

**THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER  
MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022  
7:00 P.M. – WOMEN’S COUNCIL ROOM**

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven,  
the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem  
and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”  
Luke 2:15*

**Quorum.** The December Vestry Meeting was called to order on Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. The following Vestry members were present, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Margie Chandler, Sara Engram, James Guyton, Erin Hagar, Dixon Harvey, Anne Haskins, Kristen Heerema, Kathy LaPlant, John Schmick, and George Tracy. The following clergy members, staff members, and officers were present: David Ware, Ellen Chatard, Steven Sutor, Doug Riley, and Fern Riley. The following Vestry members were absent: Ally Abernathy and Peter Bain. The following officer was absent: Keri Frisch.

**Opening Prayer.** David Ware opened the meeting with Christina Rossetti’s poem and Christmas carol, “In the Bleak Midwinter”.

**Approval of Minutes.** Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on November 15, 2022. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Reflection.** Kathy LaPlant offered a spiritual reflection.

**Treasurer’s Report [Doug Riley].** The 2023 Proposed Budget was distributed to the Vestry at the November Vestry meeting for review, and Doug Riley requested the following motion be made:

Be it resolved that the Vestry approves and adopts the Budget endorsed by the Budget and Finance Committee and presented to the Vestry at the Vestry meeting on November 15, 2022.

The motion was made and seconded. The Vestry discussed the budget. Doug said the budget is conservative and based on actual income and expenses over the past several years. On the income side, the 2022 Budget planned for \$1,465,000 in pledge commitments, and the 2023 Proposed Budget increases this amount by \$10,000. By November 30, \$1,291,000 in 2022 pledges had been collected, and Doug said by the end of December we will expect to be close to the budgeted amount. He noted pledge commitments have increased over the past few years: by mid-December, 2020, 282 pledges totaling \$1,025,000 were made, by mid-December 2021, 276 pledges totaling \$1,104,000 were made, and by mid-December, 2022, 332 pledges totaling \$1,214,000 have been made. On the expense side, Doug said clergy and staff salaries have been increased by 5%, and several line items have

been increased to adjust for higher energy costs and inflation. The motion as stated for the Vestry to approve and adopt the 2023 Proposed Budget was unanimously approved.

Doug said Vestry approval is needed annually for the Clergy Housing Allowances for tax purposes as required by the Internal Revenue Service and the Diocese of Maryland, and he requested a motion that the Vestry approve the Clergy Housing Allowances for 2023 for David Ware, Cristina Paglinauan, Freda Marie Brown, and Rebecca Ogus as designated in the 2023 Proposed Budget. The motion as stated was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Ellen Chatard gave a report on the 2023 Stewardship campaign. The church has received 332 pledges totaling \$1,213,611 for an increase of \$60,000 over last year. Pledges from an additional 50-55 households are still expected to be received.

**Rector's Report [David Ware].** The Lessons and Carols Service was held on Sunday, December 18, and David said many new faces were present in the congregation, noting that people are longing for what we have to offer at Redeemer. He is aware that in this stage of the pandemic, some parishioners are unable to safely come to services and others have yet to return to their previous worship attendance. David said about 500 people attended the service, and he is interested to see how many people will watch remotely.

David outlined the Christmas season service schedule. Christmas Eve services will begin on Saturday, December 24 at 11:00 a.m. in the church with the Connections Choir. The Holy Eucharist with the children's pageant in the church will be held at 4:00 p.m. with music by the Choir School of Baltimore and the Redeemer Choir, and the 4:00 p.m. outdoor Holy Eucharist "Keeping Watch..." service will take place on the front lawn with plans to move to the chapel if the weather makes outdoor worship difficult. The 9:00 p.m. Festive Holy Eucharist will be held in the church with the Redeemer Choir offering a choral prelude at 8:30 p.m. David noted the 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. church services will be live streamed. Holy Eucharist on Christmas Day will be held on Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. in the church.

**Other Business.** David said BSA Troop 612 for Girls, known as Troop 612G, has approached the church to see if they could begin meeting at Redeemer now that the national Methodist Church has decided to end their sponsorship of scouting. The seventeen scouts currently meeting at Grace Methodist Church would become a second scouting troop under Redeemer sponsorship along with BSA Troop 35. A motion for the Church of the Redeemer to become the sponsoring organization for BSA Troop 612 for Girls, known as Troop 612G, was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Adjournment.** Doug offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar