

## **Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting**

**October 16, 2019** 96 Ballston Avenue, Saratoga Springs

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

### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm on October 16, 2019, at the offices of the Church at 96 Ballston Avenue, by Fr. Vang.

### **Devotions:**

Ann Bullock offered devotions.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of September 18, 2019, were unanimously approved. (F. Horne, movant; D. Miller, second)

### **Interim Rector's Report:**

Brass items have been sent to Chicago for repair and brass work: Candlesticks, censor and boat. Next pair on altar to go as soon as the present work is complete. All hopefully to be done by Christmas.

Homes of the Good Shepherd: Good participation at services at in-city facilities (good activity directors). Wilton does not get very good attendance and the number of services has been reduced to twice a month—Old Catholic priest is the director and sees to it that there are services.

Boys and more boys: Baptisms and Confirmation class are all boys.

Preaching conference in conjunction with Deanery meeting. Dean Vang cannot attend as it conflicts with Home of Good Shepherd service.

No news on Bp Love: More churches are not paying their assessments and the diocese is struggling.

**Churchwarden's Report:**

**Senior Warden:** D. Miller

Mercy House: Letters of Intent now signed with potential tenants will be needed for financing. G Boyd and D. Miller have met with several potential tenants who are committed. There is a possible expedited process to get city approval of the building permit. Commissioners Scirocco and Franck are supportive. Funding is getting closer: can break ground and start the project without more financing. Meeting intended in the next weeks with the Mayor and City attorney for early November. G Boyd is meeting with CREATE to seek their input into their needs for the choir room.

Update to parish this week regarding the status of Mercy House. Nov 2 potluck dinner to cover questions not already addressed. Sole topic will be the Parish House. Requests for Qualifications are out for possible general contractors. Looking for resolution authorizing an RFP tonight, to allow D. Miller to sign contracts with lowest bidder. Meeting with architect next week to update all plans. Nov 2 meeting intended to cover questions—perhaps cards on tables to allow folks to write their questions. Offer the opportunity for attendees to speak. Intention is to facilitate engagement as openly and completely as possible.

Motion to authorize RFP as amended (movant, D. Miller; second, K. Berheide; unanimous approval)

Motion to approve rector's expenses: F. Horne, Movant; S. Rucker, second; approved unanimously.

**Junior Warden:** C. Berheide

Search Process: Candidate has been identified by Bishop and will be contacted through the Office for Transitional Ministry. Will let the parish know at warden's reports on Sunday.

**Treasurer's Report:** J. Vander Veer:

J. VanderVeer sent report with financials. P&P is doing well this year. Sept P&P above budget. Expenses are below budget—in part, on account of our budgeting for having a permanent rector this year. Diocesan assessment aging will be reduced and all bills now paid. All contributions to pensions are up to date now too. P&L above last year—contributions are running higher and expenses are below budget and last year. Building expenses are lower this year: there are, however, building expenses which are being deferred right now and will need to be addressed.

YTD P&P and expenses are better than budget now. OnCall Plumbing has been at church this week (addressing the heat) which will be billed.

Sept 1 Diocesan assessment is due—new assessment is a bit higher for 2020 (not a huge increase) based on church financial strength.

Financial strength of the church is not evident based on attendance Dean Vang observed.

Stewardship statements sent and some pledges have already been returned. M Shartle spoke last week; D. Miller speaks this week and M. Withington approached to talk about stewardship.

**Committee Reports:****Christian Education:** S Manny:

Five older children (age 2 to 11) Corrinna Stampalia much happier to be staying in the Church.

All Saints day presentation during coffee hour.

The pastor of the Baptist Church doesn't quite understand why we are not there any longer.

Dean Vang has talked with the pastor.

**Parish Life:** P Houde:

Dinner Nov 2 at Baptist Church

Name tags: some question their usefulness. Some members prefer not to wear them in church.

Bring them to dinner. The pole and lanyards were a gift from G. Boyd

**Property Management:** S Rucker:

Work day on Sat at 9am. Mostly intended to clean up courtyard. Loading trucks with underbrush and some stuff from the undercroft. Not much inside work intended.

Need new card tables as the ones in the back are in poor condition. M. Griffin is getting new tables.

OnCall said that the boiler should not be turned off. That is harmful to the boiler. Request Farrell not to turn off the boiler. What can he do instead—is it an issue of keeping the organ in tune? Suggest that the church generally be kept at a lower temperature. Install a programmable thermostat. S. Rucker and M. Griffin will look into this.

Mold report: issue may be addressed in part through repairs to the roof. Recommend that people wear masks if they are going into the undercroft.

**Stewardship:** see above:**Continuing Business:**

West Doors Project: F. Horne:

Instructions about wood door given two weeks ago and the flag poles are to be started. Not planning to install railings on account of expense. New keys for inner doors will be made. Glass doors will be lockable. Deadline is Advent I: Dec 1 if at all possible.

Dean Vang will be seeking Burke contribution in order to complete the project as anticipated.

We may designate the railing as the purpose of the 2020 building party

**New Business:** none

P. Houde: Altar Guild: need greater commitment to altar guild membership. Mary Withington and Christine Miller are covering much of it without any other relief. Suggestion that there be a table at the back to recruit and answer questions.

F. Horne: Draft of a welcome brochure to be given to those in attendance at the SPAC events in December. We can do this in-house to save money. Make sure that history is in the back of the church for concerts.

**Blessing and Adjournment**

Blessing by Fr. Vang

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm by motion of M. MacDonald; second, by S. Manny.

Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ann Bullock, Clerk