



St. Matthias Episcopal Church

Vestry Expectations (approved 11-2003)

St. Matthias By-Laws states that “the Vestry governs the Parish by being the agents and legal representatives of the Parish in all matters concerning its corporate property and the relations of the Parish to its Clergy.”¹ Because the primary mission of any Christian church is to sustain and nourish the parish and make disciples of Jesus Christ, its assets, both physical and spiritual, are most fully and rightly used in this service. It is, consequently, necessary that those who oversee assets and relationships on behalf of the Parish be Christians who are maturing in their faith in and discernment of Jesus’ salvation and lordship. As Christopher Webber writes, “Leadership involves more than representation...[it] is a matter also of prayer and Bible study.”²

Further, because of the Vestry’s important role, it is necessary that Vestry members be committed to this ministry and understand the requirements of a call by God and His church.

Therefore, the people of St. Matthias expect that Vestry members

1. have an active, personal relationship with Jesus Christ,
2. be regular and faithful in corporate worship, prayer, and sacrament,
3. take opportunity to nurture their own Christian faith and that of their family,
4. be faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God,
5. demonstrate to and nurture these same virtues and graces in other members of St. Matthias,
6. attend no less than 10 of the monthly Vestry meetings each year,
7. prepare prayerfully and actively for each meeting, including reading all material distributed in Vestry packets,
8. respond in a timely matter to phone calls, letters, or emails regarding Vestry matters,
9. attend the Vestry retreats, annual meeting, and other additional meetings as set by the Vestry,
10. work between meetings for the welfare of St. Matthias.

Practical notes regarding the above expectations:

- Vestry meetings are on third Sunday of each month, beginning ½ hour after the worship service
- Vestry meetings normally last 2 – 2½ hours
- Vestry members share the regular responsibility for opening the church on Sunday mornings, preparing the space for worship, and locking up after all have left
- Outside of monthly Vestry meetings, most months require about 5 additional hours of related ministry; the Spring retreat is a Friday night and all day Saturday event, the Fall retreat is normally an all day Saturday commitment.
- Other meetings for spiritual growth (i.e., discipleship study, Christian leadership formation) and special needs (i.e., budgeting, strategic planning) as decided by the Vestry.

¹ Section 5.01

² The Vestry Handbook, Christopher Webber, © 1988, Morehouse Publishing, p3.