

## **NOTICE OF BY-LAWS AMENDMENT**

To: Congregation of St. Anne's

From: Vestry of St. Anne's

Regarding: Proposed by-laws amendments

When: Annual meeting on February 5, 2012

The Vestry has reviewed the by-laws and is recommending a few amendments to update the by-laws, as more fully set forth below.

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1. The definition of a voting member is somewhat inconsistent with actual practices. We propose to clean up the language to provide that one must have contributed financially to be a voting member, eliminating reference to books of the Treasurer or the Every Member Canvass.

### **CURRENT LANGUAGE**

#### **Section 2. VOTING MEMBERS**

Every member 16 years of age or older, who is residing in the State of Maryland and who has been a Member of St. Anne's Parish for not less than six months next preceding the day when he may wish to vote, and whose baptism shall have been entered on the Parish Register of St. Anne's Parish not less than one month preceding such day as a member of said St. Anne's Parish, and who shall have contributed to the Every Member Canvass within the past calendar year or be otherwise on the books of the Treasurer as a contributor during the last year, shall be a Voting Member of the Parish, with the right to vote in the election of Vestry members and upon matters having to do with the affairs of St. Anne's Parish including any Special Meeting.

### **PROPOSED LANGUAGE**

Section 2. VOTING MEMBERS

Every member 16 years of age or older, who is residing in the State of Maryland and who has been a Member of St. Anne's Parish for not less than six months next preceding the day when he may wish to vote, and whose baptism shall have been entered on the Parish Register of St. Anne's Parish not less than one month preceding such day as a member of said St. Anne's Parish, and who shall have made financial contributions recorded by the Treasurer to the Parish within the past calendar year, shall be a Voting Member of the Parish, with the right to vote in the election of Vestry members and upon matters having to do with the affairs of St. Anne's Parish including any Special Meeting.

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2. Recently, the annual meeting was postponed due to snow. The language regarding such an event is unnecessarily restrictive. A change to permit the meeting to occur as soon as practically possible is recommended.

EXISTING LANGUAGE

Section 3. ANNUAL MEETING

There shall be an Annual Meeting of the Voting Members of St. Anne's Parish on the first Sunday in February of each year. The election of the Vestry, the election of lay delegates from the Parish to the Convention of the Diocese of Maryland and to the Regional Council, and other business of the Parish shall be transacted at the meeting. Members shall be welcome at this meeting. The Rector, Wardens and Vestry, by resolution, may designate some other convenient day and time for such meeting, in which case the alternate date shall be within six weeks before or after the first Sunday after Easter.

PROPOSED LANGUAGE

Section 3. ANNUAL MEETING

There shall be an Annual Meeting of the Voting Members of St. Anne's Parish on the first Sunday in February of each year. The election of the Vestry, the election of lay delegates from the Parish to the Convention of the Diocese of Maryland and to the Regional Council, and other business of the Parish shall be transacted at the meeting. Members shall be welcome at this meeting. In the event the Annual Meeting cannot be held on the first Sunday in February, it shall be held as soon as reasonably possible thereafter. Notice of the new annual meeting shall be made at least 7 days in advance by posting a notice in the church, parish hall, and by making an announcement in church at least 7 days before the meeting.

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3. The language for absentee voting is particularly restrictive, and has not been enforced exactly as written. The Vestry recommends simplification of the language.

#### EXISTING LANGUAGE

#### Section 6. ABSENTEE VOTING

- c. A Voting Member may vote by absentee ballot if the Member:
  - (1) Will be absent for any reason from his or her residence and from Anne Arundel County on the day of the Annual or Special Meeting,

#### PROPOSED LANGUAGE

#### Section 6. ABSENTEE VOTING

- c. A Voting Member may vote by absentee ballot if the Member:
  - (1) Will be absent for any reason from the Annual or Special Meeting,

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4. Under the by-laws, only the Rector can call a special meeting of the Vestry, unless there is no Rector. It is recommended that the Senior Warden or one-third of the Vestry members be able to call a special meeting.

#### EXISTING LANGUAGE

##### Section 7. MEETINGS

- b. Special Meetings of the Vestry may be called by the Rector or if there be no Rector by the Senior Warden or by not less than one-third of the Vestry members.

#### PROPOSED LANGUAGE

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- b. Special Meetings of the Vestry may be called by the Rector or by the Senior Warden or by not less than one-third of the Vestry members.

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5. Our by-laws refer to the Rector, Senior Warden and other officers as males numerous times. We recommend that everywhere the term “he” is used, it be changed to “the Rector”, “the Senior Warden”, or other appropriate gender-neutral language. It occurs in the following sections: Article IV, Section 1, 2, 3, and 4; Article V, section 2.