

Bethesda Episcopal Church
Saratoga Springs NY

Minutes: Vestry Meeting
Wednesday November 15, 2017

Vestry
Mark Claverie (excused)
Darren Miller
Steven Rucker
Gordon Boyd
Catherine Berheide
Mark Griffin
Jane Agee
Field Horne
Sara Manny
Mayumi 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 November 15, 2017 at Skidmore College.

Devotions: Miller began the meeting with devotions.

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

Home of the Good Shepherd: Mary Withington attended the meeting in her position as president of the board of directors of HGS and discussed its current status. Malta and Moreau locations especially are providing a good deal of charitable care. Unfortunately Moreau and Malta locations have been added to the property tax rolls. HGS is appealing the court decision but has had to raise rates in those locations. Its board hopes that the appeal succeeds and rates can again be lowered, as the higher rates are a burden on the residents and their families. On a positive note, the new memory care unit at 390 Church is already full.

Interim Rector's Report: Vang has appointed Shannon Horan to run the youth group program. She volunteered and will be an excellent asset. Pledge cards are starting to come in. Preliminary figure for 2018 assessment is \$36,532 which is about \$15,000 less than last year. Boyd moved to continue our policy of sending our 16.5% assessment turn-in to the National Church, Henderson seconded, all in favor.

Wardens' Report: Miller: Nominating committee (made up of those moving off the vestry) will meet on Sunday at 1 PM in the church office. There are 5 vacancies to be filled. So far 4 names have been submitted. Still trying to meet with Wilton assessor to get the rectory removed from the property tax rolls.

Berheide: Solenski has ordered the advent wreath and trees for Christmas decorations. Since Christmas Eve is on a Sunday, decorating will have to happen the week before. Still need to sort out flower donations (what to do when no flowers are donated, or when two sets donate) and arrange for leftover flowers to go to people who can't come to church. Contract for copy machine is up Dec 1. Our current vendor and diocese's vendor came in at exactly the same price. Current vendor will now cover color copies and assess quarterly rather than monthly. Berheide moved to authorize Vang to sign the five year contract with Electronic Office Products, Boyd seconded. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: See attached. Horne moved, Rucker seconded, all in favor

Building Committee: The building committee is meeting with architects and construction managers to review construction expenses. Current (tentative) plan is to have Bonacio solicit bids and then have Waite firm check in with their estimators but Boyd will need to meet with them to discuss.

Parish Life: Houde is investigating doing a parish supper hopefully in early January. She emphasized how important it is to find volunteers to arrange for transportation for those parishioners who can't drive after dark so everyone who wants to can come.

Rector's Search: The preliminary meeting with Beth Strickland was informative and detailed the search process. The vestry will need to elect a head of, and a chaplain for, the search committee. There are certain concerns regarding our disagreement with the bishop and how it may interfere with calling a new rector. The bishop would like to meet with the vestry to discuss. Preparing to send out a survey (but need to create the survey first).

Rector's Expenses: Miller 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. Horne seconded the motion which passed unanimously.