



# how our vestry is elected

Some have questions how we obtain our vestry membership. Here's a section of our parish bylaws:

## ARTICLE V: THE VESTRY

Section 1: The Vestry shall be the representative of the Parish in the relations of the Parish to its Clergy.

Section 2: The Vestry shall consist of the Rector or Priest in Charge, Associate/Assistant Rector (if applicable), Senior/Rector's Warden Junior/ People's Warden, and other Vestrymen to a maximum of twelve (12). The members shall be Communicants in Good Standing of the Parish, and qualified Electors. *[NOTE: A Communicant in Good Standing is defined in Section III (1) (b) as All such members who have either been confirmed by the Bishop withoversight over the Parish or received by him, have received Holy Communion regularly during the preceding year in the Parish, and are regular contributors (of record) to the financial support of this Parish. We deem "regularly" as nearly every week.]*

Section 3: The Rector or Priest in Charge, when present, shall preside at all meetings of the Vestry.

Section 4: The Vestry shall act for the Parish membership in matters pertaining to temporal affairs and the policies established at annual meetings and special meetings. It shall be responsible to insure that all things needed for worship, evangelism, Christian discipleship and for the administration of the sacraments in accordance with the bylaws/canons of the Convocation of Anglicans in North America and the Anglican Church of Nigeria are provided. The Vestry shall assist the Rector or Priest in Charge in enhancing the spiritual welfare and outreach of the Parish. *Until such time as the Parish can reasonably support a staff, the Vestry will act as the Parish staff. Furthermore, its members shall set the example in worship, leadership, Christian character/devotion and attendance/participation in Parish life. [emphasis mine]*

Section 5: The Vestry shall be responsible for preparing budgets for the annual Parish meeting, planning/conducting all stewardship/fund drives and shall have authority over expenditure accounts and the maintenance of administrative records required by the Parish and the Convocation. Books of account shall be so kept as to provide the basis for satisfactory accounting and independent audits accomplished as needed, but at least annually. All buildings and their contents shall be kept adequately insured.

Section 6: Members of the Vestry shall be elected by the Parish at the Annual Parish Meeting so that at any time:

- approximately one-third shall serve until the next meeting plus two years,
- approximately one-third shall serve until the next meeting plus one year, and
- approximately one-third shall serve until the next annual meeting.

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Any vacancy present during a Vestry year shall be filled by Vestry appointment to serve until the next Annual Meeting. Should Parish business necessitate adding members to the Vestry between annual meetings, the Rector and Vestry may, by unanimous vote, add up to the maximum number stated in these bylaws.

All vacancies existing as of the Parish Annual Meeting shall be filled by Parish election as described above.

Every elected member of the Vestry must wait a minimum of one year after expiration of the term to be eligible to serve on the Vestry again unless requested to submit his name for nomination at the request of the Rector or Priest in Charge.

The Senior/Rector's Warden shall be appointed by the Rector or Priest in Charge from the elected Vestry members. Should the Parish have no Rector or Priest in Charge, the Senior/Rector's Warden shall be elected by the Parish from elected Vestry Members and should be *exemplary in their attendance, support, worship participation and model Godly character and leadership in both public and private lives.* **[emphasis mine]**

When there is a Senior/Rector's Warden appointed by a Rector or Priest in Charge, there shall be a Junior/People's Warden elected by the Parish from members of the Vestry. When the Senior/Rector's Warden is elected by the Parish, the Junior/People's Warden shall be elected by the Vestry from the elected Vestry members.

The Wardens shall serve a term of one year, but may be re-appointed or re-elected to the same office for an additional term, provided that there is sufficient time remaining in their term as a member of the Vestry. An additional member may be elected to the Vestry at the Annual Parish Meeting when deemed necessary by the Rector or Priest in Charge and Vestry up to the maximum number allowed. The term of the newly elected Vestry member shall be consistent with the terms of the other Vestry members, so that at all times, there is an approximately equal distribution of Vestry members within each term grouping specified in the first paragraph of this section. Should any Vestry member need to resign before their respective term's end, they may prayerfully submit their resignation, in writing, to the Rector at any regular Vestry meeting.

Section 7: The Rector or Priest in Charge shall be the presiding officer of the Vestry.

