

VESTRY APPLICATION 2019

Name: Ray Contreras

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How long have you been at Saint John's. Approximately 13 years

1. Please briefly discuss your involvement in parish life and church activities:

Attend Sunday services as often as possible; provide support when called upon; enjoy involvement as Lector at 10:00 a.m. Service.

Previously served one term on Vestry and participated in the search for new Priest.

Prior School Board Member.

Parent of two Saint John Graduates. Class of '2007 and '2011.

2. Briefly discuss the goals you envision for Saint John's:

Our present Mission Statement says it all: Saint John's is a Christian community that intentionally gathers to experience God's love through Episcopal worship, education, fellowship, and ministry to the wider community. If we practice the particulars of our Mission Statement, all of God's Grace will be ours!

Nationwide, the current social and political realities offer opportunities for growth and I believe our religious community can efficiently harvest the immediate South County area and reap growth as a parish Church. Nationwide, the current social and political realities offer opportunities for growth and I believe our religious community can efficiently harvest the immediate South County area and reap growth as a parish Church.

Specifically, my vision for Saint John's is one of growth in the increase of the number of parishioners and financial independence, retire debt, the addition of Sunday

services in languages other than English, and increased charitable and spiritual outreach.

3. What skills do you bring to the Vestry:

Bilingual (fluent in written and spoken English & Spanish).

A.A. from Los Angeles Valley College, Van Nuys, CA 1973

B.A. from Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA 1976

Juris Doctorate from the University of San Diego School of Law, San Diego, CA. 1979

California Attorney at Law for over 38 years with practice with emphasis on civil litigation.

Extensive Mediation Experience. Mediation Certificate from the National Conflict Resolution Center and training from the American Arbitration Association and NCRC; have participated in over 200 Mediations.

Possess extensive experience in community-based social and political involvement.

Possess the ability to listen intently in a participatory manner to identify issues, interest and commonalities.

Not afraid to ask questions to understand and appreciate the intrigues of the “playing field” and participants therein.

Possess the ability to analyze factual situations, identify issues, and apply the law to resolve or fashion legal remedies to settle issues.

In the religious or small communities context, the focus is on arriving at solutions, resolutions which promote the interests of all participants, and maintain the integrity of

the community. In the religious context, there exist additional elements, both actual/physical and spiritual prerogatives, intertwined consideration which become vital elements to include and which guide participants to a workable solution. These skill of negotiation require patience and persistence to arrive at an acceptable solution.