

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 the fact that it would be a written ballot. This year our written ballots are digital, in the form of Zoom polls. To use this format with common understanding, we need 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 2020 Annual Business Meeting according to this method:

Congregational vote using the method of Zoom polls as ballots, with each ballot allowing 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 selections equal to or greater than a simple majority of the number of voting members present and will be prioritized in descending order from the highest number of selections.

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

- *If, following the first ballot, only one candidate is elected, then the second ballot would ask voting members to make up-to-three selections among the remaining candidates.*
- *If instead, following the first ballot, three candidates are elected, then the second ballot would ask voting members to make one selection among the remaining candidates.*
- *In any case, subsequent ballots will be created and voting will continue until four candidates have received a number of selections equal to or greater than a simple majority of the number of voting members present, at which time the candidates receiving the four largest numbers of selections will be elected to the Council.*