

St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral

VESTRY NOMINATIONS FOR 2025 ELECTIONS

At the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2025, we will elect a Junior Warden and four (4) new Vestry members to serve a three-year term, 2025-2028.

Canon 22 of the Diocesan Constitution specifies, "... members of the Vestry shall be confirmed Communicants, at least 21 years of age, canonically resident and actually presiding in the parish and entitled to suffrage at its annual meeting at which they are elected."

Additionally, a Vestry policy adopted in 1985 requires:

THE NOMINEE SHALL:

1. Be a regular attendant at services and parish functions in the year preceding election.
2. Be known by the treasurer to have made and maintained a stated financial commitment to the Cathedral in the year preceding election; and,
3. Be in attendance at Vestry meetings and Vestry planning retreats.

The Vestry of St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral also asks each Vestry candidate to make the following declaration:

- I solemnly declare that 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 solemnly engage to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of The Episcopal Church.
- Are you willing to make this declaration? YES NO
- Vestry meetings are at 5:45 p.m. on Monday after the third Sunday of the month. Will you commit to arrange your work and travel schedule in order to attend regularly? YES NO
- Will you commit to attend the annual Vestry Retreat (next retreat is February 7&8, 2025) each year? YES NO
- Will you commit to serve as a Vestry liaison to one of our standing committees or ministries and attend the meetings? YES NO
- Will you commit to attend Safe Church Training? YES NO
- Will you abide by the by-laws, policies, and guidelines adopted by the Vestry? YES NO
- Will you support the Vestry's commitment to faithful stewardship? YES NO
- Do you believe God is calling you to serve as a member of the Vestry at this time? YES NO
- Will you schedule an appointment with one of our Priests for a conversation about this discernment? YES NO

NOMINEE STATEMENT:

Briefly describe your sense of calling to serve on the Vestry. You might include your occupation, length of Cathedral membership, any previous Vestry experience, activities you are involved in at St. Andrew's, and any professional or volunteer experience or expertise that could bring to bear in service on the Vestry.

Signed:

Typed Name:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Telephone: Daytime Evening:

Please return your signed form and a photo to the Cathedral office or email it to lauriemc@standrews.ms by January 15, 2025.

NOTE: Vestry nominee statements and photos will be published and distributed to the Parish prior to the election.

Candidates will be introduced to the congregation during the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. worship services on the weekend PRIOR to the Annual Parish Meeting (Sunday, January 19). Please make every effort to be there.

Below you will find the governing document of the St. Andrew's Cathedral Vestry, adopted December 2002:

Rules, Norms and Guidelines of the St. Andrew's Cathedral Vestry

As a candidate for the Vestry of St. Andrew's Cathedral, you are faced with the opportunity of serving this community through your leadership on decisions and issues that will affect the entire St. Andrew's family. It is important to understand the norms by which the Vestry operates and the respect that must be held for the variety of opinions and ideas that will arise during the course of a term on the Vestry.

This document was developed by the Vestry as a guideline for your information and use as a Vestry member.

Who do we represent?

- We represent the community at large, rather than a specific constituency. That said, you as a member of the Vestry should not forget who you are. Your life experiences, wisdom and judgment are vital parts of the decisions made in the Vestry. You are not obligated to vote for a constituency, but as your conscience directs.
- Although Vestry members do not represent a constituency, the Vestry members should be aware of the views of many groups in the Parish community. All relevant points to a discussion should be considered.

How are matters presented to the Vestry for discussion?

- Absent emergency, issues should not be presented for action without notice and time for study and review. It is important for everyone to have ample time to consider an important issue before a vote is taken.
- The gathering of information and perspectives on issues from the community-at-large is a logical and commendable action. However, efforts to bring pressure on the Vestry from parishioners regarding certain issues can have a negative effect.

How should the Vestry act on matters and share that action with the community-at-large?

- Issues should be brought up at Vestry meetings for full and open discussion, in an atmosphere of trust. Differences should be aired, but with a sense of respect.
- Once a decision has been made, the Vestry should move ahead as a united body – acting on the will of the majority while respecting the will of the minority. A decision, once made after full and fair consideration, should not be reargued or undermined in the congregation.
- These principles, that the work of the Vestry is conducted at the Vestry meeting and not elsewhere maybe summarized as follows: “The meeting is at the meeting.”

Where shall the loyalty of the Vestry be focused?

- The Vestry, according to *The Vestry Handbook*, has three basic responsibilities: care of Parish finances, care of Parish buildings, and “to choose individuals to fill various positions of leadership and representation.”
- Our loyalty is to St. Andrew’s Cathedral, the Christian tradition, and the love of God and neighbor. We are to exercise our independent and sound judgment for the overall good of the Cathedral, and not blindly follow the wishes of clergy, wardens or Parish constituencies.
- The Vestry is the elected leadership of the Parish. You are not obligated to agree with every decision. However, once a decision is made, you are obligated to support its implementation.

***The Vestry Handbook* offers a simple guideline for our work together:**

“Why should we assume that all Christians will always see things the same way? We all are at different stages of our journeys, and inevitably will have different perspectives. Logically, the church can change and grow only as members present those perspectives and work to accomplish their own vision. A polite church in which each member always defers to the others is not one that would be likely to challenge its members to grow. Indeed, God can work through our failures as well as our successes....The trick is not to avoid conflict but to be sensitive to others and work always for reconciliation.