

Sound Practices for Vestry Leaders

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Posted by Richelle Thompson on Oct. 10, 2011

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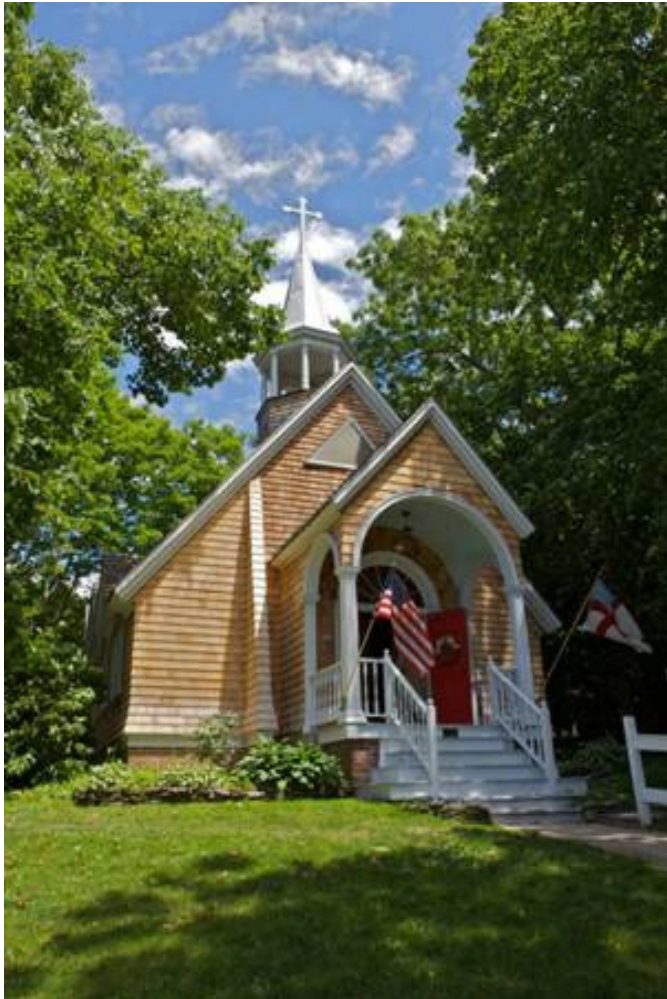
Las Meliores Prácticas de la M...



Role of the Vestry



The Canons say...



- Oversight of finances and buildings
- Calling a new rector



A dedicated vestry will go further...

- Envision the congregation's future
- Articulate a mission
- Engage members to understand and commit to the mission
- Marshall the resources needed to make it a reality
- Assess progress toward fulfillment of that mission



Ten Sound Practices

1. Invitation & selection
2. Orientation
3. Covenant
4. Meetings
5. Spiritual practice
6. Assess
7. Strategic & spiritual planning
8. Engage volunteers & equip leaders
9. Support clergy & staff
10. Evaluate



I. Inviting and Selecting Leaders



- What talents and perspectives are needed on the vestry?
- Who are potential new people to step into this leadership role?
- How will you invite and discern with potential candidates?
- How will you convey expectations for vestry service?

2. Vestry Orientation



- Vestry covenant
- Mission statements
- History of the congregation
- Local demographics/trends
- By-laws and canons
- Episcopal/Anglican formation

3. Vestry Covenant



- Grounded in God's covenant
- A way of being together
- Behavioral expectations

4. Vestry Meetings

- Spend time as a spiritual community
- Spend time as a learning community
- Separate information, discussion and decisions agenda items
- Place reports at the end
- Make decisions only after thorough discussion



5. Spiritual Practices



- Bible study
- Reading & learning
- Reflection
- Eucharist
- Singing
- Silence
- Retreats

Ask “where is God in it?”

6. Ongoing Assessment



7. Strategic & Spiritual Planning



Comprehensive review and visioning of all activities, programs, and ministries of the church



Discerning how the Spirit is leading you to fulfill God's mission

8. Engage Volunteers & Equip Leaders



Are you delegating tasks or delegating responsibility?

