

**Prince of Peace Episcopal Church**  
**BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

June 21, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

*Dinner was served at 6:00 and the meeting began at 6:30.*

**Present in person:** Nancy Mortenson, Senior Warden designee; Nick Fortey (2024), Jr. Warden; Mary Macy (2025), Treasurer; Ann McBride (2024); Sue Rembert (2024); Bill Dalton (2025); Barb Barb (2026); Mary Knutsen (2026); and Barbara Ross (Clerk)

**Call to Order/Opening prayer:** Nancy called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

**Bible Study:** Nick shared from Psalm 8 – *God's appeal to stubborn Israel.*

**Approval of the minutes:**

Minutes from the June 12 special meeting were approved. M/S/P

**Check-In:** Members were invited to check in as to how they were feeling. Responses included:

- Positive about recent candidate interview and our relationship with St. Thomas
- Concern about the amount of work ahead
- Organization is helpful
- Overwhelmed
- A fresh start
- A quote attributed to Rosa Parks: *If you want to make a change you have to be willing to take the first step.*
- Feelings of unresolved conflict with some

**Senior Warden's Report**

1. Nancy opened by saying we are at a point of concern. Is Prince of Peace going to survive? We need to make some momentous decisions. We need to put aside our differences and work together.
2. Nancy reported that Marcia contacted her to say she wasn't receiving any emails from Prince of Peace. That situation has been rectified. Nancy acknowledged Marcia's dedication and hard work. Marcia still considers herself a member of Prince of Peace.
3. Nancy asked if the group felt ready to work with a facilitator. Consensus was positive. Bill expressed a desire to communicate with the facilitator ahead of time to make sure we are ready.

**Respectful Communication Guidelines**

1. Copies of the Respectful Communication Guidelines were share and discussed.
2. A motion was made to adopt the Respectful Communication Guidelines. M/S/P

**Status of Cell Tower Lease**

1. An update was requested concerning the status of the cell tower lease which Bishop Diana turned over to the Chancellor to handle.

2. In the past Prince of Peace received approximately \$4000 every two years which was used to help offset cost of property taxes.
3. Nancy will follow up with the Bishop's office re: the cell tower lease.

#### **Last Night's Joint Zoom meeting with St. Thomas**

1. People felt positive about the candidate in the priestly role.
2. People also appreciated the team approach with St. Thomas.
3. Discussions are ongoing about possible ways to share the financial costs.

#### **Financial Reports – Mary Macy**

1. Mary distributed the Treasurer's Report. We currently have a surplus because some people have prepaid their pledges and because we are not paying clergy salary.
2. Mary shared information about how clergy compensation works and how the SHU chart is related to the parochial report. She stressed the importance of keeping the parish registry up to date.
3. Mary also shared some possible budget scenarios regarding possible ways to split the clergy position with St. Thomas.
4. The BAC reaffirmed the decision made at last night's joint meeting with St. Thomas to extend a call to the candidate.

#### **Lease negotiations with Peace Lutheran**

1. Our current lease (giving both parties the right to make a change with six months Notice) expires December 31, 2023. If we do not negotiate a new lease, we will be leasing on a month-to-month basis.
2. We currently pay \$2150 per month which is up from \$1650 in 2020. We are aware that Peace Lutheran plans to raise the cost further.
3. We also pay a high utilities fee because we pay for the City of Salem impervious surface fee for the entire parking lot.
4. If we want to get the negotiations started now, Rachel has drafted a sample letter which was shared with the group. Appreciation was expressed for the tone and content of the letter.
5. Like us, Peace Lutheran is in transition. Their interim priest served for six months and is now gone. They will be having a congregational meeting soon.
6. Bill reminded us that Prince of Peace is going through lots of change and at the most recent after-church meeting, people indicated a reluctance to move and a desire to stay at our current location for another year.
7. Hope was expressed that since both congregations are in transition perhaps this could be a fresh start for negotiations.
8. Others expressed an expectation that negotiations would be as difficult as they have been in the past.
9. Since the Peace Lutheran board doesn't meet in August, it was decided we should review our options and make a decision in September. Hopefully by then, we will have more clarity on our clergy situation and what we can afford.
10. It was suggested if we don't have clergy by September we should try to stay in our current location.

### **Other possible worship spaces**

After some discussion, these two possibilities were removed from consideration for now:

- Putting a portable on our property
- Worshipping with St. Paul's

Sue agreed to check out the current status of the following:

- Worshipping with and perhaps renting office and/or storage space from St. Thomas
- Worshipping in St. Paul's chapel and perhaps renting office and/or storage space
- Worshipping at Gibson Creek
- Renting office and storage space at another location such as 17<sup>th</sup> street
- Leasing space in the downtown MICAH building

### **Office/IT/AV concerns**

1. The large printer is communicating with Mary's phone.
2. Our AV/Zoom system is not working properly.
  - Nancy agreed to talk with Steve Ellis to see if he has suggestions.
3. We need to follow up with Rachel about the IT responsibilities she wants to pass on
  - It was agreed that Prince of Peace would cover the cost of the website.
  - Mary Macy agreed to take on the dual factor authentication.
  - Barb Ross agreed to take on the webpage and calendar.
  - Barb Ross will contact Rachel to let her know what was decided.

### **Weekly email announcements/Quarterly newsletter**

- Barb Ross reported on her conversation with Marcia. Marcia is not comfortable doing the weekly email announcements and quarterly newsletter at this time.
  - Nancy agreed to do the weekly email announcements.
  - Barb Ross volunteered to do a quarterly newsletter.

### **BAC Organizational Structure**

Due to the lateness of the hour, this item was tabled.

### **End of meeting check-in**

- Appreciation was expressed for Nancy's leadership
  - She gave us time to discuss but also kept us moving ahead
- Concern was expressed about the rent situation
- Feeling of lots going on with many unknowns
- Thanks were expressed to Sally and Nancy for communicating with our candidate
  - Mary Macy needs to be involved in formulating the actual offer
- Feelings of hope were expressed
- Concern was expressed about the need for ongoing communication with the congregation
- Nancy urged the group to move forward as one body

### **Meeting was adjourned**

**Next Regular Meeting will be Wednesday, July 19 at the church.**

- Mary Knutsen volunteered to provide the food.
- Dinner at 6:00. Meeting at 6:30.

**Action items**

- Nancy will follow up with the diocese regarding a facilitator and the status of the cell tower lease.
- Nancy will ask Father Steve if he would be willing to offer help and advice about the AV/Zoom system
- Nancy will send weekly announcement emails
- Sue will check on possible options for worship, office and storage space
- Barb Ross will follow up with Rachel about the website and IT decisions

Meeting notes submitted by  
Barbara Ross, Clerk