

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021

7:00 P.M. – VIRTUAL MEETING

*See what love the Father has given us,
that we should be called children of God;
and that is what we are.*

1 John 3:1

Quorum. The April Vestry Meeting was called to order virtually on Tuesday, April 20, 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, 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. The following Vestry member was absent: Erin Hagar.

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

Reflection. Anita Richardson offered a spiritual reflection.

Approval of Minutes. Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on March 16, 2021. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Rector's Report [David Ware]. David reviewed the events of Holy Week and Easter this year at the church, noting the clergy and staff were able to use all they had learned over the past year since the start of the pandemic about meaningful worship and safe practices for gathering the parish. The week began on Sunday, March 28 with Palm Sunday virtual and recorded morning services and a 5:00 p.m. recorded offering of Palm Sunday readings and musical meditations from the clergy and the Redeemer Choir on the Passion of Christ. Parishioners Jean Mellot and Martha Ruffin gave the Wednesday Lenten Voices series on March 31, discussing water stewardship and storm water remediation projects at Redeemer. Freda Marie Brown led a virtual Maundy Thursday service on April 1 with blessings of oil and water for individuals and families to participate from home. A Maundy Thursday virtual overnight vigil was held from 8:30 p.m. on April 1 through 11:30 a.m. on April 2, led by parishioners who had signed up to light a candle and to keep watch and pray for their designated hour; David remarked on the variety of candles and settings offered, noting it worked better virtually than it would have any other way. Cristina Paglinauan led the virtual Good Friday service from the church on April 2, incorporating music and a moving reading of the Passion. Rebecca Ogus coordinated the Holy Saturday Easter Vigil service on April 3, starting at 8:00 p.m.

with a fire outside near the new Columbarium for the lighting of the Paschal Candle and moving to the courtyard and briefly into the church; David said the service was extraordinary and will be a gift to continue in future years. Four services in the courtyard and a virtual service were offered on Easter on April 4, each with their own presence of the Spirit. David said he felt more in touch with Easter this year with the loss and joy, the dying and rising that are a part of our lives and so linked with the time we are in right now. He said he felt so fortunate to be part of this team of clergy and lay staff members.

David said the Annual Meeting will be held virtually on Sunday, May 2 during the 10:00 a.m. service. Bert Landman is helping with planning to have the meeting within the context of prayer and the Eucharist. Senior Warden Keri Frisch will give a report on the Sacred Ground anti-racism discussion groups, Junior Warden Steve Sutor will discuss completed and upcoming buildings and ground projects, and Treasurer Tony Brandon will review the church finances. Director of Parish Day School Mary Knott will give a report about the school during the pandemic, and she will discuss the 2021-2022 school year expansion to first grade and the work of the Discernment Committee. David will give an overview of the year and will discuss the Covenant Fund and its work. We will offer thanks and appreciation to the outgoing Vestry class, elect the slate of the new Vestry members Ally Abernathy, Peter Bain, Dixon Harvey, and Kristen Heerema, and swear in the new Vestry members and the officers.

Senior Warden's Report [Keri Frisch]. Keri Frisch gave an update on the Sacred Ground anti-racism discussion groups. She reported six groups are currently engaged in the curriculum with fourteen facilitators and about seventy participants. Four groups will be completing their work by early May, and the other two groups will continue through the summer. Keri said many people have commented on how transformational the work has been, and she noted the groups will be considering what next steps will follow for each person, for Redeemer, and for the community. Another set of discussion groups will launch in the fall for the next program year with new leaders from the current groups.

Junior Warden's Report [Steve Sutor]. Steve Sutor reviewed the recent campus building and maintenance projects at the church. The HVAC coils in the chapel have been replaced, and the control software was installed. Contractor plans are in place for the Parish Day School to open up two rooms into one larger classroom. Erosion and drainage control work is underway in the East Parking Lot to mitigate water runoff. A design proposal for replacing the interior church lighting with LED lights has been made. In order to prepare for live-streaming worship capabilities, cameras and a new control board will be installed in the church nave. Steve will be meeting with a painting contractor next week to discuss painting on the outside of the 1949 Parish Hall building. He will also be meeting with parishioners Karen Lineaweaver, Courtney Iglehart, and Kathy LaPlant to continue planning for the renovation of the Women's Council Room. Projects for next year include lighting for the New Columbarium wall and replanting azaleas and disease-resistant plants along the

walkway from Charles Street to the chapel. A portion of the Heritage Trust Fund allocation for this year was used for the 2020 North Parking Lot bioretention construction, replanting, and resurfacing project for improved storm water run-off management.

Treasurer's Report [Tony Brandon]. Tony Brandon noted the Parochial Report for the Diocese was circulated electronically, and the Vestry gave its approval. A formal motion to accept the Parochial Report for the Diocese for the year was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

At the March Vestry meeting, Tony announced he would be stepping down as Treasurer in May, and he said it has truly been a pleasure and a privilege to serve the church as Treasurer for the past five years. Tony recounted that David came to Redeemer in part due to the unrest in Baltimore resulting from the death of Freddie Gray, and his sermons have inspired the church to embrace a mission of outreach, to use the resources with which we have been blessed to generously support those in need in the city. One of the first budgets drafted during David's early tenure included a doubling of the allocation to community outreach. Then, the Covenant Fund was established from the generous spirit and gift of a Redeemer parishioner, greatly enhancing the church's capacity to perform outreach work.

Tony reported both the Endowment Fund and the Heritage Trust Fund have nearly doubled over the past five years, due to the generosity of the congregation and favorable market conditions. He noted the greatest financial milestone during this time was the establishment of the Covenant Fund and the distribution of funding to help others in the community before and during the pandemic. Tony indicated it was a huge blessing to have the dedicated work of Ellen Chatard and Katrina Schisler in the office managing the church's resources with amazing efficiency. With the expanding mission from a growing congregation, an expanding Parish Day School, and the increase in church programming, Tony predicted the church's financial position will continue to grow and become more complex just as it has changed in the past five years, and he said Doug Riley, the incoming Treasurer, will provide the necessary leadership to embrace the positive changes that will be needed to manage our growing resources. Tony thanked everyone, and David thanked Tony for his service to the church.

Other Business. The outgoing Vestry members Lis Green, Beverly Griffith, David Wallack, and Ted Winstead shared their thoughts about their time on the Vestry. David thanked them all for their leadership and service and for the ways the Vestry has grown together over the past three years.

Sean Goldrick expressed interest in developing a procurement strategy for the church to promote hiring women-owned and minority-owned businesses to do contracted work. David suggested drafting ideas for a plan to bring to the Vestry for discussion.

David asked the Vestry to remember Katrina Schisler and her family in their prayers on the recent death of her aunt and several other family members over the past few months.

Adjournment. David gave the dismissal and blessing, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar