

Minutes of the Meeting of the Vestry
Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, PA
Tuesday, May 12, 2020
7:00-9:00 PM via Zoom

Vestry members present: Susan Adeniyi-Jones, Jim Buck, Elisabeth Cooke, Lisa Davis, Al Greenough, Melanie LeBoeuf, Mackie MacLean, Harry Miller, Andrew Masterman, Carolyn Morris, Tracy Steele and Jacques Vauclain.

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

Recorder: Francesca Merritt

The meeting of the Vestry was called to order at 7:05 PM. Michael Palmisano gave the opening prayer. The April meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Rector's Warden Report

Andrew asked for feedback on how the church has been operating since March 15th. Lisa Davis shared that in these times of uncertainty and distance, the Redeemer staff has made so much accessible. The transition to digital connection was seamless. Jacques said that the Compline service is a wonderful way to end the day. Jim Buck took advantage of the Zoom breakout rooms to poll people about whether they would like adult education to follow the service. Al offered that breakout rooms could be identified according to affinity groups.

With regard to children's education, Elisabeth remarked that Victoria was really enjoying children's chapel with Tory. Carolyn asked attendance at Zoom services. Peter said we are getting between 5-10 participants in morning prayer. Compline gets 12-20 computer logins a night. For Sundays, we are running between 110-120 computers connected a Sunday. Some people connect with their children for children's chapel, RYG. Over the weeks, our numbers have stayed pretty steady. Andrew noted that volunteers ought to be acknowledged during May.

Peter stated that the clergy received a lengthy document from the Bishop describing procedures for reopening. It follows the state protocols. Peter suggested a next step could be to give people some guided exercises so that families could come in to the church and be in that space where they could engage in worship themselves. Jacques added he likes the idea of a one page self-guided worship. Carolyn Morris suggested maybe Maria Thompson could provide information for a tour of the church.

Jim asked if some of the things we are doing now could continue going forward. Peter foresees we will be doing some sort of Zoom service for quite a while on behalf of the population that does not feel comfortable coming to the church.

Vestry sent the approval of extra monies for COVID relief for the Outreach committee to be passed onto the Executive Committee for final approval.

Accounting Warden's Report

YTD Operating Report

Mackie remarked that the pledge reminder letter was well received by the parish as a whole. About 40 parishioners have fully prepaid their pledges. With regard to Legacy into Promise pledge receipts, there has been a slight slow down, which may require an update letter. As of our last meeting, the Paycheck Protection Program was received in the amount of \$205,000 to ensure that the part-time employees would be paid in the manner that they were in the past. Jay and Mackie are anticipating some revenue shortfall in the third or fourth quarter.

Mackie commented on the letter we received from the Bishop requesting an increase in our assessment paid to the Diocese. The Diocese is requesting for 2020 an increase in our voluntary share of \$16,200 and a pledge to significantly increase our voluntary gifts for each of the next five years. The finance committee discussed the matter and universally felt that we couldn't afford such a significant increase in our total giving to the Diocese. A response has been requested by June 1st; the payment of our voluntary share is due December 1st.

Peter noted that the Redeemer is making a major commitment to the community and the future of the church through the Legacy into Promise project. This should be taken into account by the Diocese. Peter will work with Jo Ann to draft a responsible response and then pass it on to executive committee and then on to vestry.

Mackie expressed some concern over the operating statement and that some folks in our parish might be suffering due to the pandemic. Peter wants to take a deeper look at pledgers who may be behind in their payments.

Andrew asked Jacques to speak about how the pledging campaign is progressing. Jacques stated that folks are giving in this time of need and prepaying pledges.

Administrator Report

Jay stated that construction on the bell tower has started and other masonry repairs will take place over the next 2-3 weeks. Jay is talking with Kyle Lissack about other things that need to be done, such as repairs at 211 Pennswood for the winter and preparing it to be re-rented. Cumby has targeted December 17th as the Parish House construction completion date — barring any more significant work interruptions. The Parish House reopening will be early 2021.

Rector's Report

Peter mentioned the Bishops report and plan for reopening. Peter recognized the staff for their continual adaptation and innovation — particularly, Jay for keeping everything going and Ken for doing an incredible job of communication. He also recognized Michael and Jo Ann for their creative ministries. He encouraged the vestry to write notes of thanks to the staff.

2020 Strategic Plan

Andrew encouraged the vestry Pillar groups to start engaging in discussions about growth so that in September we can have some ideas about how we can best begin the new year in a new building.

No new business was discussed.

Jo Ann gave the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.