

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

Name: Zachariah Hennessey

Member of Ascension since (year): 2022

Occupation: Executive Vice President & Chief Strategy Officer,  
Public Health Solutions



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:

- Trained on Altar Guild Attendee of 9:00 AM service
- Attendee of Voice of Ascension Concerts Contributor to Lenten Devotional
- Familiarity with La Petite Ecole School and S.O.S. AA Meeting

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:

- 17+ years in nonprofit management (health and human services) Board Member, YMCA
- Fellow, New York Academy of Medicine Member, New York Economic Club  
Experienced fundraiser
- Experience managing multi-year capital projects
- Community Relations, Government Affairs, and Marketing/Communications skills  
Strong West Village social and community networks

1. What drew you to Ascension?

What first drew me was the painting of "The Ascension of Our Lord" above the main altar. Many churches highlight the crucifixion, but I believe that the point of Christ's suffering in that way was to prove it could be overcome. He endured it so we wouldn't have to. So a church dedicated to the Ascension was very appealing to me. The next important draw was the birth of my son, Noah, and my desire for him to be baptized and grow up in the Episcopal church.

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

I still have a lot to learn about Ascension. But I see her greatest strengths as her ministry, her music, and her history. There are unique aspects about each of these areas that are compelling to me, and I feel could be leveraged to have a greater impact on the local community.

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

Leaders are but trusted servants, so my vision is of me, being of service, applying my experience to advancing decisions we make as a group. I will trust the collective vision to be greater than my own. I trust that God will provide the right moments to share my own ideas and opinions for the benefit of the church. As head of strategy for a large nonprofit, I have learned that allowing a vision to emerge rather than trying to define it myself yields more fruitful results.

4. What skills, experiences, and/or talents will you bring to the work of the vestry?  
I have a great deal of relevant leadership, management, operational, and business development expertise, so can advance the church's performance along the metrics of the world. I know how to reach people, tell a compelling story, and support them in giving. But my secret hope is that this will be an opportunity to practice trust and reliance on God to guide my thoughts, words, and actions, and thereby yield good outcomes for the church and our community.