

**THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**

**MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021**

**7:00 P.M. – VIRTUAL MEETING**

*Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.  
Isaiah 40:5*

**Quorum.** The January Vestry Meeting was called to order virtually on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 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, 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 a prayer.

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

**Rector's Report** [David Ware]. David opened a discussion with the Vestry about the January 6 insurrection at the Capitol to explore personal reactions and our responses as believers in an inclusive, non-violent Christianity.

**Treasurer's Report** [Tony Brandon]. Tony Brandon reported the Operating Account has grown to be over the FDIC insured level and more than the church needs to operate. The account has increased due to reduced expenditures during the pandemic and to the 2020 surplus. Tony said we will transfer \$400,000 to the Endowment Fund and keep the remaining \$300,000 in the Operating Account for church administration and programs.

Tony asked the Vestry to address the approval of the 2021 Clergy Housing Allowances as outlined in the 2021 Operating Budget. A motion to approve the Clergy Housing Allowances as outlined in the 2021 Operating Budget was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

To follow up on the December Vestry Meeting discussion to explore church priorities for socially responsible investing, Tony said Dan Dent of DF Dent & Co. and Katie Gray, chair of the Investment Committee, will attend the February Vestry Meeting. Tony will also plan to circulate the minutes of the Investment Committee meetings to the Vestry.

Ellen Chatard reported the church has received stewardship pledges for 2021 totaling \$1,249,000 from 356 households, representing a net increase of \$100,000 from 2020. We hope to receive pledges from an additional 75 households who have made pledges in previous years.

**Parish Day School First Grade Expansion** [David Ware]. David reported on the work from the Parish Day School discernment committee, consisting of PDS Director Mary Knott, David, and committee members Matt Buck, Sara Engram, Beverly Griffith, Sarah Marinacci, and Ted Winstead. Two recent PDS parent meetings demonstrated significant interest in having a first grade class in the fall at the school. While families have asked the school to consider expanding to first grade over the past several years, current interest is particularly strong as PDS has been able to offer safe, in-person learning for its students through the pandemic to foster social and emotional growth children need during these early years. The school is already licensed to offer a first grade class, and the committee has asked the Vestry to consider this expansion to first grade for the 2021-2022 school year.

On January 26, 2021, the Vestry met virtually to continue the discussion. David said 8-9 current PDS families would likely send their children to first grade if it is offered. He said Mary has also been in touch with other community families who are interested in first grade at PDS based on its small classes, excellent child-centered program, faith-based community, and in-person learning. A gift from the Covenant Fund has substantially increased the financial aid budget available for students. Tuition income from a class of 10 students would meet the added expense of expanding to first grade, and the school has reserve funds to cover a potential income deficit should it arise. A motion to add a first grade class to the Parish Day School for the 2021-2022 school year was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Adjournment.** David led the Vestry in prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar