



Dear people of Saint Paul's,

I pray this message finds you well as we celebrate a Christmas like no other. We are strangely unburdened by usual rituals, travel, and gatherings, yet also heavily burdened with distress and fatigue from the pandemic and our nation's rancorous politics. This is a time for all of us to refocus on what matters, our hopes raised in God's singular gift of embodied love for the world—Jesus Christ our Lord. This is a time for us to show love, charity, and forbearance toward one another and all. In all of these things and above all else, we bid you a holy, peaceful, and healing Christmastide.

Also, I write to formally announce our parish Annual Meeting, which will be held online via Zoom and will follow a modified timeline due to the pandemic. In consultation with our parish chancellor, the Vestry adopted the following plan at its December meeting to conduct our parish business which includes voting to fill three vestry positions, one warden, and receiving financial and ministry reports. The nomination process is explained below, and nominations are open until the process closes at the Annual Meeting. Should more than three nominees run for vestry as has been the case in recent years, we will use a mail-in ballot process. That voting process, known as ranked-choice voting, functions similarly to our usual balloting procedure. Access a full account of the voting process from our *Weekly Postings* online newsletter, website, or contact the Parish Administrator to request a printed version.

From The Book of Common Prayer, 12. *For a Church Convention or Meeting*

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in our parish's Annual Meeting for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Our thanks to Brett Montroy and John Jenkins for developing this plan to meet our unusual circumstances. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact a member of your Vestry or Clergy.

The Reverend George D. Muir  
Priest in Charge  
Saint Paul's Church

#### **TIMELINE**

Jan 10    12:30 PM, Annual Meeting convened online (Zoom).  
Additional nominations received and closed. Voting:  
    If only three nominations are made, voting proceeds online.  
    If more than three nominees, voting proceeds by mail-in ballot.  
Other business.  
Meeting suspended until January 31 so voting may proceed.

(continued on reverse)

- Jan 12 If there are more than three nominees when nominations close on the 10th, ballots then will be printed and mailed with voting instructions, one ballot for every communicant in good standing.<sup>1</sup>
- Each ballot will be submitted in a separate, sealed, and signed privacy envelop (provided with each ballot) and must be received by the close of business, Friday, January 29. The sealed ballot may be mailed to the parish office (separately sealed ballots may be mailed in one larger envelope) or delivered in person and dropped into a ballot box located in the the parish office.
- Jan 30 The mail-in voting team will validate each ballot and then tally them to determine elections by majority of ballots cast following the ranked-choice voting process.
- Jan 31 12:30 PM, Annual Meeting reconvened online (Zoom).  
Voting results announced.  
Annual Reports.  
Other business.  
Meeting Adjourned.
- April 5 Noon, Monday following Easter Sunday, Vestry and Wardens installed and canonical oaths taken.

### **NOMINATION PROCESS FOR VESTRY - 3 SEATS -**

Communicants in good standing (footnote 1) are eligible for nomination following this process:

1. The communicant in good standing must consent to the nomination, and upon consent will submit to the Parish Administrator a biographical message for distribution in the parish.
2. Before consenting, the communicant must consult with one or more members of the current Vestry and with the Rector to consider the commitment, responsibilities, duties, and expectations of the office.
3. Any communicant<sup>2</sup> of this Church may place a consenting communicant in good standing into nomination now by submitting the nominee's name to any member of the Vestry, to the Clergy, or from the floor at the Annual Meeting when nominations are called for.

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<sup>1</sup> Parish by-laws XI.1 state that communicants in good standing will determine the election by majority vote. Episcopal Canon I.17.1-3 defines communicants in good standing as members of the Church—persons whose Baptisms have been duly recorded in this Church—who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

<sup>2</sup> Communicants are defined as members—persons whose Baptisms have been duly recorded in this Church—who have received Holy Communion in this Church at least three times during the preceding year (Episcopal Canon I.17.1-2).

If you have questions about your status or wish to record your Baptism at Saint Paul's, contact the Clergy or Parish Administrator at [mailbox@saintpauls.org](mailto:mailbox@saintpauls.org) or call 706-724-2485.