

Bethesda Episcopal Church  
Saratoga Springs NY

Minutes: Vestry Meeting  
Wednesday, November 11, 2016

Vestry

Mark Claverie(excused)

Darren Miller

Mary Withington

Gordon Boyd

Catherine Berheide

Mark Griffin

Jane Agee

Geneva Henderson

Sara Manny

Denise Limoli

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 November 16, 2016 at the Parish House on Washington Street.

Devotions: Miller began the meeting with devotions.

Previous meeting minutes: Manny moved to accept the minutes, Miller seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Van Acker and Miller distributed a preliminary budget. Our budget is usually put together using current year income/expenses so far plus the last two months of the previous year. There was discussion about whether we can use some of the Weideman fund (which was intended for religious education) in order to help Landon pay for seminary. We will need to consult the trust documents to determine an answer to this question. This year Bethesda will be donating to Yale Divinity instead of Nashotah, which will continue as long as Landon's there. Our diocesan assessment's still higher than we would have hoped. Under our new lease, we no longer have to pay property taxes. Van Acker strongly recommended that we start investigating purchasing a rectory since property values are going up and the reserved rectory fund isn't earning much money. The preliminary draft of the 2017 budget is currently about \$51,000 in deficit. The vestry discussed how to compensate Barbara, possibly with a raise or a contribution to her pension. Van Acker is resigning as treasurer as of January.

Interim Rector's Report: Vang is having to move because he's no longer able to keep his dog in the current apartment. He is going to be moving to the Algonquin which is \$700 more a month. 16.5% of the diocesan budget is withheld from the national church and directed according to the vote of diocesan parishes. Berheide moved, Boyd seconded and all were in favor of directing this percentage of Bethesda's diocesan assessment to the national church.

*Building Fund/Capital Campaign:* Boyd got a proposal from Lamb studios for the protective glazing on the Washington St. side of the church. We'll be venting the windows to the interior of the church through the window frames. The hearing loop people also visited and will get back to us with a price soon. Boyd will be meeting with Belmont Childcare in the next few weeks. We will need to file an extension to our building plan approval with the City.

*Stewardship:* Limoli sent out fliers with 470 pledge cards and has gotten 28 pledges back. Miller's planning to speak in church about the importance of pledging. Limoli will send a follow up letter mid-December.

*Communications:* Henderson is working on the newsletter, and has finished the Burleigh brochure.

*Endowment Committee:* Miller moved, Boyd seconded and all were in favor that Vernon Hinkle be renewed for a second term on the endowment committee.

*Nominating Committee:* Berheide is going to put a slip of paper in the bulletin for people to suggest potential vestry members. Maybe Craig Walton for treasurer. Withington and Berheide will be joining Henderson and Griffin on the nominating committee (Miller is up for reelection and is not currently eligible to serve on this committee).

*Hospitality:* Manny has arranged to regain access to the Empire Room for coffee hour. More volunteers are needed to bring snacks.

*Home of the Good Shepherd:* The litigation started this week. Vang and Withington testified Monday. Cote testified Tuesday.

*Expenses:* Henderson moved to approve Vang's expenses for the month. Griffin seconded the motion and all were in favor.

*Fire Inspection:* We will need to install a key lock box by the entrance of the church so fire fighters could get in, if the building is on fire, without chopping the door down. We will need to perform a monthly check of the fire extinguishers and remove the bars on the basement exit and front door at least when people are in the church. We need CO detectors mounted outside of the boiler room and near the choir room in the basement. 2 junction boxes need covers and there should be labels on the doors in the basement. Mark Griffin will take care of these things. We will probably need an electrician to deal with the dangling wire outside of the church.

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