

Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting
22 June 2025
Saratoga Springs

Attending: Fr. Charles Wallace, Rector
Sara Manny, Senior Warden
Rick Wissler, Junior Warden
Karen Finkbeiner
David Harper
Holly Sofarelli
Marge Verrigni
Timothy Holmes, Clerk

Regrets: Marcia MacDonald, David MacVane

Opening Prayer led by Fr. Charles Wallace

Come Holy Spirit, and fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in us, the fire of your love. Amen.

The regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry was called to order at the church, 11:23 AM on 22 June 2025 in a parishioner setting.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 21 May 2025 were approved as distributed. (K Finkbeiner, movant; M Verrigni, second)

Rector

Fr Wallace expressed joy that this has been the best year of choir and music programming so far since he came to Bethesda, with thanks to Choir Director Kathleen Slezak and Organist Derek Stannard. He also thanked Helene Patterson for her service as Deacon and Father Kris for steadfast backup in pastoral leadership; Roxanne Baugh for conducting the Sunday School, and the volunteer efforts resulting in flawless lawn maintenance.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer K Finkbeiner reported: Overall, Year to Date May most of our Expenses are running as planned. Building maintenance and Insurance are running over budget, mainly due to timing of payments and activities. Utilities have been more costly in 2025 than budgeted. Pledge and plate income fell below budget for the first time in May, but our dividends and interest income covered the shortfall and our net Income was \$8,343.

Operational Performance, Year to Date May 2025

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Better/(Worse)</u>	<u>than Budget</u>
Expense				
Rector Expenses:	55,005	53,031	1,974	
<i>Wages, benefits, rectory maintenance</i>				
Church Building	16,581	21,614	(5,033)	Maint, Utilities, Insurance
<i>Utilities, Maintenance and Insurance</i>				
Programs not uniquely funded	3,558	4,075	(517)	
<i>Outreach, Organ, other</i>				
Fees	12,014	11,835	179	
<i>Professional and credit card</i>				
Office	9,434	9,859	(425)	
<i>Rent, Equipment, Supplies</i>				
Diocese Assessment	22,553	22,552	1	
Total Operational Expense	<u>\$ 119,144</u>	<u>\$ 122,966</u>	<u>\$ (3,821)</u>	
Income				
Pledge and Plate:	123,131	119,420	(3,712)	Shortfall in May
<i>Pledge and plate over/(under) expense:</i>	3,987	(3,546)		
Other operational	-	1,568	1,568	Fuel
Total unrestricted Income	<u>\$ 123,131</u>	<u>\$ 120,988</u>	<u>\$ (2,144)</u>	
Total unrestricted Income with Div, Int	<u>\$ 133,385</u>	<u>\$ 131,309</u>	<u>\$ (2,076)</u>	
Operational Income (Deficit)	<u>\$ 14,241</u>	<u>\$ 8,343</u>	<u>\$ (5,897)</u>	
Non-Operational Expenses:				
Special Events	-	850		
Choir	14,970	9,610	Dividend Griffith	
Altar Guild	716	1,995		
Christian Ed	2,000	Christian Educ		
		Elements	200	
		Summer Music	1,200	
		Feb Env	495	Franklin Community Center
		Mar Env	644	Lifeworks Community action
		Apr Env	845	Parke music fund
		May Env	923	Beaver Cross scholarships
		<i>Items in italics do not show in our financial statements once transferred, they are maintained in this list for information only.</i>		

Warden's Report

Senior Warden Sara Manny reported that the Education program has progressed steadily and reiterated Fr Wallace's thanks to Sunday School director Roxanne Baugh and all who attend.

Update on 'old rectory' acquisition offer

David Harper is the lead contact with the donor, fully empowered by the Vestry. Mr. Harper gave a review of the project.

•The offer of an outright gift of Bethesda's old Rectory came from Adelphi Hotel principal Michael Dubb. The offer is to move the building from its current site across the street, to Bethesda's property.

This includes providing a foundation, placing the building on it, and connecting utilities. Refurbishing the building and adding further structures would be at Bethesda's discretion.

•**Professionals available and situational awareness.** Earlier ideas for adding structure to Bethesda's property provided teamwork with a leading planner / architect, Michael Ingersoll. Mr. Ingersoll is now implementing the Adelphi project and also does planning work for Brause Realty, Inc., our neighbor operating buildings and parking lots adjacent to the church.

•**Process.** Land use Boards: Bethesda's applications for requisite approvals will follow Adelphi submissions to the Design Review Board and Planning Board. The Adelphi group will close out their existing site plan and obtain approval for a new / revised site plan. This will open the opportunity for the building move.

•**Timeline.** The above processes are estimated to take until the end of 2025 and the building move to early 2026.

•**Achieved so far.** Parishioner Field Horne has been appointed Manager of the project by Vestry. Milton Grenfell has been selected as our architect. Messrs Horne and Grenfell are eminently qualified and familiar with Bethesda's infrastructure.

A number of meetings have been held with Mr. Dubb and the Adelphi group resulting in an agreement structure and many details worked out.

Motions

[1] Payment of invoice for services to Milton Grenfell, \$3,009.68. (Motion by D Harper, 2nd Holly Sofarelli)

[2] D Harper was authorized to hire a surveyor to define Bethesda lot lines. Estimated \$1,500. (Motion to approve by D Harper, 2nd T Holmes)

Questions from parishioners covered budget cost estimations, assurance of reliability of contractors, and degree of commitment. Mr. Harper and other Vestry members answered that cost estimates were underway and that professional procurement practices would be employed. The Vestry agreed to the donation of the building though terms are not finalized in writing.

Enthusiasm was expressed from parishioners present, with thanks to those active on the project.

There was no further Old Business and no New Business.

Next meeting: 17 Sept 2025.

Closing Prayer led by Fr. Charles Wallace

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Meeting adjourned 11:58 AM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Timothy Holmes, Clerk*