

Minutes of the Meeting of the Vestry
Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, PA
Tuesday, September 15, 2020
7:00-9:00 PM via Zoom

Vestry members present: Susan Adeniyi-Jones, Jim Buck, Lisa Davis, Elisabeth Cooke, Al Greenough, Melanie LeBoeuf, Mackie MacLean, Andrew Masterman, Harry Miller, Carolyn Morris, Tracy Steele and Jacques Vaucelain.

Redeemer staff present: The Rev. Peter Vanderveen, The Rev. Jo Ann Jones, The Rev. Michael Palmisano, Francesca Merritt, and Jay Einspanier.

Recorder: Francesca Merritt

The meeting of the Vestry was called to order at 7:05 pm. Michael Palmisano gave the opening prayer.

Approval of the minutes for July and August. August minutes were approved. July minutes will need to be amended by addition the discussion of the letter to the Bishop.

Rector's Warden Report

Andrew discussed developments regarding the proposed 2021 diocesan budget and potential changes to parish assessments. The diocesan Board of Trustees is moving to eliminate the voluntary share and include revenues for diocesan mission within the assessment. After multiple parishes voiced concern about the diocese seeking significant increases for the coming year, the Bishop withdrew the original draft budget. The revised budget reflects parish revenues at 2020 levels. Peter is working with other parishes to get a list of issues before the Bishop. Andrew added that after the rector's meeting, the vestry could revisit the letter to the Bishop drafted in June. We could state clearly that, at this point in time, we are not in favor of any increases in assessment, and, in addition, we could offer financial expertise from the parish. Peter noted that the Bishop is responding to current parish concerns and that he has stated that he is also willing to delay any action on proposed increases to assessments for the next several years.

Accounting Warden's Report

Mackie reported that we continue to spend less while revenues are close to budget. We may experience significant revenue shortfall in the fourth quarter.

Andrew asked for the total final pledge numbers for the year. Mackie said there were 330 pledges for a total of \$953K and the annual amount budgeted is \$994K.

Mackie reported that Legacy into Promise revenues are close to expected year to date. We are planning on substantial gifts in the fourth quarter.

We have filed for forgiveness of the \$205K PPP loan for \$205K, which was applied, as designated, for the continued employment of church staff.

With regard to capital expenses: we have received a bid of \$18K to replace the rectory air conditioning system. In installation of live stream equipment will cost approximately \$25K. New microphones in the church audio system will cost \$7.5K. The microphone expenditure has already been approved by the finance committee. The motion to approve these expenditures was passed.

Administrator's Report

Jay asked for vestry approval in allowing Cummings Catherwood to apportion five graves for his family members within the plot that was designated for four graves. The vestry approved this.

Fall Stewardship Plans

Jacques recognized Chris Chojnacki, Chris Zafirou, Arden Saligman, and Jill Miller, for putting together the material for the 2021 stewardship campaign. A stewardship video was distributed by email. Peter noted that the pledge cards have also been significantly redone. We are 4-5 weeks ahead of last year's stewardship schedule. Jacques added that we are trying a digital appeal for the first time this year. We will follow-up with mailed requests. There are 42 households are behind in pledging and among those we would determine if they need to be contacted.

Rector's Report

Peter and members of the Operating Committee met with Bill Cumby III, who stated his confidence that the builders could meet the revised mid-December substantial completion date.

Peter stated that he has also been meeting with neighbors about their concerns about the proposed location for the Parish House emergency generator. Neighbors opposed the original site along Fishers Rd., adjacent to the Sexton's Hall. In response, we withdrew our request to appear before the Zoning Hearing Board in September, and we pledged to review possible alternative sites.

Peter asked the vestry whether a tent should be rented for the early months of the Fall. It could be used for meetings, gatherings, and services. The vestry approved the rental costs.

The initial response to the resumption of services has been positive. Attendance has been better than expected. Vespers would probably be added to the schedule in October.

Michael Diorio has been creative in trying to get our children and youth engaged. He has started two youth bell choirs.

Peter noted that JoAnn, Micheal, and he are working on adult formation and will soon send out a survey to get an idea of what times would be best for forum presentations.

Strategic Plan Updates

Andrew observed that the original Strategic Plan schedule included a time in October for a presentation to the congregation of a draft plan.

Jo Ann said that before we have adult forum on the strategic plan, the staff would like a chance to review it.

Andrew suggested that we set up a time for the discussion of the pillar work that has been done with the staff so we can draw up a number of the summary statements. He asked to set a time before the next vestry meeting for discussion, so that we can have breakout sessions in late October and early November.

Jo Ann gave the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.