



Bishop's Committee Retreat Meeting
April 9, 2016
MINUTES

A retreat meeting of the Bishop's Committee was called to order at 9:22 a.m.

Members present: Ralph Behrsin, Janet Chisholm, Kathleen Costello, Mike Dmytriw, Geof Farnsworth, Cindy Louter, Lisa Pickford, Bryan Price (quorum)

Members absent: Nancy Davis

Also attending: Fr. Rick Byrum, The Covington

1. Approval of Minutes: Moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2016 Bishop's Committee meeting.
2. Treasurer's Report.
 - a. March 2016 financial statements. Janet Chisholm presented the financial statements dated April 6, 2016. Income from pledges and regular giving are lower than forecast for the year to date but this is assumed to be a timing issue rather than a shortfall. Lisa Pickford reported forecast expenses of \$467 for Godly Play materials through spring. The operating budget as approved assumes a \$10,000 deficit (-\$6,000 net of income after expenses, plus \$4,000 additional expense toward rainy day reserve), against the anticipated \$10,000 mission fund grant (usually announced by the Diocese by the end of March). Clergy expenses for March are not reflected on the April 6 statements.
 - Moved, seconded and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report dated 4/16/16.
 - Moved, seconded and carried to use Union Bank funds to reimburse the Morgan Stanley account the amount of funds temporarily transferred out of that account last year and into the Union Bank account.
 - b. Music program funding. After considering options for allocating Jim Rankin memorial contributions and the funds budgeted for music in the Worship Supplies category, it was decided to table a decision until the Bishop's Committee can arrange to consult with Music Director Susan Parr.
 - c. Allocation of funds from wine auction and chili cook-off.
 - Moved, seconded and carried to allocate at least 50% of proceeds from Wine Auction (4/23) and Tongues of Fire chili cook-off (5/14) for strategic member growth efforts such as Soka Festival (5/7), chamber of commerce, city parades, OC Register religious services directory listings, business card invitations to attend a service, etc. that will increase participation and membership.
 - d. Audit 2014 (internal) and 2015 (external). Cindy Louter requested a referral from the Diocese to an external auditor for 2015; will ask Deanery 10 members and others for referrals; also still seeking Faith volunteers to conduct internal audit for 2014.
3. Clergy Report. The rota team submitted their schedule of worship and office hour assignments through September. The schedule will be posted online and in the weekly bulletins. The clergy have proposed that a member of the rota team be present at weekly Hands of Grace events; Rev. Dawn Vukich and Rev. Valerie Hart expressed interest in taking on this role -- either on a volunteer basis or as a funded clergy activity (minimum 2 hours per week) -- as long as there is also participation from Faith's lay volunteers. Wednesday activities currently consist of a healing service at noon, rota team member office hours from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and Hands of Grace from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.;

there is an outside group meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. There will be an effort to recruit lay volunteers and commit to the participation of members of Faith at Hands of Grace every week.

Having completed three quarters under the rota team plan, the question of how long to continue under this plan was discussed, along with various options for how to configure the rotation schedule and composition of the team. Input from active and recently inactive members of the congregation is needed, as well as exploration and strategic / financial planning and a timeline around the viability and desire to return to a vicar position. The congregation will be asked to sign up for one-to-one visits with the rota team during scheduled office hours, leading to a Town Hall on this subject.

4. Other Business.

a. The Covington. Fr. Rick Byrum welcomed the committee to The Covington, which generously provided its board room for meeting. There has been a good relationship between Faith and The Covington going back several years, with some overlap in parishioners and generous support by Covington residents of Faith's outreach efforts. Communications in recent years had become somewhat spotty as Faith's staff leadership fluctuated. There is mutual interest and commitment to renewing the connections between the organizations and exploring additional means of outreach and fellowship. Fr. Rick offers two Sunday services each attended by 45+ residents and guests, plus Tuesday services at 11:00 a.m.; many denominations and faith traditions are represented. The residents are interested in and supportive of many local outreach efforts including Hands of Grace and various others.

- The Bishop's Committee gratefully acknowledges the continuing support of The Covington residents and Fr. Rick, and the many ways in which The Covington's presence and active participation in the community strengthens Faith's ministries and fellowship.

b. Deanery Meeting: April 11, 7:00 p.m., St. George's.

c. Parish Administrator. Sarah Farnsworth will be moving out of the area and vacating the position (August or September).

d. Bishop's Warden. Cindy Louter will complete a three-year term in January 2017 and will be stepping down from that position but is willing to continue to serve on the Bishop's Committee. It is customary for the clerical leader of a mission church to recommend a Bishop's Warden candidate to the Diocese for approval; the Bishop's Committee will make the recommendation for the 2017 appointment.

e. Faith "Ambassadors." Various members will serve as lead contacts to constituencies we want to maintain relationships with. They should be proactive in promoting Faith activities and strong relationships with these constituencies, distribute flyers, share announcements, etc:

Deanery 10 / LA Diocese	Cindy Louter
Media	Barbara Kimler
Laguna Niguel Chamber of Commerce	Jeanne Dmytriw
City of Laguna Niguel	Mary Knab
The Covington, Soka University	Kathleen Costello
Office Park Association	Bryan Price
OC Registrar of Voters	Mary Knab

ACTION ITEMS

- 5/7/16 Soka Festival booth. Kathleen to register; Bryan and Janet to plan and recruit for Faith's booth.

- 5/15/16: Hold Town Hall meeting combined with Bishop's Committee meeting after the service to engage congregation in discussing rota scheme. Follow up over the summer and fall with one-to-one visits by congregation members with rota team members during regular office hours.
- Approach rota team about interest in attending (weekly) or officiating (once/month) Covington's Tuesday service, followed by lunch and chance to connect with Fr. Rick Byrum and residents.
- Explore joint adult education programming between Faith and Covington residents (Kathleen Costello).
- Explore holding quarterly events with/for Covington residents (choir, bells, children's pageant, etc.).
- Discuss routine for Covington collecting and delivering to Faith food drive items for Hands of Grace outreach (arrange time on Wednesdays when Faith can receive items).
- Men's Poker Night (Mike Dmytriw)
- Afternoon Tea with Covington
- Post minutes on Fellowship Hall bulletin board; email copies to Claire at Diocese.
- Tongues of Fire chili cook-off: (A) seek sponsorship donations from Chaparrosa Grill (Kathleen Costello) and Dickey's BBQ (Bryan Price). (B) consider shared revenue partnership structure with another church or nonprofit to build attendance and participation. (C) Seek additional event features such as ice cream (Sub Zero), pet adoptions, produce boxes, children's activities. (D) Silent auction/raffle?

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Next meeting: May 15, 2016 combined with Town Hall

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Costello

Minutes approved May 15, 2016