



Vestry Responsibilities and Expectations

"...The Vestry shall be agents and legal representatives of the Parish in all matters concerning its corporate property and the relations of the Parish to its Clergy."

Canons of The Episcopal Church (2015), I.14.2

All Vestry members should strive to the best of their abilities to:

- Have a love of God and demonstrate a commitment to following the way of Christ;
- Be active in and knowledgeable about the congregation, its programs and governance;
- Actively participate in a mission/activity of the church outside of Vestry;
- Be fair, interact well with people and strive to earn the respect of the members of the congregation;
- Strive to work in concert with other Vestry members and the clergy in representing the interests of the congregation and the parish while knowing that there is no one person with the right answers to everything;
- Have enthusiasm and vitality for this ministry;
- Consciously consider and review all deliberations and actions of the Vestry in the light of Saint Mark's Mission:

Saint Mark's is a community that gathers in faith, serves in love and proclaims hope, through Jesus Christ.

We are a parish community learning to live and grow in the love of Jesus Christ. We aim to be a place where all people can encounter the love and peace of the living God. Saint Mark's is an Episcopal Church that values its catholic heritage. You will find rich worship, sacramental spirituality, and a strong commitment to the care of those who are in need.

We are pilgrims traveling by faith to know God better, to know ourselves better, and to become the people God created us to be.

Saint Mark's is a welcoming church that seeks to grow through spiritual nourishment, evangelism and outreach, bearing witness, in the Anglo-Catholic tradition, to God's grace in Philadelphia and the wider church.

Saint Mark's is a loving community that values:

- *reverential sacramental worship*
- *gracious hospitality*
- *generous, abundant outreach*
- *comprehensive spiritual growth & formation*

All Vestry members are expected to make the following time commitments:

- Attend and actively participate in monthly Vestry meetings, preparing for meetings by reading reports disseminated in advance;
- When asked and as needed, participate in committee work, attending committee meetings as scheduled;
- Attend and actively participate in the annual Vestry retreat;
- Attend the annual Vestry dinner;
- Attend weekly worship services and, when possible, special masses;
- As much as possible, attend congregational events such as coffee hours, meals, adult education programs, etc..

All Vestry members are responsible for:

- Pledging financial support early in the stewardship campaign;
- Reviewing Saint Mark's Safe Churches Policy and completing the online Safe Churches training;
- Praying daily for the rector, leaders and members of the congregation;
- Bringing one's whole self to the table; being present – mind, body, and spirit;
- Listening to and dealing with the views of parishioners, especially their questions, suggestions, complaints and compliments. Where appropriate, sharing these views with the Rector, Clergy, and Vestry
- Leading by example through participation both in the temporal affairs (business life) and the spiritual life of the parish;
- Offering their talents to support the congregation's ministry;
- Being active ministers of the Gospel in daily life and work.