

Bishop's Committee Meeting
November 12, 2017
11:30 am

Committee members in attendance: Jack Buhn, Julie Loxtercamp, Terri Ayers, Bob Montebello, Art

Others in attendance: Jeanne Gullette (Woship) Abbey Bakker (Minutes), Soren Sorensen (Bi-Cap), Rev. Steve Schmit, Chuck Stone, Kent Hering

1. Opening Prayer – Jack

2. Rev. Steve Schmit

Rev. Schmit thanked the committee for giving him the opportunity to speak. He wanted a chance to explain the reason for his departure and gave a history of his illness. It was his goal to work through and control his illness while continuing to serve, but it became too much. A letter was written stating he could not function anymore, however he hoped the disease would burn itself out and he could return to serving the church.

Jack agreed that because of his health his letter of resignation made sense. He also wanted to welcome Rev. Schmit back as a parishioner, but not as clergy.

Rev. Schmit asked why wouldn't St. Bart's want him back if he became well enough to serve the congregation again.

Annette asked if Rev. Schmit felt well enough to serve in the same capacity as all our Lutheran priests currently serve. Once a month for an entire service.

Steve believed he was not currently capable to serve in that way. He explained that there are ways around having to perform the entire service on his own, such as combining a morning prayer with the Eucharistic service. He said it is more complicated and not always worth doing. His previous workaround when he was no longer able to physically do the entire service was to have a deacon or lay-reader do the liturgy of the word and have the deacon read the gospel.

Annette asked if Rev. Schmit felt well enough to do that sort of compromised service?

Rev. Schmit said he did.

Julie said it was not a question of doubting his ability to preach or lead. It's the unfortunate unpredictability that comes with his disease. Makes planning uncertain and unstable. We are working towards consistency and stability in order for things to move forward with St. Bart's.

Rev. Schmit acknowledged the unpredictability of it all. Rev. Schmit expressed a desire to be a part of St. Bart's in a limited way. He would like to offer his services to Sanford Hospital. Sanford keeps a call roster of Priests/Ministers, if a patient asks for a certain denomination someone from the roster can be called. Rev. Schmit believes he could physically manage it and would give him a sense of being back.

Jack said he did not believe that St. Bart's approval was necessary if Rev. Schmit wished to pursue the Sanford call roster.

Art asked how Rev. Schmit would feel about coming back as a parishioner.

Rev. Schmit said he could not due to Cannon Law.

Art asked what does a disabled priest do? There must be some connection to the parish they were a priest of.

Rev. Schmit said that it gets tricky. You don't want to undermine they authority of the new priest.

Annette said that is the reason Rev. Jo wont worship with St. Bart's unless she is presiding over the service.

Julie asked if he could come back without wearing a collar.

Rev. Schmit said he would not come back as a parishioner. If he did he would wear a collar.

Jeanne asked if he was able to go to another parish?

Rev. Schmit said yes, though he doubts he could be called to another parish as a full time priest.

Chuck said that Rev. Schmit is a priest and he can be a supply priest in parishes other than St.Barts. A priest can do home Eucharist services. He pointed out that Rev. Jo does home Eucharist services for a select group of people. He believes that communication is a big problem in the situation regarding Rev. Schmit's home Eucharist service. The Sunday service is a given, many would be delighted for a midday service that could be done during a lunch hour, etc. It would be some way to utilize Rev. Schmit, to get him involved, to use his abilities and training.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion: Bob

Motion to accept the minutes

Second: Annette

Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Worship

- Why isn't Jo scheduled more?
- Melody Kirk-Patrick will no longer be our supply clergy.
- Jeanne has sent a letter to Rev. Stringer asking if he could do a service on Dec 3.
- Ron will do Christmas Eve.
- Jeanne would like a draft of the Christmas service from Terri and Julie.

5. Treasurer's Report

- Income statement passed out.

Annette asked if there was money available for web design, the web page is the first thing that many people see. And St. Bart's is outdated and hard to navigate.

Julie pointed out that maintaining a webpage was draining on Julia's time.

Soren said he would be willing to bring a proposal and create a "dummy page" for next month's meeting.

Motion: Julie

Motion that Soren provides us with a proposal of a new website and what it would take to have it up and running and a cost plan and address it at the next meeting.

Second: Annette

Motion Carried Unanimously

6. Jr. Warden's Report

- No progress as far as the back steps go. The weather has been a factor in getting people out to look at the project.

- Looking at Christmas decorations, looking at procuring a couple of trees for the sanctuary.

- Snow plowing. Who will be doing it this year? Will T&K continue? (see new business)

7. Old Business

Furniture – Julia, Carol, Jack will be purchasing the new office furniture the first week of December.

Parking lot – Meeting with Grimes Realty on 11/29

Julia's work load status? Open enrollment dioceses date was Nov 10. Not an issue, as we have not submitted to the dioceses an updated version of her hours. Terri and Julie will be meeting with Julia, there needs to be an edited job description as well as clarification of what she is currently doing for St. Bart's. Are there ways to make Julia's job more efficient for her?

What are Julia's hours? Right now hours are posted at 12-1, however she is not always in the office during posted hours.

The dioceses does not know what her hours are, hours need to be submitted.

True North was discussed as another possible option for health insurance. A membership can be purchased by the church.

Will Julia's preexisting conditions be an issue to getting insurance?

Is she getting any help from People's Church? On the list of things to ask.

Traditionally the employer is in charge of setting hours. Why is Julia not held to this? How do we count her hours if she works outside of hours given by the church. What is considered her hours vs. volunteer

time/tasks. More communication and openness needed.

Stewardship – letters sent out to parishioners, former parishioners and prospects.

Rear steps – Need another estimate.

Soren Bi-Cap board member, said Bi-Cap's finances are largely determined by grants. And he is unsure if they have the funds to purchase the lot, but they may be interested. He said to email Barb Moran and express our desire to see the property used for the community.

Email: barb.moran@bicap.org

There is a network called Faith in Action. Theresa Eclov is their executive director and would be worth emailing as well.

Email: tmeclov@gmail.com

Bi-Cap is currently getting rid of properties in Black Duck, when that sale happens there might be more ability for them to purchase land in Bemidji.

Having a realtor handle the property will cost the church some money. If there is a chance to sell property without a realtor that would be ideal.

8. New Business

Hanson just bought a snow plow operation. What do we pay T&K? Hanson said if he can do our snow plowing he will do our steps free. How much does he charge for plowing? We wont pay more than T&K. Jack will look into it and come back with more info next meeting.

Epiphany – reunion potluck for past and current parishioners.

Sent out letters asking for money donations.

Jack will meet with Rev. Stringer again. He has never done Episcopal before.

Rev. Steve Schmit will be on the agenda for next time.

The Next Bishop's Committee Meeting: December 10, 2017

Motion: Terri

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Seconded: Julie

Motion carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned at: 1:07