

Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting
April 15, 2020
ZOOM meeting necessitated by the COVID-19 emergency

Attendance (by ZOOM or telephone as noted):

Dean Marshall J. Vang, Interim Rector (by telephone)
Darren Miller, Senior Warden
Kate Berheide, Junior Warden
Sarah Manny, Treasurer
Karen Finkbeiner
Pam Houde
Field Horne
John Huppuch and Boomer
Marcia MacDonald
Steven Rucker
John Van der Veer
David Wilder
Ann Bullock, Clerk

Opening

The regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting was called to order 7:06pm on April 15, 202, by Dean Vang.

Devotions:

Senior Warden D Miller offered devotions.

Approval of Minutes

The notes of the Vestry meeting of February 19, 2020, were unanimously approved as corrected. (D. Miller, movant; F. Horne , second)

Interim Rector's Report:

Dean Vang sent an email to Vestry. Bp Love's hearing will be a conference call on April 21 (Tuesday) there may be a possibility to listen to us.

New directory is in process: far more accurate than even last month. It is very necessary in the present emergency.

Diocesan convention is being postponed. It will be just a Saturday and NOT at Camp of the Woods. Senior and Junior Wardens will attend—but it has not been re-scheduled which makes planning a challenge, Steve Rucker also volunteers to attend as delegate. John Van der Veer; Dave Wilder; Ann Bullock, alternates.

The Holy Week/Easter videos were a great success. LookTV is willing to do another video (\$650 for a four-week segment) to be done in another recording session. D. Miller moved to fund the cost of this video, D. Wilder, second. D Berheide asked if we could do five sessions. D Miller said LookTV would come back to do another taping to bring this through the end of May and into June. K Finkbeiner suggested we contract for taping for eight weeks—at (\$1300) Motion to engage Look TV for four sessions to cover April 26 to end May. Darren amended his motion; D. Wilder seconded: to extend to two taping sessions covering eight weeks at \$1300. The previous sessions are posted in multiple platforms. Each session was just ten to twelve minutes or so, which has proved very attractive to the audience. There have been 184 views of Palm Sunday's session; 67, Maundy Thurs; 69, Good Friday; 110, Easter. Unanimously approved that the motion be amended; unanimous approval of eight-week session.

Commented [AB1]:

Kyrie Eleison: Dean Vang will continue to do these through the end of May, when he finishes his parish responsibilities.

Commented [AB2]:

Father Scott will be in pulpit as of beginning of June and would do one service in July. We may need to have lay readers do services in July.

Service sheets are on the website: do readers know to look for this? Karen F will see if there is a way to determine how much interaction we have with the website and the bulletins specifically. Kyrie Eleison and Vestry messages should reflect the bulletins and direct people to the website,

Dean Vang wants to be sure that someone is covering the homes of the Good Shepherd; Prestwick Chase; Wesley and Saratoga Hospital. In the past, one person assists with services at Homes of Good Shepherd. Dean Vang goes to Prestwick Chase because we have several members there and no chaplain. There is an Episcopal chaplain at the Hospital and a chaplain at Wesley who occasionally serves. The present emergency has prohibited Dean Vang from going into any of these places: Dean Vang now calls the residents; Kate asked for the names of these residents for parish to call in place of LEV members.

Dean Vang prefers to back away from Vestry involvement for the duration of his tenure to focus on the pastoral needs in this emergency. The last communication puts the end of quarantine at the end of April; other dioceses are extending as far as June 30. Expected that we will follow what the Governor requires.

Churchwardens' Report:

Senior Warden: D. Miller

Mercy House has applied for ESD approval of the project as essential since it includes low-income housing. Rep. Carrie Woerner is working on getting written approval. The City is slowed, so the project is moving very slowly. The donor is still committed to the project, although the sale of the business on which the gift relies is slowed.

Bethesda approved for \$23,685.02 for Payroll Protection loan. Covers Barbara, Farrell and Elaine and Dean Vang, including salaries, benefits, etc. Loan amount is based on 2.5 times monthly payroll. Will pay utilities as well. P Houde suggested that we keep paying Mandy for cleaning. She is doing a lot of extra work that she hadn't had time for

Junior Warden: C. Berheide

Father Wallace: D. Miller had a FaceTime call with Father Wallace last week. He is planning to begin his return to the US. Time in Switzerland is finished, and he will be going through UK en route to see family and get paperwork for his travel. Upon his return, date unknown, D. Miller offered to have him move into the Rectory and pay only utilities whenever he arrives. Looking forward to joining us in August.

Communication is key now. Diane Robinson hasn't the time to keep up the Constant Contact. We will really need a communication director: cover Facebook, Instagram, email, YouTube, website, etc. Need Vestry member to chair a communications committee: Karen suggested that we think of this in phases and look for a committee for short-term. Marketing is just good communications. Karen would be on committee; ask Genna Henderson, Gordon Boyd and, maybe, Lucas Manny for some tech support questions.

Ann Bullock to re-send the Vestry greeting to K. Finkbeiner. Virtual coffee hour has not gotten a significant response. Vestry message to mention it and a targeted coffee hour message on Friday. Don't put notice on public forum for security. Allow it to grow and see how it goes over time.

Motion to approve rector's expenses: D. Miller, Movant; K. Berheide, second; approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: S. Manny:

S Manny sent report with Easter week giving of \$7150 to date. Counting done each Wednesday; total giving \$21123 for March. This seems quite good, but an actual comparison hasn't been completed. We don't have a Profit/Loss report yet. (For comparison: April 2019 income was \$24034.)

Even without the Paycheck Protection loan, all bills are covered presently.

P. Houde counted today and envelopes are still coming for Easter and Palm Sunday giving. Not sure that giving going forward will be so robust.

Budget: Will need to revisit the budget given the present emergency. May need to re-plan based on anticipated giving.

Kate asked about income figures that we estimated in December 2019—don't reflect the change in circumstances. Is concerned about the figures going forward: does the Paycheck protection loan cover the kinds of losses that we experienced, especially during Holy Week. Dave Wilder reminded us that the deficit that we have experienced in the past, is likely to increase when Fr Wallace arrives. We are projected to be (\$35k) this year once we have a new rector.

Also, there is reduced income from cancelled weddings and funerals that do not take place. Difficult to work out a budget by email only.

Motion to approve the budget tabled to allow for update of the budget in the present emergency.

Dean Vang reminded all that the Garden Party is booked at Golf and Polo for the last Tuesday in July. D Miller suggested that this be delayed into August to allow for Fr. Wallace to be part of it if Golf and Polo will permit

Commission Reports:

Continuing Business:

West Doors Project: F. Horne: In abeyance during the present emergency. P Houde picks up the flags April 16 so that they can be installed when safe.

Newsletter: Likely in July to coincide with arrival of new rector. I

New Business: none

Next meeting: May 20, 2020

Blessing and Adjournment

Blessing by Fr. Vang

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ann C. Bullock, Clerk