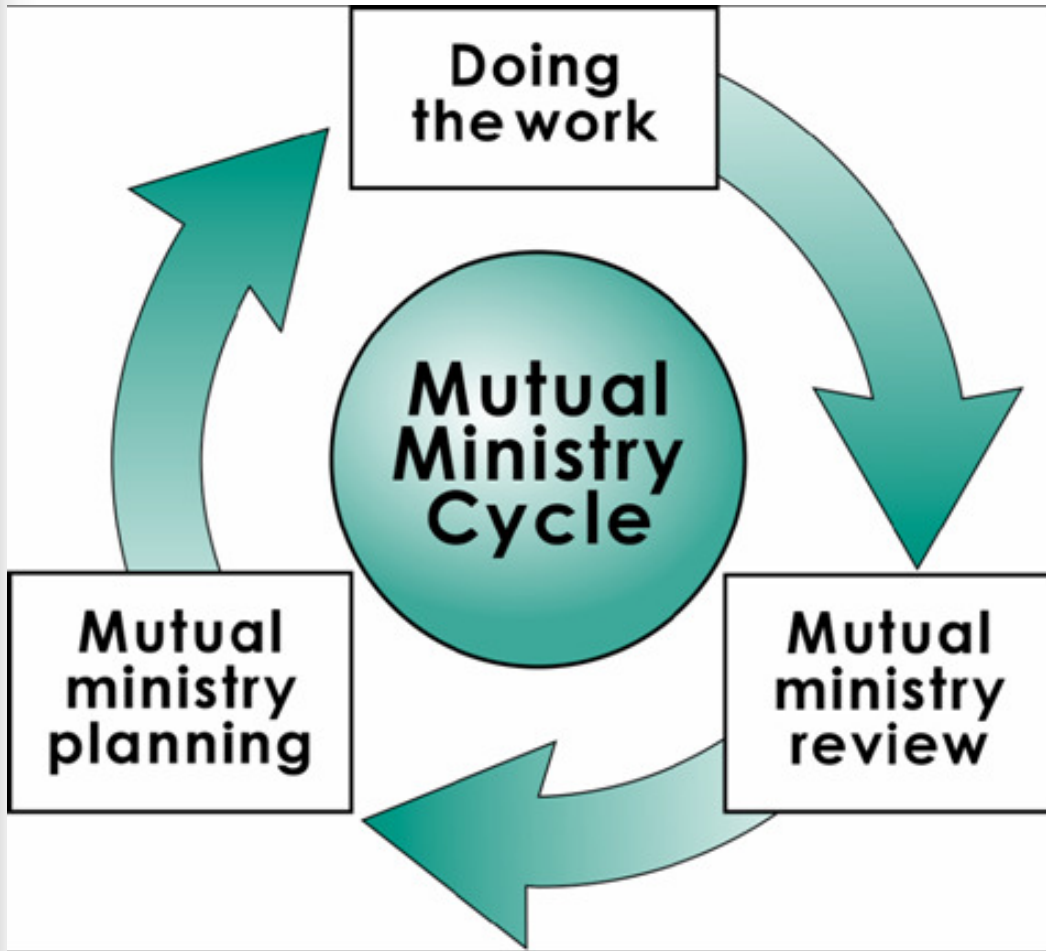
- Invitation
- Roles
- Training
- Support
- Appreciation

9. Support the Clergy & Staff

- Partnership and prayer
- Adequate salaries and benefits
- Clear roles
- Safe workplace
- Meaningful reviews
- Recognition and gratitude



10. Evaluate

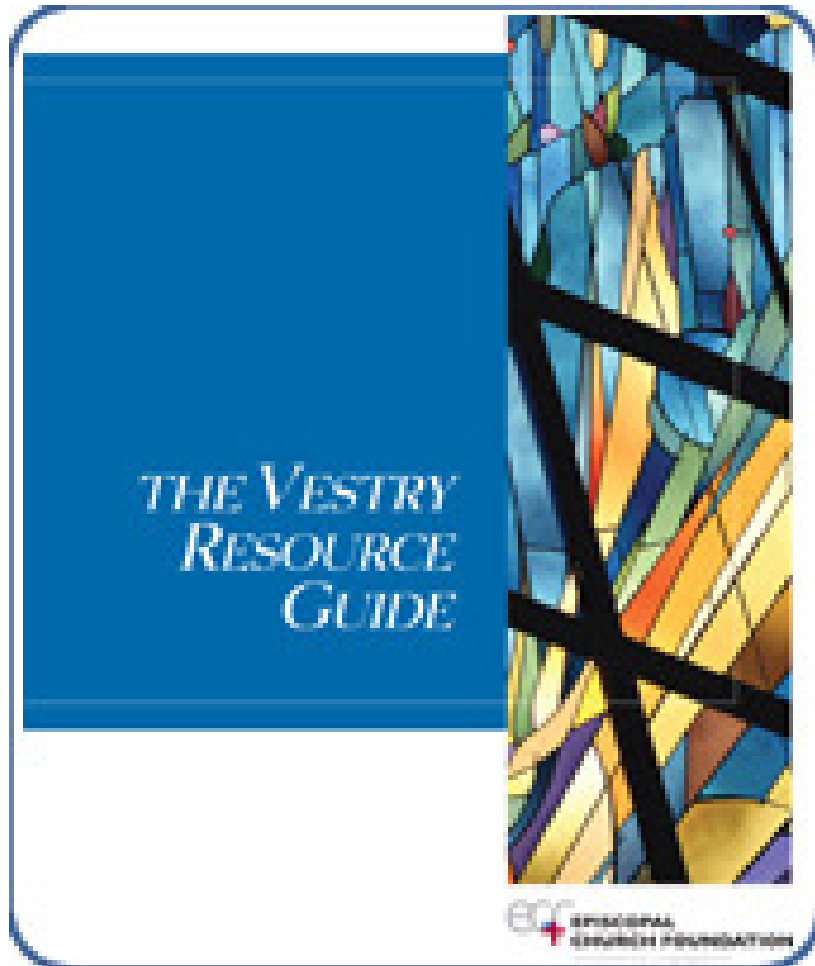


*Living into our Ministries:
A Guide to Mutual Ministry
Review*

Other Practices?



Vestry Resource Guide



Distributed by

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