

BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING notes

Prince of Peace Episcopal Church

Sunday, February 27, 2022

This informal meeting was held immediately following Bishop Diana's visitation and conversation with the congregation.

Present: Steven Ellis, Interim Vicar; Marcia Kelley (2025), Sr. Warden; Mary Macy (2025), Treasurer; Rachel Bertoni (2023); Diana Rainey (2023); Nick Fortey (2024); Sue Rembert (2024); Bill Dalton (2025);

Clerk: Barb Ross participated by Zoom

Absent: Susan McNaught (2023)

Guests: Mas and Gina Broferrio, Nancy Mortenson

Steve+ gathered the group. Originally, this had been planned as a chance to meet with Bishop Diana, but since she was so generous with her time in talking with the congregation during Coffee Hour, she was unable to stay to meet with the BAC.

Parochial Report

Steve+ described the Parochial Report as an annual snapshot sent to The Episcopal Church every spring. It is a picture of the general faithfulness of the church and covers financial matters, membership, attendance, programs and participation. According to Steve+, the hardest part about the parochial report is to get priests to share the truth about their membership. The report asks for Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) which is considered to be the most reliable measurement of a congregation's well-being.

Steve+, Mary Macy, and Marcia are working on this year's parochial report. The numbers need to be submitted by March 1. There is a bit more time to get the rest of the report in. The rules have been relaxed somewhat to reflect Covid. The final parochial report will require signatures within the next month.

Debriefing the Bishop's visit

Steve+ invited people to share their thoughts and feelings regarding Bishop Diana's visit. Several expressed appreciation for the inspiration she had shared. Others said they were still struggling. One person said that intellectually they

know +Diana is right in telling us to trust and not worry, but they also are concerned about the reality of the upcoming lease. Inspiration is bumping up against reality and that continues to cause tension. The Bishop gave us space but concern was expressed about the time frame. The general response was we know the Bishop is aware of our situation and we need to keep an open approach, remember God loves us, let go of control, trust in one another, and not stress each other out.

Bill shared that an anonymous offer has been made to match all new pledges and gifts up to \$5000. More information on that will be shared with the congregation.

Steve+ said what he heard Bishop Diana say is we have a lot of work to do and we need to trust God to work with us. Fear sucks. We need to be open to the presence of Christ. People will be attracted to integrity. He went on to share a bit more about the Life Cycles of Congregations and used a past experience with an ECW group who complained about the younger women not joining them, but at the same time were unwilling to change their daytime meetings. It is tempting to get stuck in preserving the past even after it has no reason to be. It is important for us to keep our eyes and ears open and to listen together.

Marcia said possibilities may require change such as willingness to share a priest. She assured us we are one of the healthiest small churches in the diocese.

Conversation then moved to talk about building projects. Marcia shared about St. Philip the Deacon's recently announced project to build low-income housing on their church property. They are an older congregation (average age is 80) including three retired high school principals. They have been working on this dream for years and recently were awarded \$11 million to build the project. Marcia had a conversation with their current rector who said they loved seeing each other's faces on Zoom so are moving their pews in a circle with the altar in the middle so they can continue to see each other's faces.

Nancy and Steve+ shared about three California churches who went together and built low-income housing on the site of one of them. Interesting things are also happening at St. Stephen's, Newport and St. Stephen's, PDX. Rachel shared a vision of us building low-income housing on our property with a church and community center on the ground floor.

Gina talked about how we need to be more visible and shared about the Romanian family that saw the Lutheran sign and came to us. She would love to see a labyrinth on our property. Diana appreciated Bishop Diana's comments about how friendship can help to break down language barriers.

Conversation then moved to how decisions had been made in the past and how they might be made in the future. Our community garden was cited as an example. Steve+ said he was fine with groups moving ahead on projects as long as all stakeholders were included and the BAC was kept informed. Projects that require funding will need to go through the BAC.

Marcia suggested we post all committees on the bulletin board so people know who to contact. Sue said communication has always been a weak link and we currently need a chair for the new communication committee.

Sue said the Stewardship Committee would write a letter to the congregation to let them know about the proposed \$5000 match. Steve+ requested contributors clearly earmark contributions for the "match" and make sure our treasurer Mary Macy is informed.

The meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Ross, clerk