

Bethesda Episcopal Church
Saratoga Springs NY

Minutes: Vestry Meeting
Wednesday, January 19, 2017

Vestry

Mark Claverie

Darren Miller

Mary Withington

Denise Limoli (Excused)

Gordon Boyd

Catherine Berheide

Mark Griffin

Jane Agee

Geneva Henderson

Sara Manny

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 January 19, 2017 at the Parish House on Washington Street.

Devotions: Agee began the meeting with devotions.

Previous meeting minutes: Boyd moved to accept minutes from the previous meeting, seconded by Claverie, unanimously approved.

Rectory Search: Barbara Cassier from Roohan Realty reported that the Rectory Search Committee has begun the search process for a rectory. It is nearly impossible to find a home in Saratoga Springs for less than \$450,000 that won't need a lot of work. The committee has identified two homes in Wilton: a townhouse in The Greens (440,000), about 2 miles away and one new construction house in the Smithbridge development (435,000). Reselling the single family would be easier than reselling a townhouse. The Vestry agreed to look at both homes the following weekend.*

Treasurer's Report: Withington moved to retain Cusack and Co. to perform Bethesda's 2016 audit. Boyd seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Cusack appears to have extensive experience with non-profits, provided an actual quote instead of a range and called to ask questions before issuing the quote.

2017 budget - Added a \$5000 line for the seminary scholarship. Will take out references to the service league since one does not currently exist. Increased income lines from funerals and weddings. Increased amounts to Nashotah house and Yale Divinity. Will need to reexamine Vang's insurance expense. Added 5 hours a week for Barbara (the amount required before we provide a pension) and gave her a pension. Will need to add in moving costs for Vang. Saved money on Farrell's health insurance with the understanding that we'll contribute towards a deductible if something comes up (since the savings meant a higher deductible for him). With

those changes the budget ends up about \$2,000 in the black. A copy of the budget will be made available to the congregation prior to the annual meeting. (Total pledge and plate for the 2016 year was about \$6500 more than 2015).

Nominating Committee: Miller moved to nominate John Van der Veer for 2 year term as treasurer. Henderson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Berheide moved to nominate Henderson as clerk for another year. Manny seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Pam Houde and Mayume Kato have agreed to stand for vestry election.

By-Laws Update: Boyd has revamped the bylaws and circulated his draft by email. Chip Strickland largely approved of the drafted bylaws, but recommended that we add a conflict of interest policy, which has not yet been done. Adopting the new bylaws at the January meeting would allow us to fill another spot on the vestry, since the clerk is an additional vestry-member. Miller moved to repeal the current bylaws and replace them simultaneously with the proposed bylaws with the addition of the conflict of interest clause as approved by the diocese, effective immediately; Berheide seconded the motion and all were in favor. Field Horne will also be nominated to stand for vestry election to fill the new slot.

Annual Meeting Agenda: Will be in the nave of the church starting with a Eucharist at 6:30. Meeting at 7:00. Need to keep polls open for an hour. Will have treasurer's report, building report, and stewardship report as well as a discussion of the new bylaws. Nominating committee, rector's report, thank yous. Maybe discuss doing discernment meetings for a rector's search.

Interim Rector's Report: Landon did a great sermon. Vang hopes the congregation will give generously towards his seminary fund.

Darren moved, Griffin seconded to approve Dean Vang's expenses for the month. The motion passed unanimously.

Miller disclosed that he works with NYS department which may affect any grant applications that the vestry might make to NYS. However, he does not work for the grant funding agencies, so it is unlikely to actually affect anything.

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

*The vestry did go to look at the homes on January 18, 2017, and held an impromptu meeting in the Townhome where they discussed the pros and cons of each house. The new construction home was the overwhelming favorite, as the townhouse seemed less appropriate for a family and lacked a basement egress window. All were present except for Manny, Withington and Griffin. Miller moved to authorize the vestry to purchase 19 Sawmill Court for a price not to exceed \$436,000.00 subject to the bishop's approval. Boyd seconded the motion, which passed

unanimously. Those who were not present voted later via email and they were also in favor of the purchase.

NOTE: On January 24th the vestry voted unanimously by email to approve the budget for 2017, as amended. Miller moved and Agee seconded the motion.