

**CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019**

Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

John 21:17

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Church of the Redeemer was called to order by the Reverend David J. Ware, Rector, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service on May 5, 2019. He began with a prayer for the Annual Meeting, and he thanked retiring Vestry members Matt Buck, Lucy Neale Duke, Alison King, and Murray Taylor for their service to the church.

Vestry Nominations and Election – Keri Frisch, Senior Warden, reported the Vestry Nominating Committee considered all the submitted nominations and developed the Vestry slate from among the many qualified candidates. No additional nominations were received after the slate was published; therefore, according to the Bylaws, the slate as circulated earlier was presented. Keri and the Nominating Committee moved for the adoption of the 2019-2022 slate for Vestry Members consisting of Nancy Bowen, Sean Goldrick, Anita Richardson, and Peter Shafer to serve for three years. The congregation voted by acclamation to adopt the slate of new Vestry Members.

Commissioning of the Vestry – Keri asked the newly elected Vestry Members to come forward and presented them on behalf of the congregation. David led them in the oath of office for their terms. David then asked for the returning Vestry members to come forward and led them in reaffirming their commitment to the congregation. He commissioned the new Vestry for their work with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Election of Officers – The Vestry elected Keri Frisch, Senior Warden; Steve Sutor, Junior Warden; Tony Brandon, Treasurer; and Fern Riley, Registrar. David led them in the oath of office.

Finance Update – Tony Brandon, Treasurer, said the church is in a strong financial position and said we are blessed with a dedicated, caring, and supportive parish family. He presented a written Treasurer's Report giving a summary of actual revenue and expenses for 2017 and 2018, the 2018 and 2019 budgets, a summary of pledge income for 2016-2019, and the balances for the Endowment Fund, Heritage Trust Fund, and the Covenant Fund for 2017 and 2018. Due to generous parish support, prudent cost control by the staff, and the sage counsel of the Budget and Finance Committee led by Katie Gray and Dick Tucker, the church had a budget surplus of \$88,000 in 2018. Recent years have yielded budget surpluses of \$119,000 in 2015, \$155,000 in 2016, and \$76,000 in 2017; these surplus amounts have all been added to the Endowment Fund. Favorable market conditions have led to continued growth in 2019.

Facilities Update – Steve Sutor, Junior Warden, said it was an honor to serve the church. He presented a written report of the 2018 Heritage Trust projects totaling \$124,586 and of the anticipated projects for 2019. Steve noted the resurfacing of the St. Paul’s Courtyard entrance to the church is underway with new bluestones to preserve and maintain the natural beauty of the space. Completed projects include the Youth Council Room renovation with furniture and lighting; landscape design; audio upgrades in the church; new PDS cabinetry; Choir room heating and air conditioning; HVAC maintenance and upgrades to its computer system; Chapel roof repairs; and driveway paving repairs. Steve said in 2019, we will continue the re-design of the North Parking Lot to improve storm water run-off management and lighting. We will start work this month to install an elevator in the Parish Hall near the kitchen to access five levels. Over the summer, we will paint the church gables and the Chapel exterior and remove the blighted boxwood around the Chapel walkway with plans to replant next year with resistant boxwood and azaleas. We will also re-carpet and paint the PDS corridors. Steve thanked Director of Facilities Mark Schroeder, Facilities Manager Giang Vu, and Assistant Facilities Manager Chuan Phan for managing the day-to-day needs and emergency situations on the campus, and the Buildings and Grounds Committee for their planning and financial stewardship. Steve said he welcomes thoughts and issues from parishioners about the church by e-mail or phone, and he thanked the congregation for their support and the opportunity to serve.

Rector’s Address – David spoke about the Gospel of John reading when Jesus appears to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias. He talked about how Peter must have felt afraid, lost, angry, and ashamed at that point, having denied Jesus three times before the crucifixion. Peter decides to go fishing, and David, in recalling his own father, talked about how the earthy ritual and practical actions of fishing can help someone to find their way, be productive, exorcise their demons and remember who they are. Peter and the disciples respond to Jesus’ invitation to keep trying another side, another way, to know there is more. David explained that after their enormous catch of fish, Jesus knew he still needed to run to Peter, asking him three times, “Do you love me now?” Peter says yes three times, and Jesus tells him then to take care of the little guy, to tend the vulnerable, to feed the folks who are marginalized, and to lead by following him. David said the living God is running toward us, asking us who are we devoted to and what do we live for, meeting us in the practical ritual of word, silence, and music, and calling us to tend, feed and love Baltimore’s people.

