

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017

7:00 P.M. – HALE AUDITORIUM

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Philippians 4:8

Quorum. The October Vestry meeting was called to order on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. The following Vestry members were present, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Millicent Bain, 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, Tom Spies, Tony Brandon, and Fern Riley. The following Vestry members were absent: Kathy Dickinson, David Pitard, and Murray Taylor.

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

Reflection. Tom Spies offered a reflection and images from the book, “The Hand of God: Thoughts and Images Reflecting the Spirit of the Universe” by Michael Reagan.

Approval of Minutes. Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on September 19, 2017. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

BUILD Membership [Cristina Paglinauan, David Ware]. Cristina Paglinauan presented information about BUILD (Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development) and upcoming parish discussions to discern if Redeemer should become the fiftieth dues paying member of the organization. BUILD is a broad based, non-partisan, multi-faith, interracial community power organization whose power comes from building relationships and community. They listen to neighborhood residents talk about their individual problems and experiences in order to identify issues, define a campaign, and create actions. Their One Baltimore Campaign identified four issues to pursue: Jobs and Employment, Crime and Safety, Youth Services, and Schools and Education. A recent BUILD action this spring to address funding cuts to Baltimore city schools brought together students, teachers, parents, principals, and the City Council and led to the restoration of \$2.5 million to the school budget.

Cristina asked us to think about how we at Redeemer are called to use our power and resources. If the church were to join BUILD, we would be able to ally ourselves

with African-American communities in Baltimore. Membership would bring an opportunity for training to work in partnership, and we would have a seat at the table to be part of forming strategies. In considering potential difficulties membership could bring, Cristina noted advocacy work challenges city officials, and members of the church may be serving in these roles or closely connected to established power. The tactics of advocacy can be divisive and confrontational. We would need to summon our humility as we would be asked to listen and would not have immediate answers or insight into what to do.

Cristina then discussed why we would consider membership now. She discussed the past two years of history in Baltimore following the death of Freddie Gray and the subsequent uprising leading to renewed concern and urgency to bring healing to the city, coinciding with David Ware's call to Redeemer and our call to action. Cristina said as a result of the discussions and negotiations with the Sagamore Group concerning the development of Port Covington, BUILD has decided they need to form a strategy team with new allies, new organizations, and churches, and many aspects of our mission are in alignment with theirs. Cristina said our Christian faith asks us to be agents of transformation, and we should consider how Christ's call is asking us to act here and now.

The Vestry discussed various aspects of membership. David Ware spoke about several issues BUILD has worked on in the past including the Nehemiah Housing project, a campaign for a living wage for workers, the Child First Authority initiative, and the Turn Around Tuesdays program helping to prepare people to work and find jobs with partners such as Johns Hopkins Hospital and Under Armour. Turn Around Tuesdays recently received the 2017 Henrietta Lacks Memorial Award from the Johns Hopkins Urban Health Initiative for \$15,000. David said we would support actions whose means and ends were aligned with our beliefs, stepping away from any actions or words that were not in agreement with who we are. Our commitment would be for one year with the opportunity to reassess for the following year. The parish will have an initial discussion about potential membership on Sunday, October 22nd after the 10:00 service.

Rector's Report [David Ware]. David shared a copy of the Stewardship letter to be mailed to parishioners this week. 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 importance of fundraising for transformative work.

Senior Warden's Report [Mary DeKuyper]. Mary encouraged Vestry members to attend the meeting with The Rev. Tully. She also said Redeemer might consider work with BUILD to be advocacy training for systematic change while we continue to engage in providing services for what people need now.

Announcements. Anna von Lutz encouraged Vestry members to attend the Wednesday evening supper and program tomorrow night with Goucher College Professor Ann W. Duncan discussing “Religious ‘Nones’, the Church, and the Changing Face of Activism.” She also said parishioners have responded enthusiastically to the winter coat drive for Govans Elementary School.

Alison King said 30 people attended the Compline service on Sunday evening.

David Ware offered thanks to Tom Spies for building the beautiful new Columbarium, and he said we will dedicate it with prayers at 9:30 a.m. on All Saints’ Sunday, November 5th. We will also invite parishioners to write on the “Before I Die...” wall, part of a global participatory art project to celebrate our relationships and explore our understanding of mortality. This wall was originally created and used at the Party in the Park event at Lafayette Square on September 30th.

David said the draft budget for 2018-2019 is being prepared and will be sent out for review prior to voting at the December Vestry meeting.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 10/18, 25 & 11/1, 8	“What’s good? What’s right? What’s up?” series 6:00 p.m. Supper, 7:00 p.m. Presentation
Saturday, 10/21	Baltimore Folk Music Assembly
Saturday, 10/21, 7:30 p.m.	Walter Isaacson, President of the Aspen Institute, biographer of Steve Jobs, Albert Einstein, Leonardo da Vinci
Sunday, 10/22, 11:30 a.m.	Conversation: Redeemer and BUILD
Saturday, 10/28	Vestry meeting with The Rev. Bill Tully, retired Rector, St. Bartholomew’s Church, New York
Sunday, 11/5, 9:30 a.m.	Columbarium Dedication
Tuesday, 11/21	Vestry Meeting

Adjournment. Matt Buck offered a closing reflection, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar