

**Episcopal Church of the Ascension
Vestry Minutes
December 17, 2017**

PRESENT: The Rev. Randy Lord-Wilkinson, Junior Warden Janet King, Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Gary McLaughlin, Zadinga Ogada, Luis Pedron, John Pruessner, Berenice Rodriguez. Absent: Senior Warden Betsy Hasegawa, Rose Buck, Avin Lalmansingh.

The meeting opened at 1:30 with Bible study; the business meeting began at 2:00.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Selection of Vestry Liaison to Minister of Music Search Committee. The Vestry elected John to be the Vestry representative to the committee.

Vestry candidates. The Vestry took preliminary steps toward getting candidates for the three new vestrypersons to be elected at the Annual Meeting in March.

NEW BUSINESS

Furniture for atrium. Lin had researched furniture for the lower atrium, high tables and a coffee cart. After discussion, the vestry was in favor. Gary moved to approve the purchase, with a cap of \$1,200; Zadinga seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Supply clergy. Until such time as we have an interim clergy person, we will use supply clergy. Decisions have to be made about the number of services to be covered, specifics of the coverage, and other responsibilities. Gary suggested that an Ad Hoc committee to address these things be established; he volunteered as did Gordon and Zadinga. Nan Hildebrand will return to Ascension as a pastoral associate, with only occasional preaching.

Historiographer. This position had been let fall to the wayside in recent years, but the vestry agreed to reinstate it. Much has happened in the last ten years, and it needs to be documented. Instead of a single person, it could become a Small Group activity. The clerk agreed to write something for the bulletin and ascendant asking for those interested; Meredith agreed to be point of contact.

Emergency security response. With churches becoming targets of attacks, the vestry discussed what Ascension could or should do. The combination on the doors was recently changed, and was given out to fewer people. Gary suggested we might invest in cameras at the three entrances, so that Lin could see who is at the door when the doorbell rings. Randy suggested the matter be referred to Ted Bedell, Facilities Committee chair. John, as liaison, will contact Ted.

The Giving Tree. Due to our very late start on this annual outreach project, it was proposed that instead of collecting a variety of hats, gift cards, food, etc., that we choose a single recipient of a special Christmas collection, as is done for the Lenten rice bowl. The proposed recipient is Henry Sanchez, who was falsely accused of a crime. That brought him, as an undocumented immigrant, to the attention of ICE, which then put him in deportation custody. He needs \$40,000 to be released, which will delay his deportation hearings. Need pic of him. Janet moved that Ascension hold a Christmas-tide special

offering for Henry Sanchez in lieu of the customary Giving Tree. Luis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OPEN MIC

Gordon asked about the reorganization of the classrooms; Randy said it would be complete and ready on 1/7/18.

Gordon reported that our interim choirmaster/organist Clarice Snyder is working out very well and giving the choir some challenging music to work with. He also reported there would be a pageant rehearsal upcoming.

ADJOURNMENT: At 3:45 p.m., Meredith moved that the meeting be adjourned. Gary seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sari Stoddard
Clerk of the Vestry