

Minutes of the Meeting of the Vestry
Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, PA
Tuesday, September 13, 2022
7:00-9:00 PM in Room 125 and via Zoom

Vestry members present: Paul Adkins, Chris Chojnacki, Jennifer Copas, Al Greenough, Kevin Leahy, Harry Miller, Susan Rushing, Tracy Steele, and Chris Zafiriou

Absent: Catherine Caruthers, Elisabeth Cooke, and Melanie LeBoeuf

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

Recorder: Francesca Merritt

The meeting of the Vestry was called to order at 7:07 pm. Tracy introduced the Rev. Winnie Smith on her first vestry meeting. Winnie gave the opening prayer.

Approval of Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consisted of the June 2022 vestry minutes and committee reports through August 2022. Al made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Kevin Leahy seconded. The vestry unanimously approved.

New Business

Nominating Committee Update – Al gave an update on the nominating committee. He met with Tracy over the summer and got all the previous committee records from Jim Buck. Al worked on a timeline with Tracy. He is grateful to Paul being a representative of the next class in preparation to be chair the following year. He asked vestry to advise Al on any interested parties for serving on the vestry.

Discussion of Vestry Meeting Goals – Tracy reported the executive committee has some suggestions on how to streamline vestry meetings. Meeting should be kept to a duration of an hour in a half. If there is more, we can decide to continue or table items until the next meeting. The bylaws specify 10 meetings a year; this number could be lessened when the monthly meeting coincides with the vestry retreat or annual meeting.

Old Business

Stewardship – Chris Chojnacki reported that the Stewardship campaign this year will follow the framework used in the past for the appeal. A series of emails and videos will go out in the beginning of October. These will be followed by email and printed letter pledge requests. Stewardship members will contact parishioners from whom we do not receive replies.

Playground – Peter updated the vestry on the playground equipment. The complete installation will cost \$30K. The Legacy into Promise budget was \$10K. The playground sub-committee chose equipment that is not found in playgrounds in the immediate area and that emphasizes creative use. A plan to bridge the gap in funding will need to be drawn up and approved. Peter applauded Tory Dunkle for doing a large amount of the research into equipment, configurations, vendors and envisioning how the space would be used. Harry made a motion to approve the purchase, and Chris Zafiriou seconded. The vestry unanimously approved.

Strategic Planning Group Updates

Harry updated the vestry on the work of the pets committee. He proposed sending a direct invitation to the neighbors for the blessing of the animals on the first Sunday in October, as well as a pet food drive and prizes for pets that do tricks. Peter suggested having a photographer, who could send pictures to those who attend the blessing.

Paul spoke about the open house and jazz vespers to be held on October 16th. Committees will be asked to

have a presence during the open house, Michael Diorio will arrange for organ music to be played, and Maria

Thompson will be teaching and training docents to give a tour of the church and perhaps the graveyard. Paul asked for volunteers to assist Peter with the catering and to greet at 2 pm and the vespers at 4 pm.

Al is working on summarizing the survey to report out to the parish. Chris Chojnacki identified about 12 people who want to participate more. Al will have a brief report at the next meeting.

Peter reviewed the role of vestry liaisons. Committees should have the following clearly identified: mission, scope, goals, membership, terms of participation, and succession.

Rector's Report

Peter welcomed Winnie Smith. He noted that acoustic tiles have been added to room 125, and the results are evident. He informed the vestry that: a letter will soon be sent out to the parish with a music flyer inviting families to participate in the music events taking place over the next 8 or 9 months; a new series of formation opportunities will begin on Wednesday nights, as well as a parish supper.

Peter will begin holding a series of breakfasts, inviting parishioners to discuss how growth in membership at the Redeemer can best be encouraged. Peter would like a vestry member to attend each one and participate in the conversation. They will begin near the end of September or the beginning of October.

Peter reported that there had been a diocesan resolution proposed by the Diocesan Board of Trustees that would replace the voluntary ask to the diocese with a mandatory assessment. The Committee on Constitutions and Canons, of which Peter is a member had raised serious questions about the proposal and the process by which it would be presented to the diocesan convention. In response, the Bishop asked the Board to pull the proposal from consideration in 2022.

Starting the first Sunday in October, the formation activities of the day, from children through the adult forum, will be talking about the same topic. This is an effort to encourage conversation about formation across the span of ages.

Peter stated that this was Jay's last vestry meeting as administrator. He acknowledged with great appreciation the dedication that Jay had shown in all his duties on behalf of the church.

Peter is considering three final candidates for the position of parish administrator. Peter hopes to meet with the committee and make a consensus on who is the appropriate candidate.

Rector's Warden Report

Tracy stated she has been assisting Peter on the selection of a candidate for parish administrator.

Accounting Warden Report

Chris reported that, year to date, revenues and expenditures, are in line with the budget. He voiced concern regarding economic headwinds for 2023. Our endowment draw may need to go up next year from the current 4.25 to something closer to 4.75 percent. He added that our income from the residential properties is about 2% yearly, and that the finance committee is looking into options for how best to deal with the properties. In terms of capital repairs, we have overspent for the grounds and it appears this year we may have an estimated \$33K deficit. Our bank accounts have been moved from WSFS to Meridian bank.

Administrator's Report

Jay reported that this was his 150th vestry meeting. He reminded the vestry that the Legacy into Promise capital project is still ongoing, that W.S. Cumby has been fully paid, and that Milner Associates is ready to be paid. Jay has been following up with Schindler to complete repairs on the elevator. Jay agreed that in creating a budget for 2023 we will likely face a 6.5% inflation rate.

Jo Ann Jones gave the closing prayer. The meeting concluded at 9:20 pm.