

**Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting**  
**May 20, 2020**  
**Via Zoom necessitated by the COVID-19 emergency**

**Attendance:** Darren Miller, Senior Warden  
Kate Berheide, Junior Warden  
Sarah Manny, Treasurer  
Karen Finkbeiner  
Pam Houde  
John Huppuch and Boomer  
Field Horne  
Marcia MacDonald  
Steven Rucker  
John Van der Veer  
David Wilder  
Ann Bullock, Clerk

**Absent:** none

**Opening**

The regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting was called to order at on May 20, 2020, at the offices of the Church at 96 Ballston Avenue, by Sr. Warden D. Miller

**Devotions:**

John Huppuch offered devotions.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of April 15, 2020, were unanimously approved as corrected. (D.Wilder, movant; K. Finkbeiner, second)

**Churchwardens' Report:**

**Senior Warden:** D. Miller

New Parish House:

Moving forward to get permits to be able to dig test pits and break ground.

Mission proposal:

Volunteer food or clothing drive to deliver to EOC or Salvation Army. M. MacDonald observed that clothing may not be welcome now. F. Horne suggested we offer canned goods. D. Miller said we will reach out to proposed donee and see what they need. M. MacDonald said that the YMCA had a drive-in food drive: cars drove in and dropped off food. D. Wilder suggested that we find a parking lot to do this. Could do it in front of the church without parking.

We are within weeks of downtown businesses opening. Is this a doable project?

M MacDonald suggested that Chamber of Commerce might know other local drives.  
P. Houde asked if anyone in the parish is in need. M. MacDonald is dropping off food to Senior Center every week. D. Miller will reach out to EOC to see what they need.  
J. Huppuch, S. Rucker, M. MacDonald, P Houde and A Bullock volunteer in organizing or working on a food drive

Sunday (Morning Prayer) videos:

D. Miller, K. Berheide, D. Wilder and Bob Bullock can do Morning Prayer if needed, but Fr. Moore is willing to do Sunday services including a homily through the months of June and July. Expected to go back to NYC in early July. He could pre-tape services bringing us to the end of July.

Motion: K Finkbeiner; J Huppuch: proceed with six more taped services with Look TV.  
Unanimously approved.

Further discussion: D. Wilder noted that Gov Cuomo is considering “drive-in” services. Can we use the parking lot for such a service? K Berheide said that there is a church in the county that is doing drive-in services in their parking lot. They are doing an unshared Eucharist.

Bp Love had a meeting concerning reopening. He suggests that churches would be in the last phase of reopening (ie., early July if all goes well) Landon would be gone by then and Fr. Scott can only give one week in July. Bp will set parameters for occupancy based on the Governor’s guidelines. Eg., hand sanitizer by an usher on entry and before communion. Usher would have to seat parishioners; how would we take communion? All would be masked, etc. Would we have just one service on a Sunday to avoid cleaning between services?

Deeper question: would people even want to come to the church?  
Don’t need to do video services if we are open and have a priest –except that those who most want to come in are those who most should not. Offer videos through July to encourage people to stay home.

S. Rucker suggests that, if we can re-open and if we use social distance, sanitizer, masks, etc., we do not expose parishioners to significant risk.

Audit report:

No major findings. Minor: Some re-classed items, eg. based on accounting standards. D. Wilder had a couple of questions and will discuss with D. Miller before the audit report is signed.

Giving report will be sent including acknowledgement that giving is challenging now and thanking those who can continue to give.

Columbarium research team: D. Wilder and J Van der Veer will work on this.

M MacDonald and P. Houde have talked with a parishioner who is concerned that there may be art, rugs, vestments, etc that belong to the Church—should stay with the Church. Presently some things are stored in the basement of the present Rectory; stained glass windows from the Parish House are stored by Lamb. Pianos and art are stored. Vestments are at the church

except those that belong to Dean Vang. D. Miller and K Berheide will address this with the parishioner directly; recommend in writing.

**Junior Warden:** C. Berheide

Priest in charge update:

“The Eagle has landed.” Fr. Wallace is in residence. Many thanks to P.Houde for preparing a welcome basket, including paper products(!). Boyds met Fr. Wallace at the Rectory last weekend.

Dean Vang spoke with D. Miller concerning a farewell event: he would prefer to do an in-person event. He is going to be in the area; maybe we will be able to have a gathering in the fall. D. Miller will be at the office on May 31 to present Dean Vang the parish memory book as part of the coffee hour. Attend May 31 coffee hour to celebrate. Memory book contributions due next week.

Dean Vang could come to our June Vestry meeting to give a wrap-up event.

All plans are based on the re-opening guidelines.

Would hope to introduce Fr. Wallace at some point this summer; but it may be fall before we can meet again.

D Wilder indicated that Fr. Evans should be celebrated too. Not sure what his plans will be as he recovers. M MacDonald is bringing him a casserole 5/21/2020; will discuss as possible.

Need an “emergency priest” in the event of a parish emergency. If Fr. Moore is serving in that role and is doing six videos, he should be compensated. He has done the videos thus far gratis. K. Berheide has researched the usual compensation for a supply priest: we expected to pay a supply priest for two months. Videos are less time, but if he was called on to serve as an emergency priest he will be paid.

Motion to pay Fr. Landon \$200 for videos and pay per emergency response, as needed. D. Miller, movant; J Huppuch, second. Passed unanimously.

Mission project at Home of the Good Shepherd:

Fr. Vang was putting together a list of those whom he visits at HGS, Wesley, etc. D. Wilder, Virginia McMorris, K Finkbeiner will do a brief Zoom for those interested as Lay Eucharistic Visitors beginning Thursday May 28.

**Commission Reports:**

**Communications:** F. Horne:

Newsletter: waiting for the right time. Fr. Wallace arrives Aug 1 and F. Horne plans to have something to go before the end of July, including a bio; info concerning the NPH, west doors, etc.

**Electronic Communications:** K. Finkbeiner:

Website is being cleaned up between K. Feinbeiner and Diane Robinson. Our Vestry letters are going out weekly.

**Continuing Business:**

West Doors Project: F. Horne:

Still in progress. Inner doors are to be finished soon. But the flag poles are a challenge as the electrical work needs to be done.

The door on the ground floor has been broken and will not lock. Need a new locking mechanism. There is a temporary fix in place.

D Miller moved that F. Horne will get Mangione locksmith to address this, seconded by K.Finkbeiner. Approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report: Financial update and revised 2020 Budget:** S. Manny and J. Van der Veer:

S Manny sent report showing April P&P was \$6k over budget while expenses were below budget. Year to date we are ahead of budget for giving. Some expenses YTD were above budget, but overall net revenue is ahead of budget. We are not as flush as 2019—but there is a pandemic.

Aging detail: Diocesan assessment is behind presently, but other expenses are up to date.

Proctor bequest: We have a balance due on the audit report (\$3100) and the diocesan assessment (\$6400). Motion that we spend about \$9000 of the bequest money and put balance in the GenWorth account (D. Miller, movant; F. Horne, second.) Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report (D. Miller, movant; M. MacDonald second) passed unanimously. (J Huppuch and D Wilder by proxy held by D Miller)

**New Business:** none

**Next meeting: June 17, 2020**

**Blessing and Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned by motion of M MacDonald, second , F. Horne ; Passed unanimously at 8:49pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ann C. Bullock, Clerk