

The Vestry at St. Thomas' Wants You!

What does it mean to serve on the Vestry? The function of the Vestry is outlined by the canons of the Episcopal Church, the Diocese of New Jersey, and New Jersey state law. Serving on the vestry means being a legal representative of the parish and bearing responsibility for the conduct of the business of the parish. A vestry person's responsibilities include Stewardship and the development of resources to enable St. Thomas' to carry out its function as a place of spiritual invitation and the formation of disciples. Senior Wardens chair the Stewardship Committee.

A vestry person is a **leader** whose job includes *discerning* the call of God to our parish, *developing* strategies to pursue that vision, and *cultivating* in the parish enthusiasm and commitment to that vision. Vestry persons are involved in the various ministries of the church, and are always looking for and lifting up to celebrate examples of what God is doing in our midst.

Candidates for vestry are required by canon to be "adult communicants in good standing" (which means over 16 years of age, registered as a member of the parish, attending regularly, and giving according to one's pledge). Vestry are elected at the annual meeting to serve three year terms.

Expectations for vestry persons are that they will:

- Treat one another and all the parish with love and respect
- Abide by the canons and bylaws governing our parish, as well as the norms established by the Vestry
- Partner with the clergy and people in God's mission
- Attend monthly meetings (3rd Thursdays, 7.30-9.30pm, via Zoom)
- Attend an annual retreat (first Saturday in February, 9am-4pm)
- Contribute to committee work outside of meetings
- Obtain and maintain current Safe Church training
- Attend weekly worship, occasionally visiting other services
- Participate in formation, coffee hour, other parish events
- Lead the parish in practices of Prayer, Stewardship, Hospitality, Service, and Love

Please pray about who in our parish already embodies these qualities, and invite that person to fill out a Candidate Information form!

This year we will be electing 2 Vestry members and a Junior Warden.

St. Thomas' Vestry/Warden *(circle one)* **Candidate Information**
to be published ahead of the Annual Meeting

Name _____ Date _____

Member of St. Thomas' since _____

Why do you seek to serve on the Vestry or as a Warden?

What do you see as the greatest opportunity and challenge facing St. Thomas'?

What are your areas of interest as you serve on Vestry or as a Warden?

Please initial to confirm that you will be able to:

_____ attend the Vestry retreat (3 Feb 2024, 9am-4pm)

_____ attend monthly Vestry meetings

Please submit this form to the church office (or place it in the offering plate) by the end of November!

Diocesan Convention Delegate

St. Thomas' will elect three delegates and three alternates for Diocesan Convention. *Be sure to check your calendar before accepting a nomination to Diocesan Convention!*

Diocesan Convention is a time when representatives from around our Diocese gather to share in the polity of the Church, upholding the common mission and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. All are welcome to join us as we worship, conduct business, view and listen to presentations. Delegates have voice and vote to take part in the decision-making of the Diocese. The one-day convention will be held at Trinity Cathedral (Trenton) and online on 2 March 2024. An important pre-convention meeting will take place at a nearby parish. Delegates attend both.

Convocation Delegate

St. Thomas' will elect six delegates to the Woodbury Convocation. These will be responsible to attend semi-annual convocation meetings. Meetings are typically on a weeknight. This is a great time to network with other nearby churches and to engage in mission as the larger Episcopal Church of South Jersey.

St. Thomas' Delegate Information

to be published ahead of the Annual Meeting

Name _____ Date _____

Member of St. Thomas' since _____

Why do you seek to serve as a Delegate?

Are you interested in serving as (pick one or both!):

_____ Diocesan Convention Delegate

_____ Convocation Delegate

Please submit this form to the church office (or place it in the offering plate) by the end of November!