

Bethesda Episcopal Church
Saratoga Springs NY

Minutes: Vestry Meeting
Wednesday September 20, 2017

Vestry
Mark Claverie
Darren Miller (excused)
Steven Rucker
Gordon Boyd
Catherine Berheide
Mark Griffin
Jane Agee (excused)
Field Horne
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 September 20, 2017 at Pam Houde's house.

Devotions: Manny began the meeting with devotions.

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

Interim Rector's Report: Seven children signed up for the First Communion classes and, of these, five appeared for the first class. The Diocesan Convention on June 9 will feature the presiding bishop at Camp of the Woods. There has been a call for members of diocesan choirs to sing at the convention. Vestries are expected to attend the worship service at the convention. Vang is now fully moved into the Rectory.

Wardens' Report: The wardens are continuing to investigate what's involved in finding a new rector. Will need \$30,000 additional income for the stipend alone. All together about \$50-60,000 more per year than we're currently spending on Vang. We need to be transparent with congregation about this during the stewardship campaign for next year. Miller has revised the rectory covenant. Beth Strickland has provided a list of steps for the rector search; the first step is for the whole vestry to meet with her. The search process itself is going to cost \$15-25,000. Boyd suggested asking for a one-time gift during the stewardship campaign. The process can take 1-2 years.

Treasurer's Report: SEE ATTACHED

Stewardship Report: Pledging amount has been fairly steady over the last three years, but amount received (unpledged) has gone up. Most pledges are less than \$100/month and that's been

holding fairly steady over the last three years. Need a 53% increase in pledge and plate to reach \$300,000/year (which is what we need to hire a new rector).

Building Committee: Bonaccio sent architectural drawings out to subcontractors for tentative bids. They're coming in about \$3 million more than we'd hoped. Working on bringing that figure down but the recent hurricanes have raised prices of building materials. We need further value engineering. Bringing in a construction manager has changed our relationship with the Waite firm. We'll need to reexamine that. Possibility of working with Code Blue if their planned building on Walworth St. falls through. Sentiment in vestry was largely in favor of further investigating this possibility.

Rectory Open House: Houde has organized food and punch. Boyd volunteered a punch bowl. Vestry folk should wear name-tags.

Parish Life: Houde is going to talk to the HGS board about doing a potluck there. She has been sending notes to people who have visited and is working on name-tags.

New Business: Blessing of the animals going to be October 7. Gordon suggested doing something to reach out to people who care for animals (vets, etc).

Rector's Expenses: Berheide 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. Manny seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Subsequent meetings will be held at the Rectory.