

**THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**

**MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2017**

**7:00 P.M. – HALE AUDITORIUM**

*If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,  
and the light around me turn to night,"  
Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day;  
darkness and light to you are both alike.  
Psalm 139:10-11*

**Quorum.** The June Vestry meeting was called to order on Tuesday, June 20, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. The following Vestry members were present, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Matt Buck, Lucy Neale Duke, Michelle Harner, Alison King, Chris Kurz, Doug Riley, Steven Sutor, and Anna von Lunz. The following clergy members, staff members, and officers were present: David Ware, Ellen Chatard, Mary DeKuyper, and Fern Riley. The following Vestry members were absent: Millicent Bain, Kathy Dickinson, David Pitard, and Murray Taylor. The following officers were absent: Tom Spies and Tony Brandon,

**Opening Prayer.** David Ware opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Reflection.** Anna von Lunz read the poem, "The Noise of Politics" by Walter Brueggemann, selected by Dan Clendenin for the [Journey with Jesus](#) website.

**Approval of Minutes.** Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on May 16, 2017. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Mutual Ministry Review** [Mary DeKuyper]. Mary DeKuyper invited the staff and Vestry to reflect on our work over the year. She stated the Vestry's role is to have oversight of maintaining parish finances and physical assets, choosing parish leadership and electing Diocesan Convention delegates, and calling the Rector; the custom at Redeemer is also for the Vestry to act as counsel to the Rector and to work collaboratively. She opened the discussion with four questions: 1) What went well this year with the leadership and within the church? 2) What could be improved or needs to be finished? 3) What are our priorities going forward? 4) Are we equipped to accomplish our priorities?

Vestry members felt the speaker events this year were spiritually meaningful, engaging parishioners and many from the community. The transition in music ministry from Henry Lowe to Bert Landman has been smooth. All were grateful for the strong clergy leadership, for Cristina Paglinauan's new leadership role in community engagement, and for Kathy LaPlant and Paul Smith becoming the Directors of Children's and Youth Ministries.

David said he and the Vestry have been engaged in a good, honest, clear-headed exchange of ideas and said the Vestry was playing an important role in thinking through various issues. He appreciates the Vestry support of parish ministries and would like to deepen and strengthen this work. All agreed on the importance of nurturing new leaders. Mary was pleased the Vestry has been engaged in conversation with each other and said the consensus method brings thoughtfulness to ideas and to working together.

The Vestry discussed the importance of good communication with the parish as we look into future directions of the church. We discussed the need to maintain our traditions as we reach into new areas of thought and inclusion, and how we could use a historical timeline to highlight our core values over time and to move them forward to guide our work in the parish, Baltimore, and the world. We discussed greater use of our parish website, texting, and social media to inform and to engage. We are welcoming newcomers to the church through conversation, wearing nametags, and follow-up contacts from the newcomer cards.

Although the parish did not meet its initial pledge goal, we are caught up in income for the year to date. We discussed having parishioners tell their personal stories about why they give to the church to inspire others to give. We have the resources to ameliorate suffering and to help find meaning in the midst of it, offering hope, justice, contact, access, and faith. All agreed Coffee Hour has been beneficial in helping people make connections, and other new events and activities would help individuals and families to make friends and deepen relationships; as David has noted, isolation is a form of poverty, and we have the ability to intervene.

The Vestry identified three intertwining themes and priorities for the church to guide our coming work: growth in diverse ways, community engagement, and spiritual deepening.

**Summer Vestry Meetings.** David said the Vestry will not be meeting in July and August.

#### **Upcoming Events**

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| June 20 & 27, July 11 & 18, 7:00-8:30 p.m.       | Confirmation, Re-affirmation,<br>Reception |
| June 22 & 29, July 6,13, 20 & 27, 5:00-6:00 p.m. | “Let’s Talk About It”                      |

**Adjournment.** Matt Buck offered a closing prayer meditation on the gift of genuine listening, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar