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 Half the time 3/4 of the time Just about every time 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.

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 Sporadically or at during some Most days meeting or retreat season(s) of the church year

4. Knowing how to do the Daily Office

I have no idea.				I understand how to use it from the Prayer Book and ways to innovate the use
1	2	3	4	5

5. Disciplined ways of reflecting - Having ways that work for me Grounding/centering yourself so you can reflect. The spiritual practice of "pondering" and seeking God's presence in the people, circumstances and things of life. Practices that connect daily life to God.

I don't have ways that work for me				I have ways that are effective for me
1	2	3	4	5

B. Team work

1. The vestry works effectively as a team: members are reliable, responsive, listen to others and offer opinions and ideas, and respect the feelings of others.

Low team effectiveness				High team effectiveness
1	2	3	4	5

2. The vestry as a whole works well with the Rector/Vicar

Poor working relationship				Excellent working relationship
1	2	3	4	5

C. Engaging the vestry's work

We recognize that vestries vary in how they understand their work. Some are more involved with setting overall parish direction, others more focused on property and finances. All vestries are responsible for oversight of parish finances and property.

1. How we see our role in the parish

Day-to-day management	Primarily the oversight of property	Setting and monitoring overall	Strategic management - helping navigate the
of parish affairs		direction	parish toward long term goals

2.	The	vestrv	effective	elv en	gages	its	work
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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				Yes, this is what I understand
all				
1	2	3	4	5

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

Not at all adec	quate			Very much so
1	2	3	4	5

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