

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

**MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019
7:00 P.M. – HALE AUDITORIUM**

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*

Lamentations 3:22-23

Quorum. The September Vestry Meeting was called to order on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. The following Vestry members were present, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Millicent Bain, Nancy Bowen, Lis Green, Sean Goldrick, 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: Beverly Griffith and David Wallack.

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

Reflection. Anna von Lunz offered a spiritual reflection.

Approval of Minutes. Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on June 25, 2019. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Rector's Report [David Ware]. David is glad to be starting the program year with Freda Marie Brown and Cristina Paglinauan in place on the clergy team. He is looking forward to working with Caroline Stewart in her new role as Executive Director of the Center for WellBeing. The search and plans for a new Associate continue to evolve as the needs of the church change. David foresees this clergy member as a leader for adolescents and young adults, for those who have not been part of a church and for those who have left the church and are looking for meaning, purpose, grounding, and service. This leader would also work with those in transition: new to Baltimore, new to parenthood, newly married, newly divorced, or newly single due to loss.

David spoke about plans for the Vestry/Staff Retreat on October 18 and 19. In an effort to engage more deeply with the city, the group will meet on the 19th at Open Works, a maker space in the Greenmount West neighborhood. Plans include participating in an anti-racism training program; meeting Regina Hammonds, a community organizer and president of the Johnston Square Neighborhood

Association; and taking a tour of Johnston Square to learn more about the community's vitality, challenges, and growth.

David reported on the work of ReBUILD Metro, a non-profit community developer founded in 2006 and dedicated to stabilizing and redeveloping troubled neighborhoods. Their initial work in the Oliver and Greenmount West neighborhoods has built on areas of strength, forming deep relationships with neighbors to understand what their concerns are and what is needed in their communities. Their work focuses on vacant properties, thereby eliminating any resident relocation or displacement; they have created 300 single-family houses, build 190 new apartments, and demolished and consolidated 180 vacant properties since 2008. These newly revitalized areas, in turn, create market conditions to draw in private investment and development, leading to more growth, renewed homeowner and buyer interest, and increased property values. The organization is planning next to redevelop properties in Johnston Square, thereby forming a contiguous link with Oliver and Greenmount West.

Junior Warden's Report [Steve Sutor]. Steve Sutor said work on the Parish Hall elevator has progressed well, and the elevator should be operable within the next few weeks.

Treasurer's Report [Tony Brandon]. Tony Brandon reported on the church's financial savings accounts, trusts, and funds and noted the finances are in good shape with strong growth over the year. The Vestry had voted in August by e-mail to use the 2018-2019 budget surplus of \$88,640 to cover expenses from the recent clergy search, computer system upgrades, new wireless microphones for the church, and refurbishing the Women's Council Room, and Tony asked for a confirmatory vote. Using updated figures from Ellen Chatard, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to use the \$88,640 budget surplus from 2018-2019 in the following areas:

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| 1. Clergy search and relocation expenses associated with the calling of Freda Marie Brown | \$13,500 |
| 2. Computer system upgrades | \$32,000 |
| 3. New wireless headset microphones for the church | \$12,000 |
| 4. Refurbishing the Women's Council Room | \$23,000 |
| 5. Community Engagement | \$ 8,140 |

Children and Youth Update [Jan Schroeder, Sean Goldrick]. Jan Schroeder said the Sunday School Program is off to a good start with 49 registered families and strong Sunday attendance. Sean Goldrick reported the Youth Program began with a Youth Kick-off Picnic on September 7 to introduce families to Rite-13 teacher Alison Harmon, Journey to Adulthood teachers Stephanie and Allen Brizee, and Redeemer Youth Group leaders Vivian Campagna and Maggie Klaes. The Youth Program this year hopes to strengthen connections between the youth and the church; to link in with the Diocese; and to encourage our youth to develop leadership roles within the church.

Vestry Sign-ups [Ellen Chatard]. Ellen circulated a sign-up sheet for Sunday morning Vestry greeters. She said the Vestry will host Coffee Hour this Sunday, and Millicent Bain offered to coordinate plans for the group. Ellen said the on-line parish directory will be available later this week.

Announcements. Anna von Lunz reported Govans Elementary School has been temporarily relocated to the former Chinquapin Middle School building on Woodbourne Avenue while a new school building is being constructed on its original site. The church's school supplies drive was successful, and Anna said the Govans' faculty and staff were very appreciative. Tutors from Redeemer will begin their work with students in the next few weeks.

Upcoming Events

September 18, 7:00 p.m.	VOICES - Confronting Hate: The Legacy of Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
September 25, 7:00 p.m.	VOICES - Lawrence Lanahan: The Lines Between Us
September 28, 7:30 p.m.	Salon Concert, Friends of Music
October 2, 7:00 p.m.	VOICES - Tim Baker: The Investigation and Prosecution of Spiro Agnew
October 6, 5:00 p.m.	Evensong & Celebration of New Ministry of The Rev. Freda Marie Brown
October 15, 7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
October 18 & 19	Vestry/Staff Dinner & Retreat

Adjournment. Doug Riley gave a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar