

VERGERS' GUILD of the DIOCESE of DALLAS

MISSION STATEMENT AND GUIDELINES

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the guild shall be the Vergers' Guild of the Diocese of Dallas.

ARTICLE II. MISSION STATEMENT

The Vergers' Guild of the Diocese of Dallas is a lay ministry of the Episcopal Church. The purpose of the Guild is to serve Jesus Christ and His Church through our individual parishes, and to equip the Office of Verger in the Diocese of Dallas and among its parishes by providing opportunities for:

1. Verger participation in the liturgical worship services of the Church;
2. On-going verger liturgical training, outreach, and education; and
3. Fellowship among vergers and other interested lay persons.

The mission of the Guild is summarized in its motto, "Servants of the Servants of Christ."

ARTICLE III. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Chair, the General Secretary, the Treasurer, the Training Officer, the Assistant Training Officer, and the Outreach/Evangelism Officer. Each shall serve a three-year term, elected on a rotating basis. The purpose of the Executive Committee shall be to support the Mission of the Vergers' Guild by coordinating the business and administrative functions of the Guild in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Guild, and shall bring policies and procedures to the general membership for approval by vote.

The Chair shall provide leadership and vision for the Vergers' Guild, shall act as chair of the business sessions and meetings of the Executive Committee, shall represent the Guild at official functions, shall serve as Bishop's Verger, and shall otherwise promote the Office of Verger throughout the diocese.

The General Secretary shall provide leadership in the administrative aspects of the Vergers' Guild, such as functioning as the Guild's chief logistics officer and scheduling source for planning and recording meetings, and shall carry on the correspondence, and non-financial business of the Guild.

The Chaplain shall serve as spiritual director, advisor, and liturgical support for the Vergers' Guild. The Chaplain shall be recommended by election of the membership and confirmed by the Bishop.

The Treasurer is authorized to accept monies, make authorized disbursements, and keep books in accordance with the guidelines of the Diocese.

The Training Officer shall plan programs for general meetings and coordinate, with the General Secretary, other training events in support of the Mission of the Vergers' Guild.

The Assistant Training Officer shall assist and support the Training Officer.

The Outreach/Evangelism Officer, in coordination with the General Secretary and the Training Officer, shall establish within each convocation of the Diocese, a leader who, after training, will interface directly with the parishes and missions to help establish Verger positions, will provide on-going training to all Vergers within each convocation through the Outreach/Evangelism Officer, will provide resource materials and on-site training for liturgical functions as required, and provide fellowship among Vergers and other interested lay persons.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

A person is a member of the Vergers' Guild of the Diocese of Dallas when they have paid their dues. The dues structure shall be reviewed at the annual business meeting and the dues structure shall be effective the following January 1st.

ARTICLE V. NOMINATING, ELECTION, AND BALLOTING PROCEDURES

A Nominating Committee is to be established at the May meeting each year. The Committee shall be comprised of four members; three of these members shall be selected by the voting membership. The fourth member shall be the General Secretary of the Guild, who shall serve as Chairman and is a non-voting member of the Committee. The purpose of the Nominating Committee shall be to select candidates for the positions to be filled in the forthcoming election.

Candidates shall be qualified, voting members of the Guild, defined as a person who has paid their annual dues to the Guild in a timely manner. The cut-off date for determining who fits into the "qualified member of the Guild" is June 30 of each year.

By the first week of July, the Nominating Committee shall receive a list of qualified candidates. The four-member Committee shall meet as a group at the July meeting. By the first week of August, final selections are to be made and specific assignments for contacting the prospects for their acceptance are created.

The slate of candidates shall be presented in writing at the September meeting. Floor nominations are accepted. Each person accepting nomination will present a curriculum vitae, in writing, and this will be distributed to the general membership.

Elections shall be held at the November meeting. The General Secretary shall prepare ballots, and the three-members Nominating Committee will count the ballots.

Newly elected officers will take office January 1st of each year.

ARTICLE VI. QUALIFIED VOTERS

A qualified voter is defined as a person who has paid their annual dues to the Vergers' Guild in a timely manner. If unable to attend the November meeting, qualified voters will be sent a ballot, upon request to the General Secretary. All absentee ballots must be received by the General Secretary not later than the Wednesday prior to the November meeting.

Formally Adopted: January 11, 1997