

**Episcopal Church of the Ascension**  
**Vestry Minutes**  
**August 4, 2019**

**PRESENT:** The Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo, Senior Warden Betsy Hasegawa, Susan McLaughlin, Berenice Rodriguez, Gordon Donnelly, James Black, Bob Waters, Louis Pedron, Meredith Horan and Kristen Keating. Absent: Junior Warden Zadinga Ogada, Wadai Dennis. Others in attendance: The Rev. Ken Howard.

The meeting opened at 2:00 with a prayer.

**NEIGHBORHOOD MISSIONAL INTELLIGENCE**

The Rev. Ken Howard has a consulting business in which he provides churches with information about their neighborhoods. The information focuses on the characteristics of the people who live nearby, the organizational resources already in place to serve the neighborhood and ways in which God is calling churches to respond. Ken explained the types of information that were available using the diocese of Maryland as an example. The data were displayed using interactive maps, graphs and charts.

Prior to the vestry meeting Ken met with Padre Javier, Betsy and Jesse to find out what types of information they want to know about the area around Ascension. Ken continued his presentation by showing the vestry the distribution of different data elements for three different groups; those who live within a 5, 10 or 15 minute drive respectively. These groups were chosen because studies have shown that 70 % of a congregation live within a 15 minute drive of the church. However, it is those who live within a 5 or 10 minute drive that the church is able to influence. These are the people that we can most impact. The remainder of the two hour presentation was spent viewing maps, charts and graphs that described those within a 5 or 10 minute drive of the church. The data are too numerous to include in the minutes. Ken will send a copy of the information he shared to the vestry.

Based on the information that Ken shared we discussed methods for increasing our membership. The following suggestions were mentioned:

- Offer to pick up people from the surrounding neighborhoods and drive them to church;
- Create a business card to pass out in the community to encourage people to come to Ascension;
- Enhance our You Tube presence; and
- Perform a service in the community that we think is important and invite the public to join us.

The vestry did not decide to take action on any of these suggestions. It was also suggested that we need to revitalize our outreach committee and form an evangelism committee. No action was taken during the meeting. Ken will send the vestry worksheets that we can use to help us work through the information that he shared.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** There were two changes to the minutes from the meeting on July 7. Gordon moved to strike the sentence on page three regarding the committee's recommendations Betsy seconded the motion and it passed. Gordon moved to strike the sentence on page four confirming that the bylaws have been followed thus far. Kristen seconded the motion and it passed. The consent agenda was passed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Facilities Committee Update** Luis explained that the decision to move forward with the purchase of a new refrigerator had not been communicated to him. Gordon will go to the appliance store and obtain a bid for the refrigerator so that Lin can place the order. The plan is to purchase the refrigerator by the end of the week.

**Contracts Update** Berenice reported that Dr. Tina had vacated her office. We have an office that is available for rent at the rate of between \$500 and \$600 per month.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Schedule for September**

Ministries Fair on September 15

Bishop Chilton's visit on September 22

Meeting to vote on changes to the Ascension By-Laws on September 29

### **OPEN MIC**

**Kristen and Bob** asked for recommendations on a date for a presentation to the parish from Officer Lane (Gaithersburg City Community Resource Officer). Padre Javier asked that we wait until October because September is already very busy.

**Meredith** stated that the worship committee will release the results of the recent survey.

**Padre Javier** stated that the elevator repair had been rescheduled for late August because one of the two contractors that needed to do the repair did not show up for the last appointment. He also stated that Jesse is investigating the cost of installing security cameras around the outside of the church.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At approximately 5 pm Betsy moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and it passed unanimously. The meeting ended with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Keating