David reviewed the past year at Redeemer and began by noting the many changes in our staff. Paul Smith left his role as Director of Youth Ministries, and Vivian Campagna became the Interim Minister of Youth. The Reverend Caroline Stewart completed her work here as Senior Associate in January. Kathy LaPlant took a leave of absence in March due to the death of her father; Jan Schroeder began to work as Interim, and David announced Jan has just agreed to become the new Director of

Children's Ministries. Kathy plans to return as a parishioner after tending to her mother in Texas. David announced last week that the Reverend Freda Marie Brown will be joining us on June 16 as our new Associate for Spirituality. He said the search process for a priest to work with youth and young adults has not yet found the right candidate, so he is re-defining this position and beginning a new search for an Associate for Formation. This clergy member will work with youth and young adults, but also with others in stages of spiritual formation during times of transition, such as those who are new parents, recently widowed, in a new job, graduating from school, or new to Baltimore. David noted Mark Schroeder and his wife, Katie, welcomed a new baby this year. He said the Reverend Cristina Paglinauan will be taking a sabbatical from June through August for deep exploration, spiritual retreat, recreation, and rest. David asked the congregation to thank the entire staff: Vivian Campagna, Ellen Chatard, Robert Chrystal, Darlene Gilchrist, Barb Hart, Liz Kallmyer, Alison King, Mary Knott, Bert Landman, Cristina Paglinauan, Chuan Phan, Jan and Mark Schroeder, and Giang Vu.

David discussed music this year at Redeemer. Bert Landman, Director of Music, launched the Choir School of Baltimore with seventeen choristers who sing on the second and fourth Sundays of the month; nine choristers are also studying piano at the church to augment their musical training. The Compline Schola offered eight Compline services in the Chapel, and the Redeemer Choir offered seven Evensong services this year. Friends of Music sponsored fifteen events, and the church is partnering with the Peabody Conservatory, Bach in Baltimore, the Handel Choir and Common Ground.

The Parish Day School, led by Director Mary Knott, has 131 students this academic year, representing its largest enrollment ever. It is the only area preschool with a pre-first and two kindergarten classes, and students from PDS will head off to seventeen different elementary schools in the fall. David said the school completed a two year curriculum evaluation, added a musical garden to the playground, and expanded the Pedal for Pediatrics fundraiser for the Johns Hopkins Pediatric Oncology Department by inviting four other schools to participate, raising \$20,000 for research.

Our Sunday School program has 150 students enrolled, and David thanked all the teachers, volunteers, and parents for creating a vibrant and welcoming program. Students have learned about bible stories and acted them out in Drama and Donuts. They collected toiletries for use at the Helping Up Mission, and they made 400 cookies for the Govans Elementary School Winterfest in December.

Many in the church are involved in Community Engagement. Twenty-six parishioners participated with Habitat for Humanity at the McCabe Avenue site. We have created a pastoral care team of parishioners who visit shut-ins and added a healing ministry at worship services monthly. Twenty-two volunteers made forty-eight casseroles with Holy Casserole-y for Paul's Place, and sixty-three volunteers work there to lead groups, serve food, deliver donated clothing, and offer

counseling. A new ministry is beginning at the Helping Up Mission as they make plans to build a new Women's Center. Twelve parishioners tutor students every week at Govans Elementary School, and the parish donated school supplies and sixty-five new winter coats to children at the school. Parishioners volunteer weekly at Gedco/CARES Food Pantry to help with utility bills, job readiness, and nutrition, including bringing donations of fresh eggs and homemade bread. Forty-five parishioners worked with BUILD to work with allies across Baltimore focusing on public safety, vetting the new police commissioner, the Kirwan report for school improvement, job training through Turn Around Tuesday, and mayoral accountability. The Voices Speaker Series partnered with the Enoch Pratt Library, the Ivy Bookstore, the Baltimore Museum of Art, and Union Baptist Church to invite the community to hear from artists, authors, filmmakers, journalists and others. David said we need everyone to help lead youth groups and Sunday School, join the Altar Guild or the Flower Guild, and become a community partner to help us build this church.

David noted that while the national Episcopal Church is diminishing, we are growing. Our average Sunday attendance is 436, and we had 1,366 people at our Easter services and just under 1,900 people at our Christmas services. We had 425 pledging units for this year, the first time in ten years with more than 400 households making a pledge. Our giving is also increasing; including a gift made from the Covenant Fund, our Community Engagement grants were over \$130,000, and we gave almost \$200,000 to the Diocese of Maryland. David thanked everyone for these gifts and their commitment.

David said like Peter, we have gone fishing here at the church, looking for purpose, solace, healing, and hope, and we leave here more inclined to help others, less likely to nourish resentment, and more able to love. David said Jesus asks Peter and asks us, "Do you love me now?" and then tells us to take care of the little guy, to tend the vulnerable, to feed the folks who are marginalized, and to lead by following Jesus.

The meeting ended at 10:55 a.m., and the service continued with the Prayers of the People.

Fern Riley, Registrar