

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

**MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020
7:00 P.M. – VIRTUAL MEETING**

*Do not worry about anything, but in everything
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.*

Philippians 4:6

Quorum. The October Vestry Meeting was called to order virtually on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The following Vestry members were present, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Millicent Bain, 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, Steven Sutor, Tony Brandon, and Fern Riley.

Opening Prayer. David Ware opened the meeting with the poem, “Fall Song” by Mary Oliver.

Approval of Minutes. Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on September 15, 2020. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Rector’s Report [David Ware]. David discussed plans for the next several weekend services. Sunday, November 1 is All Saints Day, and the names of those who have died this year will be incorporated into the service. At 5:00 p.m., an on-line Requiem will be presented with recorded music, and all submitted names of deceased loved ones will be read between the movements of the music. Saturday, October 31 is the Feast of All Souls, and Faith@Five will be offered in person with instrumental music. Bishop Ihloff will join us on Sunday, November 8 for Confirmation; three services for up to 75 people will be offered at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m. with live-streaming of the service for those who are not able to attend in person. On Sunday, November 15, the Annual Meeting will be held virtually in a webinar format at 10:00 a.m. within the context of the service. No recorded services will be available that weekend so that all parishioners will gather for the single service and meeting.

David announced that after 35 years of devotion, affection, and service to Redeemer, Giang Vu has decided to retire on December 31 from his position as Facilities Manager. David expressed the sadness and gratitude the staff feels toward Mr. Vu with this announcement and said all are glad that Mr. Vu will be moving on to a well-earned retirement now that he has decided the time is right to make this change.

Six new Sacred Ground anti-racism training groups are forming, and 56 parishioners have already signed up. The anti-racism homily given by 4 teens in the parish this Sunday was timely, and David said it is great to see such interest in the course. The groups will begin their work in early November, and David thanked the 14 facilitators who will be leading the groups.

David noted the church will be open for quiet prayer with clergy available on Election Day and the following few days to allow for us to be in each other's presence and in the presence of the Spirit.

Treasurer's Report [Tony Brandon]. Tony Brandon presented the 2021 Proposed Operating Budget to the Vestry. While budget planning for the church is relatively straightforward in normal times, Tony indicated the uncertainty of operating in a pandemic requires more guesswork to draft a budget for 2021. Revenue unknowns include questions about when full in-person services will begin again with plate collections; the impact of the pandemic on pledges; the pandemic's effect on local health and the ability of the Parish Day School to continue to operate; and when full facilities rental income might resume. Expenses are also difficult to predict. Despite these challenges, Tony said Ellen Chatard, Katrina Schisler, and David have generated a reasonable budget taking the impact of the pandemic into account on each line item. With Mr. Vu's retirement and the need to establish new cleaning and maintenance services, an operating loss of \$45,000-\$50,000 is likely. Tony said the church can certainly withstand this or even an unexpectedly bigger loss as the church's investment accounts have grown considerably over the last year due to solid investments with good returns.

Tony said the Budget and Finance Committee has requested the Vestry discuss and reach a consensus on the limit of the operating loss the Vestry is willing to tolerate for 2021. A refined 2021 Proposed Operating Budget incorporating new cleaning and maintenance costs will be prepared for the November Vestry meeting, and Vestry members will consider the question of a tolerable limit to operating losses.

Junior Warden's Report [Steve Sutor]. Steve Sutor reported the contemplative benches and chairs that were placed around the campus for people to enjoy are being used. The North Parking Lot work is nearly completed with some additional plantings to be finished in the bioretention areas. An educational sign is in place at the site, and people passing by are stopping to read about the work and its purpose to reduce storm water run-off. With the new plantings, Steve said the lot is beautiful as a neighborhood site and in its functioning as a green space to help the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

Steve noted the Parish Day School driveway was repaired and patched recently, and the exterior doors to the school will be replaced soon. Estimates to repair the stonework on the chapel steeple have been requested. Bert Landman led a group of volunteers earlier this month to enrich the soil and move, replant, and replace plants in the West Columbarium garden.

David said Mark Schroeder has been working with the HVAC system to understand its air flow, air turnover, and proportions of fresh to recycled air. The church system brings in fresh air, and we have increased the air turnover and replaced the filters to improve the quality of the air to be ready for the time when we can safely move back indoors. The chapel system uses only recirculated air, so we will not be able to gather safely in the chapel.

Annual Meeting and Vestry Nominations [David Ware, Ellen Chatard]. Ellen said the Vestry Nominating Committee will be meeting this week to prepare the slate of Vestry candidates to be published in E-Redeemer on Thursday, October 29 prior to the 2020 Annual Meeting on November 15.

The retiring Vestry members Millicent Bain, Doug Riley, Jan Schroeder, and Anna von Lunz shared their thoughts about their time of service on the Vestry. David thanked them for their dedicated work and especially for their willingness to serve for an additional six months beyond their original terms to provide stability and continuity to the church during the pandemic.

Adjournment. Doug Riley gave a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar