

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018

7:00 P.M. – HALE AUDITORIUM

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.*

Psalm 19:14

Quorum. The February Vestry meeting was called to order on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. The following Vestry members were present, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Millicent Bain, Matt Buck, Kathy Dickinson, Lucy Neale Duke, Michelle Harner, Alison King, Chris Kurz, David Pitard, Doug Riley, and Murray Taylor. 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: Steven Sutor and Anna von Lunz.

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

Reflection. Millicent Bain offered a reflection on her spiritual journey.

Approval of Minutes. Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on January 16, 2018. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Update on Redeemer's Funds [Tony Brandon]. Tony Brandon said the church is well blessed financially, and he reviewed the three main funds of the church. First, the Redeemer Endowment Fund is more of a savings account than a true trust fund. An annual off-take from the Endowment, this year at 4.8%, provides a portion of funding for the Operating Budget. The amount of the off-take to be used in the Operating Budget will be decreased by 0.1 of 1% per year until the 4.5% level is reached. Second, the Heritage Trust Fund is more limited in its purpose and disbursement. This Fund was created in 1983 to help with maintenance, restoration, and replacement of the physical plant of the church, thus allowing the annual Operating Budget to be dedicated to programming and service. Projects covered by this Fund generally cost more than \$3,500. The Covenant Fund was created in 2017 to fund services and programs, foster relationships, and build community through partnerships to address the root causes of poverty, advocating for good education, housing, health care, nutrition, workforce development, and more. Disbursement may come from the Fund's earnings or from the corpus. The scope and focus of this fund are under consideration in this its first year before any firm plans are made for its use. The church also has several smaller Dedicated Accounts.

Vestry Nominations [Ellen Chatard]. Ellen Chatard said the Vestry Nominating Committee will be meeting this week to begin the nominating process for the 2018-2021 Vestry class. The nominations need to be made by March 31 in preparation for voting at the Annual Meeting on April 22.

Senior Warden's Report [Mary DeKuyper]. Mary DeKuyper invited the retiring Vestry members to offer a reflection on their Vestry service at the April 17 meeting.

Rector's Report [David Ware]. David Ware said Caroline Stewart and Molly Hathaway are leading a new Planned Giving Ministry, building on the work Ellen Chatard began in this area ten years ago.

David led a discussion on growth at the church. Vestry members identified many ways in which they felt the church was growing, including the richness of the Lenten Speaker Series and the Pratt Library Writer's LIVE Series and their strong attendance; increased Sunday morning attendance at services, including more families from the Parish Day School; the increased use of our church and campus facility; continuing strong attendance at Women Who Wonder, the Rector's Bible Study, and Coffee Hour; the new relationship with the Helping Up Mission; and the interest and enthusiasm of Redeemer Youth Group. Areas to continue to develop include welcoming and contacting visitors and newcomers; the new Mental Health Ministry; Community Engagement activities; and how best to serve young families.

Vestry Retreat [Ellen Chatard]. Ellen said the Vestry Retreat will be held at the Claggett Center on June 1-2. The cost is \$122.00 per person.

Announcements. Millicent Bain said she has started an Instagram account for the church at redeemberbaltimore, and she would welcome any pictures to share to be sent to her at mmbain60@gmail.com.

David Ware encouraged Vestry members to come to the Lenten Speakers Series and to spread the word about the offerings ahead. He said we are planning additional speakers in May: author and columnist David Brooks on May 2; former University of Maryland president and chancellor Brit Kirwan on May 9; and writer Christopher Buckley on May 23. In June, the Wednesday evening conversations will resume from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

2/21	<i>Voices:</i> Heather Mizeur
2/23, 24, 25	RYG presents "Annie"
2/28	<i>Voices:</i> Vance Wilson
3/7	<i>Voices:</i> Food Sustainability
3/8	Writer's LIVE Series: Peter Edelman, <u>Not a Crime to be Poor: The Criminalization of Poverty in America</u>
3/14	<i>Voices:</i> Timothy Phillips
3/20	Vestry Meeting

3/21	<i>Voices: Baltimore Portrait – Artists in Conversation</i>
3/25	Passion Lessons and Carols for Palm Sunday
3/26-31	Holy Week
4/1	Easter
4/18	Vestry Meeting
4/22	Annual Meeting

Adjournment. Matt Buck offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar