

Qualifications for Vestry Membership

- Love God and demonstrate a commitment to following the way of Jesus Christ.
- Be a confirmed Episcopalian in good standing. **[TEC Canon 1.17.3 and DSO Canon 16]**
- Give joyfully to the work of Christ in your parish. Eligible candidates need to be “faithful in giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God” for at least six months prior to your election. **[TEC Canon 1.17.3, DSO Canon 16, sec. 2]** Under normal circumstances, this means that you must make a pledge to your parish.
- Work with the Rector for the benefit and vision of the Parish and the building up of the Body of Christ.
- Be the legal representatives of the parish.
- Steward and maintain all church buildings and properties.
- Set the budget and work with the Rector to determine the financial priorities of the parish.
- With the consent of the Bishop, call a Rector.
- In the absence of the Rector, arrange for worship and supply clergy.
- Complete required Dismantling Racism training and Safe Church training.

Characteristics of a Faithful Vestry member

- Care deeply for the ministry of your parish in the service of Christ.
- Care deeply for your brothers and sisters in Christ in the parish.
- Have or be willing to develop an active prayer life.
- Be active and knowledgeable about the congregation, its programs, and governance.
 - Policies and procedures
 - Be familiar with the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, those of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, and your parish Constitution or Bylaws.
 - Be known as someone who is fair, interacts well with people, and is respected in the congregation.
- Be willing to pray for your Rector, Vestry members, and members of the congregation on a regular basis.
- Demonstrate and model proactive and Christlike communication skills.
 - Refrain from gossip.
 - Practice confidentiality when appropriate.
 - Be willing to speak up at Vestry meetings.
 - Be willing and able to listen at Vestry meetings.
 - Do not engage in parking lot conversations.
 - Agree to not triangulate conversations, but rather to practice direct communication, and encourage others to do the same.
- Regular attendance and participation in:
 - Vestry meetings
 - Weekly worship services
 - Important events in the life of the congregation

- Annual Parish Meeting
 - Meetings with parish committees as necessary/assigned
 - Diocesan meetings as necessary
 - Demonstrate a positive attitude
 - Model excitement about the parish and its mission in the community and the world.
- Model courageous leadership and willingness to take risks.
 - Have a vision, goals, and objectives of the ministry of the church that goes beyond the immediate interests and survival needs of the congregation.
 - Vestry work involves not only maintenance but also mission. Vibrant parishes continually connect all the ministry activities of the parish to their broader mission.