

## THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

### MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2019 7:00 P.M. – HALE AUDITORIUM

*I am idealistic enough to believe I can love everyone  
into this. I want only enough energy left at the end  
that, when I'm done, I can enjoy my wife and daughter.*

David Ware

**Quorum.** The March Vestry Meeting was called to order on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. The following Vestry members were present, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Lucy Neale Duke, Elisabeth Green, Beverly Griffith, Alison King, Douglas Riley, Jan Schroeder, Murray Taylor, Anna von Lunz, David Wallack, and Ted Winstead. The following clergy members, staff members, and officers were present: David Ware, Ellen Chatard, Keri Frisch, Steven Sutor, and Tony Brandon.

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

**Reflection.** Jan Schroeder offered a reflection on the Redeemer Youth Group, a faith community grounded in a shared task, treasured friends, intergenerational closeness, and a deep connection between Redeemer and her young people.

**Approval of Minutes.** David Ware presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on February 19, 2019. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Rector's Report.** David Ware reported to the Vestry on the status of the associate minister searches and discussed the background and strengths of four candidates (two for the senior associate position, two for the youth minister position) who will be visiting Redeemer in the coming week. He noted that another candidate is still "in the mix" and said how fortunate he is to have two great search committees helping him. He ended by noting optimistically that "we could know something by our next Vestry meeting."

**Discerning Redeemer's Mission in Baltimore.** The Rector, having commended to the parish a New York Times article titled "The Tragedy of Baltimore" by Alec MacGillis, led a discussion about whether Redeemer is called to a deeper relationship with Baltimore. Some of us thought the article was edgy and hurtful, describing a city and institutions at odds with our own experience. Others thought it was accurate, but that we live in a bubble in north Baltimore. One of us observed

that, "We are a very segregated city. You can live your whole life here and not see what the article is about." A number of us criticized Baltimore's political leadership, noting that it appears inept, unwilling to implement "best practices" proven elsewhere, and lacking a moral compass. One of us knew first-hand of a business that had decided against opening an office here because of Baltimore's problems, and the Rector noted that some of the candidates for the associate positions had expressed concerns about moving their families to Baltimore. Another said, "It feels hopeless. It's hard to be hopeful."

The Rector then observed that Redeemer "is doing a lot of good work, but it is all around the edges. We are addressing symptoms and not the root causes." He wondered if, like Abram, Redeemer's wealth has kept us apart from and blind to the tragedy around us. He wondered if, perhaps, we dismiss our collective power rather than to harness it to empower others. "We are just a parish church," he said, "but churches changed the fight for civil rights."

The Vestry was then asked to ponder whether Redeemer should fundamentally change its relationship to Baltimore, embracing a deeper commitment to the City as a powerful force for change.

**Vestry Nominations.** Ellen Chatard reported that one parishioner has expressed an interest in serving on the Vestry and, on Sunday, March 24, 2019, at 9:00 a.m., David Ware would host a Vestry 101 Class for others wanting to learn more. Vestry members were encouraged to attend the class to share their experiences about Vestry service.

**Announcements.** David Ware reminded the Vestry of the Lenten speakers' program which continues as follows:

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| March 13, 2019 | Kaye Whitehead | Loyola professor & author, speaking on "The Moral Arc of Justice: 400 Years of Shifting Narratives and Black Genius, Brilliance, and Survival" |
| March 27, 2019 | Erin Hagar     | Children and teen author, discussing women's stories from her books, the children's book industry, and supporting artist and readers           |
| April 3, 2019  | Evan Thomas    | Author, <i>First: Sandra Day O'Connor, An American Life</i> , in partnership with the Pratt Library  |

