

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020 7:00 P.M. – VIRTUAL MEETING

*Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word."
Luke 1:38*

Quorum. The December Vestry Meeting was called to order virtually on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The following Vestry members were present, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Nancy Bowen, Sara Engram, Sean Goldrick, Lis Green, Beverly Griffith, James Guyton, Erin Hagar, Anita Richardson, Peter Shafer, George Tracy, 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 member was absent: David Wallack.

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

Reflection. Peter Shafer offered a spiritual reflection.

Approval of Minutes. Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on November 17, 2020. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on November 15, 2020 were then presented. A motion to approve the Annual Parish Meeting minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Rector's Report [David Ware]. Due to the rise in coronavirus infections, David said the staff is planning several different formats for worship this Christmas since we will not be able to gather together in person. Christmas Eve live worship services with choral singing will be offered on Zoom at 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. A virtual Lessons and Carols service and a virtual Children's Pageant service will be available throughout the day. A Christmas Day live worship service on Zoom will be offered at 10:00 a.m. Parishioners can find the schedule of services and the links to each in E-Redeemer.

David said he has formed a Parish Day School discernment committee to explore growth possibilities for the school. Over the past several years, many parents have asked the school to consider expanding to offer first and second grade classes, feeling that another year or two in the smaller, nurturing environment at PDS would benefit their children. Committee members Matt Buck, Sara Engram, Beverly Griffith, Sarah Marinacci, Ted Winstead, and PDS Director Mary Knott will evaluate the need, feasibility, and potential parent interest in additional grades from a mission perspective. Current PDS graduates move on to 18 different public, parochial, and

independent schools. A gift from the Covenant Fund has significantly increased the financial aid budget for students.

Treasurer's Report [Tony Brandon]. Tony Brandon opened the discussion of the 2021 Proposed Operating Budget. He noted the Diocese has reduced the annual diocesan allocation for 2021 by \$11,000. A motion to increase the 2021 Endowment offtake to 4.7% to balance the budget and to approve the 2021 Proposed Operating Budget with this correction was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Tony presented the Statement of Investment Objectives and Policies prepared by the Investment Committee for discussion. A motion to approve the current Investment Policy as written and to follow its guidance for 2021 was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. The Vestry discussed and planned to explore church priorities for socially responsible investing at a future meeting.

Ellen Chatard reported the church has received stewardship pledges for 2021 totaling \$1,025,000 from 282 households, representing a net increase of \$83,659 from 2020. We hope to receive pledges from an additional 158 households who have made pledges in previous years.

Other Business. Ted Winstead said BUILD is planning an action on December 17 at 7:00 p.m. to meet virtually with Mayor Brandon Scott to address the current food crisis in Baltimore, to hear his plans and to advocate for additional funding from the state and federal government.

David said Rebecca Ogus will be ordained to the priesthood at Redeemer on January 6 at 7:00 p.m. The Bishop of Maryland, the Rt. Rev. Eugene Sutton, will ordain Rebecca and stand in for the Bishop of North Carolina, the Rt. Rev. Samuel Rodman, who is unable to attend due to Covid travel restrictions. The congregation will be invited to join in the service virtually on Zoom through a link in E-Redeemer.

Adjournment. David read "The Annunciation" by Denise Levertov, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar