

Vestry Self Assessment

This is an opportunity for the vestry to reflect on several critical aspects of its life and work.

The life of the parish is for the sanctification and formation of people and for the glorification of God in worship and common life.

Steps:

This will be most effective if done in one session. However if need be take two sessions. For the purposes of this assessment we are using the terms vestry and parish broadly to identify the lay leadership body and the local church regardless of the terms used in any particular diocese.

1. Prayer:

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, you Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

2. Each vestry member completes the self-assessment.

3. Record the results in front of the group on newsprint or white board

4. Discussion

- Any surprises?
- Areas of vestry strength
- Areas of vestry weakness, blind spots

5. Next steps (if any)

Vestry Self-Assessment

A. Your participation in some of the central activities of a parish church

(Note: This item assumes that it is essential that members of the vestry understand the “business” of a parish church if they are to serve faithfully and effectively. Also that such an understanding is both shaped by and expressed in certain activities.)

1. Sunday Eucharist Attendance (circle one)

About 1/4 of the time

Half the time

¾ of the time

Just about every Sunday

2. Sunday Eucharist - My ability to participate (Circle the number that is closest to your experience)

I am frequently confused and uncertain about how to participate

I can “flow” with it. I mostly don’t need a Prayer Book or leaflet.

1

2

3

4

5

3. Participating in the Daily Prayers of the Church [Daily Office] Doing the Office in some form on my own or with others

Never

Only when offered at a meeting or retreat

Sporadically or at during some season(s) of the church year

Most days

2. The vestry effectively engages its work

Not really Very much so
1 2 3 4 5

3. We understand that the Rector/vicar shares in the vestry's task, has a responsibility for the oversight of all aspects of parish life, and also has several areas of independent authority and responsibility (specifically regarding worship/liturgy)

Does not match my understanding at all Yes, this is what I understand
1 2 3 4 5

4. We have the basic skills and knowledge needed to oversee parish finances and property.

Not at all adequate Very much so
1 2 3 4 5