**Vestry Covenant of Mutual Expectations**

*As members of the Vestry of St. Swethen’s Episcopal Church we commit to the work of leadership guided by the Holy Spirit.*

**We do not work alone:**

* We work towards the creation and implementation of Mission and Goals.
* We will participate in major parish events to ensure visibility and to reinforce the event’s importance in the life of our parish.

**We meet reasonable expectations:**

* We will regularly attend Vestry meetings – having not more than three unexcused absences during a year – so we represent everyone in our work.
* We will make and keep an annual pledge to demonstrate our commitment.
* We will adequately prepare for meetings in advance to ensure active participation and successful consideration of the actions before us.
* We will provide timely information to support effective communication.
* We will offer honest expression of support or concern to facilitate consideration of each issue.

**We will do nothing without prayer:**

* We will attend worship regularly so we experience prayer in community with the congregation. The Canons of the Episcopal Church help us by defining “regularly” as attending every Sunday unless we are sick or at work.
* We will participate in Christian study opportunities to promote growth in our understanding of our mission and ministry.
* We will use prayer to help us overcome differences and provide spiritual direction.

**We will remain outwardly focused:**

* We will actively solicit and gather information from parishioners to facilitate consideration of all aspects of parish life.
* We will seek participation from others outside the vestry to fill leadership roles so we might strengthen our foundation.

**We will maintain a positive outlook:**

* We will talk about vestry decisions with one voice to support these decisions.
* We will respect opinions that differ from our own to encourage honest expression.
* We will harbor no resentment when others, either those on the vestry or in the congregations, seem to not appreciate our commitment.
* We will hold all confidences to protect our trust in one another.

**We will focus our activities on the goals we set:**

* We will openly discuss our goals with parishioners.
* We will actively seek ideas and suggestions from parishioners about our goals
* We will candidly evaluate our progress and modify our goals as needed.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name Signature