

Vestry of Grace and Holy Trinity Church

The Vestry is a 15-member body that sets the course for mission and conducts the business of the congregation. Together with the clergy, staff and all the members of the parish, the Vestry is responsible for leading the church into faithful discipleship in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Being a Vestry member is a serious commitment of time and talent. Vestry members commit themselves to monthly meetings (second Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.) and attendance at a spring retreat. In addition to these meetings each Vestry member is responsible for working with one of the major areas of the Strategic Plan.

Vestry members are elected for three-year terms. The position of Vestry member is a critical role in the church. Candidates should share the corporate vision and mission of this parish. Our mission is that we are an inclusive, spirited, and Christ-centered urban community that transforms lives. Our vision is that every member will joyfully celebrate God's love, and the transforming power of that love, in the church, in the city, and in the world. We seek to fulfill this mission as each member actively participates in one or more of the major areas of the Strategic Plan: Spiritual Journey, Children, Youth and 20-30's, and Breaking the Cycle of Poverty.

Vestry candidates should have exercised strong leadership in one or more areas of the parish. It is active participation in a ministry that develops commitment, provides for fellowship and which raises up leaders.

The role of the Vestry is outlined in the [Canons of this Diocese](#) (Canon 12).

Vestry members are encouraged to have a rule of life. The "six marks of discipleship", drawn from a book by Michael Foss, provide a helpful guideline:

Pray Daily

Read and Study Scripture

Attend Weekly Worship with the People of God

Serve others in the Name of Christ

Give Generously of Time, Talents and Treasure

Develop Friendships with Other Believers to Give and Receive Support

In order to be considered you must be at least 16 years of age and have your baptism and confirmation (or reception) registered at this parish. Candidates should be members in good standing, meaning that unless for good cause prevented, they have been faithful in the corporate worship of the church and in working, praying and giving for the spread of the kingdom of God. It is the expectation of Grace and Holy Trinity Church that all Vestry members will have made a personally meaningful and strong financial pledge to the general operating budget of the church.

Election of Vestry members happens at the Annual Meeting, typically on the first Sunday of February each year. There are basically two ways to have elections. On the one hand, the number of people nominated exceeds the number of places available and the election determines who serves. On the other hand, a slate can be put forward for the exact number of positions to be filled and the election confirms the nominations. Since 2012 the Vestry has chosen to follow the later method. While there is no perfect system, this process keeps people from feeling rejected by their church by losing an election. This method also provides greater likelihood that a diverse slate, representing the many different ministries and services will be elected. The outgoing Vestry class serves as the nominating committee and this committee solicits recommendations, via weekly bulletins and the eNews, from all members of the congregation.