

**THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**  
**MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023**  
**7:00 P.M. – WOMEN’S COUNCIL ROOM**

*Jesus said to her, “Mary!”  
She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!”  
John 20:16*

**Quorum.** The April Vestry Meeting was called to order on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. The following Vestry members were present, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Ally Abernathy, Peter Bain, Margie Chandler, Sara Engram, James Guyton, Erin Hagar, Dixon Harvey, Anne Haskins, John Schmick, and George Tracy. The following clergy members, staff members, and officers were present: David Ware, Ellen Chatard, Keri Frisch, Steve Sutor, Doug Riley, and Fern Riley. The following Vestry members were absent: Kristen Heerema and Kathy LaPlant.

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

**Approval of Minutes.** Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on March 21, 2023. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Rector’s Report [David Ware].** Many parishioners participated in Holy Week services and gatherings earlier this month. David reported 455 people attended worship services over Palm Sunday weekend, including 100 people who came to the Passion of Christ: Meditations in Words and Music service on Sunday evening. Sixty people came to the Maundy Thursday Last Supper meal and stripping of the altar. On Good Friday, 79 people attended the noon liturgy and 30 participated in the Stations of the Cross walk through Homeland and Govans, and on Saturday, 89 people attended the Easter Vigil. On Easter, 30 people attended the 7:30 a.m. service, 451 people attended the 9:00 a.m. service, and 414 people attended the 11:00 a.m. service. The following weekend, 332 people attended the Youth Sunday service, with 97 viewers watching the livestream, bringing our attendance close to pre-pandemic levels. David said we are moving in the right direction, and we still have room to grow. He noted many new people are coming who have not had a previous connection to Redeemer, and we are seeking to welcome them to the church. Current and former Vestry members are asked to sign up to serve as Sunday morning greeters. A name tag table for new and current parishioners will move outside to the courtyard to encourage name tag use and facilitate conversation.

The Redeemer History Working Group was formed in response to the February 15, 2022 Vestry resolution to create a working group to research the relationship between Redeemer and the institution of slavery, the adoption of Jim Crow laws, and

other practices in Maryland that disenfranchise communities, and the group presented its early work to Vestry members on March 5 and March 21. David invited the Vestry to share their thoughts about these sessions. Many members expressed their respect and appreciation for the depth and quality of the work the History Working Group is doing and for their thoughtfulness in the process and in the presentation of their findings. Keri Frisch noted the Parish Hall display in March of the Diocese of Maryland Trail of Souls timeline exhibit outlining the church's involvement in slavery and its legacies and the associated Adult Education session were well attended and generated significant discussion. The History Working Group will be presenting more of their research findings at the Vestry/Staff Retreat in October, and David asked Vestry members to think about how to use this retreat to consider the method and format for presenting this material to the parish.

David reported on several staff updates. Jan Schroeder is retiring from her work as Director of Children's Ministries, spanning 41 years of service to children, youth, and parents at Redeemer, and we will celebrate her ministry at the Annual Meeting on April 23. A job description for this position will be posted in E-Redeemer and elsewhere, and David said we will pray for the Spirit to lead and help us to find the right person to fill this important role. He hopes to announce a new head for the Center for WellBeing soon. During his sabbatical over the fall and early winter, David said Cristina Paglinauan will be the priest in charge and will convene staff meetings and Vestry meetings. The clergy will continue in their duties and will lead worship services and preaching. Mary Knott will confer with Parish Day School Board Chair Chrissy Levering twice a month regarding school matters.

**Treasurer's Report [Doug Riley].** As noted in February, Doug Riley reported the church finances are in good shape with revenues up by \$28,000 and expenses down by \$15,000 from budgeted amounts. He noted the surplus is due in part to parishioners who have made their 2023 pledge payment early. He also praised David, Ellen Chatard, and Katrina Schisler for their careful financial management.

Doug presented the Parish Day School 2023-2024 Proposed Budget developed by Mary Knott and David, approved by the PDS Board, and subsequently evaluated and approved by the Budget and Finance Committee. Doug requested a motion to be made to approve the proposed budget of the Parish Day School for its fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024. The motion was made and seconded. The Vestry discussed the budget. The motion as stated for the Vestry to approve the 2023-2024 PDS Proposed Budget was unanimously approved.

**Vestry Nominations and Annual Meeting.** Ellen announced the slate of nominees for the Vestry Class of 2026: Michelle Gutberlet, Jean Mellott, Paul Smith, and Jim Stipe. They will be presented for election at the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, April 23 during the 10:00 a.m. service. Outgoing Vestry members Sara Engram, James Guyton, Erin Hagar, and George Tracy spoke about their time of service on the Vestry. David said he appreciated their willingness to serve beginning in the early

months of the Covid pandemic and to work together to discover our common purpose during that time. He thanked them for their service to the church.

**Future Agenda Items.** Keri said David and she are preparing an exercise from the Diocesan College for Congregational Development for an upcoming Vestry meeting to help us assess our current practices and consider ways to improve in engaging newcomers and parishioners.

**Adjournment.** Doug offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m

Fern Riley, Registrar