

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021
7:00 P.M. – PARISH HALL

*So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.
Psalm 90:12*

Quorum. The October Vestry Meeting was called to order on Tuesday, October 19, 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, Erin Hagar, Dixon Harvey, Kristen Heerema, Anita Richardson, 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. The following Vestry members were absent: James Guyton and Peter Shafer.

Opening Prayer. David Ware opened the meeting by reading the poems, “The Summer Day” and “Wild Geese” by Mary Oliver.

Reflection. Dixon Harvey offered a spiritual reflection.

Approval of Minutes. Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on September 21, 2021. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Rector’s Report [David Ware]. David discussed plans for the Vestry/Staff Retreat on October 22-23 at the Claggett Center. Dinner will be available on Friday, October 22 at 6:00 p.m. to be followed at 7:00 p.m. with an evening work session and social time at 8:30 p.m. On Saturday, October 23, breakfast will open at 8:00 a.m. and the morning’s work session will begin at 9:00 a.m. with lunch at 12 noon and a closing Eucharist at 1:00 p.m. David said we would use the time to explore our mission and our work as we consider the financial reality and spiritual opportunity present to us at this time at Redeemer.

David reported the Sacred Ground group participants and facilitators from 2020-2021 gathered together for a final meeting on October 5, and four new cohorts with nine facilitators will be launching this fall. The curriculum and discussion groups offer the opportunity to engage in anti-racism work through meeting and talking deeply with a dedicated group of people. David asked those who had taken the course to talk with parishioners at church about their experiences to encourage them to join this year’s group. Participants from last year wrote down next steps for themselves, and they are now posted on the bulletin board near the Welcome Center. David said this difficult and important Sacred Ground work invites us onto a

journey that the Spirit is guiding, deep into the heart of God, to a place where we are all broken and offers us a way through. Several Vestry members said this work helped them to find a way to talk to each other about race, to open their eyes to this history and to an awareness of these issues in the present.

Treasurer's Report [Doug Riley]. Doug Riley presented the annual independent audits of the financial statements for the church and for the Parish Day School prepared by Gross, Mendelsohn & Associates. He said the reports indicate our accounting system is working appropriately and our financial organization is in order and well-run. Doug credited and thanked David, Ellen Chatard, Katrina Schisler, and the Budget and Finance Committee for their diligent work.

Doug presented weekly attendance data for Redeemer over the past six months. It was noted that many parishioners are returning to Saturday Faith@Five outdoor and Sunday morning worship services in the church, and some are attending the live-streaming Sunday morning services remotely. The church also offers a virtual Noon Day Prayer on Thursdays at 12 noon and Morning Prayer on Fridays at 8:00 a.m., and Cristina Paglinauan leads virtual breathing sessions on Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. The Rector's Bible Study continues to meet virtually on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon. David noted many parishioners are trying to manage COVID exposure risk to their families, and the church is looking to reach out and respond safely with virtual and in-person offerings.

Doug reported the church's finances remain in a good shape. September actual revenue was up by \$27,000, and expenses were down by \$17,000. Stewardship letters for 2022 pledges will go out to parishioners in November. The proposed 2022 budget is being drafted and will be reviewed by the Budget and Finance Committee. The Vestry will review the budget at the November Vestry meeting and will plan to vote on it in December.

Other Business. Keri Frisch said the VOICES Speaker Series presentation on environmental ministry in the Diocese of Maryland planned for tomorrow has been cancelled. Future speakers include George Washington University Research Professor of Health Policy and Management and emergency physician Dr. Leana Wen on November 3 to discuss the COVID pandemic; Peabody Institute Associate Dean for Innovation, Interdisciplinary Partnerships, and Community Initiatives Dr. Sarah Hoover on November 10 to discuss her book, *Music as Care: Artistry in the Hospital Environment*; and Johns Hopkins University Professor of Political Science Dr. Hahrie Han on November 17 to discuss her book, *Prisms of the People: Power and Organizing in 21st Century America*.

David said BUILD will hold a virtual teach-in on the digital divide in Baltimore and its parallels to redlining on October 20, and it will hold a meeting on housing issues in the city on October 28 at Koinonia Baptist Church at 6:30 p.m.

David said Mary Knott and he are considering governance issues for the Parish Day School expansion to third grade and have been in touch with the National Association of Episcopal Schools for guidance on organizational structures and bylaws.

Adjournment. David read the poem, “Angels” by Mary Oliver, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar