

Prince of Peace Episcopal Church
BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 19, 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; Nick Fortey (2024), Jr. Warden; Mary Macy (2025), Treasurer; Sue Rembert (2024); Barb Barb (2026); Mary Knutsen (2026); and Barbara Ross (Clerk)

Excused: Ann McBride (2024); Bill Dalton (2025)

Call to Order: Nancy called the meeting to order at 6:35.

Opening Prayer: Nancy shared a prayer and short readings from Acts, Jeremiah, and Romans.

Approval of the minutes: Minutes from the June 20 Joint Zoom Meeting and the July 21 Regular Meeting were approved. M/S/P

Financial Reports – Mary Macy

1. At Nancy's request, Mary concentrated her efforts this month on preparing a Building Budget Presentation for the years 2019-2023 that she shared with the group.
 - a. It shows the total amount we have paid in rent has increased by \$6100 over those years.
 - b. Our total building expense in 2023 (rent and utilities) is approximately \$2800 per month which is up \$500 per month over last year.
 - c. Our current building expense is almost 1/3 of our total budget. Payroll traditionally has been an additional 60% leaving very little for anything else.
2. We will end this year with a surplus because we are not paying for a priest.

Vicar Search Update

1. Nancy shared a letter from our most recent candidate stating they had been encouraged to and had accepted a position as a curate in a Portland area church.
2. Nancy has been in communication with Sally, the senior warden at St. Thomas.
3. Both congregations are extremely disappointed as we were impressed with this candidate and felt their deep interest in working as partners was a good fit for our shared ministry.
4. Sally has followed up with a third candidate that was suggested by the diocese.
5. Nick stressed that going forward, we need assurance from the diocese that they feel the prospective candidate is a good fit for this shared ministry before we invest more time and expense in the process.

Other possible worship spaces

1. Sue and Nancy reported on the status of the following possibilities:
 - Leasing space in the downtown MICAH building
 - Worshipping with and perhaps renting office and/or storage space from St. Thomas
 - Worshipping at Gibson Creek

- Worshipping in the Arrowhead Community Room (Sue's mobile home park in NE Salem).
2. The following considerations were taken into account:
 - a. Financial implications
 - b. Distance people would need to travel
 - c. The atmosphere for worship
 - d. The ability to maintain our own identity
 3. The group also discussed the priority of moving vs the priority of seeking a new vicar.
 4. The group was potentially interested in a new space that has become available at the MICAH building and empowered Sue to continue discussions with them regarding a price we could afford.

Website/Calendar

1. Barb Ross reported on her meeting with Rachel concerning the transfer of management of the website and calendar.
2. Because Barb has been out-of-town since that meeting, she has not had a chance to work on it, but she will.

Parish Life

1. Discussion then moved to the need to pay attention to Parish Life and how people are feeling about being a part of Prince of Peace.
2. A small committee of Nick, Mary Knutsen, Barb Barb, and hopefully Ray Berhorst was appointed to work on this.
3. In follow-up to a recent sermon by the Rev. Linda Wood, the decision was made to have a movie night on Friday, July 28 and show the film *The Legend of Bagger Vance*.
 - a. Sue has obtained a copy of the DVD and will work with Pedro on the technology concerns to be able to show it on our screen.
 - b. Nancy will email an invitation to the congregation on Friday and announce it in church on Sunday.
 - c. People volunteered to help with refreshments.

Publicity

1. Sue suggested we advertise regularly in the free West Salem paper.
2. She will check with Ann McBride about this.

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.

Facilitator

Follow-up is needed with the diocese regarding finding a facilitator to work with us.

Garden Report

1. Barb Ross said that Gina had reported damage to the recently-repaired garden gate.
 - a. Nick will follow up with Ray about getting it repaired.
2. Concern was again expressed about traffic damage to the lower part of our property.
 - a. Nick suggested putting in straw bales to discourage inappropriate use.
 - b. Support was expressed for the straw bales compared to other options as they would be inexpensive, low liability, and environmentally friendly.
3. There was discussion about whether or not the property needed to be mowed again.
 - a. Decision was because we have had so little rain since the mowing in June, that mowing was not needed at this time, but we would continue to monitor the situation.

End of meeting check-in

- We need to recognize we are in a “bridge period” and not get discouraged.
- Appreciation was expressed for the group and the hard work that is being done.
- Appreciation was expressed that we are listening to one another and not talking over each other.
- We are using the Respectful Communication Guidelines.
- We are facing many interconnected challenges.
- We need to follow up on working with a facilitator.
- We need an organizational chart.
- We need to pay attention to Pastoral Care.
- There is a need to reach out to the diocese about a realistic timeline for finding a new priest.
- Appreciation was expressed for Nancy’s leadership.
- Feelings of frustration and depression.
- Thanks expressed to Mary Knutsen for providing a delicious dinner.

Meeting was adjourned

Next Regular Meeting will be Wednesday, August 17 at the church.

- Barb Barb 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.
- Nick will work with Ray to get the garden gate repaired.
- Barb Ross will work on updating the website and calendar.
- The newly-appointed Parish Life committee will meet and report back.
- The BAC will work together to publicize and host the Movie Night on July 28.

Meeting notes submitted by
Barbara Ross, Clerk