

Bethesda Episcopal Church
Saratoga Springs NY

Minutes: Vestry Meeting
Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Vestry	Clergy
Mark Claverie	Dean Marshall J. Vang, Interim Rector
Darren Miller (excused)	Peter Sweeney, Deacon
Mary Withington	
Gordon Boyd	
Catherine Berheide	Treasurer
Mark Griffin	
Jane Agee (excused)	Anne Van Acker
Geneva Henderson	
Sara Manny (attended via teleconference)	
Denise Limoli	

Call to order: Dean Vang called to order the regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry at 7:00 PM on March 16, 2016 at the Parish House on Washington Street.

Devotions: Berheide began the meeting with devotions.

Previous meeting minutes: Dean Vang and Berheide pointed out errors in the February minutes, which Henderson agreed to fix. Henderson reminded the vestry that minutes are sent out a week in advance so that edits can be made prior to the meeting. Withington moved to accept the minutes as amended, Claverie seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Financial Report: – Van Acker reported that pledge and plate is up 28% over last year. Total income is down slightly but this is probably because we haven't gotten a Griffith trust injection yet. Total expenses are lower than last year, even with higher diocesan assessment (though we are still using our number, not theirs so far). \$3,906.23 property tax and the utilities will be reimbursed by the landlords. Income is ahead of budget by \$6,300. Expenses are over budget, but not horribly so. Limoli moved to accept the treasurer's report; Griffin seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Building Fund: Van Acker reported that there recently was a building party committee meeting to discuss expanding the usual scope of this annual fundraiser. Building fund party income used to be handled slightly differently, but from now on it'll be subject to the same financial standards as the rest of Bethesda's income. Building fund money can roll over if we ever raise more than enough for one year (which is unlikely). Berheide pointed out that it's very important to make clear specifically what the fund money is being raised for. Van Acker agreed that the committee should identify a need prior to party and ask with that need in mind (and the need should be related to repairs to the church building).

Capital Campaign: Boyd reported that we have reached 2/3 of our goal, with \$221,000 pledged from the parish and the McDonald memorial. Not much has come in since the kick-off event. We are going to need to step up our fundraising efforts so we can break ground on time.

Interim Rector's Report: Dean Vang recently put together a congregational care committee (Claverie, Boyd and Manny) to address member retention. They have met with one family who recently departed (though that family says they're on a sabbatical rather than permanent departure). Dean Vang requested that the Vestry consider if there is anyone we should follow up with who hasn't been around recently.

Fr Evans needs our prayers post hip-surgery.

Deacon's Report: Deacon Sweeney reported that the asbestos abatement in the parish hall has gotten in the way of youth programs. We'll need to identify someone new to lead the youth group. He'll be here at least until July, possibly into August. Wesley visitations are still going well and he is frequently approached by new people when making his visitations.

Building Committee: Boyd distributed minutes from the last BC meeting. The finalized conditions report is available and he'll send it out digitally and make sure it's up on the website. This report has long-term value for setting priorities for what work needs to be done and in what order. They are considering putting Bethesda on the list of open houses for the spring tour of houses (selling tickets from Bethesda). This idea met with general favorable response. Mr. Boyd reminded the vestry that it takes 6 weeks to 3 months to get a building permit, which we can't do until we have some bids, which we can't get without being approved for the mortgage, which we can't apply for without reaching our capital campaign goal. We really need to move quickly in order to get everything done on time.

Communications: Henderson is working hard to get the newsletter out in time for Holy Week.

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

Nomination committee : Henderson reported that the committee is considering John Baker or Alison St. Pierre for assistant treasurer. Miller still hasn't heard back from Tom Remington; they are also considering John Avery and Jim McCloud (both 8:00ers).

Personnel committee : Berheide reported that they've sent out a draft of the employee handbook looking for comments/concerns, though some aspects, such as the section on sexual misconduct, are mandated by the diocese. We'll still need a volunteer handbook, and perhaps an ordained employee handbook as this one is for lay employees only. Boyd pointed out that there are contractual employees in the music program who will need something similar.

Property management : Claverie reported that the pianos seem to be held hostage in the banquet room of the parish house. Barbara showed Claverie where ant traps should be placed in the church. Orkin has taken care of exiling the squirrels. Not much can be done about the bats. The heavy rains caused some flooding in the church. Mark re-covered the basins at the bottoms of the windows which seemed to help.

Home of the Good Shepherd: Withington reported that the proposed HGS foundation needs 3 board members, who would contribute \$1,000 a year each. Their sole purpose is to do fundraising. The HGS

board will discuss the matter further at their meeting tomorrow night. The new HGS building is moving along. There will probably be an opening ceremony.

New Business: Griffin reported that the molds for the Easter bunny pops have gone missing and requested permission to buy new ones. This proposal met with general approval.

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