

## THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

### MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023

7:00 P.M. – VIRTUAL MEETING

*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Isaiah 9:6*

**Quorum.** The December Vestry Meeting was called to order virtually on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. The following Vestry members were present, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Peter Bain, Margie Chandler, Michelle Gutberlet, Dixon Harvey, 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: Cristina Paglinauan, Ellen Chatard, Steve Sutor, Doug Riley, and Fern Riley. The following Vestry member was absent: Ally Abernathy. The following officer was absent: Keri Frisch. David Ware was on sabbatical.

**Opening Prayer.** Cristina Paglinauan opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

**Priest-in-Charge Report [Cristina Paglinauan].** On Monday, December 11, Redeemer parishioners participated in the BUILD public action update at Greater Harvest Baptist Church to address vacant and abandoned houses in Baltimore. Cristina said everyone felt excited and energized by the strong turnout and the endorsements of Mayor Brandon Scott and Greater Baltimore Committee CEO Mark Anthony Thomas to move forward with BUILD's plan to raise \$3 billion from public and private sources over 15 years to remove blighted properties from neighborhoods across Baltimore once and for all. She said the next step will be to focus efforts in Annapolis to pass the initial necessary state legislation. In addition to hundreds of BUILD leaders and community members, Bishop Carrie Schofield-Broadbent and Cathedral of the Incarnation Dean Rev. Rob Boulter attended, indicating their interest and support for the role of community organizing to uplift parishes in the diocese. Vestry members who attended agreed that the evening generated enthusiasm and hope for Baltimore's future.

In partnership with the Ivy Bookstore, Redeemer hosted authors Ann Patchett and R. Eric Thomas for an evening of conversation about their latest books on Monday, December 11 in the church. Ellen Chatard reported 850-900 people from the com-

munity attended the event. Rebecca Ogus served as the clergy host, and the discussion was lively and engaging. Many first time visitors to the church were interested in and appreciated the architecture of the building. Cristina said we can be mindful to meet guests to our church in a variety of settings on their terms and welcome them into our space.

**Treasurer's Report [Doug Riley].** Ellen Chatard gave an update on the 2024 Stewardship campaign, reporting \$1,132,000 in pledges have been made from 297 households, including 16 first time pledgers and 23 returning pledgers. Pledges from 80-90 households are still expected.

Doug Riley reintroduced the 2024 Proposed Budget presented previously to the Vestry at the November meeting for review. Doug noted it is a balanced budget with a surplus of about \$1,000. The Vestry discussed the budget. A motion to approve the 2024 Proposed Budget as presented to the Vestry was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Doug opened a discussion of the Rector's plans for Covenant Fund disbursements totaling \$97,000 for the year. The following organizations have been chosen for funding: Drink at the Well, St. Francis Neighborhood Center, ReBUILD Metro, Intersection of Change, BSA Troop 635 for Girls, Lifting Labels, and the Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies. A motion to approve \$97,000 in disbursements from the Covenant Fund to the organizations noted above as recommended by the Rector was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Other Business.** Ellen Chatard reported 460 people attended the Lessons and Carols service on December 17. Cristina said BUILD clergy leader Rev. George Hopkins will preach at Redeemer on Sunday, January 14 in honor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Ellen said the Redeemer History Committee will be planning five sessions in January and February to discuss their findings about Redeemer's history during the Jim Crow era. Cristina said the Redeemer Youth Group has begun rehearsals for its February production of the musical, "Frozen".

**Adjournment.** Doug Riley offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar