

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

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

The meeting opened at 2:07 with a prayer from Javier.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Facilities Committee.** The fridge needs shelves. The elevator is working. Sandy Ridge was pleased with the cost savings from Fredis' company re-mulching the playground. Great thanks were given by Ascension to Fredis for his work and leadership on the project. A building cleanup day will take place on September 21.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** The consent agenda was unanimously approved.

**Bylaws Committee.** Proposed changes: The Nominating Committee will now be composed of two Vestry and three non-Vestry parishioners appointed by the Rector. Members can nominate themselves and other members. Nominating Committee will decide how the elections will take place in the given year. In this way, a new method could be used each year. New role of Registrar will be responsible for maintaining the church members' records. Membership will not be limited to those who donate financially, but also those who donate their time. The Senior Warden will be appointed by the Rector. The Junior Warden will be elected by the Vestry from among the Vestry Members. The Junior Warden must have been on the Vestry for at least one year before assuming the position. The Treasurer is an Ad hoc Vestry member. An annual audit will be required. The fiscal year will begin in January with the Annual meeting also moved to January. The bylaws should be reviewed every year.

**Formation of Nominating Committee.** The nominating period starts 1 October so a committee needs to be formed soon.

**Parish Life.** Zadinga shared that a fall theme was selected for the September One Ascension service day. Sardi's Chicken would be provided as the entrée and potluck contributions would round out the menu. Setup will begin on 21 September.

**Contract Update.** Dr. Tina has moved out of her office. The initial suggestion was to consider working with a commercial realtor but the ECF website has similar information on how to utilize and what amount in donations to seek for available space. The counter point was made that a

realtor can provide potential clients and potentially have better information on the local market than the website. They can also help smooth the transition between contracts.

**Sept 22 Bishop's Visit/Confirmation Classes.** Six people will be confirmed and they will each receive a present. The classes are taking place at Ascension and St. Anne's. It was recommended that video be taken of the service to be placed on the website and Facebook. The Ascension Banner should be up for the event.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Padre's 18 Month Evaluation.** It was decided not to conduct a survey for Padre's evaluation. The last evaluation was overwhelmingly positive. There is a formal process required by the diocese.

**2020 Vestry Retreat.** February 1, 2020 will be the next Vestry Retreat following the 19 January Annual meeting. Javier will ask Robert to lead the retreat again.

**Padre Transportation.** Padre's car is dying and the Vestry wants to know what they can do to assist him in obtaining reliable transportation. Kathleen Hall from the diocese is providing information on what the limitations are for how the church can support him

**Church Insurance Agency Assessment.** An initial survey result was sent in the packet. Areas of concern were if the stained glass window above the Altar is covered by insurance as well as if it is properly sealed, the need for and annual audit, an Emergency Plan with meeting places, proper spacing of playground equipment, and same day offering deposits on Sunday.

**Realm Database Introduction.** The switch from Servant Keeper to Realm is underway with the migration of data. The Diocese is providing IT support for the transition at no cost to Ascension. A class on how to use the system will be held. The system has some integration to assist with Annual Campaign drives.

**Nan's Departure.** Ascension must prepare now if Nan will be leaving, but will wait to see what she will decide. A gift of thanks and appreciation for her work is highly favored by the Vestry. Unfortunately, there are many restrictions on providing compensation due to retirement and pension rules. The possibility of building something into next year's budget was posed. Avin shared notes from the March 2019 meeting where payment options were discussed. Now is the time to revisit with Kathleen since everything that was on the table was in verbal form.

**New Sunday School Format.** Due to low enrollment numbers, Godly Play will only be offered at 10:00 am and Joyful Path will only be offered at noon. Students will start in the Narthex then go downstairs and not come back until the end of the service, skipping the communion. Instead, they will go through the Eucharistic Visitors' program to hold a feast downstairs.

**OPEN MIC**

**Gordon** will seek proposals for parking lot striping as the lot needs to be repainted.

**Zadinga** shared the new logo option for Ascension for discussion. This has not yet been made formal as it's not been approved.

**Avin** shared that the next finance meeting will be on 11 September and will focus on the Pledge Campaign and creating a budget.

**Javier** asked that the Vestry consider what to do with Dr. Tina's office; should we rent it and if so, to whom? The Convention in January will be attended by Bishop Curry in Washington. The plan is to hold a Eucharist in one of the Stadiums in DC at noon on 26 January. Finally, Javier wants everyone to feel comfortable letting him know if he is over-tasking anyone.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 4:36 Berenice moved to close the meeting and Gordon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Allen  
Clerk of the Vestry