

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 7:00 P.M. – VIRTUAL MEETING

*He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them,
“Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”
Mark 9:35*

Quorum. The September Vestry Meeting was called to order virtually on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The following Vestry members were present, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Ally Abernathy, Peter Bain, Nancy Bowen, Sara Engram, Sean Goldrick, James Guyton, Erin Hagar, Dixon Harvey, Kristen Heerema, Anita Richardson, Peter Shafer, and George Tracy. The following clergy members, staff members, and officers were present: David Ware, Ellen Chatard, Keri Frisch, Steven Sutor, Doug Riley, and Fern Riley.

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

Reflection. Erin Hagar led the group in a spiritual reflection.

Approval of Minutes. Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on June 15, 2021. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Rector’s Report [David Ware]. David asked the Vestry to resume its discussion from the previous meeting about the proposed expansion of the Parish Day School through third grade and presented plans for school growth. He reviewed the mission of PDS to educate children through an experiential program that nurtures curious, confident learners who are joyful and kind; to discover the unique worth and beauty of individuals in a vibrant environment that fosters strong relationships; and to build an inclusive and equitable community, strengthening the school, parish, and Baltimore. The goals of expansion are to build on the school’s early childhood foundation, adding programs for first, second, and third grades; to develop a public/private school partnership with Govans Elementary School; to increase financial aid to enable support for every family with demonstrated need; to foster a culture of giving to support an annual fund and endowment; to discern facility needs to house first through third grades, as well as other program growth such as music, a multi-purpose room, a library, and a health suite; to transition the school governance from an advisory committee to a board, changing the relationship between the parish and the school; and to discern the need for additional staff and administrative support. The expansion would benefit the Baltimore community by growing the school’s partnership with Govans Elementary School, the parish by reaching out and adding new families, and the school by completing its vision to provide early childhood education.

The Vestry discussed the financial commitment necessary to support the expansion. David noted the annual PDS budget would continue to cover its yearly expenses. Initial capital expenses for growth would be modest in order for the school to remain affordable; learning cottages would be used for the first few years until the specific needs for additional space become clear. Fundraising would then seek to involve PDS alumni, currently enrolled families, and the parish to support the capital improvements. The school would also seek to attract diverse families by providing financial aid grants made available through gifts to the school from individuals and the Covenant Fund.

The following motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved:

The Vestry of the Church of the Redeemer is committed to, and fully supports,

an expansion of the Parish Day School to include Grades One through Three consistent to the plan presented to the Vestry by the Rector on September 21, 2021.

Vestry Retreat [Keri Frisch]. Keri Frisch said the Vestry Retreat is scheduled for October 22-23 at the Claggett Center, and the Vestry agreed to proceed with the event, paying close attention to social distancing, wearing masks, and meeting and eating outdoors. Ellen Chatard asked each Vestry member to send a check for \$140 to the church to cover the cost of the retreat.

Treasurer's Report [Doug Riley]. Doug Riley reported the church has received a \$50,000 estate gift from long-time parishioner Caroline Coleman. While such gifts are usually placed in the Endowment Fund, Doug noted Caroline had contributed past gifts to fund the installation of the glass doors outside the church, and he proposed this gift be transferred to the Heritage Trust Fund. A motion to transfer the \$50,000 gift from the estate of Caroline Coleman from the Operating Account into the Heritage Trust Fund was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Diocesan Convention Delegates [Ellen Chatard]. Ellen asked the Vestry to confirm Keri Frisch, Ted Winstead, Tom Faxon, and Eileen Riley to serve as the Diocesan Convention delegates to attend the Diocesan Convention on November 13. A motion to approve the Diocesan Convention delegates Keri Frisch, Ted Winstead, Tom Faxon, and Eileen Riley to attend the Diocesan Convention was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Discernment Approval [Ellen Chatard]. Ellen asked the Vestry to offer its support to parishioner Andrew Graves as he is in the first stages of discerning a call to ministry and entering the Diocesan Discerning Ordained Vocation program. A motion for the Vestry to support Andrew Graves to enter the Diocesan Discerning Ordained Vocation program and to pledge \$750 to support his efforts was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Other Business. Ellen requested Vestry members to sign up to serve as Vestry Greeters on Sunday mornings prior to the 10:00 a.m. service. We are encouraging parishioners to enter using the Welcome Center door in order to reduce noise in the narthex during the service.

Adjournment. David offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar