

## **Vestry Minute October 22, 2017**

**PRESENT:** The Rev. Randy Lord-Wilkinson, Betsy Hasegawa, Janet King, Rose Buck, Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Avin Lalmansingh, Gary McLaughlin, Zadinga Ogada, Luis Pedron, John Pruessner, Berenice Rodriguez. Guest presenter: Maria Estela Rodriguez.

The meeting opened at 1:30 with a Lambeth Bible Study, concluding at 2:00.

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Annual Giving Campaign.** Avin told the vestry that at the end of week three, the records are up to date. The vestry members will be getting assignments in batches of ten for writing thank you notes to pledgers. The Sign-Up Genius site already has several people signed up to talk about the campaign at the various services; all are encouraged to sign up. Betsy suggested we might try a “mini flash mob” to speak at services, with many speakers standing to talk, one right after another. Several vestry members indicated they’d do it. The annual campaign has been extended to the end of the year.

**Review of the 5pm service.** Randy is experimenting with the use of contemplative eucharists and Taize chants at the late service. He will send vestry members background information on these activities.

**Attendance.** Gary has analyzed our attendance data since the beginning of 2016. He went over the trends shown with the Vestry.

**Cookbook update.** Zadinga reported that between-services orders of the cookbook started today; several people have ordered multiple copies; having the books gift wrapped was enthusiastically received. The books can be picked up next Sunday at the OneAscension celebration. Betsy thanked the cookbook committee members present for their hard work . [The cookbooks have sold extremely well.](#)

**Lin Keene office update/volunteers needed.** Janet plans to meet with our new office manager Lin Keene soon. She will find out about the kind of volunteer help Lin could use and when. Lin specifically has mentioned to Janet that we need a “chaperone” for evening and weekend events when held by non-Ascension people. The vestry needs to address finding someone who can monitor these non-Ascension events.

**Disposition of Ascension House.** John related that he, Meredith and Janet had met to discuss possibilities for AH. The three agreed that we need the parking space around the house. The historical designation of the site forbids development, thus making it less desirable for a tenant. John is pursuing the possibility of Gaithersburg High School using it as adjunct location/expansion; he will report back on this.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Candidate for Treasurer.** Janet announced that Avin had been asked if he would take the job on; Avin agreed to do so. She moved that Avin be elected to a two-year term as Treasurer of the Church of the Ascension at the end of this vestry term. Rose seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Discernment for new Vestry candidates.** The vestry was asked to start discernment for candidates that God may be calling for the next vestry, to be elected in March. There will be three 3-year terms to be filled.

#### **OPEN MIC**

**Berenice – fundraiser.** Berenice announced that Maria Estela Rodriguez had hand-made a beautiful queen size bed covering and has offered it to be raffled as a fundraiser toward the audio-visual items needed for the chapel. Maria Estela unwrapped it and showed it to the Vestry; all were taken by its beauty and were delighted to take her up on the offer. Gary made a motion that bedcover be gratefully accepted and placed for auction. Janet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Meredith – idea for church-wide activity.** She proposed that for an upcoming One Ascension Sunday, instead of a feast that we offer an “Ascension University”, consisting of a number of classes, each with a different subject, to be led by volunteer teachers . Parishioners would choose one class to attend. This would continue to encourage small groups, hopefully with people of various backgrounds in each class. Meredith suggested a schedule of (as an example), holding the 1A service from 9:30 to 10:30, then having a coffee hour with a variety of healthy foods until 11:15, then breaking out into the different classes, all ending at the same time – 12:30 perhaps. Vestry members were interested in the idea.

**Gordon – Epiphany pageant.** Gordon has agreed to lead this again. He related some of the difficulties he’s had with it in the past, and thinks an earlier start will make things work more smoothly. Randy asked how the new Sunday School time is going; Gordon and Zadinga both think it’s working well; Gordon said that parents seem to like being able to worship with their children.

**Janet – FRF, financial plans.** She stated that we need clarity on how to handle the second (and third) year of the Facilities Reserve Fund. Last year we ordered extra envelopes for FRF. This year we are asking that if you have some envelopes left to use them. If not put your pledge in an envelope clearly stating that it is money for your FRF pledge; or put FRF on the memo line of your personal check.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 4:12 p.m., Gary moved that the meeting be adjourned. Avin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.