

**PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES
BY CHRIST CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING
February 28, 2021, at 11:30 a.m., via Zoom**

Article II, Section 5: Eligible voters

EXISTING LANGUAGE:

Men and women eighteen years of age or older, who have within the year preceding supported the Parish by their offerings and their presence are entitled to vote for Vestry members and upon all questions requiring the action of the congregation.

Only men and women eighteen years of age or older may be elected to serve on the Vestry.

Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Substitute the following

Article II, Section 5: Eligible voters

- a) Men and women eighteen years of age or older, who have within the year preceding supported the Parish by their offerings and their presence are entitled to vote for Vestry members and upon all questions requiring the action of the congregation.
- b) Only pledging women and men who are baptized Christians 18 years of age or older may be elected to serve on the Vestry.
- c) Candidates for the Diocesan Synod or in any other election to represent this Parish shall meet the same criteria.
- d) A qualified voter may receive and exercise a single, written proxy vote.
- e) In any dispute over voter eligibility or any other interpretation of these bylaws, the decision by a Vestry majority shall be final and binding.

REASONS:

By their support of this Parish through the spiritual discipline of pledging, Vestry members and those chosen to represent this Parish serve as an example and encouragement to others.

Recent annual meetings have admitted proxy votes contrary to the existing bylaw. Change would recognize that legitimate supporting members at times might not be present, while preventing abuse.

Our duties to posterity should include a simple and expeditious way to settle any dispute.

This change would take effect at our next Parish Meeting.

(more)

Article II, Section 6 – Quorum

EXISTING LANGUAGE: A quorum for the transaction of business at a Parish Meeting shall consist of forty (40) eligible electors of the Parish.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Substitute the following

A quorum for the transaction of business at a Parish Meeting shall consist of a number equal to one-third of pledging members in the preceding year. The number required for quorum shall include proxies, per the provisions of Section 5.

REASON:

The number “40” is too specific. It hypothetically someday could leave the parish unable to hold an annual meeting without violating its bylaws.

This change would take effect at our next Parish Meeting.

Article IV, Section 2, a, (1) re Members of the Vestry

EXISTING LANGUAGE:

1) The Vestry shall consist of the Rector, who shall serve as its chairman and presiding officer, the Wardens and nine (9) elected members.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Substitute the following

1) The Vestry shall consist of the Rector, who shall serve as its chairman and presiding officer, the Wardens and seven (7) elected members.

REASON:

The number nine (9) is unreasonably large. Especially in years when one or more members depart the Vestry before their terms have expired, it can be difficult to find enough candidates to replace them. Together with the Senior and Junior Warden, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and the President of the Guild, fourteen (14) officers currently have voice and vote. Lowering the number of elected members to seven (7) would still retain twelve (12) officers with voice and vote.

This change would take effect immediately.

(more)

Article IV, Section 6, a , re Members of the Vestry

EXISTING LANGUAGE:

a) The Vestry shall serve for a term of three (3) years. Three (3) Vestry members shall be elected each year at the Annual Parish Meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Substitute the following

Each elected seat on the Vestry shall be for a three-year term. At each year's Annual Parish Meeting, new Vestry members will be elected to replace those who have completed their terms, as well as new Vestry members to fill out the terms of any who have vacated their seats before the end of their term.

Term lengths – up to three years – shall be apportioned to newly elected Vestry members according to votes received, with the longest terms being apportioned to those receiving the highest number of votes. In the event of members elected with the same number of votes, the terms will be apportioned by the Wardens.

REASON:

The number three (3) is too specific and assumes that there will be exactly three vacancies on the Vestry in a given year.

This change would take effect immediately.

Article IV, Section 7 re Statement of Loyalty

EXISTING LANGUAGE:

No person shall serve as a Vestry member until he or she shall have subscribed to the following declaration:

“I will be loyal to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ as this Church has received them. I will, in accordance with the canons of this Church, obey my bishop and other ministers who may have authority over me and my work.”

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Substitute the following

All persons serving as Vestry members shall subscribe to the following declaration:

“I will be loyal to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ as this Church has received them. I will, in accordance with the canons of this Church and Anglican tradition, respect the authority of my bishop and other ministers who may have authority over me and my work.”

REASON:

The word “obey” implies that we are bound to follow the directives of the person holding the office of bishop or other minister even in situations where it may be illegal or harmful to do so. The phrase “respect the authority of” better expresses our obligation as Anglicans to recognize and uphold the offices of the bishop and other ministers while acknowledging that the individuals who hold these offices are subject to human error.

This change would take effect immediately.