

Episcopal Church of the Ascension
Vestry Minutes
June, 25 2017

PRESENT: The Rev. Randy Lord-Wilkinson, Betsy Hasagawa, Janet King, Luis Pedron, Zadinga Ogada, Avin Lalmansingh, Gary McLaughlin, Meredith Horan, John Pruessner. **Absent:** Berenice Rodriguez, Rose Buck. **Guest:** Kristen Keating. **Acting Clerk:** Lauren Kingsland

CONSENT AGENDA: John moved that the consent agenda be adopted as presented. Avin seconded the motion, and it passed.

ORAL REPORTS

“Linkages to Learning” project. Kristen Keating reported on this year’s project to provide backpacks filled with school supplies to needy students at Summit Hall Elementary School. This has been an Ascension project for 15 years. Last year we delivered 70 backpacks. She asked for permission to publish the supply lists and requests for donations through the bulletin and website. Donations may be delivered to the church on or before Sunday, Aug. 20 when there will be a work session to fill the backpacks. They will be delivered on Aug. 28th. Janet moved to allow the Linkages to Learning project to proceed as described by Kristen. Avin seconded the motion which passed.

OLD BUSINESS

One Ascension Sunday, July 30. Janet reported that the meal after the service will feature recipes from the new cookbook plus grilled foods. There will be a Parish Life meeting next Sunday, July 2 at 10:00 a.m. to plan the details of the event. The one service at 10:00 a.m. will include more hymns in Spanish, plus the choir and the new all-volunteer ensemble. Jerrold will be away and Karina Gomez McCarty will be the substitute ensemble leader. She is available to lead 2 rehearsals before the service. The choir will be invited to attend ensemble rehearsals. The success of last One Ascension Sunday was discussed.

Community Uses for Church Facilities. Janet reported several groups potentially interested in long term rental have looked at the ground floor of Ascension House. Victor Sogah is acting as agent for that rental. Renting the chapel for weddings and other events is also a possibility. Luis suggested that the website mention the availability of the chapel. Other advertising possibilities were discussed. There has been a request this week by another congregation to use the chapel during some of our off times which is in process. Lauren and Meredith will join the Rentals committee.

Adopt-A-Space. The goal of this effort is “To arrange the space like we are expecting company” by having individuals or groups take responsibility on at least a monthly basis for tidying and decluttering one area of the church. There is a need for clean-up

days for the storage areas downstairs. Gordon suggested that Room 4 be cleared out of things left by G-Sharp and rented. Gary offered to start the adoption of a space by doing Room 1.

There is an Eagle Scout project being planned to refurbish the nursery including the furniture. Old toys will be discarded and a toy drive will be held.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of services now without paid musicians. Meredith observed the 10:15 children's service before and after Howard's departure. She expressed concern at the amount of activity of the children during the service, which did not seem affected by Howard's presence or absence. Attendance at 10:15 today was 0; last Sunday attendance was 20. Attendance at the 5:00 service was 5 the past two weeks, with good unaccompanied singing and missing Eric's piano playing. Avin noted that it seems too early to tell the impact on the services especially due to summer variations of attendance. Randy misses the bass in the ensemble at 11:15 and would like to find another bass player. Luis reported that a volunteer piano player, Jesse, has stepped up to play for the Spanish service. Jerrold, Meredith and Javier have all offered to help with music for the children's service.

2017-18 Annual Giving Campaign. Avin reported that the 2016-17 campaign lasted longer than usual due to second mailings in April. He recommends that the next campaign start in October, to give the congregation a break before asking for money again. Luis expressed concerns about being named chairman of the Giving Campaign while he is so new to the Vestry. Avin has extensive written materials about running a campaign which can be used as reference for the next time around. Gary observed that he had tried to do the whole campaign himself and suggested a stronger committee system would be effective. Lauren shared that a committee allows for training for leadership and succession. The core of the Annual Giving Campaign committee for 2017-18 is Avin, Gary, Betsy and Luis. Members of the Vestry and congregation will be called upon for help, especially to speak at services about the importance of giving. Randy and Javier will be asked to preach on giving.

OPEN MIC

Gary asks for \$700 upfront money for the cookbook project to pay for production of the book. **Zadinga** reported that they will use an on-line production company to produce the book. There are 145 recipes so far in the book and work is proceeding to translate some of them into Spanish. Pre-sales have been considered to help raise money for production costs. Early September is the production timeframe with a goal of having books to deliver for Oct. 29 One Ascension Sunday.

Zadinga reported on a meeting with The Rev. Shivaun Wilkinson about creating excitement about the Sunday School program, including making it a more intergenerational experience.

They are considering moving classes to 10:15, to offer them between the 9:00 and 11:00/11:15 services, and offering related study opportunities for parents (and other adults) to support family worship. There is also a proposal to have adults and children become "Prayer Buddies". Lots of positive discernment in action here.

Janet talked about the coffee machine not being unplugged after the 11:00 service. A big sign is needed.

The Columbarium Stewards are now Gordon and John. An announcement will be placed in the Ascendant/bulletins advertising that space is available. The brochure about the Columbarium will be made more readily available.

Gordon expressed a concern that there is not a detailed financial report this month. Randy explained that it is related to the absence of a budget. Discussion ensued about the general trend of doing better than we expected. The recent cash gift of \$50,000 must be accepted by the Vestry and then put into an identified fund for later use.

John spoke about gathering testimonials from the Spanish speaking community to go on our website. He would like to be involved in that project. He will be away in July so doesn't want this to fall between the cracks. This project is part of an effort to change the narrative in the community about immigrants.

Meredith shared a book review of "Los Duplex" by Anna Waldstein about the public health research that finds that Mexican immigrants are healthier than the general American population due to their health sovereignty, eating habits, community and little reliance of professional medical care.

There will be a meeting about the Sanctuary movement on Sunday, July 9 at 10:15.

Zadinga moved to adjourn at 3:50.

Gordon read "Desiderata" by Max Ehrmann as a closing.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Kingsland, *Clerk Pro Tem*