

**THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**

**MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING**

**TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019**

**7:00 P.M. – HALE AUDITORIUM**

*Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk."*

*At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.*

*John 5:8-9*

**Quorum.** The May Vestry meeting was called to order on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. The following Vestry members were present, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Nancy Bowen, Sean Goldrick, Lis Green, Beverly Griffith, Anita Richardson, Doug Riley, Jan Schroeder, Peter Shafer, Anna von Lunz, and Ted Winstead. The following clergy members, staff members, and officers were present: David Ware, Ellen Chatard, Keri Frisch, Steven Sutor, Tony Brandon, and Fern Riley. The following Vestry members were absent: Millicent Bain and David Wallack.

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

**Reflection.** Keri Frisch offered a spiritual reflection.

**Approval of Minutes.** Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on April 16, 2019. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Rector's Report** [David Ware]. David welcomed new Vestry members Nancy Bowen, Sean Goldrick, Anita Richardson, and Peter Shafer. He discussed the roles of the Vestry including providing counsel to the Rector; approving the annual budget and being responsible stewards for the financial well-being of the church; acting as a liaison to groups at work in the parish; offering welcome on Sunday morning; and being engaged in the activities and life of the church.

David said the Reverend Freda Marie Brown, our new Associate for Spirituality, will begin her ministry at Redeemer on Sunday, June 16. We will celebrate her arrival with cake and refreshments in the courtyard after the service. He encouraged everyone in the parish to wear their nametags each week to help us to introduce ourselves to her.

David discussed the summer schedule. He will be traveling on the Journey to Adulthood Costa Rica pilgrimage trip on June 17-23, and he will be away July 20 – August 11. Cristina Paglinauan will be on her sabbatical June 1-August 20.

**Treasurer's Report** [Tony Brandon]. Tony Brandon also welcomed the new Vestry members. He said the church is amazingly blessed financially, and he reviewed the financial savings accounts, trusts, and funds. The Endowment Fund is an invested savings account made of gifts from past and present generations of parishioners to build and maintain the church. It is invested with an investment counselor, advised by the Budget and Finance Committee, and overseen by the Treasurer. Every year a percentage of the Endowment is used in the Operating Budget; this contribution, originally set at 5%, has been gradually reduced over the past three years to 4.7%. The Heritage Trust is a fund to maintain, replace, and develop the physical plant and properties of the church. Every year a 5% off-take is used by the Junior Warden to fund projects as advised by the Buildings and Grounds Committee. The Covenant Fund is a fund created in 2017 to address issues of poverty in Baltimore by giving grants to community organizations providing services and programs to those in need. The Operating Fund covers the normal day-to-day operations of the church administration and programs as allocated in the annual Operating Budget created by the staff and the Budget and Finance Committee. The Dedicated Accounts contain funds designated for specific or restricted purposes. Each year the church's finances are audited by Gross, Mendelsohn and Associates, P.A., and the 2018 audit report was distributed to Vestry members at the meeting. In 2017, the church ended the year with a \$76,000 surplus, which was donated to the Endowment Fund; in 2018 the year ended with a surplus of \$88,643.

**Senior Warden Report** [Keri Frisch]. Keri gave a report of the Diocesan Convention held at the Turf Valley Conference Center, Ellicott City, on May 10-11. She noted the Most Reverend Melissa Skelton, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster and Archbishop of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon, gave the keynote address, discussing the revitalization of her parish in Seattle and how it changed its identity and grew. Several resolutions were passed including changes to the church imperilment canon to give more flexibility in helping out financially troubled churches; new mutual agreements for part-time rectors and priests-in-charge; and a commitment to racial reconciliation, affirming Bishop Eugene Sutton's pastoral letter on the history of the role of slavery in Maryland churches with renewed support for individual parishes to examine the relationship of their wealth and buildings to slavery. Keri noted the National Convention of the Episcopal Church will be held in Baltimore in 2021, and she hopes we can involve our parish youth in that event.

**Vestry Sign-ups** [Ellen Chatard]. Ellen Chatard circulated sign-up sheets for Vestry Meeting reflections and snacks, and she distributed the Vestry Roster for the year. She asked Vestry members to serve as Sunday greeters during the summer when present, and she will arrange Sunday greeter sign-ups for the year in September.

**Announcements.** David announced the Vestry and Staff Retreat will be held on October 19 at Open Works on Greenmount Avenue, focusing our attention on Baltimore and the work to be done in our city.

Keri encouraged the Vestry to attend the Youth Sunday service on June 2 at 10:00 a.m. The Drama and Donuts fourth and fifth grade class will read and act out the Gospel, senior Grace Birth will preach, the Choir School of Baltimore will sing, and several young people will play music before the service among other offerings from the children and youth.

Steve Sutor reported the bluestone replacement in the St. Paul's Courtyard entrance to the church has been completed, and the potholes in the main driveway and the entrance to the horseshoe driveway have been filled. The Parish Hall Elevator construction has begun, and David said the church has received some gifts to help pay for the project.

David noted writer Mark Bowden will be speaking on May 22 as part of the Writer's Live Series in conjunction with the Enoch Pratt Library. The Voices Speakers Series continues on May 29 with Aaron Woolf and a screening of his documentary, "King Corn." David said we have had a wonderful partnership with the Pratt Library during their renovations, and we will hope to continue to host speakers together during our Lenten series in 2020.

David said the June Vestry Meeting will be moved to Tuesday, June 25.

**Upcoming Events**

May 22, 7:00 pm.	Pratt Writers Live: Mark Bowden
May 29, 7:00 p.m.	Voices: Aaron Woolf, "King Corn"
June 2, 10:00 a.m.	Youth Sunday
June 8-9	Pentecost & Diocesan Visit, The Rev. Canon Scott Slater
June 16	First Sunday after Pentecost, Welcome to The Rev. Freda Marie Brown
June 25, 7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
October 18, 6:00 p.m.	Vestry Retreat Dinner
October 19, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Vestry Retreat

**Adjournment.** David offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar