

Church of the Ascension
Two Proposed Bylaws Revisions – January 2020

Revision I: Vestry Member Vacancies

The Existing Provision:

8.3. Vacancy “In case of a vacancy among Vestry members, the Vestry shall, elect a replacement to serve the remainder of the term.”

Proposed Revision:

8.3 “In case of a vacancy among Vestry members, the Vestry may elect a replacement to serve until the next Annual Meeting, at which time any remainder of the originally elected Vestry Member’s term shall be filled by Nomination and Election.”

Explanation of Proposed Revision:

The proposed revision a) does not require the Vestry to fill a vacancy in the event (for instance) of a vacancy only a month or two before an Annual Meeting, and b) allows the congregation to elect a new Vestry member to fill the remaining one or two years in a vacated seat.

Revision II: Vestry Absenteeism

The Existing Provision

Section 9.5. Absenteeism. Any Vestry Member who is absent for three consecutive regular Vestry meetings is deemed to have resigned from the Vestry. Any Vestry member who is absent for more than six regular Vestry Meetings in one year is deemed to have resigned. A replacement Vestry Member shall be elected by the Vestry in accord with Section 8.3.

Proposed Revision:

Section 9.5. Absenteeism. In the event that a Warden or Vestry Member is absent for three consecutive regular Vestry meetings or if absent for any six regular Vestry meetings in a 12-month period, that Warden or Vestry Member may be deemed to have resigned. If not already known, the Rector, or a Warden or Vestry Member designated by the Rector, shall inquire about the cause or causes of the absences. The Vestry, being apprised of the matter, may then, with or without that Warden’s or Vestry Member’s participation or consent, elect to accept that Warden’s or Vestry Member’s resignation. A replacement Warden or Vestry Member may be elected by the Vestry in accord with Section 7.3, if a Warden, or Section 8.3, if a Vestry Member.

Explanation of Proposed Revision:

In each of the past two years, at least one member of the Vestry missed three consecutive meetings. In 2018, a member missed due to an extended health matter. In 2019, a member missed a number of meetings due to a sequence of family commitments and work scheduling conflicts. In both cases, the Vestry as a whole felt that the individuals were still able to positively contribute to Vestry leadership. The Proposed Revision reflects the Vestry’s actual handling of Vestry absenteeism and the recommendation of the 2019 Vestry.