

Bethesda Episcopal Church
Saratoga Springs NY

Minutes: Vestry Meeting
Sunday, November 22, 2015

Vestry

Mark Claverie
Darren Miller
Mary Withington
Geoff Delbridge
Gordon Boyd
Catherine Berheide
Mark Griffin (excused)
Jane Agee
Geneva Henderson
Sara Manny
Denise Limoli

Clergy

Dean Marshall J. Vang, Interim Rector
Peter Sweeney, Deacon (excused)

Treasurer

Anne Van Acker

Call to order: Dean Vang called to order the regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry at 1:00 PM on November 22, 2015 at the Parish House on Washington Street.

Devotions: Mr. Miller began the meeting with devotions, which were followed by soup provided by Dean Vang.

Previous meeting minutes: Ms. Henderson expressed gratitude to Mr. Griffin for doing the prior month's minutes and moved that minutes from the previous meeting be accepted, seconded by Ms. Agee, unanimously approved.

Financial Report: Ms. Van Acker reported that we are behind budget on pledge and plate by about \$5,500. The gap between budgeted and actual pledge and plate income is getting smaller, but we also got about \$50,000 less than we expected from the building fund party. The overall gap in estimated income is about 66,000 (mostly building fund). We're looking at a major deficit in 2016 (looks like at least \$106,000). The Diocesan Assessment is over \$20,000 what it was last year. We were able to get them to lower it by about \$5,000 but it's still too much, especially considering that we are now paying property taxes (about \$50,000) on the parish house. The financial committee is being very conservative in expectations for pledge and plate next year. Ms. Berheide moved that the vestry accept the financial report, seconded by Ms. Withington, and all were in favor.

Interim Rector's Report: Dean Vang reported that the bishop is visiting on Dec 20. There have been some stirrings of people in the parish who want to demonstrate their disapproval of the bishop's policies by skipping church that day or by skipping communion. Dean Vang emphasized that the Eucharist is not the place for this sort of protest. We still need the bishop's permission to proceed with construction and cannot afford to alienate him.

Senior Warden's Report: Mr. Claverie reminded the vestry that his term as Senior Warden will be over at the end of this year and that a nominating committee must be formed to replace him.

Junior Warden's Report: Mr. Miller reported that Dean Vang needs a new computer. While no official motion was made, the vestry was in informal agreement that a new computer should be acquired immediately.

Expenses: Mr. Claverie moved that Dean Vang's expenses for the month be approved. Mr. Griffin seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Building Committee: Mr. Boyd reported that about 3 dozen people attended the meeting on Thursday regarding the survey results. The ECF's report will be published on the website and made available in hard copy. Mr. Boyd advanced three motions:

- 1) \$331,000 is an attainable goal for the capital campaign. While this is only about half of what we were hoping for, it is vitally important to have a successful campaign. Mr. Boyd moved to establish a 330,000 goal (for the sake of having a round number). Mr. Delbridge seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- 2) Mr. Boyd moved that the rector and wardens select a nominating committee to recruit and structure a task force for the capital campaign. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- 3) Gordon moved to accept the contract with ECF to engage Leslie Pendleton for the "Ask Phase" of the capital campaign. Ms. Henderson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Christian Education: Ms. Manny reported that planning is underway for the Christmas Pageant on December 14th. Dean Vang is making plans to include the children in the setting up of the crèche throughout Advent.

Communications – Ms. Henderson reported that the new newsletter is nearly ready but cannot be finalized until Dean Vang has a computer on which to write his column. She is hoping to get it done and printed on Tuesday so it can be available next Sunday. She is also hoping to have a meeting of the communications committee in January to discuss plans for improving communications overall.

Personnel committee – Ms. Berheide reported that they are very close to finishing the employee handbook but are still waiting on answers to some questions. Once it is complete, it should also be reviewed by a lawyer.

Stewardship – Mr. Delbridge reported that the pledge cards are still coming back but more slowly now. So far \$115,000 has been pledged for the year (which is about 7,500 less than last year).

Parish History: Ms. Agee reported that the parish book is going to go to a professional editor soon.

Closing: Ms. Limoli moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Boyd seconded the motion which passed unanimously.