

Standards for Our Life Together

1. Confidentiality

- If something needs to be communicated to the congregation, then we will agree together on how it is to be stated publicly.
- The meetings should be a safe place to speak.
- There should be no quoting of others outside the meeting.
- If the issue of confidentiality is in question, then assume it is confidential.

2. Responding To Complaints

- Avoid being triangulated. In other words don't get caught in the middle even when you would like to be.
- Direct all complaints to party concerned and attach a name.
- Receive all complaints non-judgmentally and 'without taking sides.

3. Inter-Vestry Communications

- Be open and honest.
- Observe decorum.
- Pay full attention to person speaking.
- Do not personalize issues.
- Do not surprise others. Everyone should be aware of what is to be discussed.

4. Unity

- Model the unity we seek in the congregations.
- Support and care for each other.
- Trust each other-trust before you distrust.
- Pray for each other.

5. Regular Participation In The Liturgies

- Maintaining your relationship with God and each other through Sunday Eucharist is vital for Vestry's health.
- Be present on an occasional basis at the Sunday Eucharist you do not normally attend.
- Do not forget major Holy Days, Mid-Week Eucharists and other offices.

6. Visible Participation In Activities

- Maintaining your relationship with God and each other through the fellowship and educational events of the congregation is vital for the Vestry's health.

7. Financial Support

- Pledge and honor your pledge.
- Be among the first to turn in your pledge card.
- Consider "the tithe" (10%) as normative.

8. Keep Perspective

- The Vestry's role is that of Trustee, not Director. Hold in trust, not ownership.

9. Healthy System

- The Vestry will encourage broad participation by diverse members of the Parish in leadership positions and discourage the concentration of responsibility in a few members. Term limits of officers, committee, task force and working group chairs will be established. Members of the same family (e.g., spouses, parent/child or siblings) may not serve on the Vestry at the same time.