

## **VESTRY MINUTES**

### **November 2018**

**PRESENT:** Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo, Senior Warden Betsy Hasegawa, Junior Warden Zadinga Ogada, Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Janet King, Susan McLaughlin, Luis Pedron, John Pruessner, Berenice Rodriguez and Bob Waters. Absent: Rose Buck. The meeting opened at 2:05 p.m. with a short prayer and check in around the table. At that time, Betsy shared with the vestry that the St Barnabas Deaf Church congregation has told her how delighted they are to be included in Ascension's life as part of the whole One Ascension. She then went over the results of the 6-month evaluation of our Priest-in-Charge, Javier. Almost every comment was highly complementary and/or very constructive.

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Roof and VAV/dampers.** The contracts for the work have been approved and signed. Work on the roof should start imminently, but exactly when is unknown. The Parker Pearce agreement is in place; we owe the down payment which will be given this week. There may be a delay if they have to order special parts. Parker Pearce has taken \$500 off their price.

**Annual Giving Campaign update.** Susan reported on progress. The campaign is moving along well; we have 77 pledges already (ahead of this time last year) for \$201,000 to date. There are ten new pledgers. Two more speakers are scheduled – Betsy and Avin – for the next two Sundays. In two weeks, we will start emailing those who have pledged before but haven't so far this year. Janet said she'd heard good responses about the postcards, signed by Javier, being sent out thanking pledgers. Javier said he'd like a speaker at the Spanish language service; John volunteered.

**Status of the contact with St Barnabas Deaf Church.** Javier and Rev. Betsy from St Barnabas have been discussing the financial side of this. St Barnabas had already paid their former "landlord", for the entire year of 2018. Rev Betsy and Javier will meet in mid-December to make arrangements. They gave us a donation today for use of the undercroft for a funeral repast; a member or relative was interred in our columbarium.

**Office computers.** Avin and Javier are following up on this. Avin will get estimated costs and give the vestry a proposal.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Brazilian Church rental proposal.** Ascension was contacted by this small congregation proposing using our chapel weekly for their Portuguese language service from 6 pm to 9 pm on Saturday. They are currently meeting at St Mary Magdalene in Aspen Hill, but would like to move to the Gaithersburg area. They were asked to send us a proposal but nothing has been received to date.

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

**OPEN MIC**

**Zadinga – Sandy Ridge Academy (SRA) lease.** There are a number of issues to be resolved. One is use of the bathrooms in the school area by church members on Sundays. The church wants complete access to the restrooms for Sunday coffee-hour, but SRA is concerned that the restrooms won't be cleaned before school starts on Monday mornings. One solution is to have the cleaning company come on Sunday afternoons. Other items to be resolved include the cost of snow removal, the need for notice of planned work in areas used by SRA, and the tape that SRA has put down in the undercroft.

**Janet** suggested that representatives from the English and Spanish language congregations meet when planning social events (joint or separate) so that both congregations are aware of plans.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 4:10 Gordon moved that the meeting be adjourned. Bob seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sari Stoddard  
Clerk of the Vestry