

John Turley Vestry Nomination

Do you make ministry commitment to Grace Church (time, talent and treasure)?

Yes! Since joining Grace in 2019, Janet and I have made an annual monetary pledge and have contributed our “treasure” at other times when asked, or when we have seen a need. I have committed time and “talent” in the Grace Giving Garden, the Food Pantry, the 2021 Parish Fair, the Outreach Committee, various food drives at FUMC and the Pigeon Center, and other activities as needed. Last year Janet and I were alternate delegates to the annual Diocesan convention.

Why do you feel called to serve on the Vestry of Grace Church?

Grace Church has become a focal point in our lives since moving to the area a couple years ago. We were drawn to Grace by the warmth of its congregation, rector, and staff, its focus on serving the needs of the community and the environment, and a spiritual connection to our rector’s heartfelt sermons and her natural way of teaching about faith. With my working life in the rear view mirror, I feel that Grace presents new opportunities in my life to contribute and have an impact in the world and, selfishly, to understand and grow in my Christian faith.

Please describe your participation at Grace or in the community, indicating leadership experience that you think will be helpful for the Vestry.

In addition to the activities at Grace mentioned above, I volunteer for several trail maintenance “crews” at the Carolina Mountain Club (CMC). These groups focus on keeping our wonderful area hiking trails accessible to the public. I have recently completed CMC training to participate as an adjunct member of Haywood County Search and Rescue when problems arise in the wilderness. I feel this love for preserving and keeping safe our wilderness areas ties into Grace’s focus on Creation Care.

As for leadership, before retiring I made my living owning and running different businesses focused on the ground source heat pump industry (geothermal). During my career I always volunteered in organizations that supported this industry and the construction trades. These organizations presented many opportunities to lead and participate on boards and committees, develop standards and training programs for the betterment of the industry, and to work toward membership growth and wider participation. On a secular level, this seems to be similar to the challenges faced by a vestry and I would that hope some of my business experiences would be helpful to the process.

What is your vision for Grace Church in the next three years?

As I mentioned above, Janet and I were drawn to Grace by several different things- the people, outreach in the community, and focus on creation care. I feel that our rector and the past vestries that have created and nurtured these missions are on the right track and have done a fantastic job. My personal vision would be that our parish continues to support the needs of (all) its members, continues to reach out into the community, and continues to find new ways to be, not only stewards of our natural world, but to educate and set an example for others. I am particularly hopeful that we can find ways to draw young people and children to these ministries.