

Minutes from the Meeting of the Vestry
Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, PA
Tuesday, March 12, 2019
7:00-9:00 PM

Vestry Members Present: Susan Adeniyi-Jones, Jan Clarke, Lisa Davis, Mackie MacLean, Carolyn Morris, Tracy Steele, Jacques Vauclain, Carter Williams.

Redeemer Staff Present: Peter Vanderveen, David Romanik, Jo Ann Jones Jay Einspanier.

Vestry Members Absent: Jim Buck, Andrea Cayley, Andrew Masterman, Scott Stephan

Recorder: Jo Ann Jones

The meeting of the Vestry was called to order at 7:02 PM. Peter Vanderveen gave the opening prayer.

Minutes: The Minutes of the vestry retreat were approved.

2019 Budget YTD – Pledges have bounced back, with an additional \$41,000 added to the budget, leaving the income \$4,000 below budget. Non-pledge income has increased a bit. Revenue YTD is 103% of plan. Expenses are tracking similarly to revenue, at 98% of budget.

Stewardship YTD – Jacques reported on Annual Giving as of March 11, 2019. As of the date of the report, 338 pledges has been received for a total pledge amount of \$967,278.82. This is on pace with last year, when, as of April 23, 2018, 359 pledges had been received for a pledge amount of \$967,592.76. We should be able to increase the number of pledges by 40. Peter informed the vestry that Episcopal Community Services has experienced an approximate 15% decline in giving for 2019, which has been largely attributed to changes in the 2019 tax plan.

The vestry approved a contract for 2019 landscaping services with Fergal Dwyer in the amount of \$34,940. Although the bid was not the lowest, the company's work history and familiarity with The Redeemer contributed to its selection. Redeemer received additional bids from Bright View, Charles Freel, Arcidiacono Landscaping, and Vince D'Orazio Landscaping.

Administrator's Report - The Finance Committee approved a contract in the amount of \$90,000 for 18 months for the modular unit. Jay reviewed the spaces that will be available in the modular unit (see attached). Rooms 103 and 104 are approximately the size of the Library.

Room 101 is two-thirds the size of the Assembly Room. There may be a door opening added to this room, to make two rooms. The room decor will be bland. Harry Miller will electricity and the plumber will connect the unit to the sewer. Based upon the March schedule of meeting, the modular unit should accommodate 90% of those meetings. Adult Forum will be held in the Church, with plans to hold coffee hour outside as much as possible, and then in the narthex.

Asbestos – After several inspections, we have to date received one estimate in the amount of \$150,000 for asbestos removal. The abatement will take approximately four weeks. The projected move out date would be July 1. The staff may be able to move to 211 Pennswood in mid-June, pending the completion of work space preparations there. The last date for meetings in the Parish House is suggested to be June 15, so that the building can be turned over for asbestos removal as soon as possible.

Liaison Reports

Outreach – Community Service subcommittee is arranging for site visits to recipients and inviting members to attend. It has also created a handout.

Nominating – No report

Music – No report, but the Committee will report on the 2020 Choir Tour at the April meeting. Susan observed that the Committee is well organized. It has raised enough money through sponsorships to cover the costs of the Brahms Requiem. It has exercised due diligence in exploring an alternative plan for the Garden Party. The Committee may bring a request for Vestry support for a cushion for the trip's cost and to support mission work of the trip

NEW – No report.

Bazaar – No report. The Committee will meet soon.

MEG – Its meeting was cancelled. The recent mailing with the refrigerator magnet received some comment. Ken Garner's input would have improved the effort to reach the Redeemer community. Jan suggested that there be communication guidelines for committees and that Ken should review their materials. It is important that liaisons make this point with their committees.

Associate Rector's Reports

Jo Ann stated that the WGP 13 class is looking forward to the "Rite 13" service, though no date for it has been scheduled. It is expected to take place after Easter. The Redeemer Youth Group is completing plans for its work trip organized by Appalachia Service Project. Two young people will be confirmed on March 24.

David reported that 50 people attended Alan Jacobs' presentation on Saturday, March 2 and 100 attended his presentation on Sunday, March 3. A number of people not from The Redeemer came. Many people thanked David profusely and were pleased that Redeemer

hosted this event. Alan Jacobs also was very pleased and told David how much he enjoyed the event. Jacobs' blog now has a link to Redeemer.

There are six members of the Adult Confirmation class to be confirmed/received on March 24.

Rector's Report - Peter announced that the Church will plan to celebrate David's ministry and honor his leave-taking on April 7. As details emerge, he will inform the Vestry. Michael Palmisano has signed the Letter of Agreement. The staff was notified of his hiring on March 4. Peter will notify the congregation in the near future.

Stewardship – Peter and Ken will review an analysis of Legacy into Promise and Annual Giving in the coming week. The initial impression is that it is hard to find one narrative. The analysis bodes well for the annual fund and the public participation phase of Legacy into Promise. It is recommended that Stewardship not be relegated to the second half of October.

Peter noted the upcoming March 14 meeting to discuss the 2020 Diocesan budget. It appears that the Bishop's expectation is that top tier parishes will carry the weight of the deficit. Given how parishes have fared, it is hard to imagine how this will occur. There seems to be no cap on spending in the Mission Program. On the revenue side, parishes will not make up the deficit in one year. The Diocesan plan should be understandable and supportable. Clergy should be proactive and find ways to respond to the Diocese with options that are more palatable and helpful to parishes. In the past two years the deficits were funded from investment revenue. This may not be true for this year. Unfortunately, people did not have the opportunity to raise any objections to the budget at Diocesan Convention. Peter hopes for a discussion that is fruitful and leads to a shared commitment on March 14.

Peter is working with Tad and Ken to draft a mailing to parishioners to give them a final opportunity to give in the public participation phase. If given specific options for giving, the members may be more likely to participate. The biggest value is participation. It is hoped that a draft of the letter will be available in April. There will be an announcement of the closing of the campaign and a celebration. At the same time there is work to be done to close the \$400,000 gap. They are working with major donors. One significant donor who wrote Tad of his monitoring of the campaign's progress, tripled the gift as the donor saw the Parish House project come into fruition.

Peter encouraged Vestry members to be present for the Bishop's visitation and confirmation on March 24.

He noted an increase in the number of weddings, as a result of referrals and a growing desire for the Episcopal wedding service.

He noted that after the March 10 Vespers service people left with an expression of wonder similar to that of children at the end of the Christmas Pageant. This service feeds them spiritually in a profound way.

He concluded his report with his thanks to the Vestry for providing a great Shrove Tuesday.

Jo Ann gave the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.