

Episcopal Church of the Ascension
Vestry Minutes
January 10, 2021

PRESENT: Senior Warden Zadinga Ogada, Junior Warden Kristen Keating, Danielle Allen, Adoma Baffoe, Wadai Dennis, Susan McLaughlin, David Mitchell, Wendy Quijada, Berenice Rodriguez, Robert Waters; **Also Present:** Treasurer Gary McLaughlin; **Not in Attendance:** James Black (resigned effective January 1), Fr. Javier Garcia-Ocampo (arrived at 3:10pm), Stephanie Mitchell.

Meeting was opened at 2:09 with check in followed by a prayer from Zadinga.

Consent Agenda: Berenice made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Bob seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: Susan moved to accept the Consent Agenda It was seconded by Bob and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer. Gary reported that he is waiting on the numbers for December before preparing the budget. We experienced a net loss in November. However, the balance of our checking account for the year to date is positive. We should be able to finish the year next year ahead. We need to find a way for those who make donations to the plate to continue to donate. Gary will build a secure box for donations.

Pledge Campaign Update. We received \$325,000 in pledges. A total of 128 people pledged. We need to figure out how to get more people to pledge instead of asking those who are currently pledging to pledge more. We have a list of approximately 20-25 people who did not renew their pledge.

Our average attendance is approximately 150 people per week. Danielle stated that based on information from Zoom 69-people were reached by the service in Spanish and 92 people were reached by the service in English. We also need to count the number of people who watch the services on Facebook and You Tube. Please note that these social media platforms count anyone who looks in. They do not have to stay to be counted.

Nominating Committee. Five highly qualified candidates have agreed to run for vestry. Their personal statements have been posted on the church's website. The statements are not based on a set of questions. The candidates were asked to provide information about themselves and their view on selected issues.

Berenice will moderate the Candidates Forum on January 17. Each candidate will give a statement followed by a question and answer period. Parishioners will be asked to email their questions to Berenice prior to the forum. They will also have the opportunity to post their questions in the "Chat" during the forum. Each candidate will also have an opportunity to make

a closing statement.

The nominating committee suggests that the vestry consider Arturo Rodriguez to fill the one-year term left vacant by the resignation of James Black. Kristen made a motion to appoint Arturo Rodriguez to the vestry to serve the remainder of James' term. Bob seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

We need to elect one delegate to diocesan convention. The Nominating Committee suggested that the person who comes in fourth in the vestry election be asked to serve as the delegate. All of the vestry candidates are willing to serve as convention delegates if asked.

Annual Meeting Padre reported that Jesse and Cathy Oliveri are assisting with setting up the voting process. Danielle will be present during the annual meeting to assist Jesse with the voting. Padre will communicate with the vestry as needed via email.

NEW BUSINESS

Cleaning Gutters We need to have the gutters on the main church and Ascension House cleaned before we have problems with ice damming. The gutters on the chapel were cleaned recently and do not need to be cleaned at this time. The vestry received four complete bids. Berenice made a motion to accept the bid from Fred Rahimly for \$1,000. Danielle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Welcoming New Vestry Members Zadinga suggested that we continue the practice of having mentors for new vestry members that was started by Susan and Berenice last year. She asked Wadai and Adoma to serve as mentors. They agreed to serve. Zadinga suggested that it may be necessary to meet with the new members. She also stated that she would update the information that was given to new members last year and include a copy of the bylaws. Susan suggested that in the future we encourage those who would like to run for vestry to attend a meeting so that they know what to expect. We need to spend some energy to get people to consider serving on committees. We also need to make people aware of the types of issues that we deal with. Kristen suggested that it might be helpful to bring back the parish council meetings. It was decided that this topic required further discussion.

With regard to committees, Gary mentioned that we are getting a new person on the Facilities Committee. Randall Adams is a retired facilities manager with a lot of experience with facilities issues.

Vestry Retreat The retreat will be limited to one day. It will be done virtually on Saturday, February 13 from 10am to 2pm. David stated that he had EFM mentor training that day and might not be able to attend. Outgoing vestry members will be invited to attend so that they can share their wisdom with the new members. It will also provide an opportunity for us to give them a proper farewell.

HVAC Repair We recently learned that the outdoor metering devices on the heat pumps that service the sanctuary and the offices need to be replaced. We have received a bid of \$1,796 from HVAC Precision who holds the maintenance contract for the system. David made a motion to accept the bid from HVAC Precision. Adoma seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OPEN MIC

David mentioned an issue with the automatic debit of pledges. He was advised to work with Lin. Gary will also follow up.

David also explained that Stephanie was working more often. Unfortunately, she does not have a set schedule so there may be times when she is unable to attend. He suggested that we consider finding an alternate to serve as clerk.

Zadinga thanked all three exiting vestry members for their service. She told them to expect to be called back in to service.

Padre also thanked the exiting vestry members. He stated that they were a part of his first vestry at Ascension. He expressed his sincere thanks for all of their work for Ascension and for making things easier for him.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. Padre provided a closing prayer.

The meeting ended at 3:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Keating

Junior Warden, Church of the Ascension