

Bethesda Episcopal Church
Saratoga Springs NY

Minutes: Vestry Meeting
Wednesday April 19, 2017

Vestry
Mark Claverie
Darren Miller
Denise Limoli (excused)
Gordon Boyd
Catherine Berheide
Mark Griffin (excused)
Jane Agee (excused)
Field Horne
Sara Manny
Mayume Kato (excused)
Pam Houde

Clergy
Dean Marshall J. Vang, Interim Rector

Clerk
Geneva Henderson

Treasurer
John Van der Veer

Call to order: Dean Vang called to order the regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry at 7:00 PM on April 19 2017 at the church on Washington Street.

Devotions: Berheide began the meeting with devotions.

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

Interim Rectors Report: Interim Rector's Report: Vang expressed thanks to all who participated in Holy Week. Easter attendance was excellent. Vang pointed out that, according to his understanding, the church owning a rectory puts the rector in a higher income tax bracket, so we'll have to take a look at the tax laws that are clergy-specific and at the canon laws, both national and diocesan, to see what sort of expenses we'll have to take on once we have the rectory built.

Treasurer's Report: What began as a negative start to the year has evened itself out. Easter was earlier last year, which meant its income was counted in the first quarter instead of the second, unlike this year. Had 60,433 income to this point last year, have received 70,000. Expenses are pretty much in line with budget. Office supplies and building expenses are higher than expected, however, (building expenses are due to furnace repair). Dividend income looks hugely better this year vs. last but that's because last year's wasn't entered into the system until September so it's probably actually about the same. We are in good shape.

Property Management: Claverie expressed thanks to Houde for creating the church school nook in the back of the church. Cherry Tree Auction is taking another look at items from the parish house. There are few things that need to be stored. It might be worth asking some parishioners to store/foster items until the new parish hall is built. Sharon's taking care of wrapping up the

smaller paintings and getting them to storage. They are finding a lot of documents with personal information (names, birth dates, credit cards, etc). Will probably bring most of it to be shredded.

Building Committee: Boyd met with DPW about the Washington St. storm sewer in regards to getting grant money without it holding up our building permit. They have figured out an arrangement to divide the cost, and the City will do the work at a later date (after our construction). We'll get credited for State money. The building committee is continuing value engineering on the NPH in an attempt to further cut construction cost. Measures to reduce construction costs may include making the chapel/music center an alternate (to be built if there is enough money, otherwise could be added on later), brick on only one side, stucco on the others. Bringing the overall cost down to around \$7.1 million, still working on getting it a little lower. Diocese approves of the general plan. Negotiating with likely tenants about insurance/utilities, etc. Met with Chairman of Saratoga County Board of Supervisors about possibly having a DSS satellite office for intake. Still need about \$1.7 million in special gifts. Preservation Foundation House Tour is on May 13. There will be a talk here and a tour. NY Landmarks Conservancy Sacred Sites tour is the following weekend.

Other Business: Houde suggests sending a personal letter of thanks to Bruce Solenski from the vestry, all in favor. Vang said that we should have a memorial mass for Bishop Ball at Bethesda, regardless of when his actual funeral is.

Vestry Retreat: May 6, 9 AM Community of St. Mary in Greenwich.

Expenses: Berheide moved to approve Dean Vang's expenses for the month, Claverie seconded the motion and all were in favor

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