

## THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

### MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021 7:00 P.M. – VIRTUAL MEETING

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Psalm 51:11*

**Quorum.** The February Vestry Meeting was called to order virtually on Tuesday, February 16, 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, Steven Sutor, Tony Brandon, and Fern Riley. The following officer was absent: Keri Frisch

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

**Reflection.** Ted Winstead offered a spiritual reflection.

**Approval of Minutes.** Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on January 19, 2021. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Rector's Report** [David Ware]. David said the Parish Day School is moving forward with plans to offer a first grade class for the 2021-2022 school year. Interest in this new class has been strong; sixteen families have signed agreements for their children to attend, and several families are on the waiting list. PDS Director Mary Knott is interviewing potential first grade teachers. Director of Facilities Mark Schroeder and the PDS faculty have cleaned and prepared the Parish Hall Nursery to become the new first grade classroom with close access to bathrooms, the elevator, and the school building. The PDS Discernment Committee will be meeting next week as they continue to evaluate areas for permanent growth.

David gave an overview of upcoming virtual Lenten offerings. On Mondays at 4:00 pm, pediatrician and theologian Dr. Pat Fosarelli will give a series of talks about stress: 2/22 - "Stress: It's Often Bad, But Sometimes It's Even Good"; 3/1 - "Parenting Well During the Worst of Times, In the Best of Times"; 3/8 - "Can One Really Heal Being Traumatized?"; and 3/15 - "If God Loves Us So Much, Why Is There Suffering?" Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., VOICES speakers hosted by the Caring for Creation Committee will present environmental topics: 2/24 - "C-Change Conversations" with Kathleen Biggins, a non-partisan discussion on the science of climate change; and 3/3 - "Water All Around Us" with Michael Anderson of Blue Water Baltimore.

Freda Marie Brown will lead a congregational conversation of The Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis on Wednesday, 3/10, 3/17, and 3/24 at 7:00 p.m.

**Treasurer's Report** [Tony Brandon]. Tony Brandon introduced investment manager Dan Dent of DF Dent & Co. and Katie Gray, chair of the Investment Committee, who joined the virtual meeting with the Vestry to discuss investment principles for the church. Dan gave an overview of his firm's philosophy of investing and the mechanisms in place to evaluate a potential or current investment company's environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) focus. Katie indicated the Investment Committee follows the guidelines for socially responsible investing established by the Episcopal Church: 1) Avoidance - avoid investing in companies with actions that run counter to our social and moral values; 2) Affirmative Investing - choose investments that bring financial resources to communities in need in line with our mission; and 3) Advocacy - proxy voting and activism to influence corporate behavior. The Investment Committee seeks to find the right balance using these principles to fulfill our mission and to enhance our investment return in order to fund church programming. Tony said he appreciated the discussion and the opportunity to establish communication between the Vestry and the Investment Committee for future questions, and he thanked Dan and Katie for coming to the meeting.

**Junior Warden's Report** [Steve Sutor]. Steve Sutor reported Cityscape Engineering has come up with plans to address the flooding and erosion issues in the Southeast Parking Lot drainage area. We have upgraded the church's automatic temperature and alarm systems. Mark Schroeder will be notified of any alarms, and adjustments to the system can be made remotely. The lighting in the church nave will be upgraded to LED lights and will have a longer functional life. We will be adding more lighting to the pews and highlighting some architectural elements while staying true to architect Pietro Belluschi's thoughts about the design of the church.

**Annual Meeting**. David said we will hold a virtual Annual Meeting in the spring after Easter to return to our usual schedule. We will discuss how we are growing and what we have done during the pandemic, and we will elect a new Vestry class.

**Adjournment**. David led the Vestry in prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar