

Minutes of the Meeting of the Vestry
Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, PA
Tuesday, May 11, 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, Jacques Vaucrain, and Christopher Zafiriou.

Absent: Harry Miller

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: Chris Chojnacki

The meeting of the Vestry was called to order at 7:04 pm. Michael Palmisano gave the opening prayer.

Approval of Consent Agenda

The April meeting minutes and the committee reports received for this meeting were acknowledged and approved unanimously by the Vestry on a motion by Tracy Steele, as seconded by Al Greenough.

Committee Chairperson Report

Tracy introduced Chris Chojnacki to speak about the stewardship committee. Chris stated that we had a successful pledge drive for 2021. Data collected and presented, based on the past 10 years of stewardship data, shows that those who have been consistent pledgers have increased their pledges, and these increases have made up for potential revenue losses due to declines in the number of pledges made. The number of pledging units have declined on average 3 percent each year over this time. Total pledges are flat and average pledges have increased.

Chris reported that increasing the pledge base is the most important task for the committee. He suggested creating a new committee to focus on growing membership. A broad discussion of stewardship issues ensued, including discussion of expanding means of revenue collection by use of new technologies.

Rector's Warden Report

Tracy reported that Jan Clarke will present on outreach and grants for the June meeting. She also thanked the vestry for contributions made to defray the costs of Dave Dunkle's burial. Tracy requested that Fran present the attendance numbers to the vestry from month to month with a breakdown of the online vs. in-person attendance.

Accounting Warden Report

Chris Zafiriou reported the pledges were slightly down from budget projections for the month, though YTD we are still ahead of schedule. We are looking at the insurance costs for the new Parish House, which have gone up significantly. Chris noted that Soo Hee Lim has resigned from the investment committee, and he asked for suggestions for good candidates for the Investment committee from the vestry. Chris stated that the finance committee has started to take minutes for their meetings. Because the finance committee meets the day before the vestry, their minutes will be reported on a month lag basis.

Administrator's Report

Jay reported the landscaping and sod has been installed around the Parish House. AV equipment is being installed and tested. Jay stated we have not yet rented the property at 211 Pennswood Road, though we have seen a lot of interest. The Parish House will be a polling location for the primary elections being held May 18.

Tracy asked if the issue of the installation of a sidewalk along New Gulph had been resolved. Jay said we have heard nothing though we received back a credit from Cumby for what was set aside for the sidewalk.

Rector's Report

Peter noted that we've received a new set of Covid-19 protocols from the Bishop, which allow more attendance in the church and an increase in choir members. This coming Sunday, we will add an 8 am service on campus. The 8 am service will be available through the Zoom format, using the livestream cameras.

The clergy are discussing the schedule for Fall services and will present it to the vestry for feedback. Parishioners will also need to be surveyed for their feedback.

The parish house will open publicly next Monday. We will offer tours for people who want them.

Peter proposed that \$39K in Covid-19 related costs should be reported in the Parochial Report, adding \$9K, incurred within the Legacy into Promise project, to the original figure of \$30K.

Strategic Plan

Tracy read the mission statement and iterated the goals of incorporating parishioner involvement in the process and setting short-term action items. Elisabeth proposed a draft format of communicating with one another. She asked if each group could think about one thing to roll out for the fall.

Open Campus/Guidelines/Engage Groups/Hospitality - Lisa said the tangible goal for the fall is to be fully open. Jennifer said they are discussing with families how we can capitalize on the parish house outdoor space. Lisa asked if there is a process for managing inquiries about the use of space. Peter said that anyone interested could contact Fran in the main office.

Survey & communications - Al circulated a status report and noted a change of course after the last meeting. Jo Ann added that part of the objective of the planned survey is to discover how Redeemer members can find one's vocation and serve each other in that way allowing us all to grow in faith.

Arc of formation – Elisabeth reported that the team is working to develop the arc of formation content and governance.

Engagement with Redeemer youth –Jennifer said that her group is investigating options for outdoor activities in the fall. Michael said the church has received from the Bishop a date for Confirmation.

New Business

The funeral and wedding customs will be discussed at our next meeting. It was suggested that the mention of Rodger McKinney as a "vestry member" in the funeral customary be removed.

Old Business

Tracy announced that the By Laws sub-group met on May 5th. The executive committee will meet on May 23rd. Peter added that the choir season has been extended through the month of June since, according to Covid-19 protocols, the congregation cannot sing. The staff singers have agreed to stay on.

Jo Ann gave the closing prayer. The meeting concluded at 9:13 PM.