

Bethesda Episcopal Church
Saratoga Springs NY

Minutes: Vestry Meeting
Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Vestry

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

Clergy

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

Treasurer

Anne Van Acker (not present)

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

Devotions: Agee began the meeting with devotions.

Previous meeting minutes: Boyd moved to accept the minutes as amended, Withington seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Financial Report: – Miller reported that pledge and plate is up \$13,784 from last year. We took in \$12,500 between Palm Sunday and Easter. We still have not received the income from the Daniel Jones Griffith Trust. This year's higher diocesan assessment affects expenses. We're saving on insurance costs since we changed carriers. Office supplies and payroll are up (because we hadn't hired Barbara yet at this time last year). Building expenses are up, likely because of the Orkin expense. Some investment incomes haven't been added into the report yet.

The endowment committee has retained David Harper to amend the Daniel Jones Griffith trust to allow for paying Kathleen.

Griffin noticed that the financial report runs from 1/31. Miller agrees that it should go from 1/1

We're unlikely to get any relief from the diocese on our assessment this year, so we'll pay it in full.

This year we'll be changing the building fund party to focus on church restoration. We used to use that money for building operating expenses (usually about 50,000 of building expenses per year). Could maybe apply the money in the Genworth account towards building operating expenses (opening a new account as a line of credit) and call it our "deficit reduction fund", using it to fill shortfalls. We could also set up another account for donations specifically dedicated towards church restoration. Boyd says it's important for it to be managed by the endowment committee.

Claverie moved, and Manny seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report.

Building Committee: Boyd distributed BC minutes. We have sent the conditions report to the New York Landmarks Conservancy. There will be a presentation of restoration needs in church after both services, perhaps next month. Boyd spoke to our state assembly representative about the storm drain replacement (under Washington St), but the state can't take on that cost from regular appropriations. The state might still be able to contribute some grant money for this purpose. We're still discussing hosting a spot on the spring house tour, but we've got a wedding that afternoon which limits time. Rev. Chavez (race track chaplaincy) and Joanne Adams with Belmont Child Care Association are expecting that their Saratoga needs are going to be expanding to almost a full year. EOC is still very excited about Head Start being in NPH. They also want to develop a sliding scale daycare.

Capital Campaign: Boyd reported that the website shows \$282,000 of pledges, which does not include some significant pledges we know of that are expected. Community pledging has started unofficially.

Interim Rector's Report: Dean Vang spoke to the Bishop yesterday about the need to replace Deacon Sweeney, though we haven't really started seeking a replacement yet. The church school will remain in the church for classes during coffee hour. Dean Vang is starting plans for a first communion class in September. The Building fund party is going to be focused on a capital project theme for the church. Mary Lou and John are not going to co-chair the party, which will allow us to completely reimagine the approach. Thanks to Sarah Manny for taking over coffee hour.

Deacon's Report: Deacon Sweeney reported that the youth have been meeting on the second floor to do a video series from the Holy Land which seems to be making an impact. He continues to visit Wesley and would be glad to train any lay Eucharistic ministers.

Communications: Henderson declared May 23 to be the deadline for the next newsletter.

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

Nomination committee : Miller reported that we are looking predominantly at 8:00ers John Avery, Jim McCloud, or Tom Remington to fill the vacant spot on the vestry. Mood seems in favor of John Avery, though the other names were also met with positive response. Withington will talk to him.

Personnel committee : Berheide presented the draft of the Employee handbook, Claverie wants clarification of "in periods of transition", Kate will add "between rectors". Berheide confirmed that it was in accord with the policies of the Episcopal Church and pointed out that being generous with time off is a way to compensate for lower pay. Withington confirms that this is standard practice in not-for-profits. Withington moved, Darren seconded to accept the handbook as amended. All were in favor.

Property management : Claverie reported that he needs to set ant traps now that Easter is over, as well as mow the lawn and get clutter out of parish house. It's time to do a cleanup around the church.

Home of the Good Shepherd: Withington reported that the HGS board is considering redoing financing for Wilton by getting a line of credit, but still had to raise rates across the board. HGS has sent a letter to

residents to explain the situation and that if the litigation is successful we'd reimburse them and/or drop the rates again.

New Business: Boyd wants to invite the author of Gilead to give a talk at Bethesda in early July (as she summers in Saratoga). He also suggests arranging some sort of observance of the 150th birthday of Harry Burleigh who used to sing at Bethesda. (December)

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