

ELECTRONIC CHURCH MEMBER MEETINGS

Authorized by Church Constitution or By-Laws

If the Church Constitution or By-Laws authorize meetings electronically then simply follow the process set out in the Church Corporate documents. Consent should be obtained either in writing or electronically via email or fax from each church member authorizing the use of the electronic transmission both for purposes of notice and for attending the meeting.

Church Corporate Documents Prohibit Electronic Meetings

If the Church Constitution or By-Laws prohibit electronic meetings, then a meeting of the membership cannot be held electronically. Churches should consider immediately upgrading their Constitution to allow electronic meetings which is now allowed in the latest version of the Model Constitution.

California Law Regarding Electronic Meetings

In the absence of a specific prohibition in the Church Corporate documents California permits a church to conduct a regular or special meeting of its membership electronically. This also applies to issuing Notice of Electronic Meetings. Consent, in writing, needs to be obtained from each member in order to provide electronic notice and to agree to conduct the meeting electronically.

Generally, consent should be obtained from each church member for future use in any electronic meeting. A record of the consent should be maintained by the Church. Consent can also be provided at the time of the meeting should a specific member not have provided written consent before the meeting.

As always it is best to consult with an attorney should there be any legal questions or issues pertaining to electronic meetings in California.