

Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting

March 20, 2019 Skidmore College

Attendance: Dean Marshall J. Vang, Interim Rector
Darren Miller, Senior Warden
Kate Berheide, Junior Warden
John Van der Veer, Treasurer
Field Horne
Pam Houde
John Huppuch
Marcia MacDonald
Sarah Manny
Steven Rucker
Ann Bullock, Clerk

Opening

The regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting was called to order at 7:02pm on March 20, 2019, in Room 208, Tisch Building, Skidmore College by Fr. Vang.

Devotions:

Jr Warden C. Berheide offered devotions.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of February 28, 2019, were unanimously approved (F. Horne, movant; J. Huppuch, second)

Rector's Report:

Bp Love matter continues; Deanery met and there appears to be dissention
Church Development website notes that Albany Diocese is behind in payment of annual assessments (national).

Saratoga clergy met last week; discussion of SOS and Code Blue Number of homeless in City has increased significantly with no plan in place to address. Mayor has asked SOS to address clergy next month with a plan for helping chronically homeless;

Income tax: new tax preparations for clergy reduce the deductions. Recommendation that clergy NOT live in church-provided housing. Housing allowances are preferable to allow for clergy ownership of the home and tax deduction. (John V suggests sale of rectory to incoming Rector or sale of rectory may allow funds for mortgage)

Churchwarden's Report:

Senior Warden: D. Miller

Mercy House: expect letter of intent for rental from County for housing of homeless persons. Transition Services' may also fill spaces. Occupancy is looking sufficient. Gordon is

speaking with neighboring owners and getting positive feedback. Marcia McD noted that T. Foster at UPH will not meet with Gordon; we are protected by First Am and RILUPA—zoning is in our favor.

Junior Warden: C. Berheide

Elaine has asked to update Quickbooks: auditors want updated edition and to allow for management of Mercy House (cost \$379)

Roof: another leak appeared; Cost \$900 to fix this issue. Work authorized as there were funds left from the prior repair figures.

Search: telephone calls finished; will formulate questions for references. Expect visits in May. Discussion of visit protocol, including meeting with candidate. Position is advertised through March. Recommendation that inexperienced candidate be eliminated from the pool.

Treasurer's Report: J. Vander Veer:

P&P continues generally OK; expenses below budget and well below 2018.

We are generally very close to budget—both income and expenses for Jan -Feb 2019

Credit from diocese in January 2019 for overpayment one month in 2018

Aging: very close to up-to-date. One old charge from Verizon (July 2018) unpaid from cancellation of phone contract and some bills from end-Feb. Audit bill from Jan generally paid over time

No updates on pledging

P. Houde mentioned hearing some complaints about the envelopes this year: may be able to consider offering a choice of getting envelopes or not in future.

Rent: Baptist church is asking for a ten (10%) percent increase to \$330. John met with Jeff Seagrave from the Baptist Church to discuss our objections to this amount. Continuing concerns over individuals

Seminarian fund: no envelope for this contribution. Parish contributed most of funds needed for Landon's last semester. Vestry agreed to make up small difference from budget funds.

Motion to approve treasurer's report (F Horne; J Huppuch, second) unanimously approved

Motion to approve rector's expenses: D. Miller; S. Manny second; approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: S. Manny:

None

Parish Life: P. Houde:

Office provides names of new members

Need to finish nametags and find a display rack. Field and Tom Remington may have suggestions for how better to display them. Vestry is reminded to wear their nametags.

Next event: champagne reception following Easter Vigil: D Harper will provide refreshments

Evensong May 5, 2019; D Harper will provide refreshments

Property Management: S Rucker:

Ark Griffin is building a new stand for the creche
April 27 work day 9am clean out basement and subdue the back yard,
Rectory will need some work: lawn care/ re-seeding and chimney cleaning

Christian Education: S Manny:

none

Communications: F. Horne:

none

Continuing Business:

None

New Business:

Jamie Piraino likely to resign from Vestry.

Tom Remington wishes to serve on the Board of Mercy House. Suggests Paul Milton as a new Vestry member.

S Rucker suggested Parish be advised of the vacancy/vacancies by publication in bulletin.

Blessing and Adjournment

Blessing by Dean Vang

Meeting was adjourned by motion of F. Horne, M McDonald, second at 8:05pm

Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ann Bullock, Clerk