

Bethesda Episcopal Church  
Saratoga Springs NY

Minutes: Vestry Meeting  
Wednesday May 17, 2017

Vestry  
Mark Claverie  
Darren Miller  
Denise Limoli  
Gordon Boyd  
Catherine Berheide  
Mark Griffin  
Jane Agee  
Field Horne  
Sara Manny (excused)  
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 May 17, 2017 at the church on Washington Street.

Devotions: Henderson began the meeting with devotions.

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

Church School and Youth Fellowship: The children's corner in the back of the church has been very successful and seems to have encouraged some parents to return. We will need at least one but preferably two youth group coordinators by September.

Parish Staffing: New parish house will pose new hiring questions (for example, likely a sexton, a receptionist, a property manager and a cleaning service). No decisions were made on this matter but the vestry was asked to keep it in mind.

Parish Feedback on Senior Warden's Address: Parishioners have asked how much it would cost to restore a single window. Others have requested a written copy of Miller's address to the parish. Miller hopes to make regular statements to the parish during church, either monthly or every other week. Future statements should be much shorter, since they will not need to provide as much background information.

Interim Rector's Report: Dean Vang is very happy with how the historic homes tour was received in the community and is looking forward to the Sacred Spaces tour next Saturday. The historic homes tour gave us fantastic visibility in the community. Sheetrock is in at the rectory.

Treasurer's Report: Pledge and Plate are above budget due to a few large donations and a strong Easter. Expenses are also high, due to the purchase of a piano (but that's a T. Parke music fund expense so it doesn't come out of our operating budget). Total income is slightly ahead of budget. Office supplies, program expenses and building expenses are higher than budgeted. Despite high income in April, May Pledge and Plate is averaging about \$2,500 for the first three weeks. We need closer to \$4,000 to meet our budget. We also incurred \$1,880 of unexpected boiler repairs this month. We now have PayPal on the website for donations. Henderson moved to accept the treasurer's report, Claverie seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Stewardship: Limoli sent an article to Henderson for the upcoming newsletter but will adapt it based on information just provided in the treasurer's report. She wants to create a visual chart showing income that can be posted on the bulletin board. Limoli is arranging for greeters to volunteer before and after each mass. It would be a good idea for ushers to have name tags and to give them guidance for how to help newcomers navigate the service.

Building Committee: Boyd met with Bonacio to plan raising additional \$1.7 million in funds. They are developing a donor brochure for potential major donors. About \$200,000 from current endowments can be applied to building expenses. Victory Childcare is giving tenancy in NPH very serious consideration. Insurance on the new building would be about \$3,000/yr. Boyd spoke to the Commissioner of Accounts who thinks the whole building will be taxable even if we're renting to non-profits. Going to investigate further. Still working on storm sewer agreement: Rip Van Dam is sounding positive about it; Adelphi is less so because they haven't started thinking about approaching the city yet. Boyd would like to hold off on publishing the Parish History until we break ground because there will be new people to thank. He has created a brochure to advertise rentable space.

Property Management: Claverie reported that we are close to getting out of 41 Washington. We still need to get our snowblower back so we can sell it. He has created a "repairs" email list for pointing out (or volunteering to fix) things that need to be repaired in the church.

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

New Business: Horne has started looking for an alternate site for the summer party. The reading room could host on 7/31 but is considerably more expensive. The general feeling was in favor of remaining at the Golf and Polo club since it's more affordable.

Boyd suggested proposing to the Home of the Good Shepherd that we supply an official (paid, part-time) chaplain. This might aid with the cost of hiring a new rector.

Closing: Griffin moved to adjourn the meeting. Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously.