

Considering *the* Call

Vestry Service at Church of the Apostles

2020 Vestry Elections

*This booklet has been prepared for the people of Church of the Apostles
as we prepare for our Annual Vestry Elections.*

We pray that it will be particularly useful to those who are considering the call to Vestry service.

*We are humbled to hear that other congregations have found information in this booklet to be helpful.
We grant permission to adapt or reproduce any portion of this material as appropriate
to suit the particular needs of your congregation and the furtherance of your ministry to God's Kingdom.*

What is the Vestry?

On January 20, 2012, Church of the Apostles Anglican incorporated in the state of Virginia. Our Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws define the Vestry as our “board of directors,” having the responsibility for managing the business and affairs of the parish. But this does not mean that the Vestry focuses solely on financial and temporal matters, leaving the Rector to see to the spiritual work of the parish.

The Work of Ministry Belongs to All of Us

Ministry belongs to all of us by virtue of our baptism. The Rector is the appointed leader of this congregation of ministers. His task includes keeping us focused on God’s vision and calling and, with the help of the other clergy and staff, “to equip the saints for the work of ministry.”

The Rector assumes responsibility for finding God’s leading for the overall direction and vision of the church, but seeks discernment and confirmation from our elected lay representatives — the members of Vestry.

The Vestry shares the responsibility for implementing this vision by establishing policies and providing resources, prayer covering, and accountability for our various ministries.

Both the Rector and Vestry are answerable to our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom our vision comes. This will cause them to work closely together, modifying the vision as the Holy Spirit directs.

More Than a Management Board

God has called us to be a dynamic Great Commission church, not caretakers of an institution. Church of the Apostles glorifies God by celebrating the healing power of the Holy Spirit through prayer, praise and worship that overflows into community, living the joy of knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Vestry members need to be more than good managers and administrators. They must be men and women of spiritual maturity, motivated and equipped by the Holy Spirit to work with the Rector in helping guide the congregation into the fulfillment of God’s whole purpose for us.

Vestry Members and Moses’ Seventy Elders

The role of the Vestry, and the Rector’s relationship to its members, is analogous to that of Moses and the 70 elders (*Numbers 11:16-25*). God took the same Spirit that was on Moses and imparted it to the elders. Their sphere of leadership was more limited than that of Moses, and so their anointing was different — but the same Spirit bound them together, creating unity of purpose. Their anointing gave them not only a leadership role in the community; it made them an integral part of Moses’ ministry. As Moses’ ministry encompassed both spiritual and temporal functions, there is no hint that the elders differentiated between either of them.

Since it is God who calls and anoints, Vestry members are His representatives. Although church members elect them, they are not delegates of any special interest group within the congregation.

What is the Work of the Vestry?

The life of the church proceeds directly from Jesus Christ and is vested in every member by the power of the Holy Spirit.

A Vestry can never “run” this kind of church. Its primary function is to work closely with the leader God has placed over it (the Rector) so as to ensure that *“the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work”* (Ephesians 4:16).

The Vestry provides oversight and support in the following ways:

Biblically Based Policy-making

The Vestry establishes sound, scripturally-based policies to ensure that the church embodies godly principles in every aspect of its life. In many cases, the policies which the Vestry will adopt have been formulated by staff, within one of the Ministry Teams, or by a Vestry committee.

Ministry Encouragement and Accountability

The ministries and programs of the church are led by a collective of volunteers and paid staff. The Rector provides overall guidance and supervision, as well as being directly involved in various areas of ministry. The Vestry as a whole provides a framework of accountability for the Rector and clergy, staff, and volunteer leadership.

The Vestry’s intent is to bring Ministry Teams and other Ministry Leaders to its meetings on an invitational basis. As a result of these interactions, the Vestry is better able to provide each ministry area with support.

Staying in Touch

Our Vestry is also committed to healthy, two-way communication with the congregation. To that end, Vestry members endeavor to maintain visibility and accessibility at our worship services and all church functions. In addition to our Annual Congregational Meeting in March, the Vestry provides reports to the congregation at other quarterly Congregational Meetings that are scheduled as needed.

The monthly Vestry meetings are open to any member of the congregation except in the rare instance when confidentiality issues dictate that the meeting be adjourned for an Executive Session. Ratified minutes of Vestry meetings are available on the church website or by request. All non-confidential reports are also available by request.

Funding Support and Budget Management

The Vestry, Rector, and staff are stewards of the finances of the church. The operation of the church and its ministries cannot be successfully undertaken without adequate funding. Vestry members are personally committed to the biblical principle of tithing. They encourage all members of the congregation to join them in that commitment.

