

Vestry of Grace and Holy Trinity Church

The Vestry is usually (we have 16 this year) 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 (the 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 and cannot immediately stand for reelection. The position of Vestry member is a critical role in the church. It is expected that the Vestry in 2020 will have the additional duty of calling the new Rector of Grace and Holy Trinity Church, affirming the candidate presented by the Discernment Committee. Vestry 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. See the role of the Vestry 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, a candidate must be at least 16 years of age and have his or her 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 regular participants in the corporate worship of the church and in working, praying and giving, in a financial way known to the Treasurer, for the spread of the kingdom of God over the prior year. 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 for at least the year prior to the election and be current in their pledge payments.

Election of Vestry members happens at the Annual Meeting, typically on the first Sunday of February each year. In order to be eligible to vote in the election, attendees must meet the same criteria as those standing for election, except that confirmation is not required. Only those in attendance may vote and there is no proxy voting. Attendees at the Annual Meeting will be asked to attest to their eligibility as voters when they sign in for the meeting.

There are basically two ways to have elections. For a contested election, the number of people nominated exceeds the number of places available and the election determines who serves. For a single slate election, a slate can be put forward for the exact number of positions to be filled and the election confirms the nominations. Either way, nominees must receive a majority of votes cast to be elected.

Between 2012 and 2019, the Vestry has followed the single slate method. Beginning in 2020, the Vestry and parish chose the contested method. Nominees will be carefully scrutinized to provide a diverse slate of parishioners representing our many different ministries and services. This does not mean that every nominee will necessarily be presented for the election. A sufficiently representative selection of the nominees deemed most qualified to join the Vestry will be presented.

The outgoing Vestry class serves as the nominating committee and this committee solicits recommendations, via Sunday announcements, weekly bulletins, and the eNews, from all members of the congregation.