

Bethesda Episcopal Church
Saratoga Springs NY

Minutes: Vestry Meeting
Wednesday, January 20, 2016

Vestry

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

Clergy

Dean Marshall J. Vang, Interim Rector
Peter Sweeney, Deacon

Treasurer

Anne Van Acker

Call to order: Dean Vang called to order the regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry at 7:00 PM on January 20, 2016 at the Parish House on Washington Street.

Devotions: Ms. Limoli began the meeting with devotions.

Previous meeting minutes: Ms. Withington moved that minutes from the previous meeting be accepted, seconded by Mr. Claverie, unanimously approved.

Financial Report: Ms. Van Acker presented the 2016 budget, reminding the vestry that a budget is always fluid and a work in progress, largely based on previous years' numbers. The current version of the budget no longer includes the \$35,000 we were hoping to get from Mr. Witt if he closed late, since it now seems he will be able to close on the Ensley property in early February. A \$5,000 scholarship needs to be an additional fundraising expense to support Landon in going to seminary. (Landon has been given the Bishop's permission to go to seminary in September.) The diocese has assessed us for \$56,000. However, the assessment figure was based off of a one-time large donation that we received in 2014 so we will petition the diocese to lower the amount to \$44,100 (which is still higher than last year). The national church has recommended a 1.6% raise for employees which we will need to consider. Dean Vang pointed out that the verger stipend should be moved into a different category. Ms. Van Acker clarified that the current budget is predicated on the hope that the landlords will pay for taxes and utilities for the parish house. Ms. Withington moved to adopt the budget presented, as revised in the preceding discussion. Mr. Boyd seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Interim Rector's Report: Dean Vang reported that he has been getting very positive emails from clergy across the country about our newsletter which, he says, shows that we have a vibrant parish.

Deacon's Report: Deacon Sweeney reported that confirmation went well. The Youth Group has some service projects coming up, such as volunteering at the Washington County Nursing Home, or possibly

for Habitat for Humanity. He read aloud the thank-you email he received from the race track chaplaincy for the Christmas sponsoring of families funded by the spaghetti supper.

Senior Warden's Report: Mr. Claverie reported that Matt Griffin has stepped down as verger. Mr. Claverie has sent an email to the landlords to follow up on their timeline for moving us out of the main room of the parish house. We'll be getting rid of most of the furniture, but keeping the refrigerators at least for a while. Bruce Solenski wants direction from the vestry about whether or not he's running the building fund party. Dean Vang suggested appointing Mr. Solenski and Ms. Harper as co-chairs of the event. This year we need to focus on expanding the scope of the fundraiser by finding community people beyond the congregation who would be interested in attending and donating a significant amount of money.

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 the Building Committee has interviewed 4 contractors, all of whom seemed satisfactory. We can't go out to bid until we have financing in place. The Building Committee is largely on hold for the moment so the Capital Campaign can really get under way.

Capital Campaign: Mr. Boyd reported that 3:00 on Feb 28th Bethesda will host the kick-off event for the capital campaign at the Holiday Inn, though people will start quietly soliciting pledges from advance people before the event. The Campaign volunteers had meetings over the weekend to train and coordinate as well as to assign volunteers to ask specific people. The Campaign is going to hire Barbara as an independent contractor for up to 12 additional hours per week to keep track of capital campaign matters.

Annual Meeting— The vestry reviewed the proposed agenda for the annual meeting. The ballot presented to the congregation for approval will be Catherine Berheide for Junior Warden, Mark Claverie, Genna Henderson and Geoff Delbridge for vestry members. Mr. Miller moved to accept this proposed ballot, Ms. Manny seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Home of the Good Shepherd— Mr. Boyd moved that the existing HGS board remain in place with the addition of Lucas Manny to replace Bill Read. Mr. Claverie seconded the motion and all were in favor

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