

**Episcopal Church of the Ascension
Vestry Minutes
September 24, 2017**

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

The meeting opened at 1:30 with a Lambeth Bible Study, concluding at 1:53.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Proposal about streaming on our website. Before discussing this, an itemized proposal is needed. Topic was tabled until one or more proposals are received.

Children's Formation. After the second Sunday of this program year's Sunday school, Gordon said things are going well, and all the children from the first Sunday returned for the second session. He noted that no children from the Spanish-language congregation have attended. Javier will be asked to encourage their participation. The nursery is staffed by a paid nursery aide; adult non-staff volunteers should also be there. Randy reported that the physical situation in the nursery room is being upgraded. Furniture from the commons area has replaced the old stuff. For his Eagle Scout project, Matt Watson will paint the room, refurnish the cabinets, and conduct a toy drive.

Adult formation; the rector's role. There is a parallel (with children's formation) adult formation class that meets in library while the children are in their formation. Randy would like to see another new track for adults, with speakers from other cultures and religions.

Annual Giving update. Avin reported that we will kick the 8-week campaign off next Sunday, 10/1. All the cards, letters and envelopes should be ready to go tomorrow; then the vestry will hold an "envelope stuffing" party. Randy will preach on Stewardship on Sunday. There will be a Sign-up Genius online for people to sign up to speak throughout the campaign. Vestry members agreed to directly contact others and ask them to speak. Betsy will do a visual of a vine for collecting both pledges and comment cards on "why I come to Ascension".

Treasurer discernment. The person selected to replace retiring treasurer Howard Holland must be properly qualified. The vestry was asked to discern who that person might be. The job will have changed by the end of the year, with Lin prepared to take over much of the work.

One Ascension (1A) Sunday October 29; options for celebration. Janet has contacted previous 1A helpers to make plans. A possible theme is Halloween theme, with kids in costume, a parade, possibly a "trunk or treat", where the candy would be given out by attendees from their cars (giving the workers more time to prepare for the feast). Randy suggested an All Saints theme; a Day of the Dead theme was also proposed. The helper-group will decide on a main dish to be purchased.

The final 1A Sunday in 2017, December 31 will be on New Year's Eve; the theme will be a New Year's Eve party.

Final cookbook update. The cookbook went to the printers on August 31st. The finished cookbooks will be available for sale at the 10/29 1A luncheon.

Ascension House, other property rental. The rental of the first floor of Ascension House (AH) has been dropped from \$2,000/month to \$1,750. Other thoughts for AH included selling it, renting the entire house and/or renting parking spaces. Janet, John and Meredith will convene a small group to consider the sale possibility. If we did so, Javier would be given a rental subsidy. It was pointed out that since the building has been designated historical, a renter or buyer wouldn't be able to change or demolish it.

A draft of Lauren Kingsland's brochure about renting the church or chapel for weddings was passed around. Kentlands is having a bridal exposition in October; the brochures will be there and will also be put on Ascension's online sites.

NEW BUSINESS – none.

OPEN MIC

Luis brought up the subject of accounting for the many fundraisers that are being held and planned for at Ascension. Further discussions will address how to add these funds to Ascension's accounting; one possibility is adding a line item in our budget to account for these and future funds.

Rose spoke about her concern about poor communications within the church. She brought up a couple of examples and said that we really need do better job of communicating events, assignments and other things. We need to start disseminating news, events, and reminders earlier and more carefully; we need to get information to Eleni earlier, and perhaps work up a reminder system. Randy said that we'd had a communication committee in the past, which could be re-established.

Gary touched on the financial town hall meeting held between the 9:00 and 11:15 services earlier in the day. He said the meeting went well, gave a true picture of our financial status, and that people are comfortable with Randy's becoming a bi-vocational priest. Betsy noted that we won't have saved enough by the end of 2017 to balance the budget, but said that further planned changes will make 2018 a better year financially, with no deficit. It was noted that in 2018, the diocese will only contribute \$10K toward Javier's income (it was \$20K for 2017). Betsy said she will have Howard come next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: At 4:02 p.m., Avin moved that the meeting be adjourned. Gary seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sari Stoddard, Clerk of the Vestry

**Episcopal Church of the Ascension
Committee Chairs' and Liaisons' Reports**

HEALTH AND WELLNESS, Laura Shay, Chair

The Health and Wellness Ministry Will be resuming blood pressure screening on One Ascension Sundays.

OPERATIONS AND FINANCE REPORT, Howard Holland, Chair

To be sent separately.

No other reports received.

**Episcopal Church of the Ascension
Parish Life Events Calendar
2016 - 2017**

Annual events:

Fifth Sundays	Potluck Luncheons May 29, 2016 July 31, 2016 Oct 30, 2016 Jan 29, 2017 (cancelled) One-Ascension Sundays with luncheon April 30, 2017 July 30, 2017 Oct 29, 2017 Dec 31, 2017
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	Tuesday, February 9, 2016 Tuesday, February 28, 2017
Annual Meeting and Potluck Lunch	Sunday, March 13, 2016 Sunday, March 12, 2017
Pledgers' lunch (catered)	Sunday, April 10, 2016 cancelled for 2017 and in the future
Ascension Day International Potluck	Sunday, May 15, 2016 Sunday, TBD, 2017 (probably 5/28)
Parish Picnic at Bohrer Park Pavilion	Sunday, June 5 th , 2016 cancelled for 2017; replaced by July OneAscension
Special Events	Usually 2-3 per year (welcomes, farewells, dedications, etc.)

**Episcopal Church of the Ascension
Committee Chairs and Vestry Liaisons**

Standing Committees	Vestry Liaison	Chairperson
Christian Formation for Children	Gordon Donnelly	Megan Didavi
Christian Formation for Youth	Avin Lalmansingh	Angie Hight-Walker
Facilities	John Pruessner	Ted Bedell
Outreach	Gary McLaughlin	Paul Boynton
Parish Life	Janet King	On-Call volunteers
Pastoral Care	Zadinga Ogada	Randy Lord-Wilkinson
Personnel	Rose Buck	Jean Cohn
Worship	Meredith Horan	Carleton MacDonald
 Ad hoc Committees presently in effect		
Annual Giving Campaign	TBD	Gary McLaughlin
Christian Formation for Adults	Berenice Rodriguez	TBD
Health and Wellness	Rose Buck	Laura Shay
Operations and Finance	Betsy Hasegawa	Howard Holland
Reshaping Ascension	Executive committee	Randy Lord-Wilkinson
Cookbook	Zadinga Ogada	Zadinga Ogada