

Bethesda Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2018

I. Call to order

Dean Vang called to order the regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry at 7:05pm on June 20, 2018 at 208 Tisch, Skidmore College.

II. Devotions

Field Horne offered devotions

III. Minutes

Dean Vang appointed Ann C. Bullock Clerk, pro tem; Minutes of the Vestry meeting of May 16, 2018, were considered. F. Horne moved their acceptance; M. McDonald seconded; unanimously approved.

IV. Open issues

- a) Interim Rector's Report: Father Evans' Fiftieth anniversary of ordination: Father Vang reported that the church will hold a potluck supper on Friday, June 22, in honor of Fr. Evans' anniversary. P. Houde reported that 47 guests have signed up to attend dinner. Still time to sign up, Dinner in First Baptist Church hall

Mass on Sunday, June 24, 2018 (10am): a solemn feast in observance of Fr. Evans' anniversary ordination

Christian Education: Dean Vang reported that First Baptist Church has few children in Sunday School, as do we. Suggestion that the churches combine classes with two age-appropriate classes, having one teacher from First Baptist and one, from Bethesda, to be held in their basement.

Discussion of safety issue arising from crossing Washington Ave. Parents may walk their children to class. Discussion of mid-week Sunday School classes. Dean Vang reported that First Holy Communion Classes will be held on Wednesdays.

Vacation Bible School will be at Christ Church, Ballston Spa—a very large, popular program

- b) Senior Warden's Report: In the absence of the Senior Warden, Dean Vang reported on Diocesan Convention, attended by some 800 people. (Approximately 500 attended in 2017) Elections held Friday evening and brief business meeting on Saturday of Convention. Attendance likely attributable to Bishop Curry's presence, along with bishops from African and Ireland, among

others. Bp Curry spoke twice, affirming his support of Bishop Love as a fellow-cleric. P. Houde reported that the service was very moving.

Bp Love did not raise any issues concerning General Convention in Texas in July. Dean Vang reported that there will likely be a move to amend the Book of Common Prayer to include same-sex marriage; however, the expense of publishing a new prayer book will likely prevent its actual production. While the Episcopal Church is growing in the South and Southwest, it is not growing in the East and not growing over-all.

Parish History: publication date delayed as the bankruptcy filing of the prior publisher required a new publisher to produce the volumes. The prior publisher had our \$5500 deposit, some of which will likely be lost. The preparation done by the prior publisher is being sent to the new publisher which will save some time and money. Mary Shartle and Jane Agee are not being paid for their time as writers/editors. Income from sales of the book will be dedicated to an archive in the New Parish House.

- c) Building Committee: Gordon Boyd joined the meeting to report that the Lamb Studios will remove another of the stained-glass windows to refurbish, re-glaze and replace it.

Plans for the front door are being considered: Architect Shannon Brown suggests a re-design of the front doors to allow them to swing out and installation of shatter-proof glass doors to open the church to the street and make it more inviting.

Grant applications are in process

New Parish House update: G. Boyd met with Paul Feldman, Saratoga Springs Housing Authority Executive Director, who encouraged the direction of the NPH, including the dovetail of CodeBlue and BEST/backstretch housing. Mayor Kelly still waiting for a report on 2017-18 season of Shelters/CodeBlue; supportive of our efforts. Groups including AA, BEST, Veterans and Community Housing Coalition and Transitional Services are supportive and starting to think about configuration to accommodate needs. A breakfast meeting is planned between Building Committee reps, architect and reps of community groups to determine possible configurations and seek letters of intent to begin to fundraise. BEST willing to support fund-raising within the racing community. Grant funding may be available for some construction, rental and support costs

- d) Treasurer's report: J. Van Der Veer presented the report. P&P was a little under for the period Jan through May, but expenses were much higher, on account of the audit which was over \$13k. Some unexpected repair expenses arose as well. We are currently solvent only because we haven't yet paid the diocesan assessment in full and Elaine Leach has not paid herself (owed \$4000+/-) Darren and Kate to cut a check to Elaine. John and Jami to investigate cheaper audit options. Canons require annual audits; Diocesan Treasurer may be able to assist in finding alternative service.

e) **Commission Reports:**

Communications: F. Horne reported that the next newsletter will go out in the Fall; submissions due August 1st.

Parish Life: M. MacDonald; P. Houde and D. Harper head the summer Garden Party. Invitations will be hand addressed and will offer 2 options: \$125/single; \$240/two admissions. New income will support new front doors. Burke Funeral Home will also donate toward new front doors.

Property Management: S. Rucker reported that Parish clean-up day resulted in progress in the basement and court-yard. A leak in the sanctuary was fixed. Scrap metal removed and sold for \$70. F. Horne observed that organ pieces in the basement may be from Spencer Trask's donation and may be valuable. Architect and F. Goehring should be consulted before removal.

Stewardship: S. Manny reported that giving must be increased to support new rector. As pledging was increased to support the NPH, parish must be encouraged to pledge their commitment. Parish and Vestry needs to communicate and work together. J. Piraino suggested a drive for membership as well a giving. The parish banner was not available for Convention: should be ready soon per Dean Vang.

V. New business

- a) Railings: P. Houde requested consideration of installation of hand-railings on steps. Discussion of the importance of the rood screen and permanence vs. removability of railings. Dean Vang reported that the architect is concerned that a railing may detract from the design of the rood screen. Spirited discussion of the importance of safety of the parish when approaching the altar vs. architectural/historical considerations.
- b) Rector's Expenses: S. Manny moved the acceptance of the rector's expenses for May; F. Horne, second. Approved unanimously.
- c) Dean Vang encouraged circulation of reports in advance of Vestry meetings in an effort to expedite discussion and keep meetings brief.

VI. Adjournment

Dean Vang adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann C. Bullock, Secretary, pro tem.