Motion to Fix a Method

Background: Grace's governing documents require that members of Council be elected by a majority vote. However, these documents do not establish the method for such a vote, apart from requiring a written ballot. This year our written ballots will be combined with digital ballots, using Zoom polls. To use this hybrid format effectively, we to establish a method.

After consulting with the SC Synod Secretary (the Rev. Ozzie Herlong), Council acknowledges the following provision as the proposed solution, found in *Robert's Rules of Order, 11th Ed.*

> *"While some form of election by ballot is generally appropriate in organized societies, each assembly should adopt – and each assembly should prescribe in its bylaws – the procedure best suited to its purposes and needs. Where there is no determining rule, a motion to fix the method of voting (or any other detail of nomination or election procedure) is an incidental main motion if made before the election is pending, or an incidental motion if made while the election is pending."*

RONR (11th ed.), p. 438, XIV. 23-30

Motion: Grace's Congregation Council moves to conduct the election of Council members at the 2021 Annual Business Meeting according to the following method:

Congregational vote using written ballots, added with Zoom polls (digital ballots). Each ballot will allow for an equal number of selections as there are Council seats needing to be filled. Members will be determined elected when they have received a number of votes constituting a simple majority of the number of voting members participating and will be ranked in descending order from the highest number of votes received.

Example of the Method: The first ballot will ask voting members to make up-to-five selections because we are seeking to elect members for five vacant Council seats.

- *If, following the first ballot, only one candidate is elected, then the second ballot will ask voting members to make up-to-four selections among the remaining candidates.*

- *If instead, following the first ballot, four candidates are elected, then the second ballot will ask voting members to make one selection among the remaining candidates.*

- *In any case, subsequent ballots will be created, and voting will continue until five candidates have received a number of votes constituting a simple majority of the number of voting members participating, at which time the candidates receiving the five largest numbers of votes will be elected to the Council.*