

Christ Church+Washington Parish January 2021

Explanation of Bylaw Changes

At a Special Meeting to be held on Zoom on Sunday, February 7, 2021, at 12:00 noon, parishioners will vote on revisions to the Parish Bylaws.

Electronic Parish Meetings. A change in the Bylaws is needed to allow the Annual Meeting to be held electronically. The Bylaws currently require that the Annual Meeting of the voting members be held at the church or in the Parish Hall. The Bylaws also require the presence of a quorum, defined as 20% of voting members, or 30 members, whichever is less. To minimize the risk of the spread of COVID-19, the church is now closed to in-person gatherings. These Bylaws changes would allow Parish meetings to be held electronically and permit electronic voting, rather than require in-person meetings and voting. The Vestry would determine whether an Annual Meeting will be in person or held electronically.

Notice of Parish Meetings. The Bylaws currently require the Rector to provide notice of the Annual Meeting. Canon 47, Section 4704(c), of the Canons of the Diocese of Washington require that the secretary or clerk provide notice of the date, hour, and place of any Annual Meeting or Special Meeting of the Parish. A change in the Bylaws is needed for consistency with this Canon.

Posting of Members. The Bylaws currently require posting of a voting member list in a conspicuous place at the Parish Church or Hall. The Bylaws change would allow posting of the voting member list on the Parish website.

Electronic Election of Officers. The Bylaws permit the Vestry to meet electronically. A change in Article V, Section 1, would clarify that the Vestry may elect officers by electronic means.

Corrections. Several minor corrections are proposed: an edit to insert a missing word in the title of Article IV, Section 1 (Vestry Function & **Membership**), to correct a typo in Article VI, Section 3 (**an** explanation), and to have consistent capitalization and use of the word “Bylaws” in Article XI.

Copies of the proposed changes to the current bylaws are available online at <https://washingtonparish.org/about-us/document-library/>. If you have concerns or questions, please ask the Rector or Senior Warden about them in advance. At the Special Meeting, we will vote on the changes together unless a request from the floor is made to consider them Article by Article.

The proposed substantive Bylaw changes are set forth below. Additions are indicated in red and there is a strike through for deletions.

Article I. Of Parish Meetings

Section 1 is amended to read as follows:

Annual Meetings

Section 1. Each year in January or February at a time **and place** and on such date as the Vestry shall determine, there shall be an annual meeting of the voting members of this Parish **at the Parish Church or Hall** for the election of members of the Vestry and for the transaction of such other business as may lawfully come before the meeting. By direct mail or e-mail at least fifteen (15) days prior to the annual meeting, the **Clerk Rector** shall give written notice of the date, time, and place to all known members of the Parish.

Section 2 is amended to read as follows:

Special Meetings

Section 2. A special Parish meeting may be called by the Rector, the Senior Warden in the absence of the Rector, or by four or more members of the Vestry upon ten (10) days written notice **from the Clerk** to each voting member of the Parish, such notice to state the business to be considered **and the date, time, and place of the meeting.**

A new Section 9 is added:

Location

Section 9. Any Parish meeting may be held electronically. The means of access to an electronic meeting and the manner of voting member participation shall be provided in the written notice of the meeting. Electronic means can be used to establish a quorum or determine the results of any vote.

Article II. Of Qualifications of Voters

Section 2 is amended to read as follows:

Posting of Voter List

Section 2. A list of voting members shall be prepared and posted in a conspicuous place at the Parish Church or Hall **or on the Parish website** at least two (2) weeks before the date of the annual Parish meeting.

Article IV. Of the Qualifications, Nominations, and Election of the Vestry and Wardens

Section 7 is amended to read as follows:

Method of Electing

Section 7. Members of the Vestry shall be elected by written ballot **or by electronic means** by a majority of the voting members present and voting at an annual Parish meeting, except as otherwise provided for in this section.

Article V. Of Election of Wardens and Officers of the Vestry and Other Positions

Section 1 is amended to read as follows:

Positions to be Filled & Voting Method

Section 1. No later than twenty-one days following the annual Parish meeting, the Vestry shall meet and, by written ballot **or by electronic means** and majority vote, elect persons from among voting members of the Parish who are 18 years or older (as defined in Article II, Section 1) to fill the following offices: Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Clerk, and the positions of Parish Registrar, and Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the Diocesan Convention. The Rector shall be the Judge of such elections.