

Prince of Peace Episcopal Church
BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
May 17, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

This meeting was held approximately one week after the BAC received word that Bishop Akiyama had removed Marcia Kelley as Senior Warden. Marcia subsequently resigned from the BAC and will be taking an indefinite leave of absence from Prince of Peace.

In the absence of a Senior Warden, Bill Dalton took the initiative to develop an agenda and recommend a process for the meeting. He also volunteered to facilitate the first part of the meeting.

The Rev. Christopher Craun, diocesan Missioner for Thriving Congregations, attended the meeting. Dinner was served at 6:00 and the meeting began at 6:30.

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

Guest: The Rev. Christopher Craun, Missioner for Thriving Congregations

Opening prayer: Chris+ opened the meeting in prayer.

Opening meditation: Nick shared a three-part reading from Psalm 55, a poem, and the prophet Jeremiah.

Call to Order: Bill called the meeting to order.

Welcome and Introductions: We welcomed Chris+ to the meeting. She suggested we introduce ourselves by stating a word to describe how we were feeling. Words expressed included hopeful, careful, trepidation, blindsided, undermined, dismayed and betrayed.

Approval of Agenda:

Concern was expressed about how much of this meeting should be held in Executive Session. Mary Macy said she wanted us to be as transparent as possible. Rachel agreed she wanted as much as possible to be recorded in the minutes. Bill expressed his concern that the BAC needs to “own” this meeting and not feel disempowered.

Chris+ said that discussions of conversations she had with the Bishop should be held in Executive Session but that discussions of moving forward and next steps should be held in open meeting.

It was agreed that Chris+ would facilitate the next portion of the meeting.

Opening Remarks:

Chris+ began by saying she was here to tell us what happened and why. She understands there is confusion and feelings of betrayal and being undermined. She said The Episcopal Church in Western Oregon, formerly known as the Diocese of Oregon, wants to encourage autonomy in faith communities (congregations) but that there also is a structure which includes some differences between parishes and mission churches like Prince of Peace. Every Senior Warden on every BAC serves at the discretion of the Bishop. It is rare for the Bishop to make a change, but it happens. Chris+ acknowledged that this situation needed more process. However,

following a few conversations, a decision was made quickly in hopes of a healthier system. She recognizes feelings have been hurt. She is sorry it was quick and felt out of nowhere, but there were reasons for the change.

The group then moved into Executive Session to discuss the Bishop's decision to remove our Senior Warden.

Points that can be shared from Executive Session:

- The Bishop's goal is to have healthy leaders and healthy communities. She is seeking leaders who lead by empowering others.
- The BAC should adopt and follow a Behavioral Covenant, which is something our interim The Rev. Steve Ellis also encouraged us to do. Chris+ can recommend resources including the Touchstones from the Center for Courage and Renewal. (Parker Palmer)
- Chris+ pointed out that Prince of Peace is experiencing several stressors:
 - Operating without a priest (especially after having a long-term priest)
 - Trying to work with another congregation to make a call
 - Uncertainty about a long-term place to worship
- Others added additional stressors including
 - Fear that we will be homeless in 6 months
 - Concerns for Marcia and how we support her during this time
 - Feelings from the loss of our parish administrator and how that was handled

The group moved into Open Session for the rest of the meeting.

Next Steps:

Process for adopting a new Senior Warden in a mission church without clergy

- The BAC recommends a Senior Warden to the Bishop (hopefully with the consent of the recommended person).
- The Bishop makes the appointment.

Discussion then moved to the need for a job description for a Senior Warden.

According to our bylaws, the Senior Warden

1. Presides at meetings of the BAC in the absence of or at the request of the vicar.
2. Collaborates with, coordinates among, and supports BAC members and congregants in the development, execution and coordination of congregational activities.
3. Nominates with the Vicar standing and special committees and chairperson and vice chairpersons subject to the BAC's approval as consistent with the bylaws.
4. Convenes a meeting of all standing committee chairperson on a quarterly basis to confer on progress and identify needs.
5. Collaborates with the Vicar and the Junior Warden on agendas for the BAC and other congregational matters.
6. Serves on the Personnel Committee.

Chris+ added that in times of transition, the Senior Warden has additional responsibilities including:

- Making arrangements for worship services
- Helping with the administration of the parish.

Members of the BAC then discussed possible recommendations of persons to serve as the next Senior Warden. Agreement was reached on a person whose name will be shared with the Bishop.

Old Business:

1. Status of the Cell Tower Option

- a. The Bishop has been in consultation with the Chancellor regarding our Cell Tower Lease.
- b. The Chancellor is of the opinion that we should be receiving more money.
- c. The Chancellor will handle the negotiations with the cell tower company.

2. Development of our property

- a. Many congregations are currently seeking ways to redevelop their property.
- b. The Bishop wants these processes to be strategic and cohesive and to serve the common good.
- c. The Bishop wants to lead the conversation on our property. A Zoom call between the Bishop and our Building Committee has been scheduled.
- d. This will be followed by a meeting with The Rev. Brendan Barnicle of the diocesan redevelopment committee.

3. Secretary of State registry

- a. Rachel reported our registry with the Secretary of State has expired.
- b. Chris+ said to bring it to the attention of the Bishop who will likely have the Chancellor handle it.

New Business:

1. Trello

- a. Mary Macy reported she has signed up for Trello software which is helpful for project planning.
- b. After she gets it built up, Mary will show us how to use it.
- c. Chris+ said she uses Trello and finds it to be very user-friendly.

2. Consent agenda

- a. Chris recommended that use of a consent agenda might help the BAC streamline it process.

(Chris+ excused herself and the BAC carried on with the rest of the business.)

3. Tasks to be accomplished:

- a. Nick has agreed to handle payroll.
- b. Katrine has been asked to schedule priests for worship in addition to the other scheduling she already does.
- c. Sue has expressed interest in learning how to create the bulletins.
- d. Mary Knutsen will serve as our contact with St. Thomas.
- e. Rachel will handle the weekly announcements and periodically check the office email.

Mowing the property

- f. Mary K. has made arrangements for the mower we have used in the past to mow the property on May 22.
- g. Motion was made to approve the expenditure at an estimated cost of \$414.
M/S/P

4. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Minutes from the April 19 regular meeting were approved as amended. M/S/P

Next Meetings:

1. It was agreed to hold a special meeting on June 7.
 - a. Junior Warden Nick Fortey will collect items for the agenda and lead the meeting.
 - b. Sue volunteered to bring the food.
2. The next regular meeting will be held on June 21.
3. Dates for interview with the potential candidate for priest have not been finalized.

Closing Prayer – As has been the custom in the past, the meeting was closed with the “Night Prayer” from the New Zealand Prayer Book.

The meeting was adjourned.

Post-meeting Check-In

1. Thanks were expressed to Rachel for bringing pizza and to Barb Barb and Bill for bringing salads.
2. Thanks were expressed to Bill for his work in developing a process, setting the agenda, and facilitating the first part of the meeting.

Minutes submitted by
Barbara Ross, Clerk