

Minutes of the Meeting of the Vestry
Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, PA
Tuesday, June 8, 2021
7:00-9:00 PM via Zoom

Vestry members present: Paul Adkins, Jim Buck, Jennifer Copas, Lisa Davis, Elisabeth Cooke, Al Greenough, Melanie LeBoeuf, Susan Rushing, Tracy Steele, and Christopher Zafiriou.

Absent: Harry Miller, Jacques Vauclain

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

Recorder: Francesca Merritt

Guests: Jan Clarke, Chairperson, Outreach Grants Committee

The meeting of the Vestry was called to order at 7:03 pm. Jo Ann gave the opening prayer.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Jim made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Melanie seconded. Vestry unanimously approved the consent agenda.

Committee Chairperson Report

Jan gave an overview of the Outreach Grants Committee's structure and work.

The grants process begins in November and wraps up in early June.

Grant applications are publicly available on the website and the committee receives 12-13 applications per year.

Grant guidelines emphasize basic needs and a relationship to the Episcopal Church.

The committee also considers funding requests from within the parish.

General grant categories include global outreach, food and nutrition, ministries for youth and children, ministries for the elderly, support for reducing homelessness, and training enrichment and support programs.

In 2020, grant requests totaled \$134,700. Grants awarded totaled \$103,500.

70% of grants were awarded to diocesan programs and associated organizations.

Historically Redeemer considers the grants part of our voluntary contribution to the diocese.

Funding for the grants program has generally followed this formula: 1/3 within the Annual Operating Budget (\$35K) and 2/3 from the annual parish fundraisers, of which \$60K-70K typically comes from the bazaar and benefit party.

Rector's Warden Report

Tracy requested feedback on attendance statistics. Chris suggested that some summary statistics could be added such as attendance week after week, and seasonally, year over year. Peter noted that additional data to review is the percentage of parishioners who open important electronic communications. Tracy announced the ushers would like to have a breakfast this Sunday between 8:30 and 10 and they are looking for volunteers for setup and preparing and serving food. Sean McCauley is organizing the event.

Accounting Warden Report

Chris noted that the Finance Committee minutes appeared for the first time in the consent agenda.

To date, pledge revenues are strong. We are also looking into various options for electronic giving.

Ellen Harvey has joined the Finance Committee.

Chris also reported that staff from the Wetherill School toured the Parish House and determined that their current location better suited their specific needs. In addition, a playground committee has been formed to solicit proposals for new equipment.

Administrator's Report

Jay reported that a temporary water system for the new plantings around the Parish House would be installed within the week. W. S. Cumby will be signing off on the project at the end of the month. At present, there are 10 major items on the punch list to be completed, and Jay is still forecasting that the project will be on budget. The building and campus is opening up to more activities.

Al asked about community use of the Parish House. Jay said that some community groups have returned, and, unless further guidance is given, he will continue in line with what was done in the past. Jay put together drafts for a services agreement and proposed rental rates. He is waiting for feedback.

Rector's Report

Peter discussed new protocols for the use of masks within the church buildings. The primary goal is to keep programs open for everyone to safely participate. Peter noted that church attendance has been high for the 10 am service, although the 8 am is lower. The staff singers will continue through June.

Preliminary reports suggest that the diocese will not increase assessments for 2022.

The parochial report has been filed.

Strategic Plan

Tracy read the church's mission statement. Elisabeth said that the three pillar groups have met. She has designed a consistent format for reporting and identifying what we need to do for the next couple of months.

Open and welcoming campus – The committee discussed guidelines for Parish House building use and the potential for engaging a hospitality manager.

Redeemer youth – Jennifer noted a number of potential initiatives: a periodic Saturday evening service, a fall picnic, community building events, and youth service projects. Peter said this in opportunity for youth to look at vocation, what their talents are, and where they might be able to fit in very well.

Survey communications – Al stated the group met with Elisabeth on May 26th to organize thoughts and to put them in a framework. The group plans to work over the summer. The primary goal of the survey is to help individuals within the parish reconnect through shared talents and abilities. The group will design a survey with 7 questions and have a reward system for responses. Ken has worked on an education video that will be put out with the ACS data update request.

Arc of formation – Peter reported that the group is working on completing the adult side of the arc of formation.

Tracy requested that each pillar group choose a leader for the overall work stream, and then leaders for the various objectives.

New Business

Peter presented a proposed fall worship schedule. Key elements of the proposal are: later start times for both morning services, the elimination of the 11:15 AM service, the addition of a variety of Sunday evening services, greater opportunity for participation in formation offerings.

Old Business

The Executive Committee will meet on June 27th. Jennifer stated the by-law revision committee is working to update the bylaws to reflect our current structure as well as simplifying the language. The goal is to finalize the by-laws before our annual meeting. The majority of vestry needs to approve the bylaws.

Michael gave the closing prayer. The meeting concluded at 9:17 PM.