize the need for insurance and more.

Follow-up: Arianne will communicate to Nathan that we have a new contract in progress and further information will be supplied once that's in place. There will also be a required fee of \$500.

3. Parishioners holding recitals (request from Serena Benish)

- Arianne has received a request from Serena that would like to know if she would be able to hold a recital here for free or a reduced rate.
- Rob suggested that beginning to make exceptions for parishioners in cases like this could set a precedent, and make it difficult to keep things straight as a whole.

- Discussion was had about the benefits of what these donated funds are going toward, and that the time spent in the building is the same amount, therefore the donation amount should be the same.
- The reduced fee was not approved and will stand for parishioners and visitors alike.

G. Water Bottles

- Marilyn shared a concern about water bottles and beverages in the Sanctuary. She shared a story about a spill that happened during Palm Sunday's service, where someone's sticky drink was spilled and could have caused a slip/fall.
- Rob highlighted the importance of respecting people's health issues, especially invisible ones, that a water bottle could be helpful for.
- Sue highlighted the importance of having water available when she is singing in the choir or playing flute.
- Marilyn emphasized that our budget is tight enough that we could not replace the floor, or replace a parishioner who is injured or hurt.
- Rev. Dani proposed to write an article for the newsletter highlighting the importance of having only water, in secure vessels, to prevent spills and slips.
- Further discussion was had about other interruptions that have been happening during service, and potential solutions for these distractions.

IX. Next Meetings

A. Finance Committee

This meeting will take place April 21st

B. Bishop's Committee

This meeting will take place on April 28th

X. Closing Prayer

Rev. Dani led us in our closing prayer.

Meeting closed at 3:54pm

Minutes taken by Arianne Gage

Clerk Signature
