

Church of St. Benedict
Minutes of Bishop's Committee Meeting
Held on
Monday, August 13th

Present: Sr. Warden Mark Wright, Treasurer Peg Bauman, BC Members Phil Bauman, Esther Simonson, Laura Ostrovecky, Barry Conlin, Dave Smith, Clerk Stacey Johnson, Search Committee Members Letiticia Hillesheim and Bill Scheets

Absent:, Christine Billone, Jr. Warden Theresa O'Neil, John Gush

Opening: The meeting opened at 7:30 PM with a prayer from Barry.

Finance Report

(by Peg) The July report was reviewed with note about discretionary account which will be closed. A new account with new guidelines will be opened with arrival of new vicar.

Mark provided clarification that the Phebe Swinehart fund is to be used for worship space improvements inside the sanctuary. The Finance Committee is working on quarterly statements for capital campaign contributions rather than YTD totals. This way, individuals will get YTD and total since inception. John is working on getting a plan in place for stewardship by the next meeting. All paintball money has been paid to designated charities/outreach programs.

Mark said that a request had come from downtown for the search for the Bishop's Fund. They have requested an amount equal to .1% of line A of Operating Budget which is \$1044. The Finance Committee recommends sending \$500. Mark made a motion to approve this recommendation. Esther seconded the motion. All were in favor. Peg will send the check.

Motion made by Barry to place most recent budget on file for audit. Seconded by Dave Smith. All were in favor.

Mark presented a copy of the parochial report for 2006 that needs to be submitted to the Diocese. Courtenay Smith completed the report (as she has done in previous years) and Dave reviewed the report. Mark passed it around for all to review. Esther motioned for acceptance of the report to send to the Diocese. Laura seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Approval of Last Month's Meeting Minutes: It was noted that Catharine is leaving the quilt for the church (on the table in the entry). Barry also indicated that he has seen all of his people that he was concerned about in church. Mark asked for approval on BC meeting minutes for meeting held on July 16th. Barry made a motion to accept meeting minutes and Phil seconded the motion. All were in favor.

(The numbers indicated below correspond with the Meeting Agenda item numbers)

4. System for Filing Reports (Mark)

We need to establish a system. Should we keep everything in one place? Dave suggested keeping a second copy of everything in its particular place based on committee topic such as Christian Ed, Outreach and Worship. Laura volunteered to work with Dawn to establish the system. Mark will add Dawn to all BC email correspondence. Dave said that it would be a way of trying to make things easier for others to volunteer who have not been involved in everything.

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6. Paintball Recap – Bill Scheets

Please refer to attachment provided by Bill that covers his entire presentation.

16. Search Committee Update – Leticia Hillesheim & Bill Scheets

Please refer to attached handout provided by the committee.

At present, there are no specific updates. The critical path is to create the profile and vicar characteristics. Dave suggested having the vacancy listed outside the diocese. The overwhelming response was yes, let's get going on this to expand our options. Does the committee need any help right now? Leticia said no, they are currently getting all the help they need right now. They are looking for some photos to use in the church profile and may send a church email to solicit more.

10. Worship Time for Sep & Oct

Do we want one service or two? Mark's opinion was to stay flexible and stick with one service as we are currently doing. Dave made a motion to stay with the 9 AM service until a new vicar is found. Phil seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Esther inquired about who is currently on the Worship Committee. Should we change the book for fall? We need to make some decisions and start planning for fall worship. Courtenay has volunteered to help.

11. Christian Education – Esther provided update

The number of children in the church is down, as evidenced by the new directory. Age group divisions are not appropriate right now based on the smaller number of kids, would like to try to create some group idea for kids while adult education is going on. Christine and Esther have discussed conducting an adult study based on the ideas in the book, Christianity for the Rest of Us. This will start in September, running for approximately 45 min, slightly delayed by 15 min after the service ends to account for coffee. Courtenay and Esther are planning to attend the Diocesan workshop on Christian Education.

12. Youth Group – Barry

It starts on the Sunday after Labor Day at 5 PM. We need to add to the weekly announcements by the BC member. For now, they will meet every week and see how it goes. Barry suggested that maybe the high school kids can work with the younger kids. The group would also like to know if Deb the priest can attend a youth group meeting.

13. Ministry Fair

This is normally held in the fall. People are stretched pretty thin right now. Do we want to have this soon? Everyone agreed it was a good idea to put this event on hold until the new vicar is found and we have new people to volunteer. Mark made a motion for this, Barry seconded and all were in favor.

18. More Frequent Meetings

Do we need another meeting prior to Sep 10th? No, but we will change Adult Education to start on the 16th, after the next BC meeting.

9. School Bags Outreach Program – Dave

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The program is going well. Carol Shelton was contacted by Jubilee Baptist Church in Bolingbrook to see if we have any extra items that they can use in their donation program which goes to the local community. Barry made a motion in favor of this idea, Mark seconded the motion and all concurred.

8. Comments on Data from Russ Crabtree – Mark

Mark asked if anyone had any concerns or wanted to have discussion. The consensus is that it seems strange but it's fine.

9. Review of Catharine's Farewell

Overall it was good and created a positive send-off for Catharine. There was good organization. It was personal and well done. Esther will write an Abbey article thanking everyone.

5. Approval of Reports

Dave made a motion to accept the following reports:

1. Report of BC/Search Committee Retreat
2. CAT Survey Results Discussed
3. Executive Summary of Vital Signs
4. Abridged Report of Focus Groups
5. Unabridged Report of Focus Groups
6. Survey on Worship Time Update

Phil seconded the motion and all were in favor.

17. Office Administration Items

A. Dawn is on vacation Aug 13-17. Melissa, Grace and Stacey have volunteered to work in the office.

B. The contracts for Victoria and Martha have been signed and filed.

C. Supply Priest Update. Gina Volpe will be here on Sep 2 & 16. Mark will start filling the October dates as well. Esther made a motion to have the Hope for Kids speaker provide a presentation (including free will offering) as well as photos and stories from Emily and Esther about their trip to Africa. Barry seconded the motion. Esther will determine a date that will work.

D. BC Contact Updates – Aug 26th is Dave. Sep 9th is Christine

E. Thank you to Phil for the major website update.

14. Hospitality

After Labor Day, what will we do? BC person makes sure the coffee is going. Theresa will be in charge of this item and explore options.

Esther mentioned the idea of a Thanksgiving dinner with other churches, possibly inter-faith or with the other people who use our building.

Other Items

There is a possibility that we could rent space to Jane Addams since their construction is not complete. Dave will check into this.

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Bookkeeper – Helen Konder wants to be relieved of duties but will help transition. She suggested Jackie Dufield, who is familiar with this and interested. Mark made a motion to contact Jackie. Laura seconded the motion. Dave will contact her.

15. Lunch/Exit Interview with Catharine – comments provided by Theresa

1. Mutual Ministry must be a focus – find a vicar to discern, inspire, energize and nurture.
2. Become outwardly focused in ministry
3. Ensure that spirit and prayer continue to be at the core of our life together, even if the starting point is more action-oriented.
4. Call a vicar who is called to Parish/Mission ministry – cannot be a guinea pig for Diocesan staff priest.
5. Create connections between members.
6. Make Plan/Do/Review part of culture
7. Mission does not mean less, it means purpose

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, September 10th at 7:30 PM.

Closing: Motion to adjourn and the meeting ended at approximately 9:45 PM.
(Meeting closed with the St. Benedict Transitional Prayer by Esther.)