

Minutes of the Meeting of the Vestry
Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, PA
Tuesday, June 14, 2022
7:00-9:00 PM in Room 125 and via Zoom

Vestry members present: Paul Adkins, Catherine Caruthers, Chris Chojnacki, Elisabeth Cooke, Jennifer Copas, Al Greenough, Kevin Leahy, Melanie LeBoeuf, Tracy Steele, and Chris Zafiriou

Absent: Harry Miller, Susan Rushing

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

Recorder: Francesca Merritt

The meeting of the Vestry was called to order at 7:10 pm. Jo Ann gave the opening prayer.

Approval of Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consisted of the May 2022 vestry minutes and committee reports through May 2022. Melanie made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Paul Adkins seconded. The vestry unanimously approved.

New Business

Philadelphia Youth Orchestra - The PYO would like to use Burns Hall for their orchestra rehearsals every Friday night from September through May. The Parish House is rarely in use for this time period. The PYO will provide their own custodians and overseers. Their staff will set up for rehearsals and put everything back in place afterward. Peter will be meeting with their administrative assistants to discuss a number of things including their background checks and liability. It is a great opportunity for 60-70 youths from this area coming every Friday night with family. PYO is also considering use of the church for their concerts.

Jo Ann recommended that PYO be informed that IHN may have residents staying with us in future. Peter said they are aware of other use in the building. Chris Zafiriou added that this group is regional to this area and that there are actually five different other groups that meet at other locations.

Spanish Workshop for Children - Jay was approached by a group that runs Spanish classes for young children. They want to use the room above the old Shortridge room, which is room 215. It is a \$115 a day rental. The space would be used 6 days a week, at different times during the day, mostly from 9 am to 5:45 pm. Jay sent out a rental use agreement. We asked for payment a month in advance. The program would start Sept 2nd and continue for 40 weeks.

The vestry requested that Jay follow-up on questions for their current landlord (have they had any issues with them, etc.). It is also unclear whether hosting classes for young children would make The Redeemer subject to additional or more exacting building inspections or regulatory approvals.

Old Business

Strategic planning – The vestry met in their strategic groups to discuss objectives, how they will be achieved, identify leaders for the objectives, and discuss how success would be measured.

Paul Adkins – Open House – The open house would potentially take place on the 24th or 25th of September with three 2-hour sessions starting at 10 am. Visitors would be able to tour the facilities, meet parish leaders, and experience various aspects of Redeemer's worship and community life. This event would be marketed to the surrounding communities and the diocese could help with the marketing.

Chris Zafiriou – Adult Forum – Chris stated that they are looking into a few high profile, Philadelphia people of interest to draw people to the campus. Peter added that the event could be a kind of keynote for programming that we would like to continue.

Al Greenough – Survey – Chris Chojnacki and Al have been working together and will have a report to review at the September vestry meeting. They also developed some strategies to use the information, to interpret the interest, and to incorporate that strategy into our report. Al will work with Jo Ann and Peter for those who expressed interest in meeting with clergy.

Kevin Leahy – Events – The goal of the events group is to develop and schedule new events that would bring together the community. One suggested summer event being considered is a movie night on the lawn to draw families. Other ideas include a Lobster or Clambake. Neighbors and parishioners would be invited.

Paul added that the Jazz Vespers will be held on October 16th at 4 pm.

Rector's Report

Peter reported that he was very pleased with the June parish picnic. It was a wonderful day to celebrate Michael Palmisano's ministry and to wish him well in his new position at Episcopal Academy.

More and more groups are finding the parish house to be a very welcoming space and if we use it wisely, it will become an increasingly valuable asset.

Peter gave the vestry two handouts from Michael Diorio, a brochure of all the upcoming musical events and a letter regarding the previously planned performance of Annelies. Michael has added a series of concerts for the 2022-2023 season which include Artcinia artists. Each concert here will be replicated by the Artcinia performers at venues or in underserved neighborhoods where these kinds of concerts are rare. The letter regarding the Annelies concert is scheduled to be sent to the donors who supported this program; it explains that the concert was canceled due to the pandemic and Michael feels that this was not the right time to reschedule this concert. The letter is a request for approval from the donors that the money they contributed could be used for the March 2023 Mozart Concerto.

Peter thanked everyone for making Michael Palmisano's last day very special and that he was moved by all the everyone did. Winnie Smith will be coming in ten days and will be the lead contact for adult forum. Her ordination date will be earlier than expected, on September 10th in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Rector's Warden Report

Tracy thanked Jo Ann for participating in Baldwin's graduation. Vestry members were reminded to check their mailboxes for information left in them. This is the last vestry meeting until September. Strategic planning groups and the executive committee will continue to meet throughout the summer. If issues arise during the summer which concern the full vestry then, at that time, a meeting will be arranged.

Accounting Warden Report

Chris Zafiriou noted that this year we may have a deficit instead of a surplus, due primarily to major repairs and grounds work that exceeded budget. Chris also observed that we'll be facing significant financial headwinds due to high inflation.

The Finance committee is examining again the return on investment capital of the properties across from the church, taking into account the Administrator's time, the actual costs in utilities, upkeep, taxes and capital repairs, and any increase in property value.

Chris also reported that an analysis was done on the condition of the stock market versus pledge receipts. No causal relationship was found between the two.

Administrator's Report

Jay reported that several repairs are ongoing. The elevator is still not operable. The pump and motor of the elevator were damaged, and we are hoping that will be covered under the warranty.

Acoustic panels will be added to rooms, including Rooms 125 and 216.

The house at 205 Pennswood has been rented and the renters signed a two-year agreement.

Paul Adkins gave the closing prayer. The meeting concluded at 9:20 pm.