

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 7:00 P.M. – HALE AUDITORIUM

*They asked, and quails appeared,
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven,
He opened the rock, and water flowed,
so the river ran in dry places.
For God remembered his holy word,
and Abraham his servant.*

Psalm 105:40-42

Quorum. The September Vestry meeting was called to order on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. The following Vestry members were present, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Millicent Bain, Kathy Dickinson, Lucy Neale Duke, Alison King, David Pitard, Doug Riley, Steven Sutor, and Anna von Lunz. The following clergy members, staff members, and officers were present: David Ware, Ellen Chatard, Mary DeKuyper, Tony Brandon, and Fern Riley. The following Vestry members were absent: Matt Buck, Michelle Harner, Chris Kurz, and Murray Taylor. The following officer was absent: Tom Spies

Opening Prayer. Mary DeKuyper opened the meeting with the Prayer for the Human Family from The Book of Common Prayer.

Reflection. Kathy Dickinson offered a reflection on wholeness and read a passage about autumn from Let Your Life Speak by Parker Palmer.

Approval of Minutes. Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on June 20, 2017. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Rector's Report [David Ware]. David Ware asked for reflections on Bishop Eugene Sutton's visit to Redeemer on Sunday, September 10th. The Vestry discussed with the Bishop the current activity and ministry at the church, the desire to be mindful of involving others, the recognition of many ways people can feel part of the church, and new understandings of membership beyond Sunday worship attendance.

David discussed the Wednesday evening supper and program series, "What's good? What's right? What's up?" and other speakers appearing this fall in conjunction with the Enoch Pratt Library and the Ivy Bookstore. Author James McBride will lead off the lectures on Thursday, September 25th at 7:00 p.m. David encouraged the Vestry to attend and to promote the speakers with the congregation and others. We will also begin the Sunday Adult Education programs following the 10:00 a.m. service

with Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin discussing Yom Kippur, followed by three sessions with Gilman teacher Dan Christian focusing on author Sam Keen.

Redeemer will be participating with St. James, Lafayette Square and other neighborhood churches for a Party in the Park at Lafayette Square on Saturday, September 30th from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The event will celebrate and build relationships, offering lunch, yoga, meditation, Gospel music, and representatives from the Health Department, the Druid Hill YMCA, BUILD, Voter Registration, McCormick Spices, and others, and we will seek community input for ideas about hope and healing in the area. David discussed a walk organized by BUILD in Harlem Park West on September 16th and the thoughts he heard from various residents and community organizers to revitalize the broken aspects of the neighborhood.

David said the Stewardship season this fall will offer a time of reflection on how we can serve out of our abundance. In a world where so many have so little, we are called to look honestly at our blessings of work, of meaningful work, of material comfort, to avoid the temptation to deny, feel guilty, or run from who we are, and to be true to the call to be who we are and all we are in service to the world. The Reverend Bill Tully, former rector at St. Columba's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. and St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in New York, will meet with the staff and the Vestry, preach at all three services on October 28-29th, and lead an Adult Education discussion on the theology of abundance.

The staff is beginning to consider the Children, Youth, and Families ministry to examine areas for growth and meaningful service. They are also looking at our worship services to try to achieve the goal of a one hour service that still feels spacious, elegant, and not rushed.

David led a discussion of the definition, origin, statement of purpose, and policy of The Covenant Fund. The following motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved:

Taken from the Hebrew scriptures, a "covenant" is a promise; it creates or defines a relationship; and historically it was made between individuals or groups and God.

In August 2017, The Church of the Redeemer received \$1 million to create The Covenant Fund. The gift was made anonymously and with "utter joy," given in thanksgiving for God's presence, with a call to create a more just and beloved community. The donor asked that the funds be used to help people in need in Baltimore, and at the same time, to foster deep relationships between Redeemer and the people we serve. "We are all God's children," the donor said, and everyone has gifts to offer and grace to receive. The donor spoke of a "covenant" between partners, and this vision gives the Fund its name.

To that end, The Covenant Fund will provide direct service and programs; foster relationships between individuals and groups; and build community through creating partnerships. The Fund will complement our on-going Community Engagement work and giving. Meant to be flexible and responsive, the Fund also invites us to address the root causes of poverty, advocating for good education, housing, health care, nutrition, workforce development, and more.

