

Bethesda Episcopal Church
Saratoga Springs NY

Minutes: Vestry Meeting
Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Vestry

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

Clergy

Dean Marshall J. Vang, Interim Rector

Treasurer

Anne Van Acker

Auditor

Eileen Wiebicke

Call to order: Dean Vang called to order the regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry at 7:00 PM on September 21, 2016 at the Parish House on Washington Street.

Devotions: Manny began the meeting with devotions.

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

Audit Review: Wiebicke presented the vestry with a hard copy of her 2015 audit and her review letter, (attached) which she summarized. Wiebicke will add in lines separating out endowment funds. Boyd moved to accept the audit subject to promised modifications, Berheide seconded, all were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Van Acker reported that pledge and plate are still ahead of last year but not by as much as in the previous month's report (down from about 8% to about 4%). Still missing probably two deposits from choir fund, which may have come in recently. Expenses are about \$7,000 higher than this time last year. Market performing better than last year so market income is up about \$13,000. Net income is -\$47,000 vs. -\$20,000 this time last year. Expenses are about \$11,000 over budget because of having to fix air conditioning. Had to withdraw about \$5,000 from the Genworth account in order to meet expenses.

Capital Campaign: Vang says he approached two potential major donors who were not willing to come forward with major donations. The committee has added two other potential donors to their list. Boyd would like to have a narrative in place before approaching the community for donations. Head Start and EOC are still very excited about getting classroom space and will go to their boards for written commitments that we could show to the bank and to Belmont Childcare. We already have a letter of interest from Belmont Childcare. The Capital Campaign is about 35% over our congregational goal.

Members of the committee will need to sit down with Barbara to get some sort of program to track those pledges to send out reminders.

Building Committee: Boyd reported that we won't break ground this year. Rip Van Dam is being acquired by Intercontinental Hotels and Boyd has reached out to them about the Memorandum of Agreement regarding the storm sewer. City of Saratoga is making it difficult for us to get the state money that was offered for this project. Proposal for city parking deck in the works, will depend on what Brause decides to do.

Interim Rector's Report: Vang thanked those who contributed towards Landon's books. Landon is now a postulant for Holy Orders and doing well in his classes. The Licensed Eucharistic Visitors ministry is going well with seven members so far. Vang will be doing masses on Thursday mornings at the convent for the next three months. Six kids appeared for first holy communion class with two more students possible

Communication: Newsletter will be coming out soon. Photos on facebook of church are getting lots of likes and shares. It seems that photographs get more attention than text posts, so Henderson is shifting her focus on the Facebook page to include more photos.

Nominating committee: Steven is only here on weekends so probably can't make it to vestry. Looking into Tom Remington.

Property Management: A/C isn't working. Blessing of the Pets is coming up so the field will need to get mowed. Boyd volunteered to scythe it this weekend. Northshire will be hosting an event on October 20 at Bethesda. Still need to clear out the rest of the parish house, probably in the next couple of weeks.

Miller moved to approve Dean Vang's expenses, Griffin seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Home of the Good Shepherd – The trial regarding whether HGS should be responsible for property taxes or not has been scheduled for 11/14/16. Judge wants HGS to settle for a payment in lieu of taxes. The Open House for 400 Church St has been scheduled for 10/16/16. HGS has obtained financing to change the building at 390 church into a memory care unit.

Building Fund Party Proceeds: Miller suggested that we use the building fund party funds to do something visible, perhaps a hearing loop for the hearing impaired that will feed audio of services into hearing aids. Berheide wondered if we could begin addressing the drainage issues which caused the flooding of the church basement. Possibly restore one of the stained glass windows or the reredos. All agreed to table the discussion until the next meeting in order to give everyone a chance to come up with suggestions and Boyd offered to bring the matter up with the building committee and return with a recommendation.

Closing: Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting, Manny seconded the motion which passed unanimously