

**Church of the Ascension
Vestry Election 2026 Candidate Questionnaire**

Name (as you wish it to appear on vestry ballot): Ned Fitch

Member of Ascension since (year): 1997

Occupation (including title and company): Corporate Human Resources Director,
Burlington Stores

Please list up to **five** of your activities at Ascension that you feel would be useful to you in your service as a vestry member:

Current:

Vestry member

Choir member

Michael D. Fender/Ascension Outreach Food Pantry volunteer

Personnel Committee

Former:

Rector Search Committee

Alter Guild and Ushers Guild

Discernment Committee Convener

Chalice Bearer and Lay Eucharistic Visitor

Evangelism (Spiritual Direction) Chair

Stewardship Committee

Hospitality Committee

Lay Reader

Please list up to **five** of your activities elsewhere in the Episcopal Church or in the community that you feel would be useful to you in your service as a vestry member:

MasterVoices (formerly Collegiate Chorale) member / Singers Council Governing Board member

New York Road Runners Team for Kids volunteer and fundraiser

Randolph-Macon College Alumni LGBTQ+ Advisor Board member

Please answer the following three questions. The total of your answers should be no more than 100 words.

1. What drew you to Ascension?

There are many Episcopal churches in New York City and while "church shopping" in 1997 I found myself coming back to Ascension more frequently than other churches on my "list." The initial draw was the beauty of the service; the liturgy, preaching and music - in a beautiful church space. As I grew to know Ascension more, it was the people that kept me coming back; the warmth of the community, the genuine care and interest of the clergy, and the ability to become involved quickly. Ascension is a big church in a very big city but has the feel of a "hometown" church.

2. What do you see as Ascension's greatest strengths?

The people of Ascension are her greatest strengths. We have a deeply committed and caring congregation (clergy, staff, wardens/vestry, and parishioners) that, most importantly, care for each other and our community. In addition, we are blessed with beautiful buildings, intellectual, spiritual, and caring clergy, and a very rich music heritage.

3. What is your vision for Ascension in the next five years?

We must secure Ascension's future through smart financial gains to continue to be a place where people come to deepen their relationship with God. Our programs, outreach to the community and care for our parishioners must continue to be top priorities.

4. What skills, experiences, and/or talents will you bring to the work of the vestry?

An extensive background in Human Resources within the retail field (which includes experience in Marketing), my involvement in and great appreciation for choral music, and my volunteer activities.