

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
JOINT SBEC – COGS SHARED MINISTRY COMMITTEE (SMC)
Thursday, July 21, 2022
7:00 p.m.
Library – SBEC - **Approved 8/4/2022****

Present:

For COGS: Fr. Stephen Ashby, Nancy Schuman, David Smith, Malcom Williams

For SBEC: John Charny, John Connelly, Dorothea Kingsbury, Jack Rendlesham, Richard Wise,
Fr. Robert Witt

Absent:

For COGS: Andrea Corbett, Lydia Ford

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Fr. Ashby offered an opening prayer. John Charny, Sr. Warden of SBEC Vestry, facilitated.

2. Attendance at Joint Meetings

John Charny opened the discussion of the character of the meetings of the shared ministry committees (SMCs) and how best to facilitate them. The consensus was that, while each parish might, and likely will, hold open meetings with the parishioners of the respective church when the SMCs discuss the construction of a shared ministry, the joint meetings of the SMCs would be closed only to the members of each parish's SMC.

3. Minutes/Notes of Meetings

Discussion regarding creation of a summary of the meetings followed. Dorothea agreed to write the meeting summary, subject to review and approval of the individual members of the SMCs.

4. Facilitating Meetings

John Charny then raised the question of who should facilitate the meetings. After brief discussion, the group agreed that when meetings are held at COGS, the Sr. Warden of SBEC will facilitate the meeting. When meetings are held at SBEC, the Sr. Warden of COGS will facilitate the meeting. All agreed that since the July 21, 2022 meeting had been called before the decision regarding facilitating meetings was made, John Charny would continue to facilitate the meeting.

5. Documents to Be Exchanged

Fr. Ashby provided copies of the following from COGS:

- a. 2021 Parochial Report (included financial attachments)
- b. 2019 Letter of Agreement Between COGS and Fr. Stephen Ashby

John Charny initiated discussion on drafting the Shared Ministry Agreement that will eventually be produced. Although only one or two people are likely to draft the initial document, many people will review it. Malcolm suggested that the joint committees develop a framework for the document as a place to start.

John Charny explained that the document supplied by SBEC entitled “Questions and Concerns Regarding Shared Ministry, etc.” resulted from input from SBEC parishioners and that the SBEC SMC believed it has an obligation to the parishioners to address or explore those issues as part of the process of creating a Shared Ministry.

Further discussion followed regarding information supplied informally by Bill Powel, Diocesan Chancellor and Canon to the Ordinary. Mr. Powel is knowledgeable about the business operations and legal obligations of individual parishes in the Diocese and the applicability of the diocesan canons. Mr. Powel told John Charny that he does not believe that Canon 4 applies to a shared ministry arrangement. The consensus of those present in the July 21, 2022 meeting was that Mr. Powel’s counsel would be welcomed, and that he should be invited to attend a joint meeting of the SMCs. He is on vacation until August 1, 2022, but John Charny said that he would attempt to contact him and invite him to the next joint meeting of the SMCs.

6. What Other Information Does COGS Need from SBEC?

Nancy asked for a summary of activities at SBEC and when they occur so that possible conflicts can be considered in real time rather than abstractly.

David and Malcolm said that they would ask Andrea what additional information she would like to have.

John Charny will ask Mr. Powel what other information we should be requesting from each other.

7. What Other Information Does SBEC Need from COGS?

Jack indicated that he would have a better idea after reviewing materials supplied.

8. What Information Does Fr. Ashby Need from SBEC and COGS?

Fr. Ashby set forth the following as his list of expectations, wishes, or concerns:

- a. Have the opportunity to meet with SBEC parishioners
- b. Emphasize importance of communication with all wardens

- c. Will require a lot of support from the laity of both parishes
- d. Expectation that he will make a good faith effort to distribute time between parishes equally (General discussion followed regarding fact that circumstances might require more time with one parish over another; that a joint council overseeing the shared ministry will work with priest and parishioners to address time management issues. John Charny stated that good communication among the players will be essential; Malcolm suggested that the use of Fr. Ashby's time will be flexible. A system of accountability of use of time will need to be developed. At this point, Fr. Bob sagely reminded us all that the ministry of a priest is the ministry of God.)

9. Preparation of Task List for Next Meeting (August 4, 2021 – at COGS)

- a. Review each other's Parochial Reports
- b. Arrange for Bill Powel's presence and input at next joint meeting
- c. Seek COGS Vestry approval for Fr. Ashby to celebrate at SBEC and have a joint event. (It happens that on July 17, 2022, SBEC Vestry scheduled the annual St. Bartholomew Day Picnic following services Sunday August 28, 2022 at noon. COGS parishioners will be invited to attend, and COGS Vestry permission will be obtained for Fr. Ashby to celebrate at SBEC that day.)

10. Closing Comments

Dave advised COGS Vestry plans to put the Shared Ministry Agreement before its parishioners in the form of a referendum. He believes that the COGS by-laws require that passage of a referendum on the Shared Ministry will require a 2/3 majority vote.

All agreed that we are committed to working collaboratively. Richard suggested that we not worry about what can go wrong, but instead move forward in the spirit of cooperation.

The next meeting is August 4, 2022 at COGS. By agreement, John Charny will facilitate the meeting at COGS.

11. Closing Prayer

Fr. Ashby offered a closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothea Kingsbury (SBEC)