

Bethesda Episcopal Church  
Saratoga Springs NY

Minutes: Vestry Meeting  
Wednesday July 19, 2017

Vestry  
Mark Claverie (excused)  
Darren Miller  
Denise Limoli (excused)  
Gordon Boyd  
Catherine Berheide  
Mark Griffin  
Jane Agee  
Field Horne (excused)  
Sara Manny  
Mayume 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 July 19, 2017 at the church on Washington Street.

Devotions: Houde began the meeting with devotions.

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

Interim Rector's Report: Vang is now living at 19 Sawmill Court. Limoli has requested a yearlong leave of absence. Houde has agreed to oversee the stewardship commission during Limoli's absence. Bishop Herzog is in the Saratoga Hospital and is not doing very well.

Wardens' Report: Miller reported that the rectory covenant (lease) is under review. Chip Strickland suggested that it cover the entire compensation package and not just the house.

Berheide reported that Steve Rucker had expressed interest in serving on the vestry. Perhaps we should have him step into Denise's place for the balance of her term (if he is willing). Berheide introduced a motion to allow her to invite him to join the vestry. Griffin seconded the motion and all were in favor. Barbara has suggested that we go with the diocese's vendor for copy services. This looks like it will result in a significant savings. The diocesan service is willing to buy out our remaining time in the contract with our current vendor. The new fee would be about \$30 more than our current vendor but would cover far more copies, saving us, theoretically, almost \$1900 a year. This move would also provide us with a new machine (the current machine has been temperamental). Berheide made a motion to transfer to the new vendor if our current vendor cannot offer a better bid and promise to provide better service. Boyd seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Van der Veer presented the treasurer's report. See attached.

Building Committee: Boyd reported that he is planning on having meetings with individual(s) who may take the lead in community fund-raising. The NYS Grant Application deadline is approaching. Boyd and Hood are working on our application. The Burke funeral home has expressed a willingness to donate money to fix the front door. The Rip Van Dam owners have signed the storm sewer letter; the Adelphi hasn't yet. There is continued difficulty in finding a daycare operation to rent space in the NPH. Head Start may still be interested. Boyd is still trying to work out the tax status of the building, which will determine who we can afford to rent to.

Parish History: Agee reported that she and Shartle took the book designer on a tour of the church and she was very impressed with the beauty of our building. She seems like she'll be great to work with and will be working on mockups this week. In order to market the book, we need an ISBN and a barcode, which will cost about \$150. They are pursuing getting a copyright. The design process should be very fast because so much work has already been done. The book might possibly even be out in time for Christmas sales. Once Agee and Shartle have produced the physical book, their task will be done and the church will need to find someone who will be in charge of marketing and sales, etc.

Parish Life: Houde reported that church morale is not good. People are unhappy because of a lack of social gatherings (dinners, etc.). She will find out how much it would cost to rent a hall in which to have monthly potluck dinners.

New Business: Vang reported that, due to a personal situation, Claverie has had to delegate most of his property management work. There's been flooding in the basement and in the aisle. Griffin will see if he can come up with a better way to cover the window wells, which are the source of much of the flooding. New hymnals have arrived.

Henderson proposed creating a Blessing Box for outside the church and offered to figure out if City ordinances might prohibit this.

Boyd requested regular Home of the Good Shepherd reports to the vestry.

Berheide moved to approve the rector's expenses for the month. Boyd seconded the motion. All were in favor.

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