



# St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral

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November 30, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

The Vestry is considering important revisions to our Bylaws dealing with the election and terms of the Senior Warden and the Junior Warden.

The purpose of this letter is to provide a copy of the proposed revisions to you, and to give you some background regarding the proposed changes.

Among other amendments, the proposal would end the current automatic succession from Junior Warden to Senior Warden. Thus, the incumbent Junior Warden would no longer assume the Senior Warden position following the conclusion of the incumbent Senior Warden's two-year term. The aim of the proposed revisions is to attract a larger pool of candidates for each Warden position and lessen the time commitment required to serve in either Warden position.

This proposal is the product of a special bylaws review committee of the Vestry which interviewed former Wardens as well as contacting other Episcopal churches regarding their policies. The proposal is supported by the entire Vestry and the Dean.

Copies of the current Bylaw provision and the proposed revisions (which would amend Section 4.5 and add a new Section 4.6) are attached to this letter.

The Vestry, at its November 16 Vestry meeting, directed that the proposed revisions to be sent to the Parish for review and comment. We would appreciate all of your comments and suggestions. You can send your comments from now until Friday December 11. You can email your comments to [comments@standrews.ms](mailto:comments@standrews.ms).

The Vestry will review all comments and adopt final proposed revisions at its Monday, December 21, Vestry meeting.

Under Section 12.2 the Bylaws, the final proposed revisions will be presented to the Parish Members for approval at our Annual Parish Meeting on January 24, 2021.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Surkin, Sr. Warden

PROPOSED NEW BYLAWS  
REGARDING THE ELECTION OF WARDENS

Article IV: Wardens

Section 4.1. Duties. There will be two Wardens distinguished as Senior and Junior. They shall see that all things necessary for the regular and well-ordered worship of Almighty God are provided to the Cathedral and shall cooperate with the Dean in all efforts to develop and set forward the spiritual life of the Parish.

Section 4.2. Facilities. The Wardens shall be responsible for ensuring that the church building is kept in good repair and clean, as becomes the House of God, and that any other Parish buildings and the premises around them be maintained in proper order. It shall be the duty of the Wardens to see that when Parish buildings are used for temporal purposes, it is in keeping with the mission and ministry of the Parish. In the event of a vacancy in the position of Dean or in the Dean's designee, the Senior Warden or a Vestry Member designated by the Senior Warden shall preside at meetings of the Parish and keep the Church open for worship services at the stated times of worship.

Section 4.3. Senior Warden. The Senior Warden has primary responsibility for overseeing the administrative activities of the Parish.

Section 4.4. Junior Warden. The Junior Warden has primary responsibility for oversight of the buildings and grounds.

Section 4.5 Terms of Office. Except as provided in this Section, the office of Senior Warden as well as the office of Junior Warden shall be filled by election biennially at the Annual Parish Meeting for a term of two years. The Junior Warden serving at the time of the Annual Parish Meeting in 2021 shall become the Senior Warden, with a term to extend through the election of a Senior Warden at the Annual Parish Meeting in 2022.

Section 4.6 Nominations. A list of nominees for Senior Warden or Junior Warden shall be presented by the Discernment/Nominating Committee, with a preference for presenting three (3) candidates. All nominees must be current or former Members of the Vestry. Nomination shall otherwise proceed in the same fashion as nominations for Vestry.