The Vestry sees to it that the church’s income and expenses are properly balanced by managing and monitoring an annual budget, which is developed by the staff under broad Vestry guidelines. The Vestry also arranges an independent annual audit of our church accounts.

Evaluating Those Called to the Ordained Priesthood (Aspirants)

Members of the Vestry may be asked to serve on a Parish Discernment Committee (PDC) during their term. The role of the PDC is to help those aspirants who have perceived a call to ordination to examine that vocation. Each PDC must include two members of Vestry. Aspirants who successfully complete the PDC process are presented to the Vestry. The Vestry interviews them and makes a recommendation about whether they should proceed towards postulancy.

How Does the Vestry Work Together?

Jesus prayed: *“May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me” (John 17:23).*

Rules of order are valuable, but limited. God’s rule of order is that we do everything His way. Therefore, our basic operational rule at Church of the Apostles Anglican is to seek God’s will first, and agree upon it. This is true not only for the Vestry; each Ministry Team, Ministry Leader and Vestry Committee operates the same way. We do not seek unity as an end in itself, but to know God’s will, believing that unity will be the fruit of discovering what He wants.

In our Vestry meetings, we pray and seek God’s will. We listen to each other with love and acceptance. When we speak, we speak what we believe we are hearing from God, not simply our own opinions or prejudices. This means that we have a lot of conversation. We cannot afford to remain silent; each of us has a piece of what God wants to say to us. We have found that sharing with one another is at the heart of discovering God’s will.

We also believe that God is able to convince each person of His will. We wait, therefore, until we all come to one mind. Paul encouraged the Corinthians in this way: *“I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought” (1 Corinthians 1:10).* Once we are united in mind and thought, we make decisions. Until we reach that point, we wait upon the Lord.

Sometimes we may feel we are not in tune with God and/or the others in the group. If this should happen to you, be content to hear God through the other Vestry members. You may say something such as, “I don’t have a personal conviction about the rightness of this decision we’re about to make, so I may abstain from voting — but I don’t have a conviction that it’s wrong either. I believe I can trust the rest of you, since you all agree.”

There are other times, however, where the majority may be out of tune with God and the voice of the Lord is heard through the dissenting voice of the minority or even an individual person. In each case, we need to bear with one another until we come to a full agreement as to what God is speaking to us.

What are the Responsibilities of the Vestry?

Individual Responsibilities

Nurture personal relationship with God through spiritual disciplines

Guard and maintain godly, healthy relationships with family and friends

Understand, internalize, and support the calling and mission of the church

Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to fulfill the calling of the church

Lead the congregation, by word and example, submitting always to the Lordship of Christ

Intercede for the church, the Rector, and the church’s ministries

Pray for and support fellow Vestry members

Be accessible to members of the congregation

Shared Responsibilities

Seek God’s Will

Our Vestry operates on the basis that it collectively seeks God’s ways to fulfill His vision for our church. Vestry membership requires that each member seek and obey God’s will until it is revealed to the Vestry as a whole. Unity is essential to Vestry life.

Set Aside Personal Agendas

A Vestry member must relinquish personal agendas, ideas, and desires concerning church-related matters, and be willing to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Cooperate with One Another

Vestry members must help one another to discover and obey God's will. For this to happen, each of us must endeavor to be positive, cooperative, and encouraging while meeting with others. The fruit of repentance will be demonstrated by the absence of negative, self-willed, or critical attitudes or behaviors.

Demonstrate Personal Integrity

Should any Vestry member hold onto a personal agenda, or fail to seek God's will above our own, it is assumed that we will be open to self-examination, loving correction from others, and repentance if necessary.

Model Mutual Responsibility

As members of Vestry, we have a mutual responsibility to help keep one another from sinning. Sometimes this may require gentle confrontation. Because of our love for one another, we should make every attempt to resolve any conflicts before a meeting adjourns.

When Does the Vestry Meet?

Monthly Meetings

The Vestry typically meets once or twice per month at a time and day mutually convenient. Currently, that is a Tuesday evening. Additional meetings are scheduled as needed, including occasional Saturday meetings. The new Vestry will take an overnight retreat each spring.

The Committee on which you will serve meets at some other time of the month. (See "Additional Meetings".)

Expectations of Attendance

You are expected to contact the Rector or Senior Warden if you must be absent from a Vestry Meeting. Should you miss more than three meetings in succession, we would regard your ability to participate effectively on the Vestry to be seriously compromised.

Additional Meetings

You will serve on one of the Vestry committees, or on some other key committee in the church. In addition, you will be expected to attend Congregational Meetings and other significant events in the life of the church. Occasionally, special Vestry meetings are called for prayer or other purposes.

