

Church of the Ascension
Vestry Election 2026 Candidate Questionnaire

Name: *Michael Surabian*

Member of Ascension since (year): *2008*

Occupation (including title and company): *Managing Director, Legend (marketing and communications company)*

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: *Acolyte Guild (16 years), Reader, Comms + Marketing consult.*

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: *My career in communications, media and marketing; my background in events and theatre production; my past work with the Food Education Fund (supporting high school students from NYC's School for Food & Finance at the beginning of their culinary education and journey).*

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

1. What drew you to Ascension? *Initially, it was the music. It seemed to ring out from the chapel into the streets. But soon after, it was the community, the people and the commitment to social issues and the underserved that made me realize Ascension was more than just a church. It was home.*

2. What do you see as Ascension's greatest strengths? *The music, the clergy, the lay leadership, the liturgy, the people, the history, the physical space, the outreach, the, well, everything. Did I mention the people?*

3. What is your vision for Ascension in the next five years? *I would like to see Ascension among the marquee churches in the NY Diocese, one that rolls off peoples' tongues when they say, "There's the cathedral (St. John the Divine), and then there are these two or three other churches in the city you MUST know about! And Ascension is at the top of that list!"*

4. What skills, experiences, and/or talents will you bring to the work of the vestry? *Communications, marketing, my theatre background and my appetite for a fairer and more just community (and world)..*