

## **St. Hilda St. Patrick Episcopal Church Bishop's Committee (BC) August Meeting**

8/17/25

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82453754101?pwd=dkJEYkN6OEZlWmJ6UEVNSzROQ0w2dz09>

### **In attendance**

The Reverend Joseph Peters-Mathews  
Chris Kelley, Senior Warden  
Kerry Fitzgibbons, Junior Warden  
Gerry Thompson  
Cris Simmons  
Susy Hessel  
Carol Rypkema, Treasurer

### **Absent**

Amy Squire

### **Remote by Zoom**

Monica Isbell, Clerk

### **Visitors**

Bill Voageley, Kim Petit Bender, Dawn Fitzgibbons

### **11:31am Call to Order and Opening Prayer**

Fr Joseph called the meeting to order and led the BC in prayer.

### **11:32am Routine Business Consent Agenda**

- July Treasurer's Report
- July Minutes
- Senior Warden's Report
- Junior Warden's Report
- Vicar's Report

Fr asked for unanimous approval of the consent agenda. The July Treasurer's Report was removed from the Consent Agenda. Carol asked that the Minutes be amended. There were no objections.

### **11:35am Treasurer's Report**

Carol advised where to find the info – the first 4 columns. We are about \$14,000 in the hole instead of \$30,000. This is largely due to unanticipated donations and memorials and moving

\$10,000 from Savings. The Diocesan Fund numbers are conservative. Carol moved \$14,000 from Capital Improvements to Reserve Savings. Fr asked for unanimous consent to adopt the Treasurer's Report, which was given.

### **11:38am Cookout Discussion**

Kathleen, Dawn and Kim reported on the success of the Cookout. Kathleen said 137 people attended including some from the neighborhood. Kathleen pointed out that the online registration process was successful and emails were collected. Susy asked how many attendees had no affiliation with SHSP or Goshen. The number was 59. Fr advised that he sent 3 types of emails last week to attendees. No new attendees from the Cookout attended church this morning. A post-event meeting will be held soon to discuss what worked and what should be changed for the next event. Event expenses were about what was projected. The Congregation was very generous. About \$1,000 was donated. Kathleen thanked everyone involved.

### **11:49am Sign Proposal**

Bill talked about types of advertisement/announcement signs. Bill has investigated modifying our sign to make changes weekly or anytime. Tiffany Smith contacted Rob Cukurs who oversaw the sign's current update. Bill spoke with Rob about modifications. Bill also checked with other churches about their signs. Some are quite expensive. Bill is proposing a sign with white background and interchangeable letters. He priced this type in the range of \$1,500 to \$2,000. Total cost would be \$2,500 to \$3,200 which would include shipping. Bill will make a donation towards the cost. Bill suggests assembling a small committee to further research this option and that the BC set a budget. Fr asked for volunteers to work with Bill so the BC can vote in September on whether to pursue a new sign and what the budget should be. Gerry and Kerry volunteered.

### **11:54am Stewardship Campaign**

Dawn mentioned that Gabriel Tunco, Tiffany Smith, Lisa Goché, and Leah Leggett are part of the Committee. The Committee is using the TENS: The Episcopal Network for Stewardship resource to guide the Campaign. The theme is "Tell Out My Soul." The resource suggests getting the campaign started by Easter. This year we will set a Narrative Budget instead of a Line-Item Budget. The Narrative will help frame the current environment including the 42 Ministries, most of which are lay-led. The Committee wants to use the Ministries to drive the budget rather than the building and salaries. Carol reminded that there needs to be a basis for her to create the 2026 budget. Dawn said it should be the 2025 budget. Fr talked about how the Narrative will be able to capture the time he spends on various activities like pastoral care to tell the story. Dawn spoke of the generosity of our people, both monetary and time.

### **12:07pm Sanctuary Churches**

Amy has provided ongoing updates on the Sanctuary task force, but she is absent today. Gerry said the committee heard about what to do if ICE shows up.

### **12:08pm “Plan B”**

Fr reminded the BC that Plan B is what needs to be done if Growth is not successful. Cris asked Dawn to talk about what she and Amy learned when researching Total Common Ministry. Susy advised that the church would be run by lay people that the community designated to undergo a 2-year training to become worship leaders. The Diocese supports the congregation during the transition process. There is no figurehead or vicar. Susy thought the first step should be developing a budget based on living within our means. Cris asked if there is any other scenario besides Fr being less than ½ time. Fr confirmed he is not interested in a position less than ½ time. Cris thought the Plan B budget should include not having a vicar. Fr said St Dunstan's is in the process of searching for a new way including being open to Yoking with a ¼ time vicar. Susy said the BC needs to determine which budget line items it is willing to eliminate. She emphasized it is difficult to find a part-time vicar. Kim thinks the Congregation needs to be educated about what Yoke really means. Fr suggested that the Canon for the Ordinary bring info during her October visit about what a Yoke transition means. Chris emphasized that Plan B is a financial plan. He suggested assembling a small committee in September to work with Carol to develop what a posterity budget would look like. Cris and Susy volunteered. Fr thought that cutting the vicar time would be logical, but the musical director should be preserved. Chris thinks the BC needs to ask the Congregation to make bigger pledge commitments. Kerry believes we need to follow the Narrative Budget approach rather than the “dire straits” conversation to reach people and call them to action.

### **12:25pm Climbing Dome**

Susy previously sent emails to the BC with photo attachments of various play structures and signage. The metal dome would cost \$250 - \$280. Rubberized flooring, wood chips, or other protective material would be needed. Carol said the cost would come from the Capital budget. Kerry mentioned our insurance would require some protective surface. Kim thinks a metal structure would get hot in the summer so a cover may be prudent. She asked if there is a component for disabled children to use. 4 voted for a slide. Kerry mentioned that swings are problematic. Slides are more suitable. Susy moved that the BC permit Susy to order a climbing dome and necessary ground cover and signage. Kerry seconded. There was discussion. Kim said swings are helpful to some disabled children. XX asked to add a budget limit of \$600 to the motion. Kerry agreed. The amended motion carried unanimously.

### **12:37pm Poverty 101**

Fr asked if the BC is willing to host a Poverty 101 session. He explained what this means – an all-day offering by Everett Gospel Mission to teach the community about poverty, during one of ten months during 2026. They want 75 registrants. Fr will email Dan'l to request the document that further explains the session. Carol thinks this would be a perfect winter activity.

#### **12:43pm Welcome Sunday Hospitality**

Fr said the BC has traditionally hosted this. The BC agreed to do this for the next one. Gerry agreed organize the BC's efforts.

#### **12:pm Good of the Order**

Kerry mentioned the swale has been trimmed. He will send a photo to the County. There is a damaged area of the south wall of the Parish Hall. A handyman will repair this for about \$400. This handyman can also spray paint the wall for about \$900. Kerry thinks this work can be done in the next 2 weeks. Carol thought this could be paid for from money in the Capital Campaign. Kerry said the heating system is not leaking much water. Repairing it right now isn't advisable. Repair would be about \$1,200. Kerry said that in September we are due for the annual sprinkler system inspection. We should be in good shape. Chris advised he will be gone a while.

No other significant issues were raised.

#### **12:51pm Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

Susy made a motion to adjourn. The vote was unanimous. Chris led the closing prayer.

Next BC meeting is September 21, 2025.

Meeting minutes were prepared by Monica Isbell.

*Monica Isbell*