

**Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting
January 20, 2021
Church office and ZOOM, Saratoga Springs**

Attendance: Fr. Charles Wallace, Priest in Charge
Darren Miller, Senior Warden
Kate Berheide, Junior Warden via Zoom
Sara Manny, Treasurer
Karen Finkbeiner via Zoom
Pam Houde
Field Horne via Zoom
Steven Rucker via Zoom
John Van der Veer via Zoom
David Wilder via Zoom
Ann Bullock, Clerk

Absent: John Huppuch and Boomer, in memoriam
Marcia MacDonald

Opening

The regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry was called to order at 7:10pm on January 20, 2021, at the Offices of the Church, by Fr. Wallace

Devotions:

Fr. Wallace offered devotions.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of December 16, 2020, were unanimously approved a(D Wilder, s presented.(Movant; K Finkbeiner, second)

Priest-in-Charge Remarks:

Christmas went as well as could be hoped. Attendance: 175 over four services; 535 over three services in 2019)

Six month recap: daily services is an important witness. L Priestly and G Boyd are present nearly every day and there are members of the business community who have joined occasionally. Organ meditations were well-attended. Book club will go forward with a lay leader. Hope to have better program development and involvement as COVID dies down.

Next Vestry meeting is Ash Wednesday. He plans two services: one, at 12n and one, at 6pm— just before Vestry meeting. Determination to come as to how to impose ashes. During Lent, Fr. hopes to have more Bible studies and has also asked if we may join the Lenten lessons at the Cathedral presented by the Historian at the Cathedral.

Looking to connect with Skidmore for music in Lent; may look to do two Compline Services during Lent. Monday through Wednesday of Holy Week mid-day services; Maundy Thursday will be celebrated without foot washing followed by Watch; Good Friday service at noon with church open for three hours; No Saturday Vigil;

Stations of the Cross may be part of observances, even without the pictures. P Houde will talk with M Withington about new Stations.

Easter: 500 in attendance in 2019; Plan three services this year

Treasurer's Financial Report: S. Manny/J. Van der Veer

S Manny sent report with positive figures as of the end of 2020.

2021 Budget Discussion

Budget 2021 shows a present deficit of \$7028. The budget is, however, a work in progress. Given the pandemic, much is uncertain. For instance, there is nothing budgeted for flowers (either income or expense.) This will be presented to the Parish at the Annual Meeting with a further push for pledging.

Fr Wallace asked why the Rector's expenses are broken out in such great detail on the budget. D Miller will present Payroll in gross at Annual Meeting with a line item for the Rector's payroll.

D Miller reported that Elaine thinks our income is forecast conservatively and is likely to increase as we come out of COVID. We are at about \$184200 with current pledges—ahead of last year presently (both in terms of pledges and number of pledges) D Miller asked to get report on balances in all accounts for Annual Meeting.

Discussion of wedding fees: we sometimes lose weddings because our church use fees (plus other expenses) are rather high. Fr Wallace has charged less for a small wedding; parish members may pay less—but will often pay more anyway.

D Miller moved to accept the budget with amendment of \$3000 additional revenue for weddings and \$1000 for funerals (special services) but reduce Pledge and Plate by \$4000; K Finkbeiner, second.

Discussion Annual General Meeting: January 26, 2021, 6:30pm

We need a minimum of 22 persons in attendance in order to meet quorum as set by the Bylaws. Discussion of encouraging individuals to attend: consideration of revising the bylaws to allow for virtual meetings.

Present budget for delivery to parish in advance of the meeting. 2020 Annual meeting minutes will also be available.

Churchwardens' Report:

Senior Warden: D. Miller

Received thank you from Farrell for Christmas gift and support of his services over the decades.

Donor's buyer backed out of the intended purchase of the donor's business. There are other potential buyers for the business. We will still have to wait on the gift for the funding. Meanwhile, we still are waiting for the Building Permit. Jim Cox has inquired of the City as to the Building Permits: Building Permits are very backed at the City. We probably can wait on the permit for a little while; do have to have the permit by Sept 2021 when the site plan approval expires. Sano Rubin and architects are still working on final plans so that we are ready when the permit and funding are lined up.

D Wilder recommended that we remind the parish that the donor is giving a significant gift (up to \$12M) so that we will not have a mortgage. Sano Rubin will attend the Annual Meeting to give an update on the status of the design plans.

P Houde suggests that we give a report on how much is being paid monthly for the service. Some \$20000 is being paid every two months. Payments are being spread out as the timeline expands and the funds paid will be applied to the cost of the project.

It's not a matter of "whether" but "when." Discussion of the progress of Mercy House and the commitment of the church to the project.

Railing: Sano Rubin will do a Purchase order for a black railing: \$7000 max.

Design Review Commission has approved a new roof: expect \$400,000 cost.

Sign will be considered in the February meeting. K Finkbeiner asked how quickly we can get a sign out.

New light has been purchased: "Nantucket" hanging lamp is to arrive in February for installation.

We are the nominating board for Mercy House: Mark Griffin and Howard Nelson have terms expiring, but are willing to serve another term. D Miller moves and P Houde seconds, unanimously approved.

Junior Warden: C. Berheide

Kathleen Anspach, Jane Agee and John Gilliland are serving with Kate as the Nominating Committee. They have generated several names and will present them at the Annual Meeting.

Commission Reports:

Building Committee: D Miller—see above

Nominations Committee: C Berheide—see above

Continuing Business: none

New Business:

New location 173 Elm Street, Saratoga Springs. need help moving. Big white bookcase needs to be moved on Sunday.

Next meeting: Feb 17, 2021 at 7pm

Blessing and Adjournment

Blessing by Fr. Wallace

Meeting was adjourned by motion of S. Manny; by D Miller Passed unanimously at 8:42pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Ann C. Bullock, Clerk