The Covenant Fund is intended to be flexible and responsive to compelling needs. Disbursements can come from investment income or from the corpus. Proposals for disbursements are at the discretion of the Rector with Vestry approval and will be presented semi-annually. When funds are received, they belong to the Vestry of The Church of the Redeemer. Decisions about management of the funds are at the discretion of the Vestry. The Vestry delegates oversight responsibility to the Investment Committee. The Vestry appoints the Investment Committee to represent the Church in dealing with the Fund manager, D. F. Dent & Company, who will manage the Fund pro bono.

Senior Warden's Report [Mary DeKuyper]. On behalf of the Vestry, Mary DeKuyper congratulated the Honorable Michelle M. Harner on her recent investiture as a United States Bankruptcy Judge. Mary also congratulated the Reverend Joanne Tetrault on her recent ordination to the Priesthood.

Financial Update [Tony Brandon]. Tony Brandon reported the church is doing well financially. The Endowment and the Heritage Trust have grown by almost \$1 million. The Columbarium project will cost approximately \$725,000, reduced from the original expected \$750,000 cost, with \$350,000 in gifts and \$93,000 from the Columbarium Fund available to cover the costs in addition to advance niche sales, thus reducing the additional funds necessary. The actual Annual Budget figures look good to date. The Covenant Fund will remain a separate entity and will not change the operational budget.

The Columbarium [David Ware, Tony Brandon]. David Ware thanked Doug Riley and members of the Columbarium Committee for their work on reviewing and revising the Rules and Regulations. After a discussion of the proposed changes, a motion to accept the amended Columbarium Rules and Regulations was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Tony Brandon discussed the Columbarium construction project funding and the use of funds from the Endowment. If we use \$350,000 from the Endowment to cover the remaining building costs (see above discussion for other funding sources), the available Endowment off-take for the annual church operating budget will be reduced by approximately \$12,000 in the first year and less in subsequent years. Tony noted this is a prudent investment of funds because all subsequent niche sales would go into the Endowment, and with an anticipated 200 more niche sales at

\$5,000 per niche, a total of \$1 million will go into the Endowment. The following motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved:

We vote to amend paragraph 2D of the January 17, 2017 Vestry Meeting motion to allow \$350,000 of the Endowment Funds to be used to pay the final balance due on the construction of the Columbarium project. Any unused Endowment Funds of the \$350,000 shall be returned to the Endowment Fund, and all further proceeds from the sale of niches will be delivered to the Endowment Fund.

Announcements. Ellen Chatard said the Vestry will be hosting Coffee Hour this week. Kathy Dickinson and Anna von Lunz offered to organize the planning.

David Ware announced Henry Lowe will be named Director of Music Emeritus at the Evensong service on Sunday, October 1st. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to endorse wholeheartedly with enthusiasm and with a song in our hearts the naming of Henry Lowe as Director of Music Emeritus.

Alison King said the October 1st Evensong will be sung by the Redeemer Adult and Youth Choirs and the Grace Methodist choir and will be accompanied by Monumental Brass. An All Saints Day Evensong will be offered on November 5th.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, 9/24	Vestry hosts Coffee Hour
Thursday, 9/25, 7:00 p.m.	Author James McBride(with Enoch Pratt Library)
Saturday, 9/30, 11:00-3:00 p.m.	Party in the Park, Lafayette Square (with St. James and surrounding churches)
Sunday, 10/1, 8, 15, 11:30 a.m.	Gilman School teacher Dan Christian lecture series on Sam Keen
Sunday, 10/1, 5:00 p.m.	Festive Evensong (Redeemer Choirs, Grace Methodist Choir, and Monumental Brass)
Friday, 10/6, 7:30 p.m.	Common Ground: Folksinger Caroline Doctorow
Sunday, 10/15, 8:00 p.m.	Compline Service
Tuesday, 10/17, 7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
Wednesday 10/18, 25 & 11/1, 8	“What’s good? What’s right? What’s up?” series
Saturday, 10/21	Baltimore Folk Music Assembly
Saturday, 10/21	Walter Isaacson, President of the Aspen Institute, biographer of Steve Jobs, Albert Einstein, Leonardo da Vinci
Saturday, 10/28	Vestry meeting with The Rev. Bill Tully, retired Rector, St. Bartholomew’s Church, New York

Adjournment. Following the Lord’s Prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar