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Geneva

St John XXIII Catholic Church
57 Rue de Montbrillant
1202 Geneva

10th June 2025

Dear PAC Members,

Motivation Letter – Parish Administrative Council (PAC) Membership

I am pleased to officially submit my interest to join the Parish Administrative Council (PAC) of St John XIII for your consideration.

My husband, Albert Yankson, and I, arrived in Geneva in July 2015 after I was headhunted to join an oil and gas company as a lawyer, given my previous experience with similar companies and my qualifications as a dual qualified English Solicitor / Ghanaian Barrister. This proposal seemed interesting, but at first, we were not sure whether we wanted to displace our lives. We had settled comfortably in our careers and in our lives. The decision to come to Geneva held great promise but also great anxiety for what the future would hold.

Nevertheless, we took the decision to move to Switzerland and today, I can earnestly say that this was one of the best decisions in our lives. Finding a new home here, and a beautiful community within our Parish, has enabled us to establish deep connections in many facets of our lives.

We love the Church so much; from the people, to the activities, and especially the fact that this is the only English speaking Catholic Church in Geneva; what a blessing to be able to worship God nearly daily, and on Sundays, in a language we fully understand.

We both actively participate in the activities of the Parish. My husband has been the lead organist /pianist for the 11am Mass since 2015, and I have been active in the Catechists group involved in the formation of children in our faith since 2015/2016. Through these activities, we have formed a small family made up of people from all parts of Switzerland and other nationalities. The volunteering activities at the Church is a fulfilling way to serve God, contribute to the community as well as to meet new people from all backgrounds.

I have particularly enjoyed certain activities at the Parish: the first is the Mentoring Scheme offered by the Church to teenagers, through the Confirmation /Kairos programme. I have had the pleasure of mentoring three young ladies (one mentee in 2017, another in 2018 and the third one in 2024) who were able to share their teenage experiences with me and to seek my guidance in matters of school, family and faith. This has been so enriching; to share my faith and experiences at a personal level.

Another thing I fully and thoroughly enjoyed was helping to lead the Religious Education department while Anna Berkeley (the Director of Religious Education) was on maternity leave. I was so honoured to be selected by Fr Paul to fill the gap while Anna was away.

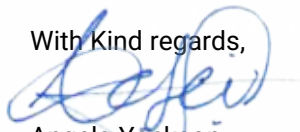
Finally, the opportunity to participate in the Serve the City food drive from time to time has been a blessing. Here, I manned the Coop and Migros stores with other volunteers. Our task was to ask shoppers to donate some of their long shelf life food items to those in need in our community. People from all demographics donated something which is always inspiring – the idea that anything that anyone can donate or contribute counts.

Regarding donations, over the years I have been eager to contribute in other ways to our Parish. I have noticed that perhaps I could support the fundraising efforts of the Church by sharing some ideas and leading some fundraising initiatives at moments when the Priest and PAC deem it appropriate. Given the current geo-political climate and the impact on our parishioners that work at international organisations, it may not be the best time to seek donations from people. From what I have discussed with Fr Paul, it is best to let the situation settle down and roll out any ideas once parishioners/families are more secured about their situations. If I am accepted to the PAC membership, I would be pleased to help on this and on any other matters where I will be needed.

Kindly note that my interest to join the PAC is supported by two parishioners, namely, Augustine Agyeman-Duah and Lyssa Maria Brito.

All in all, I thank God for bringing us to Switzerland, making us part of the beautiful community at St John XXIII and having the chance today to submit my interest in joining the PAC, for your consideration.

With Kind regards,



Angela Yankson