

VESTRY MINUTES

January 2019

PRESENT: Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo, Senior Warden Betsy Hasegawa, Junior Warden Zadinga Ogada, Rose Buck, Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Janet King, Luis Pedron, John Pruessner, Berenice Rodriguez and Bob Waters. Absent: Susan McLaughlin. Others in attendance: Ascension Treasurer Avin Lalmansingh; Matthew Watson. The meeting opened at 7:10 p.m., with a short prayer and check in around the table.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Facility Repairs. John reported that the repairs to the roof have been completed. Hopefully, the repairs will address the problems with leaking in several of the hallways. Funds from Facilities Reserve will be used to cover the costs.

Office Computers. Avin Lalmansingh summarized the assessment of the office computer equipment and recommendations on next steps. Ascension needs to update the equipment we currently have to allow staff to operate as efficiently as possible and permit use of the latest software for business applications. After consultations with EDOW IT specialist Peter Turner, Avin recommends that Ascension purchase two all-in-one stand-alone computers that have both processor and monitor in one configuration. The computers cost \$1,250 each. In addition, as previously reported, Peter suggests that we use a cloud-hosting service instead of purchasing a new server. The annual cost for the cloud-hosting service including firewall and maintenance is \$809. Thus, the total cost for the computers and cloud hosting is \$3,369. Janet moved that the Vestry approve the expenditure and designate it as part of the General Office portion of the budget. Meredith second the motion, and the Vestry unanimously approved.

Matthew Watson's Eagle Scout Project. Matthew Watson presented an overview of his Eagle Scout project, which is to renovate, refurbish, and paint Classroom 2 on the main level. As part of the project, he will update the cabinetry, install movable cubbies, and prepare and paint all of the walls in the room. Vestry members asked questions about the type of cabinetry and cubbies to be installed; sanding and finish work required, and the time frame for completing the work. The Vestry also discussed the project budget, which is approximately \$400. Janet made a motion to allow Matthew to make an appeal to Ascension's parishioners for financial support. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Overview of Ascension's 2019 Budget. Avin Lalmansingh presented a comprehensive overview of Ascension's preliminary 2019 budget, including income and expenses together with a review of 2018. This past year was a very good one for Ascension financially. Ascension had fewer expenses as a result of changes in personnel, greater building use income, support from a Diocesan grant, and solid plate and pledge income. As a result, Ascension will have positive net

income of the year, although the exact amount is not yet known. For 2019, Ascension's income will likely be much the same, minus the Diocesan grant. There are still a number of questions about 2019 expenses that will require additional deliberation. Javier suggested that the Vestry hold a special meeting just on the 2019 budget to provide time to discuss in detail. Vestry members agreed.

New Vestry Member Discernment. Bob reported to the Vestry about ongoing efforts to discern and call a new slate of candidates to run for open positions on the Vestry. Those efforts are going well and a slate of candidates will be announced soon. Relatedly, the Vestry discussed the date of the parish annual meeting and decided that the meeting will be held on Sunday, March 10. The candidate forum with the Vestry candidates will be held the previous week, on Sunday, March 3. Reports for the annual meeting will be due on February 15.

Parish Life. The Vestry discussed a number of items related to parish life, including whether to hold the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. It was decided to hold the event. The Vestry also discussed refreshments for the annual meeting. The next Ascension 1A Sunday service will be on Sunday, March 31.

NEW BUSINESS

Diocesan Convention. Javier gave an overview of this year's Diocesan Convention, which begins with pre-convention activities on Friday, January 25, and formally convenes on Saturday, January 26. Javier emphasized that even if one is not a delegate, one can attend and it's a chance to see the Diocese in action, which Bob also emphasized.

Vestry Retreat. Vestry members discussed plans for this year's Vestry retreat, following the annual meeting and election of new members. The retreat will be held on March 15-16. Options for where to hold the retreat were discussed, as well as the role of this year's facilitator and topics to be discussed. The Vestry will finalize plans at its next meeting.

WSSC Work Activities. Zadinga briefed Vestry members on the WSSC activities scheduled to begin in April, which will last for approximately one year. WSSC will be replacing a sewer line that's adjacent to Ascension House, resulting in repair work that will take in the Ascension House parking lot. Zadinga will share further details as they become available, including how to mitigate any disruptions to weekday activities, including Mobile Med, and whether weekend activities may be impacted.

Building Use. Berenice led a discussion with the Vestry about Ascension's building use agreements with St. Barnabas and Sandy Ridge Academy. She reported that St. Barnabas is very happy to use the chapel space, albeit needing office and storage space, as well. In addition, their use of the chapel space has been a reminder of the poor condition of the chairs in the chapel. Vestry members discussed steps to address, including the chairs that are being stored in the chapel choir area. Gordon suggested a subcommittee of the Vestry meet to identify a solution. John and Luis agreed to be part of the subcommittee.

Berenice also led a discussion about Ascension's contract with Sandy Ridge. Ascension presented Sandy Ridge with a new contract on November 15, 2018, and met to discuss with them on December 6, 2018. At the meeting on December 6, there was a review of concerns that Sandy Ridge raised, as well as concerns Ascension expressed. Those concerns included areas related to our physical plant, use of the facility, itself, and the price and length of the contract. Berenice summarized the negotiations thus far on the contract, and what will should be the effective date for the new contract. She will continue to serve as point person in completing those negotiations and together with Javier, will meet with them as needed to finalize the contract based on input from the Vestry on the annual cost and length of the contract.

Personnel Update. Javier reported on changes in the office staff. Eleni Hailu is no longer with Ascension and Jesse Velasquez has stepped in to handle many of the communications activities that had been performed by Eleni. The Vestry recommended that Javier explore options for a more permanent arrangement with Jesse, who is by all accounts has been doing a superb job in helping out.

Worship Schedule. The Vestry discussed the current worship schedule and feedback that Vestry members have heard on the timing of the services, music and other related issued. The Vestry agreed to continue monitoring feedback, with the possibility of conducting a more formal review or survey at the one-year mark of Javier serving as Priest in Charge.

OPEN MIC

Gordon reported on the Epiphany Pageant, which was attended by over 20 people, and there was a brief discussion of ideas for next year. All agreed that Gordon had done an outstanding job in directing the pageant and there were thanks all around for his efforts.

John noted that he will be in touch with an electrician to investigate some of the dead outlets and other electrical needs we still have.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:55 p.m., Luis moved that the meeting be adjourned. Rose and Berenice seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Holland on behalf of Danielle Allen
Clerk of the Vestry