

SUMMARY

The Anglican Church of the Ascension is an eight-year-old ANiC church plant serving the greater Langley, B.C. area. We seek a Rector to join us in worship, discipleship and outreach to our communities.

ABOUT THE PARISH

Vision

Church of the Ascension is a new parish of the Anglican Network in Canada seeking to reach out to people of many backgrounds and traditions in the growing community of Langley, B.C. Our purpose is to share in the gathering love of Christ so that His newness of life may reach every heart and home in our community. We especially welcome those who are new to our community, new to church or those who have not been involved with a church for a long time. We have learned that there are many people from a variety of backgrounds that seek a church that is biblical, missional, sacramental, liturgical and global.

History and Demographics

Ascension grew out of a bible study group, the members of which intended to plant a church in Langley in the Anglican tradition to serve the large community between Abbotsford and Vancouver. This developed further with the arrival from Eastern Canada of Bishop Ron Ferris, which led to the formation of our ANiC parish in 2009.

The Langley area is experiencing rapid growth along the 200th Street corridor as the lower mainland housing boom continues. Langley continues to be one of the fastest growing areas in the region. This growth has especially attracted many families, and represents an opportunity for outreach.

Leadership

Currently Ascension has three non-stipendiary assistants: Rev. Richard Roberts, Deacon; Rev. Shane Flanagan; and Christina Page, who assists with worship. In the past Ascension has supported curacy and student intern roles, including three Regent College graduates who have since moved to ordination: Rev. Dr. Michael Dobson now in Cairo; the Rev. Shihoko Warren, now rector at Church of All Nations in Vancouver; and Rev. Jonathan Ellis, now at the Table Peninsula in Victoria.

Current Size and Profile

Ascension's weekly average attendance for Sunday worship has been consistent at 45, and includes a mix of older parishioners and a smaller cohort of younger families. Approximately 60% of parishioners live in Langley, the balance traveling from the Surrey and White Rock areas. We are blessed with generous and steady parishioner giving: in 2016 operating revenue exceeded \$90,000. The parish also has begun to build a building fund to support the long-term goal of a permanent parish home.

Worship

Weekly Sunday worship, with Eucharist, is held at 11:00 a.m. in a rented hall at George Preston Recreation Centre in Brookwood, the south part of Langley Township. Prayer ministry follows with a well-attended coffee hour social time.

The liturgy is a mix of contemporary and traditional, and hymn selection is a blend of traditional and contemporary form accompanied by pianist Kerry Wickstrom. The parish singing group "Ascension Praise" complements the worship service on a regular basis. Music is an area for new investment, greater participation and expansion for the parish.

Current Ministries and Activities

Missions and Outreach

Ascension supports a wide range of international, national and local outreach ministries, including a lay Cuban minister under the ANiC / REC Mission to Cuba and the Langley Food Bank. Members also participate in A4D Anglican Fourth Day and Anglicans for Life. Members of the congregation were founding members of the Daughters of the Holy Cross in Canada and, more recently, the men's counterpart, the Sons of the Holy Cross.

Discipleship and Children's Ministry

Regular evening bible studies occur on the first and third Wednesdays in parishioners homes to help nurture our faith. A day- time study is also available twice a month.

A small but active children's ministry is in place, and the parish intends to prioritize the evangelical calling to bring new families with children into the church community and into faith in Jesus. A *Servers Guild* currently serves on the 4th Sunday of the month in conjunction with Youth Participation Sunday.

Fellowship

The parish supports regular social activities, including:

- "Fourth Friday," where parishioners gather at a Langley-based restaurant for a social time and meal. Participants pay for their own meals; attendance ranges from 12 to 18.
- On the fourth Sunday of each month a potluck luncheon is held after the service.
- An annual BBQ and pool party is held at a parishioners home.
- Every May the parish celebrates its founding with the Ascension Banquet at a local restaurant.

Opportunities and Challenges

Ascension is a welcoming and stable Christian community of mature believers, aligned with ANiC's 5 Ministry Priorities.

Ascension desires to move to the next level of connection & engagement with the community, to grow in numbers and spiritual development and to create a vibrant and faithful Anglican community in Langley. Our community has many established mainline and evangelical churches, and includes other church plants at local gymnasiums & halls, but the community's Kingdom needs - faithful teaching, reverent worship, evangelism and outreach - remain strong.

ABOUT THE ROLE

Rector's Qualities and Gifts

Personal Qualities

- An example of high moral and ethical character
- A dynamic leader by example, by teaching and by delegation
- Able to relate well to varying age groups
- Outgoing, friendly, approachable and accessible
- Sensitive to the needs of parishioners, able to prioritize those needs that are most imperative
- A motivated and motivating person who "rolls their sleeve up"
- Above all, a dedicated servant of our Lord Jesus

Priestly Responsibilities

- Administering the sacraments
- Leading public worship using prescribed ANiC/ACNA liturgies
- Training lay members for involvement in worship services
- Providing stimulating and instructive sermons
- Observing major church festivals
- Working with the music team
- Stimulating Christian education and discipleship for all ages and maturities
- Ensuring that they take time for personal time and space

Pastoral Care

- Ministering to the sick, dying and bereaved
- Involvement with programs for all ages
- Available for counselling on an individual basis
- Visit parishioners as necessary and as time permits
- Keep informed of parishioners special pastoral needs

Administrative Abilities

- Assist in the development of lay leadership
- Maintain harmony and resolve conflicts expeditiously when needed
- Oversee church correspondence, newsletters and record keeping
- Chairing and leading parish council in the planning and maintenance of parish life
- Making efficient use of parish human resources

Involvement in the Larger Church

- Attending Synod and deanery meetings
- Encouraging active participation of parishioners in ANiC events
- Inform members of the congregation of events that may impact the church
- Attend the annual clergy retreat

Involvement in the Community

- Is aware of community activities that concern the parish
- Represent the parish at ecumenical events and make contact with local denominational pastors
- Represent the parish in the community when needed
- Local residency would be preferred if possible

Qualifications

- Master's degree from a recognized theological college
- Ordination in ANiC or a recognized church affiliate
- At least three years of parish ministry experience

Position Description

The parish seeks a compensation and hours arrangement with the candidate that honours the candidate's calling, reflects the challenges and opportunities of a small church plant, and supports the parish's vision for growth. This may include a full-time or near-to-full-time position, or a part-time-growing-to-full-time role as the parish grows.

For More Information

- Parish web site: <http://www.ascensionlangley.ca/>
- Parish Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/churchoftheascensionlangley/>
- Langley websites: Township of Langley: <http://www.tol.ca>; City of Langley: <https://city.langley.bc.ca/>

To Apply

1. Attach a résumé, a personal faith testimony, and a brief vision statement about what you have to offer to this position with respect to the qualities listed on the parish profile.
2. Provide three references.
3. Send the application to The Right Reverend Dr. Trevor Walters, c/o Church of Our Lord, 626 Blanshard Street, Victoria, BC V8W 3G6 Canada (please mark confidential) or e-mail: walters34@shaw.ca.
4. Applications must be received no later than May 24, 2017