Vestry Retreats

Vestry members attend at least one Friday evening/Saturday day retreat each year, which is held on a weekend soon after the annual Vestry elections. Attendance is mandatory for newly-elected members.

Current Vestry Committees

Policy

Draft policy statements for church operations that are reviewed and approved by the full Vestry

Finance

Prepare budgets; manage finances; promote biblical stewardship

Facilities

Support the management of current property and buildings; oversee plans toward new campus

Communications

Facilitate open communication between the Vestry and the congregation; support communication among parishioners, with prospective members, our community, and the world

Could God be Calling You to Serve on Vestry?

If you think you may be called to serve on the Vestry, please carefully consider the following six questions:

First, are you qualified?

Please see Page 10 of this booklet for a complete description of eligibility requirements. If you have any questions about your eligibility, call the church office (703-591-1974) for more information.

Second, is the Holy Spirit leading you?

Listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Record what He says to you.

Discuss the matter with your family, prayer partner, small group leader, and other leaders in the church. Your calling will always be confirmed by others, especially if all are diligent to pray.

Third, have you counted the cost?

Serving God on the Vestry requires commitment—normally two to three hours per week on average—so you should count the cost of your time, always remembering that God gives grace and provides for the personal situations of those who are called.

Fourth, are you willing to submit to the authority of the church?

If elected to the Vestry you will be required, with other Vestry members, to make the following Declaration publicly:

"I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation; and I do yield my hearty assent and approbation to the doctrines, worship, and discipline of the Anglican Church; and I promise that I will faithfully execute the office of Vestry member of Church of the Apostles Anglican, in the city of Fairfax, according to my best knowledge and skill."

Our By-Laws also stipulate that:

Prior to commencing service as a Vestry Member, each Officer or Member of the Vestry shall affirm:

(1) a personal commitment to the Principles set forth in the Articles of Incorporation;

(2) a pledge to serve without any conflict of interest; and

(3) pledge to honor the confidentiality of all confidential materials to which the Member will have access during his or her term of service.

Fifth, is your life an example to others within the church?

Because it is God who sets you apart for this work, others in the church will look to you to set an example. As a member of Vestry, you should:

Be faithful in attending worship services, unless reasonably hindered

Be faithful in attending important church events; visibility and accessibility are important

Belong to a small group if possible

Live out your faith at home and in the community

Bring your full tithe to the church as the minimum pattern of giving

Intercede for the work of the church

Show the fruit of repentance in your life

Finally, have you sought God's timing?

If by now you are sensing a calling which others are confirming, then you should pray and seek God's proper timing. It is possible that, although you are being called, the Lord may not have you elected or appointed at this time. His proper timing may be in a subsequent year. Be patient with God and pray that the church members will make selections according to God's desire.

2020 Vestry Election Schedule

Sunday, February 2	Nominations open. The congregation is asked to pray that members of our church would be obedient and respond to God's call to run for Vestry.
Monday, March 2	Nominations close, close of business (4:30pm)
Sunday, March 8	Approved sample ballot of candidates, including their photos and personal statements, will be distributed to the church. List of currently Eligible Voters will be available for corrections and additions. The congregation is asked to pray that the individuals God is calling to these key leadership positions would be elected to serve Him and this church.
Sunday, March 15	10:00am Service & Vestry Election Annual Congregational Meeting will officially commence at the start of the 10:00 service. Business portion of the annual meeting will follow the 10:00 service at 11717 Lee Highway. Announcement of Vestry Election results. <i>No ballots will be accepted after annual meeting.</i>

*If you have any questions about the nomination process
or your eligibility to vote
please call the church office at 703-591-1974.*

Voting is by ballot and in-person only. No proxies or absentee ballots are allowed.

Vestry Elections will be held at our regular worship service on Sunday, March 15, at 10:00am. No ballots will be accepted after the annual meeting on March 15. There will be an Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following the 10:00am service, where the results of the election will be announced.

We elect Vestry members by a plurality of votes — meaning, the candidates receiving the most votes are elected to fill the positions that are being vacated.

Only eligible voters [baptized, age 16 and older, registered members affirming the principles of the church, who regularly attend worship services and contribute financially to the parish] may vote in parish matters.

Nominating Process

Our Vestry is made up of ordinary people who have responded to His call. If God is choosing someone for service, He will also equip. Obedience to His call is the first step.

Please carefully and prayerfully consider that God may be calling you to be a candidate for Vestry at Church of the Apostles Anglican. As you pray, God may also bring to mind another qualified member He is calling. In this case, please share this with that person, as you might bring God's confirmation to their own prayers.