In the absence of the Rector or Priest in Charge, the Associate Rector, Senior/Rector's Warden, the Junior/People's Warden, or the next senior member

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in the Vestry shall preside, in that order.

The Senior/Rector's Warden shall be the senior lay officer of the Parish and the Junior/People's Warden shall be responsible for the maintenance of the physical plant. Other Vestry duties will be established in writing by the Rector or Priest in Charge and Vestry members.

Section 8: Except as otherwise required by Secular Civil Law, the Vestry shall be the legal agents and representatives of the Parish in all matters concerning its corporate property. It shall not mortgage or hypothecate its property without giving prior notice to the Parish in writing.

Section 9: Regularly scheduled Vestry meetings shall be held at least monthly. Special meetings may be called by the Rector or Priest in Charge, Senior/Rector's Warden, the Junior/People's Warden, or by a majority of Vestrymen, in that order. The Rector can establish an "executive committee" of the wardens, Rector and other members of the Vestry for special administrative functions, as he deems appropriate however, they may not act for the Vestry unless so authorized by unanimous vote.

Section 10: A quorum for meetings of the Vestry shall consist of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the whole number of Vestry members then serving. In the event that the membership of the Vestry is an even number, a quorum shall consist of a simple majority. In the event that the number of the members of the Vestry is not divisible by three, then in that event, a quorum shall be determined by a simple majority rounding any left over fraction to the next highest number. A quorum being present, all decisions will be by a majority of those present.

Section 11: Meetings by Remote Communications Technology.

A meeting of the Vestry may be held by means of a remote electronic communications systems including, but not limited to, video conferencing technology or the internet, only if:

(a) each Vestry Member entitled to participate in the meeting consents to the meeting being held by means of that system so selected;

and,

*--Taken from All Saints Anglican Church of San Antonio  
By-Laws as Amended January 4, 2009*

In most election cycles, our primary "recruiters" for opening vestry positions are our current vestry members. Anyone can be a candidate, provided they meet the stipulations above. The rector **DOES NOT** "handpick" a group of vestry candidates for the membership to ratify, but only selects his warden from the elected membership. However, when members leave out of cycle, the vestry acts for the general parish membership to fill the vacancy--accomplished by a vote of the vestry.

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This is not a light duty. Each oncoming vestry member--and every other leader of the parish--signs a covenant about their commitment to attendance, leadership, godly behavior and service. They commit to:

- o Personal holiness and daily devotions
  - Jesus first
- o Leadership in worship and lifestyle
  - Leading by example in attendance
    - Worship
    - Activities—more than just Sunday
    - Christian Discipleship in the parish
  - Leading by example in Stewardship
    - Time, Talent, Treasure
  - Loving God's people by staying in contact with them
- o Loving each other as brothers and sisters in Christ
  - No one comes between us
    - Praying for and caring for each other
  - Growing together in the Spirit
- o Making our parish a priority
  - Serving as the parish staff in your assigned leadership role
- o Living by Matthew 18 in all our interpersonal communications
  - Not listening to or participating in gossip or slander
  - Dealing with people directly and openly, but in love
  - Remembering we are constrained by Scripture to allow our anger to expire at sundown daily—forgiving instead
- o Doing business as Christians, keeping in mind that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but power, love and a sound mind. We tie into His power, as baptized Christians, in prayer and by calling on the Holy Ghost.
- o We are linked together by love for Him, (which leads to obedience to His Word) and love for each other. We then can use our sound minds in manners congruent to Scripture and the Spirit's leading.

So, we are *honored* to be served by godly, committed Christians who are integral to the life of our parish. Anyone who feels *called by the Holy Ghost* to these standards and duties may stand for election, and should identify themselves to our current vestry no later than Christmas Day, 2011, to be included in elections for the 2012 vestry year, to be held at the annual meeting shortly after the new year. Vestry contacts are listed on the website, the backs of your bulletins, or through the parish office.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-13  
KING JAMES VERSION (KJV)

AND WE BESEECH YOU, BRETHREN, TO KNOW THEM WHICH LABOUR AMONG YOU, AND ARE OVER YOU IN THE LORD, AND ADMONISH YOU; AND TO ESTEEM THEM VERY HIGHLY IN LOVE FOR THEIR WORK'S SAKE. AND BE AT PEACE AMONG YOURSELVES.