

**Episcopal Church of the Ascension
Vestry Minutes
December 2, 2018**

PRESENT: Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo, Senior Warden Betsy Hasegawa, Junior Warden Zadinga Ogada, Rose Buck, Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Janet King, Susan McLaughlin, Luis Pedron, John Pruessner, Berenice Rodriguez and Bob Waters.

The meeting opened at 2:07 p.m. with a short prayer and check in around the table.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Giving Campaign update. Susan reported on progress. To date, we have around 115 pledges for around \$250,000. Emails were sent this past week to those who have pledged previously and those who give regularly but don't pledge. It was noted that Susan had made it easy for vestry members to send out the emails, since she had ghost-written the content. The next go-round will be shorter and stronger emails, then texts. We all hope for continued pledging.

Office computers. Avin Lalmansingh, church treasurer, had researched our needs and the costs thereof and had sent a report to the vestry. He had worked with EDOW IT specialist Peter Turner, who made several recommendations. Instead of replacing our rickety server, Peter would like to see us use the cloud. John volunteered to contact Peter and/or his assistant John White and work with him. Susan asked that costs be clearly outlined, and that details be fully understood; more information is needed, including the source of funding for this effort.

Emergency lighting. Ark Inc. had submitted a proposal to replace/update our emergency lights. Some have burned out; having operational emergency lights is a legal requirement. Gordon moved that we approve Ark's proposal to spend \$1,467 for emergency lighting, using funds from the facilities budget and/or FRF funds. The motion was seconded by Janet and passed.

2019 Vestry. The vestry continued the process of discerning candidates for the next vestry.

NEW BUSINESS

\$47K tax reimbursement. Ascension received a windfall from the Baden trust of over \$47,000. The vestry is responsible for deciding what to use it for; Javier strongly recommended that we save a significant amount of it for emergencies, and that anything to be spent be clearly defined. The immediate question was – where should the money be put. After discussion, Luis moved that the vestry delay a decision on what to do with the money, and that it be placed in a savings account for now. The motion was seconded by John and was passed.

Columbarium report. Gordon and John briefed the vestry on columbarium activity; there has been an uptick in use recently, as well as a recent in-ground interment in the garden area. Several of the St Barnabas congregation are interested, also. The weather recently has caused problems in the niches. The columbarium should in the future be scheduled for annual maintenance, maybe

under the aegis of the Facilities committee. John and Gordon have themselves been trying to maintain it to date.

Christmas services and Epiphany pageant. The schedule of services for Christmas Eve and Christmas day has been published. The Epiphany pageant will be on Sunday, January 6 – the afternoon of the next vestry meeting. The vestry agreed to hold the meeting instead on Wednesday, January 9 at 7pm.

Matthew Watson Eagle Scout project. This discussion was deferred to a future meeting.

OPEN MIC

Janet reminded everyone that our next One-Ascension Sunday is on December 30. The theme will be a New Year's celebration, with party hats, blowers, balloons, etc. The main course is chili, in many varieties. Sign up slips were put in the bulletins for side dishes and desserts. There will be a children's table with crayons and other items. Janet and her committee plan to have an easel set up where everyone can write their wishes for 2019.

Javier relayed that Fr. Robert from the diocese will lead the traditional new-vestry retreat one week after the election. His only availability is Friday 3/15 and Saturday 3/16. Therefore, the annual meeting and election will take place on Sunday 3/10.

Betsy closed the meeting by thanking the clerk, now retiring, for her years of dedicated service.

ADJOURNMENT: At 4:47 Meredith moved that the meeting be adjourned. Rose seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sari Stoddard
Clerk of the Vestry