

## St. Philip's Church Bylaws Revisions Explained

At the start of this year, the vestry reviewed the existing church bylaws and determined that some of provisions needed to be changed. For example, the provision for filling unexpired terms in our current bylaws requires that the person appointed to a vacated position on the vestry must run for election at the next annual meeting. A review of the Canons for the Diocese of East Carolina, Title II, Canon 4, Section 10: Vacancy on Vestry, revealed that the Canons provide an option for the appointee to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

Once the vestry found one area of the bylaws that should be changed, the entire 2018 bylaws were opened for review. We contacted the Diocesan Chancellor's office and were provided a model for writing bylaws. Using this model as a guideline, our bylaws of 2018 were modified to reflect greater alignment with the Constitution and Canons of our diocese. The following note numbers refer to specific changes to the 2018 bylaws that have been approved by the vestry and are being presented to the parishioners for approval at this year's Annual Meeting on December 5, 2021:

[1] Article 1 Preamble. This revision is copied from the diocese's model and replaces the previous preamble.

[2] Article II Membership. This revision precludes having to find the definition of church membership in Canon I.17.1 (a) of the Canons of General Convention

[3] Article III C. Unexpired Terms: Revised to reflect the option provided in the Diocesan Canons to permit an appointee to an unexpired term to either serve the remainder of the term or serve until the next annual meeting when they could run for election

[4]. Article III D. Officers: This change aligns our bylaws with Canons for the Diocese of East Carolina, Title II, Canon 4, Section 4: Wardens which states that the Rector nominates the Senior Warden

[5] Article III H. Attendance: Changed to allow for excused absences during a 12-month period.

[6] Article VI B. Duties of the Nominating Committee: Provides the definition of eligible voting members as defined in Article XIV of the Constitution of the Diocese of East Carolina

[7] Article VII C. General Voting. Adds election of delegates to the annual convention to the voice votes for the Annual Meeting.

[8] Article VIII C. Effectiveness: Provides the procedure copied from the diocese's model that allows for the bylaws approved by a parish to take effect upon the adjournment of the annual meeting. This procedure also allows to the diocese to sever any bylaw that is inconsistent with the Constitution or Canons of the diocese without altering the effectiveness of the remainder of the parish bylaws.

Please review the revised bylaws. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me via email at [jdr-lar@atmc.net](mailto:jdr-lar@atmc.net).

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