

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2018

7:00 P.M. – HALE AUDITORIUM

*God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God,
and God abides in them.*

1 John 4:16

Quorum. The April Vestry meeting was called to order on Tuesday, April 17, 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, 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, and Fern Riley. The following Vestry members were absent: Lucy Neale Duke, David Pitard, and Murray Taylor. The following officer was absent: Tony Brandon.

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

Approval of Minutes. Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on February 20, 2018. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Buildings and Grounds: Elevator Project [Tom Spies]. Tom Spies said the Buildings and Grounds Committee has begun to discuss plans for constructing an elevator in the Parish Hall. Several areas of the building are not easily accessible, and we need to make the upper rooms available to everyone. While the church is exempt from disability code regulations as a religious institution, making the building more usable for more people is part of our mission. Tom said we are considering a limited use, limited access elevator, large enough to fit a passenger in a wheelchair and one other person. It would stop at five levels (Nursery, Parish Hall, Stage/Baker Room Hallway, Women's Council Room, and Upper Sunday School Rooms), and it would be positioned in the back corner of the stage near the kitchen. The project would require the expertise of an architect, mechanical engineer, and structural engineer, and designs and bids would be made in the fall. On site work would take about three to four months, and we would hope to be building in the summer of 2019. The complete project would likely cost about \$350,000; the Budget and Finance Committee is reviewing funding options.

Rector's Report [David Ware]. David Ware met with a group of parishioners to discuss the principles, use, and goals of the Covenant Fund, and he shared ideas from the meeting. He said gifts and grants are different, and since "Covenant" connotes a relationship, he suggests we use the Fund to make grants, to bring resources to bear and to grow along with a partner. Grants expect an on-going

relationship between parties, involving discernment, discipline, follow through, mutual growth and benefit on both sides. He also said charity and engagement are different, with charity being hierarchical and assuming some have and others receive, while engagement invites a leveling of people, believing that each individual has gifts to offer and receive. The hope is for the Covenant Fund to give generously each year and also for the principal to grow dramatically. An organization with limited opportunities for Redeemer parishioners to be engaged in may still have a large impact on Baltimore, so the concept of engagement should be supple. Our mission should include the goal of making meaningful grants, and our actions will create relevancy for Redeemer, connecting the church to Baltimore and drawing people in. We should think about how every adult and child can make a meaningful contribution. We will need to consider what factors to use to identify grant partners, balancing the impact of a grant with opportunities for engagement. The Covenant Fund focus is on the current impact and legacy of poverty in Baltimore, specifically in education, housing, health care, nutrition, workforce development, citizens returning from prison, and other areas to be determined. We can be bold, setting an annual goal of giving \$200,000 in grants, inviting gifts from the parish to match our commitment of generosity, and setting a Fund goal of \$4,000,000. David will be writing a letter to parishioners to discuss these goals and offer an opportunity to give.

David said he will be announcing the new Planned Giving ministry called the Next Generation, led by Caroline Stewart and Molly Hathaway, at the Annual Meeting on April 21. Forty parishioners have made this designation in their wills to date. Letters discussing this ministry will be sent to the parish with information about planned giving.

David said the church has received a \$235,000 undesignated bequest from parishioner Jane Kask. A motion to put Jane Kask's bequest in its entirety in the Covenant Fund was made, seconded, and approved.

Sperrle Tree Fund [Doug Riley]. Doug Riley said the church received a \$25,000 gift from Gladys Sperrle in 1987 for maintenance of the campus grounds and trees. In order to be able to use and invest these funds beyond their current low rate of return in its bank account, the Budget and Finance Committee has recommended moving the fund money from a Dedicated Account into the Heritage Trust. Doug moved, on the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee, that the Vestry authorize the filing in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City of a Petition to Terminate Trust and that, if granted by the Court, Gladys Sperrle's \$25,000 bequest be moved from its current bank account into Redeemer's Heritage Trust, and that, each year, a portion of the income from the Heritage Trust, as determined by the Treasurer, be used in accord with Ms. Sperrle's wishes for the maintenance of the Church's grounds and trees. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Retiring Vestry Members and Retiring Officers Reflections. Retiring Vestry members Kathy Dickinson, Michelle Harner, and Chris Kurz offered reflections on

their Vestry service, followed by Junior Warden Tom Spies and Senior Warden Mary DeKuyper. Everyone expressed gratitude to the church, the staff, and fellow Vestry members for their talents, strengths, vulnerability, dedication, and collaboration. Mary ended her comments with a quote from Katharine Graham: "To love what you do and feel that it matters – what could be more fun?" David thanked them for all they have given to church ministry.

Announcements. Alison King announced the church will be hosting the Royal School of Church Music America Choir Festival and Evensong on April 28-29. Choirs from St. John's Episcopal Church, Hagerstown, Epiphany Episcopal Church, Timonium, and Holy Trinity Church, Bosham, Sussex, United Kingdom will join the Redeemer Adult and Youth Choirs to sing together in rehearsal on Saturday and will return to sing for Evensong at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Alison asked for Vestry volunteers to help with greeting guests and food set-up on Saturday and for help with the reception following the Evensong service.

Upcoming Events

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| 4/22 | Annual Meeting |
| 5/9, 7:00 p.m. | <i>Voices:</i> Brit Kirwan, Chancellor Emeritus of the University of Maryland |
| 5/15 | Vestry Meeting |
| 5/16, 7:00 p.m. | <i>Voices:</i> Tim Phillips, <i>Beyond Conflict</i> (rescheduled from 3/14) |
| 5/23, 7:00 p.m. | Writer's LIVE Series: Christopher Buckley, novelist, humorist, essayist and magazine editor |
| 5/30, 7:00 p.m. | <i>Voices:</i> Baltimore Portrait – Artists in Conversation: Amy Sherald and Stephen Towns, moderated by BMA Director Chris Bedford (rescheduled from 3/21) |
| 6/1-2 | Vestry Retreat, Claggett Center, Buckeystown, MD |
| 6/13, 7:00 p.m. | <i>Voices:</i> David Brooks, New York Times political and cultural commentator |
| 6/19 | Vestry Meeting |

Adjournment. Matt Buck offered an Easter prayer on the act of forgiveness, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar