

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023
7:00 P.M. – WOMEN’S COUNCIL ROOM

*Jesus turned, and seeing her he said,
“Take heart, daughter, your faith has made you well.”
And instantly the woman was made well.
Matthew 9:22*

Quorum. The May Vestry Meeting was called to order on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. The following Vestry members were present, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Ally Abernathy, Michelle Gutberlet, Anne Haskins, Kristen Heerema, Kathy LaPlant, Jean Mellott, John Schmick, Paul Smith, and Jim Stipe. The following clergy members, staff members, and officers were present: David Ware, Ellen Chatard, Steve Sutor, Doug Riley, and Fern Riley. The following Vestry members were absent: Peter Bain, Margie Chandler, and Dixon Harvey. The following officer was absent: Keri Frisch.

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

Approval of Minutes. Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on April 18, 2023, and the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on April 23, 2023. A motion to approve the minutes of the April Vestry Meeting was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. A motion to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Reflection. John Schmick offered a spiritual reflection.

Rector’s Report [David Ware]. David announced Thomasina Wharton will be the new Director of the Center for WellBeing starting September 1. She served as a pastor at Connexion Point Church in Baltimore with her husband, the Rev. Rayner Wharton, Sr. and as a facilitator for the Renovare Institute for Christian Spiritual Formation. She is finishing her pastoral training at the Bon Secours Spiritual Direction Institute this summer. David said he is looking forward to seeing how the Center will evolve and grow under Thomasina’s leadership and guidance.

David said he has formed a discernment committee for Christina Way as she is considering the direction of her future work in lay or potential ordained ministry.

The church has held four funerals in the past two weeks, and David said we are processing a lot of loss in the congregation.

The staff will be doing its annual program planning on May 30 for the upcoming program year. David said he and the staff are excited about the growth in campus

events and use, noting that we are close to pre-pandemic levels of involvement in church activities and community groups such as the 12-step programs. The clergy will have their retreat for program planning in June.

David said new Vestry liaisons are needed for the Parish Day School Board and the Budget and Finance Committee. Previous PDS liaison Sara Engram and Budget and Finance liaison George Tracy have been asked and have agreed to continue their work with these groups now that they have rotated off the Vestry. David asked new and returning Vestry members to consider helping in these roles.

Congregational Development. The College for Congregational Development is a training program to develop lay and clergy leadership in church organizing and development originally created by leaders in the Diocese of Olympia and brought to the Diocese of Maryland in 2021. David led the Vestry in an exercise from this curriculum to explore our understanding of how and why we gather at Redeemer: who we are, who we could be and what is missing currently, how we are inviting people to gather, and how we are greeting, orienting and incorporating newcomers. The Vestry will continue in future meetings to examine our practices and approaches to see how we can improve in engaging newcomers and parishioners.

Oath of Office for New Vestry. New Vestry members Michelle Gutberlet, Jean Mel-lott, Paul Smith, and Jim Stipe signed the Oath of Office.

Election of Officers. David proposed the election of the following officers: Keri Frisch as Senior Warden, Steve Sutor as Junior Warden, Doug Riley as Treasurer, and Fern Riley as Registrar. A motion to elect Keri Frisch, Steve Sutor, Doug Riley, and Fern Riley to serve as Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Registrar, respectively, was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. The officers in attendance took and signed the Oath of Office.

Other Business. Doug Riley said Scout Troop 635 for girls is organizing and becoming established under its new Redeemer sponsorship. Steve Sutor said the Buildings and Grounds Committee is working on the design for a ramp entrance to the church on the west side of the courtyard and will be getting estimates for its construction. Ellen Chatard said the Vestry/Staff Retreat with the Redeemer History Working Group will be held at the Claggett Center on October 13-14, and she will be sending out sign up and cost information by mid-June.

Adjournment. Doug offered a closing prayer for guidance in servant leadership, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar