

Bethesda Episcopal Church
Saratoga Springs NY

Minutes: Vestry Meeting
Wednesday, August 17, 2016

Vestry

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

Clergy

Dean Marshall J. Vang, Interim Rector

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 August 17, 2016 at the Parish House on Washington Street.

Devotions: Vang began the meeting with devotions.

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

Financial Report: Pledge and plate is about \$11,700 higher than this time last year. The building fund party brought in less than \$10,000 (last year was \$49,000, and our budget for this year expected \$27,000). This reduction is likely because, between the capital campaign and regular pledging, people are feeling financially strained in their giving, but the reduced income from the party will also reduce our diocesan assessment for next year. Building expenses are down a bit since last year (because landlords took over a lot of them). We're at about -59,000 between actual and budget (-17,000 this time last year). There has only been one wedding so far this year. Still waiting for more income from the Griffith trust. It is important to make sure that all church income paperwork is handled uniformly. The audit is nearly finished and will be presented in September at the vestry meeting. We're going to have to consider reducing the amount paid monthly towards our diocesan assessment. Withington moved, Manny seconded, and all were in favor of accepting the treasurer's report

Capital Campaign: Withington reported that the Capital Campaign committee hasn't met in a while and will ramp up again in September.

August Fundraiser: This was largely discussed in the treasurer's report, but further discussion reached an agreement that in the future we should ensure that the attendees not make checks payable to the

Landmark Campaign because it doesn't actually exist as a financial entity. We'll also need to put a name line on the RSVP card as well as a "can't attend but here is donation" line.

Interim Rector's Report: Vang circulated a Vestry Nomination Form for Landon Moore for Priesthood. Henderson moved, Limoli seconded, and all were in favor of signing the form, which was done. Landon's leaving soon for Yale. Vang has emailed parishioners who know Landon well to ask for money for his books. This will need to be covered by a separate item in the budget. We are hoping to raise about \$5,000 per year for Landon's expenses. Bob Bullock will not be pursuing deaconate. David Wilder will head the Lay Eucharistic Ministry which currently has about six volunteers. Current space-shuffling means we'll have to hold Sunday school classes in the church.

Communications: Henderson has just emailed out the latest newsletter for distribution and got great feedback on her recent church facebook post showing the flooding in the church basement.

Nominating Committee: Henderson reported that Miller is approaching other people regarding joining Vestry but many seem to be put off by the time commitment. The committee is looking into ways to make the idea of vestry less overwhelming.

Property Management: Claverie reported that the recent flooding was particularly bad, as the heavy rain caused water to come in through window wells and drains. We're going to have to address drainage issues sooner rather than later. We're also going to have to start moving things out of the parish house.

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

Stewardship: Limoli wants to look into doing online/direct withdrawal payments, which will be helpful with younger generation's approach to money. She wants to start really communicating with the parish by October.

Home of the Good Shepherd: Withington reported that the building at 390 Church St is going to be converted into a Memory Care unit. HGS will need a 1.5 million loan. All previous residents from 390 have moved to 400. Open house for the new building will be Oct 16 @ 3PM.

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