

Bethesda Episcopal Church
Saratoga Springs NY

Minutes: Vestry Meeting
Wednesday, July 20, 2016

Vestry

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

Clergy

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

Treasurer

Anne Van Acker (excused)

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

Devotions: Henderson began the meeting with devotions.

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

Financial Report: As neither Van Acker nor Miller were present, and the financial report had been emailed out shortly before the meeting (so some had not had a chance to read it), Vang encouraged the vestry to read it later and email any questions directly to Van Acker.

Capital Campaign: Boyd reported current total pledges of about \$420,000. He anticipates a few more modest contributions. The Capital Campaign has not yet scaled up community outreach, and that will probably wait until after Labor Day. Withington will try to categorize potential sources. We will benefit from our strong community-oriented narrative (such as providing space, hopefully, to Belmont childcare). Getting from this stage to actually beginning to build is a long process. We've asked for a letter from Belmont childcare showing intent and will look into getting one from EOC too.

August Fundraiser: Invitations have been mailed out and are being returned to the office. The church saved a lot of money on printing. We will be charging for mixed drinks this year (free wine/beer/soft drinks) which will save money. We are not soliciting sponsors for the party because we need sponsors focused on the Capital campaign. This is a temporary arrangement and will likely change next year.

Interim Rector's Report: The deacon who expressed interest in coming to Bethesda has been assigned to another parish. Deacon Sweeney has been working with Wilder, Bullock and Moore so they can help more with Eucharistic ministry. Bullock is officially beginning the deacon training program beginning in September and he'll be placed at Bethesda after three years. Vang has been working with Landon in private tutorials since he'll be leaving for seminary in a month. Financial help will be critical for him.

Dean Vang will pay for his psychiatric exam (required) from his discretionary fund. Perhaps the vestry and congregation can help with buying books. It might be worth introducing 2x a year offering envelope for Landon.

Deacon's Report: Sweeney reported that David Wilder has accompanied him to Wesley the last couple of weeks, which has been working out nicely, and there are others who have expressed interest.

Building Committee: Boyd circulated a memorandum of agreement between Bethesda, Adelphi and Rip Van Dam to arrange a distribution of financial responsibility for the replacement of the storm drain under Washington Street. After some negotiation we got an amended agreement giving us 20% of the financial responsibility for the Washington St. portion. We have acquired a grant of \$125,000 from the state for this project but need a letter from the city in order to claim the money. Boyd moved to approve the memorandum of agreement. Berheide seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Communications: Henderson is soliciting contributions for the newsletter. She is going to try to get it out before August party but can't make promises at the moment.

Nominating Committee: Henderson reported that Field Horne declined to join vestry. The committee will need to convene and figure something out.

Property Management: Claverie reported that we had to replace the uninterruptable power supply (big battery which powers phones) which went up in smoke. National grid recently moved the power pole and transformers that service the church.

Berheide moved to approve Dean Vang's expenses, Claverie seconded, all in favor.

Stewardship: Limoli will write something for the newsletter about keeping up pledge and plate over the summer. The stewardship committee is starting to think ahead to the fall and plans to go back to issuing quarterly reports.

New Business: Dean Vang mentioned that in the August meeting we will discuss fall programming. Committees should meet before then and figure out everything that should go into a calendar of events.

Boyd reported that a musician (Stephen Salters) may come up from NYC to perform at Bethesda (in conjunction with Skidmore) to celebrate the 150th birthday of Harry Burleigh. Belmont Childcare is having their annual fundraiser August 24th.

Agee suggested putting something in the pews or the bulletins to explain the Capital Campaign to visitors who may be unaware of its goals.

Home of the Good Shepherd: Withington reported that HGS received our Certificate of Occupancy for 400 Church. 20 residents from 390 Church have picked out their rooms in the new building and the other ten should be ready to move shortly. HGS will host an open house in late September or early October. The litigation has been delayed until November. HGS explored many other options but

eventually had to raise rates in order to meet property tax expenses. If we win the litigation, we'll reduce the rates again.

Closing: Withington moved to adjourn the meeting. Manny seconded the motion and all were in favor.