

Bethesda Episcopal Church
Saratoga Springs NY

Minutes: Vestry Meeting
Wednesday, June 22, 2016

Vestry

Mark Claverie

Darren Miller (excused)

Mary Withington

Gordon Boyd

Catherine Berheide (excused)

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

Call to order: Dean Vang called to order the regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry at 7:00 PM on June 22, 2016 at the Parish House on Washington Street.

Devotions: Claverie began the meeting with devotions.

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

Financial Report: Anne Van Acker reported that pledge and plate income is on a nice upward trend and is currently \$16,228 up vs. this time last year. Total income is up about 21%. Expenses are also up, about 6%, mainly because of diocesan assessment increase and a property tax payment (should be the last one). Net income is -48,000 (improvement of about 19%). Total income is as budgeted (10,000 ahead on pledge and plate). Office supplies and building expenses are running high. Withington Moved, Griffin seconded to accept treasurer's report. All were in favor

Capital Campaign: Boyd reported that they recently met with Leslie Pendleton. We have received close to \$400,000 in pledges Dean Vang mentioned that he, Field Horne and Sally Hill have identified individuals who need to be approached for major gifts. They will put together several social events at Sally Hill's house to pitch the program and will be compiling a list of people in the community to be contacted.

August Fundraiser: Dean Vang reported that, as we no longer have sponsorship for the event, invitations will have to be from the church wardens and vestry of Bethesda. Money will go toward a good quality security system for the church so the church building can remain open during the day. We are planning to expand the invitation list in order to make it more of a community event.

Interim Rector's Report: Dean Vang reported that Bishop Ball's 90th birthday party was great. There has been no further movement on replacing Deacon Sweeney as Deacon. Instead he is focusing on training parishioners to do diaconal things. Fr. Evans is willing to take on more. Dean Vang met with Landon to

figure out his summer schedule and finances. He will ask us for annual support, which should be in the budget. Dean Vang will pay for Landon's school books out of his discretionary fund.

Deacon's Report: Deacon Sweeney enjoyed the diocesan convention. Visitations continue at Wesley. He visited Grace Hawthorne at the hospital shortly before her death. He's grateful for the friendship he made with her and her family members. Deacon Sweeney plans to train some Eucharistic ministers before he leaves. Habitat for Humanity is doing a demolition/building in Saratoga soon and will pass along the information.

Building Committee: Boyd and Miller met with Saratoga National Bank officers and discussed our fundraising progress and showed them the current floor plans. The bank expects us to get leadership gifts in line in order to provide a mortgage commitment letter. Once that is in hand, Bethesda should be able to issue formal bids, get a building permit, and look to break ground. The bank would like us to pre-lease 2/3 of the space. Bank suggested that we consider making all rental space mission rate (about \$15 a sq. foot) which would significantly reduce taxes and possibly interest costs, so we'll run the numbers and see. City engineer and planning dept have gotten the Adelphi to share in the cost of replacing the storm sewer. Boyd is also investigating the possibility of getting the city to pay for it with tax money. Also may still be able to get state funds probably up to 50%.

Communications: Henderson reported positive feedback from the June newsletter. She wants to look into doing a brochure for Bethesda to put in local hotels. Boyd suggested talking to Todd Garofano at the Convention Visitor Bureau.

Nominating Committee: In Miller's absence, Dean Vang reported that Field Horne was approached but declined. Need someone by July 31.

Property Management: Toby Milday needs our office space at the end of April 2017. We're really going to have to start planning to vacate. We might be able to rent space in the Baptist church, but will need to start clearing things out of the current parish hall. We will need to prepare an inventory and make a big push to clear out this building in the fall.

Expenses: Claverie moved, Griffin seconded to pay Dean Vang's expenses. All in favor.

Other: There was discussion of how to thank Deacon Sweeney for his service, which is not recorded in the minutes because he reads the minutes and it should be a surprise. The thanking will happen on August 14.

Boyd reported that we still need to find someone to act as treasurer.

Home of the Good Shepherd: Withington reported that the development committee met about holding an open house for HGS. Still waiting for a date for the trial.

Closing: Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Claverie seconded the motion and all were in favor.

