

Trinity Episcopal Church vestry

Membership:

Serving on the vestry is a unique experience — similar to serving on secular, community boards in some ways, but different in other, important ways. The most obvious difference is that vestry members are first called to follow Christ and to work together in God's name. The vestry has a responsibility for ensuring that the spiritual mission of the church is maintained, as well as for carrying out the more secular duties related to church property, finances and personnel. The vestry functions under the concept of "shared ministry," in which the rector and the vestry are part of an interdependent team that involves many other parishioners in a variety of leadership and supportive roles. Ultimately, service on the vestry can be a joyful experience that enriches both one's spiritual life and one's feelings of connectedness with other vestry members, the rector and the entire church community.

Qualifications for serving on the vestry:

According to the Church canons members of the parish who are eighteen years of age or older and are confirmed communicants in good standing shall be eligible for election to the Vestry.

Expectations:

- Support the Rector in providing vision and leadership for the parish.
- Support the life of the church through regular giving, worship, participation, and prayer for the church and its' mission.
- Model the Christian life of discipleship by proclaiming the good news in word and deed.
- Have a willingness to represent the interests of all parish members.
- Exercise confidentiality and practice healthy, honest, open communication patterns in the parish.

Duties:

- Prepare for and attend monthly Vestry meetings and the annual Vestry retreat.
- Manage funds and provide oversight of church finances and spending.
- Support church stewardship, planned giving, and fund raising.
- Oversee and manage church property, improvement, and construction.
- Provide support for personnel matters.
- Choose individuals to serve in various leadership roles and committees as needed.
- Serve as a liaison between parish members, clergy, and staff.
- Serve as usher in rotation throughout the year.

Organization of the Vestry:

Wardens: Two wardens are elected each year from those elected to vestry. The senior warden works closely with the rector and is sometimes referred to as the "rector's warden." The Senior Warden works with the diocesan office to provide for a priest when there is no rector. Also with a vacancy, the Senior Warden is responsible for keeping up the parish records, including the register and record of services. The junior warden is primarily responsible for the church buildings.

Clerk: The clerk may or may not be a vestry member. The clerk, together with the parish administrator, is responsible for keeping minutes of vestry meetings and parish meetings, for correspondence related to vestry business and for maintaining vestry records.

Treasurer: The treasurer, who may or may not be a vestry member, maintains the financial and business records of the parish, prepares monthly financial reports for the vestry, and prepares annual financial reports.