

Meeting minutes taken by Jill Barry

Members Present: Cal Meuzelaar, Sally Todd, Laura Kremer, Co Walter, Mary Trasky, Marjo Jordan, the Rev. Jonathan Bratt Carle (JBC)

Non-voting Present: Jill Barry (recording secretary), Laura Daniels, Deacon Kim Hoop, John Standley

Meeting called to order 6:04 PM; Cal offered the opening prayer

Agenda approved as written (Co moved / Mary 2nd/Passed)

Prior Minutes for May approved with typo corrections (JBC moved/Laura K. 2nd/Passed)

Liaison & Clergy Reports – all reports accepted. (Marjo moved/Laura K. 2nd/Passed):

Clergy Reports (written) for May accepted

- Jonathan's report
 - Altogether we raised \$4300 in funds to aid the seminarian
 - Will need to meet with the Eucharistic Assisting Ministers to do additional training
 - Sept. 28 thru Oct. 4 – would like to attend the Society of Catholic Priests annual meeting in Buffalo NY as his annual continuing education.
 - Blessing of the Animals will be moved to October 11.
- Kim's report
 - Discussed whether to move forward with researching the possibility of developing a Vacation Bible School program, potentially for summer of 2027 – was determined that Kim should go ahead and research it; no decision needed at this time about whether this is one of the areas we definitely want to pursue.
 - Continuing to work on Eucharistic Visitor program

Property (written report from Sally)

- Deer fence around garden has not worked (the deer laughed at our efforts)
 - Deer Busters offers a 6'3" woven wire farm fence (different than standard chainlink) – estimated that redoing the entire fence (with our own labor) would cost approximately \$3500, an expense that has been covered by a donation.
 - Bishop Whittemore Grant was not applied for as we have other areas where potential funds would be more important (such as roofing.)
 - Deer fence will be fixed/replaced but will require physical labor buy-in from the Bhutanese gardeners.
- Roofing/Solar Quotes
 - Will get quotes for roofing first, then investigate solar
 - Roofers are slow getting back to us, probably because we are looking for 2027
 - Cal has references from St. Andrew's that he is going to contact
- Air Conditioning add-on for pastor's office
 - Quote obtained from Seamans - \$7420
 - Quality Air came in at \$6600 but did not include electric
 - Too expensive, more bids/other alternatives being investigated
- Elevator
 - Elevator repair with new part needed, estimate from McNally Elevator is \$2786 (with other possible fees if unforeseen conditions are found)
 - Co moved to approve going ahead with the elevator repair; Laura K. 2nd; motion passed.

Community Ministry (written report from Laura K)

- A local group of Grand Rapids faith communities called “Blessings at Pride” will have a booth on June 20-21 at the Grand Rapids Pride Festival. They are looking for volunteers to offer blessings, and they are looking for donations from congregations to help offset the cost of the booth/handouts/etc.
 - Community Ministry is asking that Two Churches send this group a \$100 donation, to be taken from the general fund rather than from the Community Ministry budget which has already been earmarked for other events and causes. Laura Kremer moved that we do so, Marjo seconded; motion passed.
- The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes is creating a diocesan Disaster Resilience Fund, and are asking for donations to assist people in Michigan still recovering from the widespread flooding from earlier this year.
 - Community Ministry is asking that we take up a special offering on July 19th to support this fund.
 - Decision made to hold a special offering, will be on July 12th.
- \$500 was earmarked to support immigrants and refugees, but CM was uncertain how best to use the funds. They tabled their decision. JBC suggested that the ICE Detention Center up north was in need of Spanish Bibles and Rosaries. Laura to take this suggestion back to CM.

Hospitality (verbal report from Laura D.)

- Discussed an offsite worship service and picnic combined with Holy Trinity
 - JBC not in favor of having a worship service not in the sanctuary
 - JBC suggested a Saturday picnic (and suggested water balloons!)
 - No decisions or dates set

Worship & Music – (verbal report from JBC)

- There were good reports from the Sunday with no music accompanist, with Sarah leading a capella hymn singing.
- Holding off for now on a mid-week Communion service
- Considering live-streaming the weekly Morning Prayer services

Treasurer’s Report – (written report from Co)

- Still running a deficit, but not concerned overall
- First half of the year had a lot of extraordinary expenses which contributed to this, including a large “catch up” amount paid for JBC’s pension fund (due to our not being able to access the fund for several months to make payments), some of which should have been made in 2025.
- Cal and Co are working together to stage future extraordinary expenses (those we know about in advance).

Correspondence

- None.

Together West Michigan (verbal report from Marjo)

- There are 5 ICE detention centers in Michigan
- ICE is making detainees sign documents they do not understand
- Touched briefly on the legacy of the Immigration Act of 1924, which set up country-of-origin quotas for immigration that are racially biased.

LGBTQ+ Workgroup (JBC, Sally, Marjo, Cal)

- Group is tasked with finding ways to be more intentionally inclusive

- Group had a good first meeting and is brainstorming next steps
- JBC to send minutes of their meeting to the leadership team

Vision Retreat Goal Updates

- Goals/deadlines were briefly reviewed
- Most items are progressing on schedule

Old Business:

- DHS/ICE Protocols
 - Need to schedule Peaceful Observers presentation.
- Dismantling Racism
 - Co took the class, says it is “well worth it”

New Business:

- Building & Grounds
 - Develop a Building & Grounds Revisioning Work Group
 - To launch in September
- Finance
 - Expense Staging
 - Establish a work group to prioritize staging of B&G expenses such as elevator repair, air-conditioning, altar guild supplies.
 - Suggested members: Cal, Co, Sally, and John S.
- Big Provincial Gathering Workshop 2026 – Thursday, July 31 – Saturday, Aug 1 in Kalamazoo
 - Laura K. sent out info on the workshop opportunities
 - Suggested anyone interested plan to attend
 - More info at <https://www.provincev.org/bpg26.html>

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 20 , at 6 PM (no meeting planned for July)

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM and closed with the Lord’s Prayer.