

St. Michael's Resource Guide

Member of the Bishop's Committee

Overview

Congratulations on being elected or appointed to the Bishop's Committee (BC)! You have agreed to govern on behalf of local congregation for up to three (3) years.

In this position, you will:

- Attend BC Meetings
- Maintain communication with BC Members
- Provide an example of spiritual leadership to the Congregation
- Create volunteer opportunities with the Congregation

BC Members may also:

- Be asked by the Bishop to serve as Senior (Sr.) Warden for a 1-year term
- Be appointed by the BC to serve as Junior (Jr.) Warden for a 1-year term
- Be asked to consider other leadership roles as needed

Time Commitment: 1 to 2 hours a week (different for each person)

- In general, expect to volunteer about 1 hour a week of your time by keeping informed about church business.
- Expect to volunteer an additional hour in the weeks before and after a BC Meeting.

BC Meeting Days and Times: 3rd Sunday of each month, after Sunday service, ~ 1 hour

The BC generally meets on the 3rd Sunday of each month following the Sunday service, (although they are only required to meet 10 times each calendar year). Dates and times are subject to change, based on BC or Congregation need. Additional meetings may also be called based on BC or Congregation need.

At St. Michael's, we strive to keep BC meetings under 1 hour, but we are flexible when matters at hand require further attention.

Responsibilities Detail

The responsibilities listed below have been adapted and expanded from the Vestry Resources Guide (© 2015, Revised 2017), for the needs of the congregation and BC of St. Michael's, Ridgecrest.

1. Attend BC Meetings: see "BC Meeting Days and Times" above.
2. Maintain communication with BC Members: see "Time Commitment" above.

3. Provide an example of spiritual leadership to the Congregation

- Be approachable, positive, and seek solutions
- Be available to listen to concerns, applying confidentiality when needed
- Recognize congregation accomplishments, and give thanks
- Be slow to make judgments, but intervene when necessary, and foster forgiveness
- Uphold church policies and discuss concerns with Sr. Warden, Jr. Warden, Clergy, and/or Diocesan leadership, as applicable.
- Support vision for the local church, and seek to develop leadership capability in all members

4. Create volunteer opportunities with the Congregation

Strive to include congregation members in the governance of the local church. While congregation members may not be voting on church matters, their discussion on church matters is always valued.

When a congregation member has an idea or concern, listen to the member, and encourage them to develop a plan of action.

- For ministry ideas, encourage the person to plan:
 - Dates of event(s)
 - Number of volunteers, responsibilities, and time commitments
 - Contacting others who might be available for planning and listening to ideas
 - Sustainment strategy for long-term ideas
- For concerns, use your best judgment. If urgent, report to Sr. Warden.
 - If non-urgent, encourage the person to:
 - See from different perspectives
 - Summarize the concern
 - Describe the concern in more detail
 - Propose a solution to be shared at the next BC Meeting
- Share ministry ideas and concerns at the BC Meeting.

4. Remain in communication with the BC, Sr. Warden, Clergy, and Diocesan leadership.

We thank God for you, and we look forward to serving with you in the coming year!