

Vestry Orientation Agenda

1. What is a Church?

- a. If it's not about God, it's about nothing important
- b. Society of Ministers

Eph 4.¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹²*for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry*, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, ***to perfection, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ***; ¹⁴that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵but, speaking the truth in love, may ***grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ--*** ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together ***by what every joint supplies***, according to the effective working by which ***every part does its share, causes growth*** of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Col 1.²⁸ Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, ***that we may present every one perfect in Christ Jesus***. ²⁹To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

2. What is a Vestry?

- a. Those who take responsibility for leading the parish in God's mission
- b. Those who take the lead
 - i. Learning
 - ii. Responsibility is neither representation nor authority
 - iii. Responsibility is where the buck stops
- c. A microcosm of that which the parish is becoming
 - i. Vestry are those who set standards: spiritual growth, service, stewardship
 - ii. Developing a culture:
 - 1. *It's not about "me"* (It's about God and others)
 - 2. *We're in this together* (aka A41-14A),
 - 3. *BAG* (Bold, Audacious Goals)
 - 4. *RONI* (Relentless, Ongoing, Never-ending, Improvement)

3. Our greatest temptations:

- a. Micro-Managing
 - i. Micro-Managing harms us, harms others, and makes us the bottle-neck
 - ii. True leaders delegate (give a fish? Or teach to fish? -- Makes disciples
 - iii. It's not about making decisions, it's about making disciples

- b. Group think
 - c. Confusing correlation with causality
 - d. Failing to think “Systems”
 - e. Substituting technical change for adaptive change
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- 4. Relationship to Diocese, Parish, Senior Warden, Rector
 - 5. Vestry Norms
 - 6. By Laws
 - 7. Vestry Job Description
 - 8. Your authority
 - a. to act
 - b. to represent the parish to represent the vestry
 - c. to recruit and delegate
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- 9. Standing Committees
 - 10. *Looking to the Future*