

**Episcopal Church of the Ascension  
Vestry Minutes  
October 23, 2016**

**PRESENT:** The Rev. Randy Lord-Wilkinson, Betsy Hasegawa, Janet King, Rose Buck, Avin Lalmansingh, Denise Lionetti, Gary McLaughlin, Zadinga Ogada, John Pruessner, Najma Stubblefield (at 2:05), Paul Whitmore. **Absent:** Maria Estela Rodriguez

The meeting opened at 1:40 with a Lambeth Bible Study, concluding at 2:00 when the business part of the meeting opened.

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

**REPORTS:** Betsy handed out a report from Kristen Keating regarding the Diocesan Northern Montgomery County Region meeting held at Ascension on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Also distributed was information about the Montgomery County Interfaith Refugee Resettlement Neighbors program for aid to Syrians escaping the violence in their country.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Annual Giving Campaign (AGC) / Facilities Reserve Fund (FRF).** As previously agreed, AGF donors are being named in the Sunday bulletin. Vestry members concurred that only new donors from the previous week will be listed. In discussing how to present the FRF pledges, it was agreed that the total amount of the 3-year pledge be given. Since the pledge results are already being published, John made a motion that the previously discussed levels of giving (e.g., “seraphim”, “cherubim”) not be used this year; the motion was seconded by Paul and passed. Rose proposed that the Vestry start now with the annual thank-you notes from the Vestry to pledgers. She had designed stickers to be given to all those in families who had pledged; she gave them out to Vestry members to include in the thank-you notes. Pledgers are listed in Jake Yalley-Ogunru’s weekly report; Vestry members signed-up for thank you notes as follows:

<u>Pledger numbers from Jake’s report:</u>	<u>Writer:</u>
1 – 10	Betsy Hasegawa
11 – 20	Janet King
21 – 30	Zadinga Ogada
31 – 40	Denise Lionetti
41 – 50	Paul Whitmore
51 - 60	Sari Stoddard (clerk)
61 – 70	Gary McLaughlin
71 – 80	John Pruessner
81 – 90	Rose Buck

Avin volunteered to write the first batch of thank-you’s for the FRF. He also volunteered to create a Sign-Up Genius site for AGC/FRF speakers at the weekly services, and asked that Vestry members not only speak but also ask people who have already pledged if they would speak.

**Kitchen cleaning.** The Vestry agreed last month that professional help should be hired for a one-time deep cleaning. Kathy has contacted two companies for bids.

**Committee for Reshaping Ascension.** Randy spoke to the three parish members who had been chosen by the Vestry to be on this committee (Roy Bevington, Richard McFarland, and Bob Waters); all said yes. The committee will meet with Joey Rick from the Diocese to discuss the situation and possible paths to follow. Janet noted, after meeting with wardens from the other six congregations in our Region, that most every church today is in the same situation financially – not enough income to cover expenses and outreach.

**Website.** Ascension's new website is ready to launch. It includes a PayPal account for easier on-line payments and donations. Using our Media Specialist Eleni's skills, the website might even include videotapes of our services. Another possibility is having Javier translate website items into Spanish, so that a click on the site would provide a translation. Randy asked the Vestry to be thinking about the website and to pass any thoughts/ideas/recommendations to our Wardens.

**Fund raising ideas.** Rose suggested a Parents' Night Out program; a nominal fee could be charged and donated to the church and a larger amount might be charged if dinner were included. Other suggestions included selling Ascension tee-shirts or hats; holding a flower mart in the spring; selling Annie's Pretzels and/or Krispy Kreme doughnuts; creating and selling an Ascension cookbook; and holding a concert in the sanctuary and charging a fee. Vestry members were asked to brainstorm / research / think about fund raising possibilities.

**Nursery / Sexton update.** Nursery: we are "trying on for size" a local college student as our Nursery Attendant from 8:30 to 12:30 on Sundays. So far she is working out well. Sexton: the vestry previously agreed to try using volunteers from the parish for Sunday morning coffee. Randy passed his clipboard asking for volunteers during Sunday services and many people signed up.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Request to rent space.** The Presbyterian Church of Ghana enquired about renting worship space from Ascension. Their worship times mesh with our space availability, but Vestry members questioned how much storage space they would need (we have none available) and how many parking spaces they would need. Betsy agreed to call them with these questions and report back.

We are in need of a **Housekeeping Day** for the interior of the buildings (see reference to storage space in previous paragraph!). The Vestry scheduled it for Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was mentioned that Chris Ruggeri has a truck if we have items to be taken to the Solid Waste Transfer Station.

Randy will be having a **surgical procedure** and will be out this week. He went over pastoral and other coverage in his absence.

## **OPEN MIC**

**Photo Directory.** In response to a question, Randy stated that the new directory is at the printers now and will be available soon.

**Vestry Liaisons.** Randy outlined the duties of a Vestry liaison to a committee - to attend meetings and to provide any support needed; he emphasized that the liaison is not responsible for writing committee reports. Randy is considering inviting individual chairs to Vestry meetings when relevant.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 4:35 p.m., Gary moved that the meeting be adjourned. Rose seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sari Stoddard  
Clerk of the Vestry