The Role of a Vestry Member, or

I’ve Read the Canons and Now What?

**Introduction – What Use are Vestries?**

**Story of Baptist Church in New Braunfels**

**Point of the Story: it is quite possible for churches to grow without vestries.**

**Our canons require that our churches elect vestries to serve as the legal representatives on behalf of the congregation. Basically, we have to have them because they are required.**

**Steve Sample**

**Steve Sample retired in 2010 as the president of the University of Southern California. In his nine years as president of USC he raised $430 million for research, oversaw numerous construction projects, lost to UT in the National Championship in 2005, and teaches courses in leadership with Warren Bennis. He tells the story of when he first thought he’d like to become the president of a university.**

**Steve Sample, President of the University of Southern California, writes:**

**In the spring of 1970, when he was 29, I knew that I had won a scholarship from the American Council on education, which will allow me to serve administrative practices with Purdue University President Fred Hovde to the 1970-71 academic year. I was elated by the opportunity. Despite have only has awarded recently it tenure and promoted to Professor associated of engineering electric in the Purdue, I was already tilting towards a career in the administration...**

**Shortly after the prize was announced**

**I found a colleague with a colleague, Vern Newhouse, who was a respected member of the Faculty of electrical engineering. "Thus, shows," Newhouse said: "I see that you won some kind of administrative Fellowship in the office of the President".**

**"Yes, that is true," I said.**

**- And you learn how to become an administrator?**

**"I suppose that it".**

**And then you'll probably want to be President of a University somewhere down the road?"**

**"Well, do not know." I guess that I have thought about this now and then, "said, something falsely."**

**He smiled and said: "personally, I haven't had any ambition to be an administrator. I am completely unable to manage things... But I have been an observer careful of men ambitious all my life. And here, why of something, is what I've learned: many men want to be President, but very few want to make President. "And with that he loved me well and walked away.**

**Leaders not are more intelligent than their followers; Think differently.**

**Airline Pilot: Hours and Hours of Sheer Boredom**

**A. Four Primary Areas of Responsibility:**

1. **To Administer Finances**
2. **To Maintain Facilities**
3. **To Provide Leadership**

* **Spiritual Leadership**
* **Servant Leadership**
* **Influence**
* **Model Commitment**
  1. **Daily Quiet Time**
  2. **Regular in Attendance**
  3. **Faithful in Giving**
  4. **Connected through Healthy Relationships**

1. **To Call a Rector**

**Three principles for Serving on the Vestry:**

1. **Think Macro – St. John’s Nursery – Direction of the Church, not paint colors**
2. **Act Micro – Most Influential Person in the Parish – Miss Lucy**
3. **Be Committed – Leaders Show Up – the Vestry sets the standard for the *lowest level of commitment* among the congregation. People notice when you don’t show up for a congregational event.**

***Sample Vestry Expectations (Covenant)***

**Conclusion – “I Have a Bunch of Loud Voices”**