



Vestry Covenant - 2019
The Church of the Good Shepherd
Dunedin, Florida

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Believing that Holy Scripture is the authority that governs our behavior including the relationships we share with each other and with our congregation that we are guided by the First Epistle of Peter 5:2-3:

“Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.”

Therefore the members of the Vestry faithfully enter into this covenant:

Our work together:

- We will support each other and everyone in the congregation in their individual passions for worship and ministry.
- We will participate in major parish events to ensure leadership accessibility and visibility while reinforcing the event’s importance in the life of our parish.
- We will attend the annual Vestry retreat to ensure a full understanding of our mission and goals.
- We understand that we are bound to follow our bylaws, the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Southwest Florida, as well as state and federal law.
- We will exercise fiscal stewardship to protect our parish from future financial hardship.

Our expectations:

- We understand that regularly attending Vestry meetings is vital so that we will effectively represent everyone in our work. If that is not possible we will notify the Rector that we cannot attend the meeting.
- We will make stated contributions of record to demonstrate our commitment and offering an example to all of the importance of financial stewardship in a balanced spiritual life.
- We will adequately prepare for meetings in advance to ensure active participation and successful consideration of the actions before us.
- We will give our full and complete attention and focus during all meetings.
- We will provide timely information to support effective communication.
- We will offer honest expression of support or concern to facilitate consideration of each issue while considering each other’s opinions respectfully even if they differ from our own.

Worship and Prayer:

- We will attend worship regularly so that we will experience prayer with our parish community sharing Holy Communion with our congregation.
- We will begin every meeting with prayer.
- We will participate in opportunities to promote growth in our understanding of our mission and ministry.
- We will use prayer to help us to overcome our differences and provide us with spiritual direction.