

**CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017**

*When he was at the table with them, he took bread,
blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.
Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him;
and he vanished from their sight.*

Luke 24:30-31

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Church of the Redeemer was called to order by the Reverend David J. Ware, Rector, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service on April 30, 2017. He began with a prayer for the Annual Meeting.

Vestry Nominations and Election – Mary DeKuyper reported the Nominating Committee, consisting of the four retiring Vestry Members plus Molly Hathaway, Karen McGee, Joan Partridge and Mary, considered all the submitted nominations and developed the slate from among the many very qualified candidates. On behalf of the Committee, she thanked all those who put themselves forward for this important service to Redeemer. No additional nominations were received after the slate was published; therefore, according to the Bylaws, the slate as circulated earlier this month was presented. Mary moved, as recommended by the Nominating Committee, the adoption of the 2017-2020 slate for Vestry Members, consisting of Millicent Bain, Doug Riley, Steve Sutor, and Anna von Lunz. The congregation voted by acclamation to adopt the slate of new Vestry Members.

Commissioning of the Vestry – David asked the newly elected Vestry Members to stand, and Mary led them in the oath of office for their three-year terms, commissioning them for their work with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Acknowledgement of the Outgoing Vestry Class – David recognized the outgoing Vestry Members David Pantle, Robin Pierson, Derek Savage, and Betsy Scott, and thanked them for their service.

Affirmation of Continuing Officers – David stated Mary DeKuyper, Tom Spies, Tony Brandon, and Fern Riley would continue to serve as Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Registrar, respectively. He thanked them for their work.

Finance Update – Tony Brandon, Treasurer, said the church has been blessed with financial abundance, and he thanked the congregation for its generous support. He presented a written Treasurer's Report giving a summary of actual revenue and expenses for 2015 and 2016, the 2016 and 2017 budgets, a summary of pledge income for 2014-2017, and the balances for the Endowment and the Heritage Trust for 2015 and 2016. The church had a budget surplus of \$155,210 in 2016, and Tony said a motion would be brought before the Vestry to add these funds to the Endowment and informally credit the same amount to reduce that which was

borrowed from the Endowment to complete the work of the Capital Campaign. As of March 31, 2017, the Endowment balance was \$4,699,000 and the Heritage Trust balance was \$2,713,000. Tony thanked Katie Gray and the Investment Committee for their careful, dedicated work. He reported the church audit was clean and without exception, and he said the church is continuing to operate in 2017 within its approved budget.

Facilities Update – Tom Spies, Junior Warden, noted we are blessed with parishioners of many talents whose work helps to maintain the facilities and the beauty of the church. Tom thanked Director of Facilities Mark Schroeder, Facilities Manager Giang Vu, and Assistant Facilities Manager Chuan Phan; the Historicals and Memorials Committee led by Karen Linaweaver; the Budget and Finance Committee led by Katie Gray and Dick Tucker; and the Buildings and Grounds Committee members Rick Buck, Lydia Kimball, Anthony Gill and Alison King. Tom presented a written report of 2016 Heritage Trust projects totaling \$126,000, and he noted 2017 projects will include renovation of the Youth Council Room, roof repairs, Parish Day School work, adding service hours to the church sign, and creating a master plan of campus landscaping. The construction of the new West Columbarium is expected to begin later this spring.

Community Engagement – The Reverend M. Cristina Paglinauan discussed Community Engagement at Redeemer. She described a shift in our approach to this ministry, changing from an outreach model of one-way giving by those with more to those with less, to a community engagement understanding that every human being is a beloved person with unique gifts; all have something to offer, and all are in need. Cristina and Kathy Dickinson have organized a Community Roundtable where project leaders meet to share their ideas. Our projects and leadership include:

Boots for Baltimore	Debbie Codd, Lucy Sarris
Habitat for Humanity	Barbara Fegley, Pete Partridge
Paul's Place	Helen Campbell, Judie Mathis, Patty McLean, Wincie Skeen
Govans Elementary School	Anna von Lunz, Cristina Paglinauan
Loaves and Fishes	Lynn Plack
GEDCO/CARES Food Pantry	Kathy Dickinson
Thread	Kim Tortolani
BUILD	David Ware
St. James/Redeemer Partnership	David Ware, Patty McLean, Phyllis Taylor
Northern District Baltimore	
City Community Policing	Betsy Willett
Grants – Awardees	Cathy Bennett, Margaret Daley
Boy Scout Troop 35	Bob Carroll
Parish Day School	Sophie Coates
Sunday School	Kathy LaPlant
Redeemer Youth Group	Paul Smith

Cristina thanked all parishioners involved in these ministries for being Christ's hands, heart, and feet in our world.

