

All Saints Parish Bylaws

A Description of the Four Changes Required by the Diocesan Standing Committee September, 2017

An All Saints' Special Parish Meeting convened last June to approve what we had hoped would be the final version of the new All Saints bylaws. However, when we submitted the draft to the diocesan Standing Committee for approval, they identified four issues they asked us to address. We did that, and in August the vestry voted to accept a new revision of the bylaws incorporating the four changes. We submitted this new revision to the diocesan Standing Committee, which on September 14 voted to approve it. The following describes the four issues as they were communicated to us by the Standing Committee. The "before" and "after" text shows exactly how the bylaws were changed from the version voted at the Special Parish Meeting last June. No other changes besides the four described below have been made to that version.

Change #1 **Article 4: Nominations**

The Standing Committee asks that the Rector be included as a member of the Nominating Committee and that this is stated in the By-laws. A suggested edit to By-laws would be, "There shall be a Parish Nominating Committee consisting of the Rector and nine (9) members from the Parish." The SC recognizes that All Saints' By-laws states that the Rector shall appoint three members, and that the rector call the initial meeting to order as well as call for a chair of the Nominating Committee. However, the SC strongly feels that the rector, as a key leader in the church and a key person in helping to discover and develop leadership in and from the laity, should be a member of the nominating committee.

BEFORE: There shall be a Parish Nominating Committee consisting of nine (9) persons from the Parish.

AFTER: There shall be a Parish Nominating Committee consisting of the Rector and nine (9) members from the Parish.

Change #2 Article 5, Section 4: Quorum

The Standing Committee asks All Saints' to include the definition of a meeting quorum as "not less than twice the number of persons are members of the vestry" as stated in the model by-laws (Article 7.4 in Model by-laws). This is in addition to the qualification of "at least 20% of the average Sunday attendance as recorded in the previous year's Parochial Report." The SC respects the current robust average Sunday attendance of All Saints' and hopes that figure does not substantially diminish. That said, the "twice the size of the vestry" designation provides a floor and a less onerous burden should (God forbid) the number decrease.

BEFORE: Section 4: Quorum. Excluding the Rector, at least 20% of average Sunday attendance as recorded in the parish parochial report for the prior year shall constitute a quorum, and a majority vote of those present shall determine any matter except as provided within these Bylaws respecting the Amendment to these Bylaws.

AFTER: Excluding the Rector, at least 20% of average Sunday attendance as recorded in the parish parochial report for the prior year shall constitute a quorum. The minimum requirement for a quorum shall be not less than twice the number of persons who are members of the vestry. A majority vote of those present shall determine any matter except as provided within these Bylaws respecting the Amendment to these Bylaws.

Change #3 Article 11: Vestry

The Standing Committee asks for the inclusion of the sentence, "The Vestry shall follow the good practices set forth in the manual of Business Methods, in so far as

practicable.” (Model by-laws 13.1) Despite my speculation to the contrary, the SC asks that this be included. The SC recognizes that there capable leaders on the Vestry who bring a variety of “best business practices” from their various organizations or companies to the table. The SC feels that stating a procedure for following “best practices” is important in the governance of the parish. The diocesan Manual of Business Methods has been developed over the years by members of the diocese for its parishes and has proved to be a valuable, acceptable guideline.

BEFORE: Section 1: Authority and Duties. The Vestry shall exercise all its powers in accordance with the usage and discipline of The Episcopal Church, in compliance with the statutes of the Commonwealth and the provisions of these By-laws. It shall be the duty of the Vestry:

AFTER: The Vestry shall exercise all its powers in accordance with the usage and discipline of The Episcopal Church, in compliance with the statutes of the Commonwealth and the provisions of these Bylaws. The Vestry shall follow the good practices set forth in the manual of Business Methods, in so far as practicable. It shall be the duty of the Vestry:

Change #4 Article 16: Endowment Committee

The Standing Committee asks All Saints’ to specify that the Endowment Committee is commissioned by and reports to the vestry. This clarifies and affirms what is stated in Article 11 (Vestry), “The Vestry may appoint or authorize the appointment of any commission or committee that it deems desirable. All such commissions and committees shall be accountable to the Vestry.” A suggested edit is, “The Endowment Fund Committee, established by [or commissioned by] and accountable to the Vestry, shall have oversight responsibility of the Endowment Fund...”

BEFORE: The Endowment Fund Committee shall have oversight responsibility of the Endowment Fund: managing the invested funds, monitoring distributions, and ensuring

that activities with respect to the Endowment Fund are consistent with the purpose, policies, and guidelines established for the Endowment Fund.

AFTER: The Endowment Fund Committee shall be commissioned by and accountable to the Vestry. The Endowment Fund Committee shall have oversight responsibility of the Endowment Fund: managing the invested funds, monitoring distributions, and ensuring that activities with respect to the Endowment Fund are consistent with the purpose, policies, and guidelines established for the Endowment Fund.