

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2018

7:00 P.M. – HALE AUDITORIUM

As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

Mark 6:34

Quorum. The June Vestry meeting was called to order on Tuesday, June 19, 2018, 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, Lis Green, Beverly Griffith, Alison King, Doug Riley, Murray Taylor, and Anna von Lunz. 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: Jan Schroeder, David Wallack, and Ted Winstead.

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

Reflection. Murray Taylor offered a reflection with thoughts from Tim Phillips about being at our worst when we are excluded and at our best when we are included and loved; Bishop Michael Curry asking us to imagine a world where love is the way; and David Brooks describing joy as moving in unison in the pursuit of what is good. He asked how we might approach and respond to our city with love.

Approval of Minutes. Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on May 15, 2018. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Rector's Report [David Ware]. David said he found the June Vestry Retreat to be exciting, grounding, and life giving. He led a follow-up discussion about hopes for Redeemer's path in the next five to ten years, and the Vestry offered thoughts within three realms. First, in order to better serve youth and families, we hope to engage families in worship by supporting Bert Landman's work to build the Youth Choir and the Choir School of Baltimore; by supporting Matt Buck's new work as Acolyte Coordinator to guide acolyte training; and by having more services dedicated to families and youth beyond the Christmas Eve and Youth Sunday services. We want to ask Parish Day School families what programs and activities they would like to deepen their relationship to the church, and we want to build a larger, more thriving Redeemer Youth Group with more opportunities for youth leadership. The goal for this growth is to make the church feel relevant for families today.

Second, the Vestry discussed other ways to grow the church, recognizing many aspects of what the church means and various ways for people to engage with us. The VOICES Speaker Series is bringing many people from the community to our

doors, and we want to support its growth. The Parish Hall is a resource to use to bring people together, and we would like to consider how to adapt this space to serve us better. We want the church to grow in diversity with people from a variety of ages and racial and economic backgrounds. Guest choir visits from the Helping Up Mission and the Choir School of Hartford have been inspiring additions to Sunday worship. We treasure the Sunday morning liturgy and music and the warmth of our services, and we want to share this with newcomers.

Third, the Vestry sees how our deepening commitment to community engagement is transforming the church and wants to grow and support this mission. We would like to set a goal to grow the Covenant Fund to \$4 million within the next five years. We want to grow our pastoral care ministry within and beyond the church and to think about how to be ready to respond to acute crises in the community. We would like to reach out to other churches to learn about them and to support each other. Continued growth will require more resources, and expanding the clergy to four with additional staff members will be needed. We want to think about stewardship by recognizing the reality of our abundant resources and what we are choosing to do with them. We are focused on finding new ways to communicate who we are to others. David thanked the Vestry for their thoughts.

David has been discussing with Cristina Paglinauan the next steps in our Youth Ministry program as Paul Smith steps down from his role as Director. They will meet with Paul and Maggie Klaes to make plans for finding a successor and will be involving youth and parents in the process.

Caroline Stewart has been meeting with representatives from the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill about the possibility of forming a partnership to serve individuals with mental illness and their families.

David said the Vestry will not meet in July or August; any acute concerns will be handled by e-mail.

Building and Grounds Report [Steve Sutor]. Steve Sutor reported on several projects in planning or under construction at the church. The Youth Council Room furnishings and cabinets will be installed by the end of summer to complete the room renovation. Anthony Gill will give recommendations this summer about improving the railings in the Parish Day School. Additional work is needed to paint the gables in the church and wooden areas in the chapel, to repair uneven bluestones in St. Paul's Courtyard, and to repair the roof flashing.

Steve discussed plans for two larger projects at the church. He said Tom Spies has agreed to help with the Parish Hall elevator project. The design phase is underway, and construction will likely begin next summer at a projected total cost of \$390,000. We are also planning construction in the North Parking Lot to reduce water run-off to protect the Chesapeake Bay and to handle severe storm drainage. Initial designs call for changing the lot configuration to add 20 more parking spaces to the existing

area; to add two new rain gardens to promote water drainage into the ground; to remove the existing curbs that prevent water drainage; and to improve the nighttime lighting. The project would cost \$675,000, and grants to support the environmental improvements may be available to help in funding this work.

Sperrle Tree Trust Revision [Doug Riley]. At the April 17, 2018 Vestry meeting, the Vestry passed a motion to petition the Circuit Court for Baltimore City to terminate the Gladys Sperrle Tree Trust and move those funds into the Heritage Trust. Doug Riley proposed a revision to this motion in order to name the Trustees of the Heritage Trust as responsible for determining the portion of income annually to be used for the maintenance of the church's grounds and trees. 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 Trustees of the Heritage Trust, 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.

Power52 Energy Solutions. David and the Vestry discussed the recent Power52 Energy Solutions presentation seeking Redeemer to become a solar energy subscriber with its organization. The Vestry felt more information about the specific terms of the agreement would be needed and agreed to continue discussions with the group.

Upcoming Events

Wednesdays, June and July, 5:00-6:00 p.m.	Let's Talk About It
Sundays, June and July, 11:30 a.m.	Talk with the Preacher
July 30 – August 3	Paul's Place Camp at Redeemer
August 26	Summer Splash for Kids at Redeemer
September 9	Sunday School begins & Welcome Back Picnic

Adjournment. Matt Buck offered a meditative prayer with thoughts from David Brooks' recent presentation at Redeemer about our human desire for intimacy, connection, and relationship with one another; that we are bound together by our love and what we want most is to fuse with other people; that joy is a sense of losing awareness of where your skin is and feeling merged with other things, and our deep yearning for this connection. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar