

**Episcopal Church of the Ascension
Vestry Minutes
January 28, 2018**

PRESENT: The Rev. Randy Lord-Wilkinson, Senior Warden Betsy Hasegawa, Junior Warden Janet King, Rose Buck, Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Avin Lalmansingh, Gary McLaughlin, Zadinga Ogada, Luis Pedron, John Pruessner, Berenice Rodriguez. No members were absent. Special guests in attendance: Matthew Watson, Rev. Terri Murphy.

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

Prior to consideration of the Consent Agenda, Betsy asked that two New Business items be addressed at the beginning of the meeting to accommodate guests in attendance. The Vestry concurred.

Eagle Scout Project: Ascension parishioner Matthew Watson presented his proposal for renovating, refurbishing, and painting Room 2 for his Eagle Scout project. Matthew reviewed the project overview with the Vestry, including time line, materials needed, and options for the project. Matthew also asked a series of questions about budget, use of the classroom, and other details to guide planning. The Treasurer noted that there is current \$127.33 in the Eagle Scout Restricted Reserve Fund that is available as seed money. After further discussion, John moved that the Vestry approve the project and give Matthew permission to proceed, Avin seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Presentation on Safety and Security: The Rev. Terri Murphy, Deacon and Director of Religious Education at Ascension Silver Spring, shared information with the Vestry on planning for safety issues in parishes and steps that the Vestry may want to consider. While mass casualty events generate the most attention, fires, natural disasters, and other emergencies are far more common and require consideration, as well. Rev. Murphy suggested that Ascension create a security team and invite key officials from the Montgomery County Police and Fire and Rescue to meet with the security team to help conduct a safety and security review to identify Ascension's top needs. Gary moved that Ascension form such a team, Gordon seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Sunday School Teacher Report: Gordon presented an overview of the report submitted by Megan Didavi. He noted the need to discuss the schedule for the 2018-2019 program year, and whether the schedule should remain the same or not. Polling parents and/or speaking with them individually or as a group are being considered. Gordon will keep the Vestry posted on further developments.

Search for Music Minister: John reported that there have been two interviews with prospective candidates held thus far, with another scheduled. The position is still being advertised through

the American Guild of Organists and applications will be accepted through the end of February. The search committee hopes to have interviews with more candidates in addition to the ones already scheduled.

Pledge Campaign Update: Avin noted that (as of the date of the Vestry meeting), the pledge campaign had resulted in 164 pledges, totaling \$368,728. He reported that the campaign is now considered closed. Looking ahead, the needs and roles for volunteers in tracking and reporting on pledges collected will be examined as part of future planning.

Vestry Candidates: The Vestry went over the status of phone calls and contacts with new prospective members, who had accepted the invitation to run for Vestry, and additional calls that still needed to be made. The group also discussed the status of candidates for delegates and an alternate for Diocesan convention.

NEW BUSINESS

Fundraising by the Spanish-Language Congregation: Javier reported on a number of ideas that our fellow congregants have discussed, as well as dates when these fundraising events may take place. Questions were asked about the goals for the activities, with an understanding that the ultimate purpose for the funds would be decided prior to the events being held. In the meantime, Javier will work with Lin Keene to reserve the dates on the church calendar and report back to the Vestry as plans take further shape.

One Ascension Sunday: The Vestry discussed options for the next One Ascension Sunday service and decided that the service would be held on Palm Sunday, March 25, and would serve as the send-off for Randy. Plans will be made for the luncheon afterward using Ascension's usual networks for doing so.

Upcoming Town Hall Meeting: Vestry members shared thoughts for the town hall meeting to be held on February 11, including topics to cover, what Randy would address.

Washer-Dryer for Ascension House: Javier has obtained two estimates for the electrical and plumbing work needed to install the washer-dryer. He will obtain a third estimate, and then information will be shared with the Vestry and a vote on proceeding will be held by e-mail.

OPEN MIC

Janet presented information on the kinds of "escript" programs local grocery stores offer, and it was decided by mutual consent not to pursue. about the reorganization of the classrooms; Randy said it would be complete and ready on 1/7/18.

John reported on the need to repair the flashing on the rear entrance and other related needs. That led to a discussion of security for Ascension's entryways. Information is still being gathered and will be part of the safety and security review discussed earlier in the meeting.

Betsy went over dates for the parish annual meeting, which will be on March 4, with the Vestry retreat to be held March 9-10. Given that Palm Sunday falls on the fourth Sunday in March, the Vestry's March meeting will be on March 18.

ADJOURNMENT: At 3:45 p.m., Betsy moved that the meeting be adjourned and the Vestry continue in Executive Session to discuss personnel issues and the hiring of a Priest in Charge or Interim Rector for Ascension when Randy retires. Gary seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Holland on Behalf of Sari Stoddard, Clerk of the Vestry