

Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting
June 15, 2022
Beacon Hill Drive, Saratoga Springs

Attendance: Darren Miller, Senior Warden
Sara Manny, Junior Warden
Karen Finkbeiner, Treasurer
Mark Claverie
Laura Kszan
Marcia MacDonald
David MacVane
Steven Rucker
Holly Sofarelli
David Wilder
Ann Bullock, Clerk

Absent: Fr. Charles Wallace, Priest in Charge
Robyn Colonell

Opening Prayer

The regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry was called to order at 7:05pm on June 15, 2022, at Beacon Hill Drive, by Warden D Miller.

Devotions:

Warden D Miller offered devotions.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of May 18, 2022, were unanimously approved as corrected. (L Kszan, movant; M MacDonald, second)

Treasurer's Financial Report: K Finkbeiner, Treasurer

K Finkbeiner sent report noting that we continue to run over budget on expenses due to timing differences in social security, pension and building insurance premiums, while our utilities and office spending are over due to costs not budgeted. Costs have increased generally resulting in our running about \$9000 over budget in expenses.

Although our Pledge and Plate giving is on budget, our Year to Date May deficit is worse than our budgeted deficit due to the expense overrun. As we had budgeted a small annual deficit and are currently running \$9000 over in expenses, we must pay attention to giving as the summer advances. As in prior months, our Accounts Payable is all current; our surplus at year-end 2021 provided sufficient cash to cover our deficit so far this year.

K Finkbeiner suggests a report to the parish in July after the first half financial reports are complete. This will allow us to celebrate the completion of the roof project and seek additional

giving to close the budget gap. Propose a presentation to the parish after services or between the two services.

March special giving supporting charities which feed those in need was very robust (approx \$2500); likewise May special giving to support Beaver Cross scholarships was well supported. The church issues a check monthly to the designated charity(ies) to zero out the special giving account.

Motion to accept the financial report (D Miller, movant; M Claverie, second; approved unanimously.)

Churchwardens' Report:

Senior Warden: D. Miller

Discussion of personnel matter.

Junior Warden: S Manny

The office is being staffed by volunteers and the hours posted in the Sunday bulletin. Fr Wallace has been in the office frequently himself. The staff and Fr Wallace have had coverage meetings to plan for staffing needs for the summer. The volunteer staff will look at the job requirements and time and skills needed to fulfil them to create an accurate job description with the expectation that we will advertise to fill the job in August.

S Manny attended convention at Silver Bay, along with Lynn Priestly and Fr Wallace. Reports that the diocese hopes to call a new Bishop by Fall, 2023. Note that diocesan canons re: same-sex marriage were not repealed.

Commission Reports:

Building/Capital Projects: M Claverie

The **roof** is nearing completion with last minute painting and adjustments to be done. Lifts will be removed June 24 and fencing, scaffolding thereafter. Some final work on side panels along side transepts to come; can be installed with lifts only.

The **fire escape** requires a building permit. Sano Rubin is ready to start the project once permit is issued. Removal of the present stairs may require a lift or a crane; it is hoped that the work can be done at the time the lift is on-site to complete the roof transept work. Stained glass window in the door has been removed and is being restored now at Lamb Studios.

The **bell tower roof** needs to be replaced. We can avoid having to apply to Design Review Commission if the materials used in the project are the same as are presently in place. Use slate to match current roof. Cost is down to just under \$30,000—again, if the lift is already on-site, this will help keep the cost down. Project will require one week of demolition and one week to replace the slate roof. (Note: there has been discussion of the Church recovering the slate removed from the roof during demolition for use by the church for other purposes.)

Clerestory windows have been moved to a high priority repair item as inspection by Sano-Rubin and JGWA showed sagging and bulging as well as cracked glass in the windows. The damage is greater in the northern windows (towards the rear of the church) on both east and

west sides. In addition to the state of the windows, extensive rot was visible in the sills of the 2 dormers and wood mullions of the windows are also in need of repair. JGWA recommends that the 2 northern-most clerestory windows are addressed immediately. In the meantime, 2 sets of pews beneath those windows have been roped off to prevent parishioners from sitting beneath those windows as a precaution. While on-site on Wednesday May 18th, Sano-Rubin and Mid-state showed JGWA a dormer window on the east side of the church that they are concerned about. Now that the existing plexiglass has been removed, the sagging and bulging is apparent and there is cracked glass at this window. We would need Lamb to prioritize the dormer window repairs but the northernmost dormers on both sides appear to be in very poor condition. Options for repair include (temporarily) replacing the plexi-glass covering the windows OR restoring the stained glass and installing (permanent) laminated glass to protect the windows. The cost of plexiglass is comparable to the cost for the laminated glass –while the glass is a permanent repair. Both proposals are for the glass-only. There will be additional costs for woodwork and other trim work . Recommend restoration of all ten clerestory windows using laminated glass at an estimated cost of \$127,000 plus the cost of the wood restoration. The project in its entirety could be \$200,000 or more.

Motion to proceed with the option at \$127,000 to restore all ten windows PROVIDED that the estimate to estimate to restore the wood trim does not exceed \$100,000 and the cost of the entire project does not exceed \$227,000. (D. Miller, movant; S. Manny, second; approved unanimously)

Property Management: S Rucker:

Rectory requires some repairs: driveway needs to be seal-costed and garage door need to be repaired or replaced. The furnace seems to be operational (but it is summer and not needed.)

Parish Life: M MacDonald

The committee proposed a Homecoming Sunday afternoon event in early September, possibly at the home of M MacDonald. All parishioners invited. Barbeque/cookout menu provided by the church. D MacVane very generously offered to donate meat for the meal.

Continuing Business:

none

New Business: none

Next meeting: July 20, 2022

Blessing and Adjournment

Blessing by Warden D Miller

Meeting was adjourned by motion of D Wilder ; second, by S Manny at 8:44pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Ann C. Bullock, Clerk