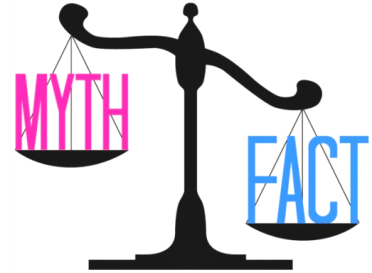


DISCERNING THE MINISTRY OF VESTRY

I'm guessing there are a number of "stories" or myths that you've probably heard or even shared regarding serving on the vestry. These myths aren't unique to St. John's, but make their rounds in countless of churches across the globe. They've been in circulation for decades, maybe even longer. With the search for a new vestry class approaching, I'd like to dispel some of those myths.



Myth:

1. Vestry meetings last for at least five hours and go well into the middle of the night. – Fact: We respect your time and value productive and diligent meetings. Monthly meetings last no longer than two hours max.
2. There is weeping and gnashing of teeth on the vestry, people fight constantly. – Fact: At the beginning of each year, the vestry establishes a shared covenant to which we all abide by. We value relationships over "positions." Our ministry is collaborative, prayerful, and spirit led. We may not all agree, but we share a common mission: to serve the best interests of the parish.
3. In order to serve on vestry you need to know everything there is to know about the Episcopal Church and be the best Christian in the world. – Fact: Vestry members must be confirmed members in the Episcopal Church, committed to regular worship, and open to the movement of the Spirit.
4. All the vestry does is complain and argue about money. – Fact: The vestry has oversight of the well-being of the church and yes, that includes the finances, the buildings and grounds, and the assets. Vestries are also visionaries, creative thinkers, encouragers, and strategic planners.
5. The vestry is a "good old boy club." Only those who are asked can serve: - False: anyone who is a confirmed member in good standing can put their name forward for vestry. And we wish you would! A good vestry requires people with a variety of gifts, personalities, and histories.

Serving on the vestry is both an honor and a privilege. Yes, it does require your time and commitment, but more importantly it requires your heart. If you have a heart for St. John's and the people who gather here, if you are invested in the future of our congregation and want to be a part of casting a vision for what lies ahead please email amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org. Vestry nominees will be accepted through October with elections taking place at our annual meeting on Sunday, November 1st.