

**Episcopal Church of the Ascension  
Vestry Minutes  
November 20, 2016**

**PRESENT:** The Rev. Randy Lord-Wilkinson, The Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo, Betsy Hasegawa, Janet King, Rose Buck, Avin Lalmansingh, Zadinga Ogada, Najma Stubblefield, Paul Whitmore and Treasurer Howard Holland. **Absent:** Denise Lionetti, Gary McLaughlin, John Pruessner and Maria Estela Rodriguez

The meeting opened at 1:33 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; Paul seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Financial status.** Treasurer Howard Holland distributed information on our budget, including preliminary plans for 2017. The Vestry discussed ways to encourage more pledging. Howard will present our financial situation to each service. Betsy related that at a recent symposium, role playing was shown to work well in presenting information; the Vestry asked her to come up with some specific ideas for us; this would take the place of the current “Why I Pledge” talks.

**Annual Giving Campaign (AGC) / Facilities Reserve Fund (FRF).** Avin reported that to date pledges only cover a bit less than a third of the AGC goal, and a bit more than one half of the FRF goal. The Vestry agreed to do a second mailing to those who have not pledged to date.

**Ghanaian church rental request.** The Presbyterian Church of Ghana had enquired about renting worship space in our chapel. Betsy called their current rental location and was told that there were two problem areas; first, they frequently run their services beyond the agreed upon time, and second, they have a praise band that has drawn noise complaints from neighbors. They also have more items that would need storage than we can provide room for. Betsy will call the leader of the Ghanaian church to discuss these matters and will report back.

**Kitchen status; removal of dishwasher.** Since the church now uses only disposable dishes, the dishwasher is no longer needed and will be removed. The Vestry agreed last month to hire a professional for a one-time deep cleaning of the kitchen. Some of our 11:00 Spanish language parishioners are experienced in this area and have offered their services. The Vestry quickly accepted this very generous offer. The cleaning date will be determined by the volunteers, but Javier will suggest December 3, the date of our internal housekeeping decluttering.

**Website status.** Randy related that our new website will be up and running this week. It will include a site that will make it easy for donors to make payments and financial contributions.

**RenewalWorks report.** Janet reported that the survey revealed that the parish is healthy overall and happy with our clergy. She will continue to work with the diocese on lessons learned from the survey.

**Tri-State service contract quotation.** Upon reviewing the quotation, the Vestry felt the quotation was not specific enough regarding what is covered. Randy will get more information from them and the Vestry will discuss this further at a later date.

**Decluttering day.** This is scheduled for December 3; hopefully the kitchen cleanup will take place the same day. Parishioner Chris Ruggeri has offered use of his pick-up truck.

**Fund raising; Cookbook.** Zadinga's children's school recently produced a cookbook as a fund raiser; she brought all the information to the meeting. The costs to produce a cookbook seemed quite reasonable and the Vestry was supportive. Paul made a motion that we proceed with producing an Ascension cookbook as a fund-raiser. Janet seconded and the motion was carried.

**Christian Formation for Children.** We currently have both Godly Play and Joyful Path classes at 9:00 and at 11:15 on Sundays. Zadinga reported that there are usually very few students in each. Randy recommended merging each of the two Godly Play and each of the two Joyful Path classes at only one service. Zadinga will discuss options with the teachers.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Javier's immigration status.** Javier's R1 (religious worker) visa will expire in July 2017. Two different immigration attorneys have recommended two different approaches to his getting his green card. One approach better minimizes the risk that the green card might not be issued by the July date, and the Vestry recommended that Javier pursue that avenue, including discerning the cost associated.

**Maria Estella Rodriguez resignation.** Spanish language service Vestry member Maria Estella is resigning but recommended Berenice Rodriguez to take her place. Berenice is bilingual, an active member, and contributes financially to Ascension. After discussion, Avin moved that Berenice Rodriguez be appointed to the Vestry to fill the unexpired term of Maria Estella Rodriguez (i.e., ending in 2018). Motion was seconded by Janet and passed unanimously.

**Discernment for new Vestry.** Choosing candidates for the election in 2017 was discussed. Vestry members will discuss this further at the December meeting.

**Report on Health Fair.** Rose related that the Fair was excellent but that a lack of publicity and a short lead time meant too few attendees. She said they had learned a lot from the experience and recommended having another Health Fair later, preferably in late Spring and with events held outside.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:48..

Respectfully submitted,

Sari Stoddard  
Clerk of the Vestry