

## **St. Paul's Episcopal Church – Bylaw Update and Changes**

Good morning. The Parish Bylaws are an important document for our parish community because they lay out the ground rules for our operations and leadership. Today we are voting on limited bylaw changes that require approval by a majority vote of the members of the Parish.

### ***What will we vote on?***

We will be voting on the “Section B Amendments,” which include three changes regarding (1) who can call an annual meeting; (2) the term for serving on Vestry and (3) reorganization of certain provisions related to a rotating system of voting for Vestry members.

### ***How did we get here?***

At the Parish Annual meeting in February 2020, the Parish voted to amend its bylaws to elect new Vestry members using a Vestry Nominating Committee instead of a contested election.

The amended bylaws were submitted to the Diocese of North Carolina (“Diocese”) for review. The chancellor of the diocese identified several bylaws that conflict with the Canons of the Diocese and/or the national church. We have to adjust these bylaws, and that is why our work should be easy, as long as we all have a shared understanding.

### **Section B Amendments.**

- Section B generally must be changed because of the “split” in authority to amend the Bylaws. By consolidating items in Section B that require approval by a majority of those present at the Annual Meeting, the Bylaws are better organized. That is, Section B is “special” because it contains those items identified in Canon 22.1(d) as requiring adoption at the Annual Meeting (“Special Voting Provisions”).
- Paragraph 1. The below language must be removed. Members of the Parish may not call a parish meeting; only the Vestry can. Canon 22.1(b). Per the Diocese, this distinguishes Episcopalians from the Baptists, for example.

vestry and conducting such other business as may come before the meeting. Special meetings of the members of St. Paul's ("Special Meeting") may be called by the Rector or by the Wardens and shall be called by them upon request of a majority of the Vestry ~~or upon written request of enrolled Communicants in Good Standing not less than three times the number of the membership of the Vestry.~~ Written notice of the time and place of all Annual or Special Meetings (hereinafter together "Meeting(s)") shall be given at least two weeks prior to the meeting date, in case of

- Paragraph 3. Our prior Bylaws did not specify a “term” for serving on Vestry. The new language below in red provides that. The last three sentences of Paragraph 3 were relocated to keep all the Special Voting Provisions together.

~~1-3.~~ The Vestry of St. Paul's shall be composed of twelve (12) enrolled adult confirmed Communicants in Good Standing, four (4) of whom shall be elected each year for a three-year term. The term shall begin on the date of the Annual Meeting at which the member is elected and shall end on the date of the Annual Meeting three years later. At the end of the three-year term for which a member is elected, he or she shall be ineligible for reelection for three (3) years thereafter. Election to the Vestry shall be by secret, written ballot and shall require a majority vote of those present and eligible to vote. Each eligible voter will be entitled to cast one vote for each position to be filled. Voting by proxy shall not be allowed at any Meeting.

- Paragraph 4. No change to the below, just renumbering.

4. The Rector of St. Paul's shall preside at all Meetings and in the absence of the Rector, the Wardens shall preside in order of their official seniority. Amended 02-02-2020