

Bethesda Episcopal Church  
Saratoga Springs NY

Minutes: Vestry Meeting  
Wednesday, December 17, 2014

Vestry	Clergy
Mark Claverie	Dean Marshall J. Vang, Interim Rector
Darren Miller	Peter Sweeney, Deacon
Paul Ruzicka (absent)	
Mary Withington	
Geoff Delbridge (present for the very beginning, then excused)	
Gordon Boyd	
Catherine Berheide (excused)	Treasurer
Mark Griffin	
John Van Der Veer	Anne Van Acker
Geneva Henderson	

Call to order: Dean Vang called to order the regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry at 7:00 PM on December 17, 2014 at the Parish Hall on 43 Washington Avenue

Devotions: Henderson began the meeting with devotions.

Previous meeting minutes: Minutes from the November meeting were distributed. After review, Miller moved that they be accepted; Griffin seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Stewardship Update: Delbridge reported that the current Stewardship total is \$140,000 with six new pledges. 41 previous pledges have not yet submitted cards and the Stewardship committee will reach out to them. Expects we will meet our goal of \$180,000.

Financial Report: Previous year profit and loss trends remain the same. Currently operating at 6% above last year. Special event income is almost double that of last year. Total income is up 12.6% and expenses are lower in 2014 vs. 2013. We are currently \$29,386.00 in the black. However, ordinary income is still negative, so there is still work to be done. Van Acker requested that, in the future, questions regarding the profit and loss statements be emailed to her prior to the meeting so she will have an opportunity to research and come prepared with answers.

Budget Report: Estimated \$90,000 net income is based on market performance in 2014. Merrill Lynch is confident in future performance of our investments. The budget now includes the choir director's salary and the deacon's discretionary fund. The budget currently shows income from the Griffith fund every four months. Dean Vang requested that this be shown monthly. We have discovered that, as a church, we are exempt from having to pay payroll taxes, which saves us \$12,000 a year. We should not have to worry about paying state unemployment in the future unless we find it necessary to terminate someone's employment. Boyd asked if it would be possible to get a refund of payroll taxes we have paid over the years and the discussion was tabled for until some research can be done into the matter. Building Expenses Other was explained as consisting of property taxes, rent (\$21,160) and utilities (\$2,600). We will need to add in the verger's salary. We are currently looking at a deficit of \$5,780. Miller proposed that we reimburse the Dake Fund using monies from the property sales. Boyd moved

that the budget be adopted with the changes as indicated with a new copy of the budget to be redistributed at the next meeting. Van Der Veer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Interim Rector's Report: Regarding the unemployment appeal of Katrina Keech, the hearing has been rescheduled for January. The notice for an administrative assistant requires further review before publication. The Saratoga Springs Clergy Association will meet in our parish house on February 24 at noon.

Deacon report: Deacon Sweeney is visiting Sister Mary Jean weekly. Spaghetti Supper brought in \$950 which the youth used to shop for local underprivileged teens. Some money was left over so they also bought toiletries for Shelters of Saratoga. Spaghetti Supper also attracted young people who have lately been inactive in church. Would like to do a Red Cross blood drive in the parish house, possibly in May. Will need volunteers to assist with check-in and distributing refreshments.

Senior Warden Report: Regarding the church school, Stampalia's recent absence has underscored how thinly we're stretched. There is need for substitute church school teachers and we need to revisit the idea of providing some sort of stipend for a church school coordinator. Robinson has taken on the Christmas Pageant this year. Our 501c(3) status has been approved. As for needs for 2015, we're going to need to upgrade computers to run Church Windows, which will help with overall operating logistics. Claverie moved to approve Dean Vang's expenses. Griffin seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Junior Warden's Report: Miller met with Goehring and Slezak to discuss the 1099 situation and will readdress this matter in January. Dean Vang advised that the Diocesan business office advises a delay until January. Boyd plans to explain to paid choir members how they can use tax deductions to offset the new requirement of declaring income from the church.

Nominating Committee: Claverie reported that the nominating committee has selected Jane Agee and Sarah Manny to replace John Van Der Veer and Robert Bullock. Claverie moved that these nominations be accepted by the Vestry, seconded by Withington, approved unanimously.

Building Committee: For very little net increase, we can build a parking garage under the new parish house to provide approximately 40 spaces, if there is sufficient depth to berock. Having our own parking will let us charge more rent. We will need to negotiate access with Brause for other infrastructure needs, storm, sanitary. Test borings will be drilled shortly to establish bedrock depth and we have very preliminary concept sketches. The building committee/architects will begin meeting with groups in January to get more committed support from renters. There is a meeting scheduled with Wait at Adirondack Trust next week to discuss mortgage options. We are exploring the possibility of applying for a community development block grant.

Endowment Committee: Anne Palamountain has resigned and we need to nominate at least one person, preferably two, to fill vacancies on this committee. Griffin moved to elect Craig Walton to replace Palamountain. Seconded by Miller. Passed unanimously. Boyd recommended that a letter be sent to Palamountain thanking her for her service.

Property Management: Claverie reports that it was necessary to purchase a snowblower for approximately \$1,200.00 and that we should strongly consider having heated sidewalks for new parish house. He noted that it's nice to have a landlord to fix things.

Closing: Van Der Veer motioned to dismiss the meeting. Henderson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.