



St. James Anglican Church
Church Structure Narrative Summary¹
January 2021

Anglican Church of North America (ACNA)

St. James is a member of the Anglican Church of North America. The mission of the ACNA is to *Reach North America with the Transforming Love of Jesus Christ*. The Constitutions and Canons of the ACNA state that this mission is to be carried out by the local congregation. The ACNA structures and canons empower the local congregation to express their mission within this broader context in relationship with their diocese and, ideally, other member congregations.

Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin (ADSJ)

The mission of the ADSJ is to *Call and Equip Laity and Clergy to Bring People to and Disciple Them in a Saving Relationship with Jesus Christ*. St. James maintains a close relationship with our Bishop and overseer of the ADSJ. This authority structure relies heavily upon a voluntary partnership of honor, fellowship and submitted collaboration.

St. James Anglican Church

The vision of St. James is: *We are seeking God's place for us in the world by abiding in Christ, following His teaching, discerning His will, and staying committed to godly fellowship and our Anglican heritage.*

To fulfill this vision, St. James will focus on the following:

1. Teaching the whole counsel of God through liturgical worship and devotion to prayer and praise.
2. Offering gifts and talents expressed in relationships.
3. Small groups.
4. Building a relationship with Jesus Christ and each other.
5. Making disciples for outreach to the Valley and the world.
6. Caring ministries and Communion for those who are unable to attend.
7. Reaching out to youth.

Rector

The Rector functions like a father to congregants. As congregations develop their lay ministry, the Rector also functions like a coach. St. James has been developing in this direction as a congregation. Our Rector functions as a father and a coach who sees that people are raised up for ministry and service, ensuring they are equipped to carry out their roles effectively. Our Rector is also our senior Presbyter (Pastor).

The Rector's five main roles are to:

1. **Lead the vision.** This means to articulate, preach, teach, interpret, shape and develop the biblical and Gospel-centered purpose of the local church so that it becomes the focal point for the congregation.

¹ The descriptions of the Rector and Vestry have been adapted from *The Rector and The Vestry* by Rev. Canon David Roseberry, 2020.

2. **Build the team.** The Rector builds the team who will help move the church forward in the fulfillment of its stated purpose (mission and vision). The Rector oversees this team.
3. **Provide for the people.** The Rector is the shepherd of the congregation. He ensures that the people receive the care and equipping essential to the life of the church. He provides pastoral care and engages other clergy and trained lay ministers to do this.
4. **Maintain accountability.** The Rector is technically not a member of the congregation. He is a member of the Diocese and is therefore accountable to the Bishop. Every Rector should be under the authority of the Bishop, seeking the Lord through a life of prayer, fasting and Scripture study, and under spiritual direction with a confessor.
5. **Develop stewardship.** The Rector is responsible for making the congregation aware of the mission it is called to engage. He exhorts the members to grow in and express Kingdom stewardship, which includes time, treasure and talent.

Clergy

The primary function of the Priest is to proclaim the Gospel and administer the sacraments, such as presiding at the Eucharist, pronouncing absolution, giving apostolic blessing, and anointing the sick. At St. James the senior pastor is known as the Rector. St. James has a priest who is the Rector's Pastoral Assistant. He works closely alongside the Rector in all major functions of the priesthood. Retired priests also support the Rector in clerical duties. St. James also has a retired priest who is currently serving.

The ministry of the Deacon is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as a servant of those in need and through providing pastoral care. He or she also assists the Bishop and the Rector in the reading of the Gospel at the Eucharist, leading the congregation in prayer and confession, preparing the gifts at the altar, and sending us out to do Christ's work in the world. Deacons may also function as leaders over specific ministries, such as the Catechism ministry or the Home Visitation ministry, for example.

Vestry

The Vestry is made up of members of the congregation approved by the Rector to work with him to attend to the temporal (financial and practical) needs of the congregation and offer support in the spiritual leadership of the congregation. Vestry members serve three-year staggered terms and are to be spiritually mature leaders with gifts suitable to the duties of the Vestry.

