

**Church of the Ascension
Vestry Election 2024 Candidate Questionnaire**



Name: Gale Lynch

Member of Ascension since (year): 2018

Occupation: Program Director in the Center for Undergraduate Global Engagement, Columbia University

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:

Gardening Committee, Altar Flower Guild, Rental Space group, Budget Deficit Task Force, volunteering in the church office, fill-in usher, and various events.

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:

Creating global programming for college students, previous work on my church's capital campaign, and my current involvement at Ascension.

1. What drew you to Ascension?

Initially, we liked the overall down-to-earth feeling of the church, clergy and parishioners; the clergy's preaching and kindness, and the music program. I still love all that and have also stayed for the people and community; the liturgy and music; and the feeling of belonging and making a positive impact.

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

The liturgy and music; the friendliness and inclusiveness of the parishioners; the potential for outreach to the neighborhood both in programming and potential revenue (i.e., rental spaces)

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

Help our parish do more outreach in the community/neighborhood, whether through events like Haunted Church, Blessing of the Animals, etc. or through offering our spaces for rental or community use. We also need to address the significant budget deficit. Ultimately, I hope that Ascension will continue to be a spiritually robust church focused on helping others know God's love and care with a commitment to justice.

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

I am skilled in strategic thinking and planning, creating and implementing projects and programs, have strong cross-cultural skills, and am energetic and enthusiastic.