

**Episcopal Church of the Ascension  
Vestry Minutes  
November 1, 2019**

**PRESENT:** The Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo, Senior Warden Betsy Hasegawa, Junior Warden Zadinga Ogada, Meredith Horan, Susan McLaughlin, Luis Pedron, James Black, Gordon Donnelly, Wadai Dennis, Bob Waters and Kristen Keating.

The meeting opened at 2:04pm with a prayer from Javier.

**Presentation by the Indians for Christ (IFC)**

The Indians for Christ (IFC) Washington Metropolitan Tamil Congregation would like to rent space from Ascension. The IFC is currently sharing a church with another congregation in Silver Spring. The church is being sold and they need to find a new location for worship and other activities. Three members of the congregation gave a brief presentation about who they are; when their worship services are; the types of activities they engage in; and what their needs are in terms of space. Activities include, but are not limited to: a worship service every Sunday from 3:30-5:30 pm; a Sunday School program; a youth program; vacation bible school; a 6 am Christmas service; weekly worship on Fridays during Lent; and a choir of twenty singers. In addition to space for worship and activities, they will also need storage space for Sunday school supplies and choir robes. There are some time conflicts related to the use of the Undercroft by the Ascension youth group that will need to be addressed.

Susan explained that Ascension is an all-inclusive congregation. Betsy asked if they would be willing to join us for a service and they said yes. They also said that any member of Ascension who wished to join them was welcome.

The vestry asked when they expected to begin using the space and how much rent they were currently paying. They would like to move into a new space in January. They are currently paying \$2,500 per month and would like to continue to pay that rate.

The vestry will form a small committee to work on the facilities management issues that need to be addressed to accommodate the IFC. The committee will consist of Bob, James and a representative from the youth group. Bob will contact Angie and Trevor to get their recommendation for a youth group representative.

Gordon moved to accept the consent agenda. Zadinga seconded. The agenda was passed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Facilities Committee** All except one of the current plumbing issues have been resolved. There is one outstanding issue in the men's room on the main floor. Lin will call the plumber after confirming that it was not on the list of issues he was asked to resolve.

**By Laws Committee:** The by laws were passed by a vote of 107 in favor and 2 opposed. The vote was held on Sunday, October 27.

**Nominating Committee** The committee plans to contact eight people and ask them if they are willing to run for vestry. As names are approved they will be published in the bulletin. Meredith will send the vestry updates on the nominating committee's progress.

**Security Committee** Kristen asked for an update on the status of the security cameras. Javier stated that the cameras will be donated. Jesse will install four cameras, one at each entrance upstairs, one downstairs and one in the columbarium. The cameras will be connected to Lin's computer and Javier's phone. Installation was completed on November 18.

**Vestry retreat** Father Robert will not be able to lead the vestry retreat in 2020. He will find someone to talk to us about and help us with evangelism.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Fire Panel** Given that we have had several false fire alarms recently, we had ARC come and examine the fire panel. They said that it was 38 years old and obsolete. Repairing the panel requires replacing the entire system. The total cost of replacing the entire system is \$86,000. The vestry suggested that Ed Neal be asked to find someone who can look at the system and tell us how to replace it in stages. Luis will talk to Ed. Lin will provide Ed with all of the information she has about the system.

**Donation to St James School.** The vestry decided to table the vote on sending a \$4,500 donation to the St James School related to the Youth Group's Supper work trip. Some of the new vestry members had questions about the process. Bob will invite Angie and Trevor to the December vestry meeting so that they can provide some additional information.

**Ascension House** Javier would like to ask the 12-step groups to begin meeting in Ascension House. This will give them a place to store their supplies and free up space for church activities. He will communicate with Rob who serves as the liaison between the groups and the church. Someone expressed concern about the mold in Ascension house. Luis will ask someone to come and determine the extent of the problem.

### **OPEN MIC**

**James** suggested that we hang pictures of the various activities that occur at Ascension in the hallways so that visitors will know how active we are. Everyone agreed that this was a good idea.

**Betsy** reported that she had received an email from Avin stating that he was stepping down as treasurer after the passage of the 2020 budget. He asked that the vestry begin discerning a replacement.

**Kristen** will send the Ascension Personnel Handbook to the vestry for review. She would like the vestry to consider reducing the number of paid vacation days from 11 to 8.

**ADJOURNMENT** At 4:42 pm, Gordon moved to adjourn the meeting, and Bob seconded. The motion passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Keating  
Vestry member