The five main roles of the Vestry are the following:

1. **Protect the vision.** The Vestry is to protect the vision, mission and direction of the congregation.
2. **Support the methods and means.** The Vestry provides appropriate fiscal support to build up and maintain the methods and means to fulfill the vision and mission. "Methods and means" includes administration, technology, an adequate space for worship, and other necessary hard and soft resources. Clarity of vision and mission helps the Vestry effectively prioritize and allocate funding.
3. **Uphold financial integrity of the church.** The Vestry is the fiduciary guardian of the financial life of the congregation to ensure that the church has a long-term future and is operating in a trustworthy way with all funds that have been generously given or responsibly borrowed.

4. **Support the Rector's spiritual leadership.** The Vestry supports the leadership of the Rector wisely and prayerfully, and represents the best interests of all the congregation, without having a "constituency." This includes being a clear sounding board and offering honest feedback to the Rector.
5. **Model a strong commitment to generosity.** Vestry members are to model sacrificial, tithe-based giving as a principle of leadership and matter of integrity.

There are two key offices within the Vestry. These are the Rector's Warden and the People's Warden.

The role of the Rector's Warden focuses on the following:

1. **The Rector's wingman.** The Rector's Warden acts in a manner as to help, protect and support the Rector. He or she assists the Rector in the visioning for the church, and supports him to implement the vision. He may act for the Rector from time to time at the Rector's request.
2. **Wise counselor.** He or she gives wise counsel and is a trusted confidant for the Rector.
3. **Prayer partner.** The Rector's Warden is a key prayer support for the Rector. This includes being a compassionate "watchman" who advocates for the Rector's spiritual and physical wellbeing, including times of rest and regular support from a clergy group or other support group.
4. **First Vice President of the Corporation.** The Rector's Warden typically assists the Rector in setting the agenda for and in leading Vestry meetings. In the case of the Rector's absence, the Rector's Warden will be put in charge of the church under the oversight of the Bishop.

The role of the People's Warden focuses on the following:

1. **Buildings and Grounds.** In many parishes this is a principal role of the People's Warden. He or she is the person on whom the Rector or administrative staff depend to make or obtain repairs, maintenance, and grounds upkeep.
2. **Ombudsman.** The People's Warden functions as a listener and a conciliator, particularly for newer members of the congregation. In this function, the People's Warden is trusted to use sound judgement, and help discover an amicable solution. In all things he or she works with the Rector in a trusting relationship to support the Rector's mandate to provide for the people.
3. **Second Vice-President of the Corporation.** In the absence of both the Rector and Rector's Warden, the People's Warden is responsible for the congregation under the oversight of the Bishop.

Parish Administrator

Rectors may elect to have a parish administrator to support the execution of the vision and mission of the church. A primary role of the parish administrator is to help enable ministries and church operations to function more effectively as a whole. This includes developing and implementing practical tools, resources and strategy that undergird the ministry of the church. The parish administrator works under the direction of the Rector and in close collaboration with staff, Vestry, and ministry leaders.

Staff

St. James' staff persons support the overall functioning of the congregation under the direction of the Rector. Staff are focused on the daily operations of the church, including administration, reception,

communications, Sunday worship services, support and assistance to ministries, coordinating with the Diocese, and other areas.

The Ministry Leadership Team

The Ministry Leadership Team is being formed in 2021. It is comprised of the leaders of St. James' ministries. These individuals are servant-leaders who are charged with facilitating the ministries they oversee in alignment with the vision, mission and core values of St. James. This team will gather together three to four times a year for sharing, praying, coordinating, and equipping.

The Listening Team

This team helps the Rector hear and discern what God is saying to the church and in praying through directions or insights received. The Rector will invite people of prayer to join him on the Listening Team. The team may include the Rector's Warden, individuals from the Ministry Leadership Team, and others. This team meets regularly. The responsibility of the Listening Team is threefold:

1. Support the Rector through prayer and discernment for St. James regarding questions and topics emerging from the staff, Ministry Leadership Team, Vestry and congregation.
2. Support the building up of the Body of Christ by conducting discernments with emerging and existing ministers at St. James, helping them to find their place within the Body for the service God has called them to do.
3. Uphold the clergy, ministry leaders, Vestry and the church in prayer.