

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

7:00 P.M. – VIRTUAL MEETING

*For God alone my soul in silence waits;
truly, my hope is in him.*

*He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.*

Psalm 62:6-7

Quorum. The May Vestry Meeting was called to order virtually on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 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, David Wallack, and Ted Winstead. The following clergy members, staff members, and officers were present: David Ware, Ellen Chatard, Keri Frisch, Tony Brandon, and Fern Riley. The following Vestry member was absent: Millicent Bain. The following officer was absent: Steven Sutor.

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 21, 2020. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Rector's Report [David Ware]. David said he is thinking through how the church will proceed during the COVID-19 pandemic. He has formed the Way Forward Committee to discuss a re-imagined Redeemer, to think about how we will be a church during this time of social distancing and how and when we can safely gather again in person. The committee includes Keri Frisch, MPH and Senior Warden; Matt Buck, Calvert School educator; Noel Morelli, physician assistant; Doug Riley, attorney and Vestry member; Ruthie Cromwell, community partner to Paul's Place and Blakehurst Retirement Community resident; Helena Ware, college junior; Bert Landman, Director of Music and choir director; Ellen Chatard, Director of Program; and Fern Riley, MD. David said when it is safe to reconvene, we will have practices in place for hand sanitizing, open doors, socially distanced seating, and plans for distributing communion. But beyond making plans for such practices, we are a long way from being able to gather and worship as we have in the past. Many of our families have vulnerable members, and studies have shown that singing together and speaking loudly are particularly dangerous for spreading the virus. David described this period as a marathon, not a sprint, and if we are unable to gather together as we are accustomed to gathering, we are in the beginning of a time of loss

and dying. David said we are equipped spiritually at Redeemer to understand and experience what this means, to grow comfortable with these changes, and to find our way forward together.

David spoke about a potential candidate he is interviewing for the Associate for Youth and Young Adults ministry position.

David said our pastoral and outreach efforts are continuing. Several community organizations have been given grants from the Covenant Fund. Parishioners are helping with food delivery to Govans Elementary School families and others in north Baltimore, and parish contact volunteers are connecting with fellow parishioners. The church has had a few parishioners who have been infected with the virus and are recovering. Daily on-line prayer services are being offered, and the staff is now sending a Youtube link on Sunday morning for easier access to Sunday morning worship.

Treasurer's Report [Tony Brandon]. Tony Brandon reported that throughout the initial stage of the pandemic, our church has remained in remarkably good financial shape. The Budget and Finance Committee reviewed the financial reports prepared by Ellen Chatard and Katrina Schisler last week. Total income for January through April is slightly down as compared to last year at this time but is ahead of our budgeted figure, and expenses are also down compared to last year and this year's budget target. Looking at the month of April to gauge the impact of the church closing, balanced reductions in income and expenses have yielded positive monthly net income ahead of April budget projections and ahead of April 2019 levels. Investment losses to the Endowment Fund, the Heritage Trust Fund, and the Covenant Fund have been relatively modest.

Junior Warden's Report [Keri Frisch]. Keri gave a brief Junior Warden's report for Steve Sutor. She noted the North Parking Lot construction has begun. A sign showing the renovation design with new bioretention areas to improve storm water run-off management and improved lighting has been posted on the construction fence to explain the work. The project is about one week ahead of schedule and will continue through early August. Renovation of the bathroom above the choir room is nearly complete, and carpeting to replace the first floor carpeting throughout the building has been ordered.

Other Business. David asked the Vestry to offer support for Vivian Campagna to move ahead in her discernment process for the ministry. A motion for the Vestry to support Vivian Campagna in moving to the next step in the diocesan program of Discerning Ordained Vocation was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Keri indicated we will be having Vestry meetings in July and August this summer. David said we are postponing our Annual Meeting until we are able to meet adequately given the size of the parish.

The Vestry discussed returning to the Sacred Ground anti-racism training course over the summer and devoting time at the June Vestry meeting to explore the impact systemic racism is having on the current pandemic.

Adjournment. Doug Riley gave a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar