

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018

7:00 P.M. – HALE AUDITORIUM

*And looking at those who sat around him, he said,
“Here are my mother and my brothers!
Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”
Mark 3:34-35*

Quorum. The May Vestry meeting was called to order on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. The following Vestry members were present, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Millicent Bain, Matt Buck, Lis Green, Beverly Griffith, Alison King, Doug Riley, Jan Schroeder, Murray Taylor, Anna von Lunz, and Ted Winstead. The following clergy members, staff members, and officers were present: David Ware, Keri Frisch, Steven Sutor, Tony Brandon, and Fern Riley. The following Vestry members were absent: Lucy Neale Duke and David Wallack.

Opening Prayer. David Ware opened the meeting with a prayer, the Pilgrim’s Blessing from the Way of Santiago.

Approval of Minutes. Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on April 17, 2018. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

David also noted the 2017 Diocesan Parochial Report was approved by the Vestry by e-mail on May 3, 2018.

Caring for Creation Report: Power52 [Laurel Peltier, Karl Pfrommer]. Laurel Peltier said the Caring for Creation Committee is continuing its efforts to move the church toward greater environmental sustainability in our daily life, including using renewable energy. She explained that in Maryland, we have a community solar law allowing those interested in promoting and using solar energy to support off-site solar energy farms to feed into the electrical power grid. Solar energy technology has become much less expensive over time and is financially within reach to build and use. She presented information about the solar development corporation Power52 Energy Solutions and its non-profit Power52 Foundation, created to promote job training and employment opportunities for unemployed and returning citizens by training new workers to build and maintain solar installations. Led by Executive Director Cherie Brooks, engineer and solar developer Rob Wallace, and retired Baltimore Raven Ray Lewis, Power52 has had 60 individuals participate and graduate from its 4 month training program building solar farms in Howard County; 87% of these participants have a job in this growing industry, typically earning \$20/hour in wages.

The Caring for Creation Committee is recommending we become a Power52 Energy Solutions subscriber. We would be asked to sign a preliminary letter of intent followed by a power purchase agreement contract to buy 12 years of solar power from this group. Laurel presented comparison cost figures suggesting this power source would be comparable to projected electricity rates with BGE. After discussion with the Vestry, David asked Laurel and Karl to provide some additional information about the organization and its mission statement, its material suppliers and their working conditions, the time frame and process for an agreement, and a drafted letter of intent. The Vestry thanked Laurel and Karl for their report.

Rector's Report [David Ware]. David said the Staff/Vestry Retreat will be held at the Claggett Center on June 1-2. We will focus on a reading from the Gospel of Mark to help us define who we are as individuals and as a church in order to envision where we ought to be in 5 years and 10 years.

David said Ellen Chatard has begun her 3 month sabbatical, and he noted some of her duties will be handled in her absence by the following individuals: E-Redeemer and Noteworthy editing by Kathy LaPlant; Sunday worship service announcements by Barb Hart; web site management by Barb Hart and David Pitard; Facebook postings by David Pitard; finance, legal issues, and mailings by Darlene Gilchrist.

David said the Covenant Fund has received an anonymous \$60,000 gift; he is continuing his work on creating a mission statement, policies, and procedures to guide the use of the Fund. He also noted the Next Generation Planned Giving ministry, led by Caroline Stewart and Molly Hathaway, will be sending out a letter to parishioners soon.

2017 Budget Surplus Allocation [Tony Brandon]. Tony Brandon reported the church had a 2017 Budget surplus of \$76,588.76. A motion to move the \$76,588.76 2017 Budget surplus funds from the Operating Account into the Endowment Fund was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Chapel Air Conditioning [Steven Sutor]. Steven Sutor reported the Chapel air conditioning system providing cooling for the back of the Chapel is broken. We will be replacing it with a more energy efficient system costing \$11,600 to be paid from the Heritage Trust. The cooling system at the front is a larger system with fewer problems and should last for another seven years. Both systems were installed in 1999.

Parish Day School Budget [Keri Frisch]. Keri Frisch presented the Parish Day School 2018-2019 Budget, prepared by Director Mary Knott with input from David Ware. The PDS Budget has been reviewed and approved by the Budget and Finance Committee, and the school is operating well within its means. The school is on track to have the highest enrollment in its history for the 2018-2019 school year. A motion to approve the 2018-2019 Parish Day School Budget was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Announcements. Alison King said there will be a Compline Service on Sunday, May 20 at 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

David said the VOICES Speaker Series will host Tim Phillips, founder and CEO of Beyond Conflict, an organization dedicated to bringing peace and reconciliation to areas of conflict. He encouraged everyone to invite their friends to attend. Writer Chris Buckley will speak on May 23 in conjunction with the Enoch Pratt Library, and on May 30, we will host artists Amy Sherald and Stephen Townes with Baltimore Museum of Art Director Chris Bedford. Writer and commentator David Brooks will speak on June 13.

Upcoming Events

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| 5/16, 7:00 p.m. | VOICES: Tim Phillips, founder and CEO, Beyond Conflict |
| 5/23, 7:00 p.m. | Writer's LIVE Series: Christopher Buckley, novelist, humorist, essayist and magazine editor |
| 5/30, 7:00 p.m. | VOICES: Baltimore Portrait – Artists in Conversation: Amy Sherald and Stephen Townes, moderated by BMA Director Chris Bedford |
| 6/1-2 | Vestry Retreat, Claggett Center, Buckeystown, MD |
| 6/13, 7:00 p.m. | VOICES: David Brooks, New York Times political and cultural commentator |
| 6/19 | Vestry Meeting |

Adjournment. Matt Buck offered a meditative prayer with readings from Thomas Merton on finding our freedom, identity and the beauty of others within God's love, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar