

Bethesda Episcopal Church
Saratoga Springs NY

Minutes: Vestry Meeting
Wednesday December 20, 2017

Vestry
Mark Claverie
Darren Miller
Steven Rucker
Gordon Boyd
Catherine Berheide
Mark Griffin
Jane Agee
Field Horne (excused)
Sara Manny (excused)
Mayumi Kato
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 December 20, 2017 at Skidmore College.

Devotions: Van der Veer began the meeting with devotions.

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

Interim Rector's Report: Parish leadership conference will be held on Jan 27 at the Spiritual Life Center. This year's theme addresses the reality that the Episcopal church is in decline and will focus on training laity to lead congregations. Jane Agee's photograph was selected for the cover of the Albany Episcopalian. Vang expressed thanks to those involved in the Christmas pageant. December concerts have been well reviewed and were very well attended. Vang requested that vestry members make an effort to greet newcomers.

Warden's Report: Miller: So far we have three commitments to fill the four vacancies (+clerk). Ann Bullock, Marsha MacDonald and Jamie Piraino.

Berheide: Greenery for Christmas (not counting poinsettias) costs \$1000. May need to consider scaling back in the future.

Budget: Miller, Elaine and Van der Veer have met to discuss the budget and have another planned meeting. Van der Veer will email out a draft budget prior to the January meeting.

Treasurer's Report: See attached. Griffin moved, and Houde seconded his motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which passed unanimously.

Building Committee: Boyd reported that the committee is still looking for ways to reduce expenses for the new building. They have asked Waite for a market based estimate and are awaiting his response.

Parish Life: Houde has delivered between 65-75 hymnals to the Homes of the Good Shepherd. We will hold a potluck supper at the Baptist Church on Jan 6. An anonymous donor covered the rental fee (\$100). Houde hopes to have two people volunteer to pick up people or drive them home so people who can't drive at night can still attend.

Property Management: Claverie reported that the building cleaner has requested higher pay for cleaning after large concerts. She also pointed out that we went through a lot of paper towels and toilet paper during those concerts.

Fire Inspection: Berheide and Griffin reported that Bethesda failed its fire inspection. Since then, the sprinkler system has been reinspected and should pass. We need a fire safety and evacuation plan, which Scheidt is taking care of. Have added signs to doors (boiler room, etc). CO detectors have been added, as have luminescent exit signs. There are still significant electrical issues (ground fault interrupters needed, and extension cords are an issue). All extension cords need to be commercial grade and plugged directly into outlets rather than connected together in long chains as now. Need a new valve for the sprinkler system.

Stewardship: 43 pledge cards returned. \$115,000 pledged.

New Buisness: There has been concern about peeling paint in the church near where the children have Sunday school. Children should be moved, either to the other side of the church or to the church basement.

Rector's Search: Meetings have been scheduled for discussing the rector search with the parish.

Newsletter: Horne has submitted a proposal for the next incarnation of the newsletter, requesting a budget. Henderson thinks this is a good idea since expecting one person to do all formatting, etc. on her own is unreasonable. Miller moved, Henderson seconded approving Horne's proposal. The proposal passed unanimously.

Rector's Expenses: Miller moved to approve the rector's expenses for the month. Griffin seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Closing: Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Van der Veer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.