Anyone in the congregation may nominate another eligible member, or offer himself or herself as a candidate. Please be certain that an individual is willing to serve before nominating him/her. It is not necessary for you to have a sponsor if you are nominating yourself. The Nominating Committee (comprised of both retiring and returning members of the current Vestry) also approaches prospective candidates from amongst the membership. The Nominating Committee, along with the Rector, is responsible for approving the final slate of candidates.

Before considering yourself or another member for nomination, we encourage you to read this booklet in its entirety. In addition to outlining eligibility requirements, the booklet also provides an overview of the leadership role of the Vestry, the specific expectations of those who serve as members of the Vestry, and a nomination form. We further encourage you to talk with any current or former Vestry member to gain their insight about Vestry service at Church of the Apostles Anglican.

Those individuals who would like to be considered as candidates for Vestry must complete the attached Nomination Form and return it to the church office no later than Monday, March 2, by close-of-business (4:30pm).

Present Members of Vestry

Gayle Fischer (Sr. Warden) *	Bill Collins
Andy Harris (Jr. Warden) *	Mary Edwards *
Tyler Aberle *	Stephen Klein
Kerry Bremmer	Tawnia Wheeler
Philip Chakram	

*There are currently 9 Vestry members at Church of the Apostles Anglican. The terms are staggered so that typically 3 people are added to the Vestry each year. We will be electing 4 new vestry members this year.
(* indicates those who will be stepping down from their service on Vestry)*

Eligibility & Qualifications

Only members eligible to vote under the Church's Bylaws, who are eighteen years of age or over and who have been confirmed or received by a Bishop of a Province of the Worldwide Anglican Communion, shall be eligible to serve as a Member of the Vestry. Except for the Rector, who serves ex officio, no employee of the Church may serve as a Vestry member during his or her period of employment by the Church. Also, no person who is the spouse, parent, or child of a Vestry member or an employee of the Church may serve as a Vestry member. Prior to commencing service as a Vestry Member, each Member of the Vestry shall affirm: (1) a personal commitment to the Purposes, Affiliation, and Statement of Faith set forth herein; (2) a pledge to serve without any conflict of interest; (3) agreement to faithfully carry out the duties of the Vestry set forth in the Bylaws; (4) the Vestry Oath set forth in the Bylaws; and (5) pledge to honor the confidentiality of all confidential materials to which the Member will have access during his or her term of service, which confidentiality shall continue indefinitely after the conclusion of the Vestry Member's term of service.

In addition, as soon as possible, newly elected Vestry members must participate in the Diocesan-required "Protection of Children" training and a background screening that is done through Church of the Apostles. The training can be done through a Church of the Apostles workshop or any Diocesan-approved workshops.

Candidates for service as Vestry Members shall also meet the qualifications set out in Canon 1, Section 3.C.(i) of the Canons of the Diocese, based on Titus 1, which state that a candidate for Vestry should be:

- a. A mature Christian;
- b. One who maintains an active life of prayer and study of Scripture;
- c. One whose life and relationships are in order;
- d. One who is known and respected among the Congregation; and
- e. One who has been or is currently active in ministry within the Church.

Our church teaches that tithing (10% of income) is the expected biblical standard of giving. We expect all Vestry members to faithfully "bring the full tithe to the church", or to be deliberately working toward that standard.

Vestry Nomination Form

Those who would like to be considered a candidate for Vestry election must submit the following information to the church office **no later than Monday, March 2, 2020** (by close of business-4:30pm).

NOTE: Information supplied on this form will help us create your 'bio' for the ballots presented to the congregation. We reserve the right to edit submitted material for length.

Full Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____

Primary Email: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Attending Apostles Since: _____ Year Baptized: _____ Year Confirmed/Received: _____

Family Members: _____
(Name of spouse and/or any children living at home)

(Signature of Nominee) Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Full Name of Nomination Sponsor: _____

I am sponsoring the nomination of this member because _____

(Signature of Sponsor - Required)

**Nominees are asked to supply the following information by email to
Info@ChurchoftheApostles.org:**

- Please describe your relationship with Jesus Christ, and give a brief description of your prayer life.
- Please describe your history with Church of the Apostles Anglican, including how you came to attend.
- In what ministries have you served at Church of the Apostles Anglican? Elsewhere?
- What are your spiritual gifts for ministry?
- What do you see as the greatest challenges currently facing Church of the Apostles Anglican?
- What are your hopes and dreams for Church of the Apostles Anglican?
- Why do you believe God may be calling you to serve on Vestry?
- Please email a photo of yourself, preferably in jpeg format.



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