

Comments by Martin Pazdioch

Petition for a Special Parish Meeting at Church of the Ascension

I am not a current voting member of Church of the Ascension but, having been an employee for many years, the Parish holds a deep and lasting affection in my heart. Quite simply, my opinion of Bishop Jelinek is unimportant. What is important is the disgraceful politicking of Bishop Lee in only recommending one candidate to the Vestry. Shame on you, Bishop Lee.

The obvious and only way to proceed from here is to give the Vestry four (4) more candidates to interview for the Interim Rector position. The candidates should each express a unique vision for the future of CotA, hopefully expressing a wide variety of beliefs and opinions about the Episcopal Church, Church of the Ascension, and the specifics of which liturgical traditions he/she would follow.

It is insulting to the members of the Vestry, the members of the congregation, the non-members of the Parish who hold Ascension as the high standard of which we should be proud, and especially to the integrity and intent of the canon when a bishop so obviously tries to take the decision-making process out of the hands of the people in whom it belongs. To me these petty shenanigans clearly show the fear of the Bishop to trust that the members of the church can govern themselves.

Frankly, I would like to see the continuation of the rich Anglo-Catholic traditions that have always been a part of Church of the Ascension's worship. As the song says, "Nobody does it better." But that decision is NOT up to me. It is up to all of the people of the Parish and the men and women they have chosen to represent them. If the membership choose to take the Parish in a different, more "contemporary," direction I will certainly be disappointed. But those decisions are theirs to make.

What are you afraid of, Bishop Lee? Do the right thing by giving CotA a choice of qualified and diverse candidates, and then by allowing the Holy Spirit and the canon to guide its members to a righteous decision among themselves.

From: Martin Pazdioch

Sent: Saturday, November 21, 2015 2:38 PM

To: 'bishop@episcopalchicago.org' <bishop@episcopalchicago.org>

Subject: Petition for a Special Parish Meeting for Ascension - **my comments**

Bishop Lee-

I have submitted this petition on behalf of the congregants from Church of the Ascension.

Since I addressed you directly in my comments (see above) I thought it appropriate to send them directly to you as well. I have been an employee, supporter and member of the Episcopal church for many years now. I have met you several times and always found you to be a fair man. Until now.

I urge you to follow the wishes of so many who hold CotA dear, and send a diverse slate of Interim Rector candidates to the Vestry... Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully, but provocatively,

-Martin Pazdioch

Petition for a Special Parish Meeting

Add me as a signer! *	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please add my name to this Petition for an immediate Special Parish Meeting on the choice of next priest for The Church of the Ascension.
Name *	Martin Pazdioch

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I ask that Bishop Lee immediately give this parish a choice of priests as he initially promised (in addition to his single choice of Bishop Jelinek).• I ask for candidates who will pledge to respect and sustain the received Catholic traditions of Ascension's liturgy.• I ask the Vestry to reject Bishop James Jelinek as Priest in Charge.

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