Revised Bylaws – Mary presented the proposed revised Bylaws, noting the current Bylaws were last revised in 1971. Committee members Patty McLean, David Pantle, Pete Partridge, Fern Riley, David Ware, and Mary DeKuyper reviewed the concepts and drafted the revision with subsequent legal review for accordance with canon and non-profit law. The Vestry recommends acceptance of the changes. The guiding principles for the revision included making the Bylaws to be as inclusive and as welcoming as possible, using gender-neutral language, following the dictates of the church canons, and aligning with current practices. Mary moved, as recommended by the Vestry, the substitution of the set of Bylaws as circulated to the members with the Call to the 2017 Annual Meeting for the set of Bylaws currently in force. The congregation voted by acclamation to approve the revised Bylaws.

Rector's Address – David reviewed events and milestones of the past year, starting with Henry Lowe's retirement and Bert Landman's arrival as the new Director of Music Ministry. Bert has continued to lead the children and adult choirs, began planning for the Choir School of Baltimore, and organized the Easter Art Show. The church hosted three concerts around issues of race, mental health, and substance abuse. Funding has increased to support the work of Habitat for Humanity, the Ark Preschool, and the anticipated Choir School of Baltimore. Kathy LaPlant and Paul Smith were called to lead our Sunday School and youth programs; Govans Elementary students came to see the RYG musical, youth participated in a meeting with the Mayor to address cuts in Baltimore City school funding, and the Walk Through Holy Week was re-imagined. The Adult Education Committee members Deborah Callard, Karen McGee, Millicent Bain, and Sarah Hoover organized the three-part Morality in a Time of National Decision fall lecture series and the five Lenten Transforming Narratives talks; 300 participants attended the fall lectures and 760 people gathered for the Lenten talks. Simple Suppers were organized by Sarah Engram and prepared by 48 volunteers to precede the lectures. Sunday speakers have joined us after the 10:00 service throughout the year. We have partnered with the Ivy Bookshop to host three well-attended weeknight events, and several participants new to Redeemer have returned to worship with us on Sunday.

The new West Columbarium project is moving forward with construction to begin later this spring thanks to \$370,000 in initial funding from niche sales, quiet donations and prior dedicated Columbarium funds. David thanked Tom Spies, Vince Greene, Jack Kennedy, Anthony Gill, and Lydia Kimball for developing the design plans, and the Columbarium Committee, consisting of Courtney Iglehart, Betsy Scott, Brandon Berkeley, Julia Randolph, Doug Riley, and Ellen Chatard, who will continue to plan and address future issues.

New inward engagement and pastoral ministries are flourishing. Training is in progress for the Ministry of St. Luke, a group of lay leaders who will lead prayers

with parishioners. The Sacred Space for Grace offered dedicated meetings for those who are grieving. The Wednesday Lenten evenings ended with Compline services, and Sherrill Pantle led a contemplative prayer Lenten retreat. The Caring for Creation Committee has helped us to switch to using ceramic mugs during Coffee Hour, held a native Maryland plant sale, and is preparing a new mission statement to guide Redeemer in environmental stewardship. Our Sunday worship attendance is up, and we welcomed 200 additional people on Easter as compared to last year.

David thanked our committed staff for their unparalleled devotion, the Vestry and Officers for their steady council and good stewardship, and the congregation for their generous giving to support the staff and programs and for their participation in community engagement. He noted we are below our budgeted pledge giving for 2017 and said there is an opportunity for all to serve God and others for the benefit of this community and the city of Baltimore. We are creating a community here to foster hope, justice, and love, making real God's dream for mankind, and he said together there is nothing we can't do. David read Edwina Gateley's poem, "Called to Say Yes"; he thanked the congregation for saying yes.

David asked for any questions or comments. A parishioner offered thanks to God, and thanks to David for his leadership. A parishioner reflected to whom much has been given, much is asked and spoke of the joy in working with this leadership team. A parishioner asked for a vision of our status and mission over the next few years. David noted our 2017 budget pledge goal had not yet been achieved but seems fair and likely within reach. We are currently staffed as we need to be to increase our community engagement and children and youth ministries. He noted our work is in building relationships beyond our walls, person to person, where lives are changed and we are all nourished, to love as we are called to do as deeply as we can dream. A parishioner was interested to hear more about children and youth programming and making the message of the church relevant to people's lives today. David said we are defining the church as broadly as we can; for example, the Ivy Bookshop presentations brought together over 1000 participants including our Pakistani, Jewish and Muslim neighbors. He said we are reaching out to combine with other community groups to share our common narrative.

The meeting ended at 10:55 a.m., and the service continued with Prayers of the People.

Fern Riley, Registrar