

Vestry Digest
May 2018

PRESENT: The Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo, Senior Warden Betsy Hasegawa, Junior Warden Janet King, Vestrypersons Rose Buck, Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Susan McLaughlin, Luis Pedron, John Pruessner, Berenice Rodriguez and Bob Waters. Absent: Zadinga Ogada. Guest: Avin Lalmansingh, Church Treasurer and Operations and Finance Committee Chair.

The meeting opened at 1:43 p.m. with a short prayer and check in around the table.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Music Minister Committee Report. Gordon and John reported that the committee had chosen the top three candidates; the first-choice candidate turned the offer down; the second-choice candidate will be offered the position. Rose noted that we will need to present a Letter of Agreement, and that it must include the salary. John pointed out that the choir would like a director talented enough to help them grow. Janet proposed that a salary be offered to Jesse Velazquez to provide the music at the Spanish language service, as well as the music minister for the 10:00 service. Both salaries not be exceed the amount that is in the budget.

Worship Committee Report. Meredith reported that committee co-chairs Gary McLaughlin and Curt Lindsay are doing a great job. A shortened, combined-service bulletin has been developed and is undergoing review. A presentation on security (location of fire alarms and extinguishers, location and use of our AED, active shooter training) is in the works. It was noted that parishioner and choir member David Mitchell is certified in CPR.

Comments from parishioners on our current services include someone distracted by a crying child (vestry agreed that the Welcome Team should be tasked with approaching the parent and noting that we have a “place of refuge” for unhappy youngsters); and a comment that the new service at 10:00 is too long (this comment will be passed to the committee).

Facilities Committee Report. John met with Ted Bedell/Facilities Committee Chair to discuss concerns. Luis has dealt with current mold situation, preventing a major problem in the future. Luis noted that it had rained into the church building this week, and that it is difficult to find a leak in a flat roof like ours. There are three AC units in the chapel that need to be replaced; we are waiting for one more estimate for the work. We have received a proposal from Barry Herpst at T&B Quality Services to address the grease trap problem in the kitchen. Ted recommends approval of the bid. Janet made a motion to accept that proposal (for \$1,518), specifying that it must also include the cost of the permit and include a warranty, for an amount up to \$2,000. John seconded the motion and it was carried. In order to have better control over use of the kitchen, the vestry recommended that a lock be purchased and installed on the door.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer report. Avin reported that he has been working with Lin Keene in the church office; she is taking on financial activity previously performed by and paid separately for to Melissa Burgos. Melissa is now only being used on call. Avin asked for comments on the new format and information in the monthly financial report. Vestry members would like to see more everyday language and less of the formal financial language, to better understand what's presented.

Twelve-step groups; use of the church. Javier told the vestry that we currently have three 12-step groups per day using our facilities, and many of the people have the combination to our doors. This is a service we provide to the wider community; however, we need to re-look at it. Betsy said that church members needing a space for a meeting or activity must be considered first, and that in that case the groups must make different arrangements. Javier proposed the vestry identify the various groups, with the times and locations they use. Once that's done, the vestry needs to come up with ideas on future use of our facilities.

Change of vestry meeting dates. As of the next meeting (7/1) the vestry will change from meeting on the 4th Sunday of each month to meeting on the first Sunday.

Review of contracts. Javier reported that Sandy Ridge Academy (who rents our downstairs area) has not had the rent raised in many years, and they're now using more of our space. In addition, although the rent is defined for the two rented-out offices on the main floor, we don't have a contract with either renter. Berenice noted that we should have a Certificate of Liability for each of them, at a cost to each of about \$250 annually for \$1M coverage. An ad hoc committee to review what contracts we have and the rates we charge should be set up, with Berenice and Zadinga included.

OPEN MIC

Susan described an event at a recent service wherein a presumed service-dog was biting at its leash, tugging at its owner, and then rushed toward some children on the floor. The parents were terrified. The vestry discussed what to do about the situation and how to handle it. Under federal law, service animals must be under control at all times. Susan volunteered to research the situation and report back.

Javier asked about the one-on-one talks vestry members have been having with parishioners and asked the vestry to keep talking. All reports to date are positive.

Susan was concerned that people considering planned giving are not feeling that they can trust the church to honor their requests as to what to do with their donations. There appears to be a loss of trust following the abortive capital campaign of a few years past. In response, we need to build confidence, especially by inviting people to join in church activities and have a say in what goes on. In conversations, vestry members need to be proactive in asking parishioners to become part of the church social structure. Ask people which committee they would like to join, with assurances that they won't have to be there forever, but that we need to get everyone's input. We need to impart the feeling that the church has turned around, we are excited and on a new path with a new vision, and that we need each of them to be part of this new era.

Luis addressed fund raisers held by the Spanish language community. A yard sale and car wash will be held next week. Where should the income be put? That community has held some funds

back in the past to pay for social events based on Spanish heritage. After discussion on use of the money, Berenice made a motion that a new line item for music ministry be created and that income from the upcoming fund raiser be put in that category. The motion was seconded by Rose and passed by the vestry.

ADJOURNMENT: At 4:45 Gordon moved that the meeting be adjourned. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sari Stoddard
Clerk of the Vestry