

Ascension Vestry
Minutes
October 3

PRESENT; Senior Warden Zadinga Ogada, Junior Warden Kristen Keating, Danielle Allen, Arturo Rodriguez, Monty Peterson, Lauren Kingsland, Ruth Anna Skowronski, Ed Armstrong, Adoma Baffoe, Wadai Dennis. **ABSENT;** Wendy Quijada, Gary McLaughlin.

Meeting opened at 2:00pm following prayer by Padre Javier.

CONSENT AGENDA: Danielle suggested a correction to the previous minutes. The information about becoming more familiar with Ascension House during preparation for the yard sale should be attributed to Arturo. Kristen said she would make the correction. Monty made a motion to accept the consent agenda with the corrections. Ruth Anna seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS;

Treasurer's Report Zadinga stated that according to the report, we are doing better than the previous month. She encouraged anyone who had a question to contact Gary. Javier stated that Gary was in Canada visiting family.

Facilities: Kristen stated that the issue with the heat pump that affected the heat in the sanctuary has been fixed. She also stated that we are getting bids to have the gutters on the church cleaned. We will schedule the cleaning for late November after the leaves have fallen. Wadai suggested that we investigate the cost of covered gutters.

Nominating Committee: Padre Javier reported that no one had volunteered to be Junior Warden. He explained that Wadai and Adoma will be on the Nominating Committee. Padre Javier invited anyone on vestry to run for Junior Warden. Kristen stated that the job of Junior Warden was easier now that Randall has agreed to share his expertise. She also pointed out that she had some of her current responsibilities prior to becoming Junior Warden.

NEW BUSINESS;

Zoning for Sandy Ridge Academy: Zadinga stated that Eileen, the director of Sandy Ridge Academy, would like to petition the City of Gaithersburg Zoning Commission to allow her to increase her capacity from 55 to 77. The petition will also include a change in the name of the school from MPACT to Sandy Ridge Academy. Zadinga explained that in 1990 when the original petition was granted the church accompanied Eileen, who was the director of MPACT, to the city to support her petition. We will need to attend two meetings with the city in December to support the change in capacity. She also mentioned that there is a fee of \$1,000 for the zoning change. The Executive Committee has decided that we will not pay any part of

this fee.

Zadinga explained that when the pandemic first began, we gave Eileen room 6. She needed the space and we did not want to mix our Sunday school children with the school children downstairs. We did not intend for the use of room 6 to be permanent. Eileen misinterpreted our offer and took it to be permanent. Given this additional space, she applied for grant funds based on space for 77 children.

After a lengthy discussion regarding whether or not to increase the rent based on the additional space, it was decided that the Executive Committee should make the decision.

Annual Meeting: Padre Javier asked the vestry to put the following events on their calendars

Sunday January 16- Vestry Candidates Forum

Sunday, January 23- Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 29- Diocesan Convention

Friday, February 11- Vestry Retreat (Dinner)

Saturday, February 12- Vestry Retreat (9am-3pm)

OPEN MIC:

Padre Javier: He plans to decorate the church for All Saints Day in the Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) theme. He is planning to have people decorate name tags containing the names of people they have lost. Ruth Anna suggested that instead of bringing the deceased person's favorite food (part of the Día de los Muertos tradition) people can bring a donation for Mana. Ruth Anna offered to help with the decorations.

Kristen: She stated that Gary had asked her to remind anyone on vestry who had not pledged to consider pledging before the list of those who have pledged is published.

Lauren: She asked where we were with the pledge campaign. Padre Javier read the following information from the announcements. 49 pledge cards for a total of \$174, 537; 6 pledges to the Facilities Reserve Fund for a total of \$ 5,470.

Adoma: She had questions about Realm. Padre Javier referred her to Lin.

ADJOURNMENT: Arturo motioned to adjourn the meeting and Adoma seconded. It passed unanimously.

Lauren provided closing prayer. The meeting ended at approximately 3:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Keating
Junior Warden