

Bethesda Episcopal Church
Saratoga Springs NY

Minutes: Vestry Meeting
Wednesday, February 24, 2016

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

Clergy
Dean Marshall J. Vang, Interim Rector
Peter Sweeney, Deacon

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 February 24, 2016 at the Parish House on Washington Street.

Devotions: Deacon Sweeney began the meeting with devotions.

Previous meeting minutes: Ms. Withington moved that minutes from the previous meeting be accepted, seconded by Ms. Limoli, unanimously approved.

Financial Report: Ms. Van Acker reported that pledge and plate are up \$8,900 vs. this time last year, possibly because of less inclement weather. Our diocesan payment has gone up by about \$2500 this year so far. Payroll expenses are higher because we had not yet hired an office administrator at this time last year. Total expenses are down by about \$1000. Ms. Withington moved to accept the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Ms. Limoli and passed unanimously.

Landon Moore Interview: See attached. After the interview, Ms. Henderson moved that the vestry approve Mr. Moore's candidacy for the priesthood. Mr. Boyd seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Parish house lease: Mr. Miller summarized the lease, which allows 6 designated parking spaces for Bethesda. Landlord will pay all taxes, water, heating, sewer, utilities, maintenance, including lawn care and snow/ice removal (retroactive to Jan 1). Mr. Miller will check with the landlords to see who is responsible for trash removal. There was discussion about requesting an extended lease (the current one runs through May 17, 2017) but it was concluded that having a deadline to finish work on the New Parish House might be beneficial, and we could always renegotiate the lease later. Landlord will make the banquet room above Starbucks available for programmed church functions. Landlord will accommodate program planned kitchen needs. Boyd moved to authorize Darren to execute the lease once he's received clarifications. Henderson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Vermin in church: Barbara got estimates for removal of squirrels from the church building. Orkin's was the most expensive but most comprehensive at \$5,192 with a 3 year warranty. Ms. Withington moved to hire Orkin, Mr. Claverie seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Ensley Property: Ms. Henderson reported that the closing on the Ensley property is officially scheduled for February 25th.

Deacon's Report: Deacon Sweeney reported that he will be leaving this summer in order to be closer to family. He is sorry to be leaving. He is still visiting Wesley and would like to get lay Eucharistic visitors in place.

Senior Warden's Report: Mr. Miller reported that some concerns had been raised about email security, but that investigation showed there to be no need to switch servers. Instead, we can password protect any individual emails that contain secure information.

Expenses: Mr. Miller moved that Dean Vang's expenses for the month be approved. Mr. Claverie seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Junior Warden's Report: Ms. Berheide reported that she and Ms. Henderson have been added as signatories on the checking account.

Building Committee/Capital Campaign: Mr. Boyd reported that the Building committee received a draft condition report (condition of church). Pledges have been coming in for the CC and he will be able to announce how much on Sunday. 100% of the Vestry has pledged. All advance gifts have been solicited and the rest of the congregation will be next. About 85 people have signed up for the reception.

Vestry restructuring: Mr. Miller reported that the nominating committee to replace Mr. Delbridge (who resigned) has not had a chance to meet yet but are compiling a list of candidates. Ms. Henderson urged for more 8:00 parishioners on vestry. Ms. Limoli will be taking over as head of Stewardship.

Home of the Good Shepherd: Ms. Withington Reported that HGS, as a 501(c)3 as hired a development consultant, who has recommended forming a foundation to do fundraising made up of non-current board members. The HGS board should have the vestry's approval to create a separate board for fundraising. Money raised by this foundation would be used to retain residents who have run out of money and also for training and education opportunities for the staff. The discussion was tabled pending more information.

Diocesan Convention: The convention will take place on June 10th and 11th. Ms. Manny, Ms. Henderson and Mr. Miller will attend on behalf of Bethesda. Ms. Berheide moved to accept the delegates, Mr. Boyd seconded, and all were in favor

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