

Holy Cross Episcopal Church

Bishop's Committee Meeting

April 15, 2021

Present: Rev. Richard Hogue, Senior Warden Karen Sanchez, Junior Warden Katie Ho, Muriel Wahl (Treasurer stand-in), Marci Stafford, Michael Collier, and Clerk Robyn Hill

1. Opening Prayer, Call to Order, and Spiritual Reflection

Rev. Richard Hogue opened the proceedings with a prayer, followed by committee member responses to an essay called “It’s Time to Rethink American Churches” by Adam Russell Taylor.

2. Consent Calendar

The previous meeting’s minutes and various reports were unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer’s Report

Muriel Wahl presented the Treasurer’s report in Larry Sebastian’s absence. She reviewed the current operating expenses, paying particular attention to rent and storage costs. She also noted the final payout figures to Green Properties for ending the lease at the Gateway property. Additional specifics were presented on screen to the committee.

Muriel Wahl and Karen Sanchez will follow up on a matter regarding donations received for La Posada.

A motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report was unanimously approved.

4. AV Tech Lead Draft and Equipment Update

Rev. Richard Hogue reminded the BC that we have received a \$5000 grant in support of streaming services. He presented the BC with a draft description for an AV Tech Lead position and asked for input. Various suggestions for job description details and possible leads on candidates were offered.

5. Accomplishments/Achievements After a Year Together

Marking his first full year as Vicar, Rev. Richard Hogue acknowledged the difficulties that Holy Cross has been facing, but asked all present to offer examples of accomplishments and achievements by our congregation. Among those mentioned were: a nimble transition to live streaming despite initial technical hiccups, online adult formation classes, the willingness of many senior members to adjust to online worship, car church as an interim format for greater fellowship, offering both Sunday and midweek services, Brian Petersen’s Contemplative Prayer services, protecting church finances, effecting a rapid change of location, outreach to members of the congregation, new online members, the adoption of online giving, and a better than anticipated stewardship drive.

6. Visioning Update

Rev. Richard Hogue offered his thanks to members of the BC for recommendations that they had shared with him regarding specific congregants, as well as desired characteristics for members of the

future visioning committee. He asked those present to share their recommendations within the group for the purpose of reflection. He reminded everyone that we are working under unique circumstances; that conversations will be ongoing; and that further consultation with Donald Romanik is planned. In addition to naming specific individuals as potential members of the new committee, the following general categories were mentioned: worship and formation, stewardship, evangelism, outreach, advocacy, spiritual development, music, Godly Play, Wounded Warriors, La Costa Glen, those who have been steadfast and present during the past year, past leaders, previous BC members, lay ministers, longtime members, and new members. The following characteristics were also suggested: cooperation, leadership, listening, creativity, open minds, consensus builders, project managers, diverse demographics.

Rev. Richard Hogue emphasized that it is his desire that the congregation's future be determined by the congregation.

7. In-Person Worship Possibilities Discussion

Rev. Richard Hogue informed the BC that he has been in conversation with Pastor Jason Coker of the Oceanside Sanctuary regarding the possibilities for resuming in-person services. A discussion ensued regarding comfort levels, expectations, and guidelines for the members of Holy Cross. It was suggested that a survey might reveal expected attendance for the near future regarding in-person and online services. Other concerns expressed centered on vaccinations, masks, social distancing, reserved seating, accommodating children, accommodating visitors, and temperature checks.

8. Adjournment

Rev. Richard Hogue adjourned the meeting at 7 PM with a prayer.

9. Next Meeting

The next BC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 20, 2021.