

Amended Bylaws – What’s New?

We have done a thorough review of the bylaws to ensure that we conform to the Canons of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese.

1. We have tried as much as possible to make the language and format more Parish friendly and eliminate duplicative provisions already included in the Canons. We will not, therefore, address those changes when substance is not involved.
2. We also have tried to clean up our discretionary practices and procedures so that they, too, are more Parish friendly and reasonable to conducting business at St. David’s. In all instances we have relied upon years of experience at the Parish and recommended practices utilized by similar Episcopal Parishes.

- **Article I:** The Parish will be known as “Saint David’s Episcopal Church” rather than “Saint David’s Parish”
- **Article II:** Membership definitions and procedures conform to the Canons.
- **Article III:**
Section 1:

C. Option is provided that in the absence of both the Rector and Senior Warden, that either the Junior Warden or a moderator chosen by the Vestry will preside.

D. Quorum remains the same, but language which conforms to the Canons has been replaced to explain procedure if a quorum is not present.

F. Voting

1. The provision that three voting members can require a ballot on questions and uncontested elections has been eliminated. Discretion of the chair is still provided and may be appealed to by the electors. This change was made following review of many years of past experiences to simplify logistics of voting on motions and other advisory questions.
2. The option of voting by ballot on contested elections and matters requiring authorization by Parish electors has been added by call of the chair or 10% of the electors present. Although we considered that it is very unlikely that the chair would ever not require a ballot, an option for electors to require one was included. An appeal, as indicated above, can also be made to the chair.

Section 2:

A. 2. The following additions and/or language have been added to the Order of Business agenda:

- h. Reports of other departments and committees as determined by the Vestry
- i. Presentation of Slate of Nominees and additional nominees (if any) by the Nominating Committee
- k. Election of Delegates and Alternates, if appropriate, to Diocesan Convention and the Deanery

A.3. Nomination Process for the Election to Parish Offices

- a. New provision adds that in the absence of the Senior Warden the Vestry would select another chair from its members rather than requiring the Junior Warden to be the chair.
- c. Additional provisions have been added in the process for selection of a slate of nominees. Specifically, the eligibility requirements for Parish offices have also been included in this provision. The process further provides for notification of persons on the slate and those not selected for

the slate, and the manner in which additional nominees may come before the annual meeting for election. The Nominating Committee must also notify the Vestry of the slate and additional nominees, if any, within 2 weeks prior to the annual meeting. These additional steps were put in place since it was decided to eliminate nominees from the floor. Having such a practice is counter to the process of requesting nominees so far in advance of the annual meeting. This decision was made to facilitate the logistics of determining eligibility as well as preparing ballots in advance of the meeting rather than having to postpone the election.

- **Article IV: Offices of the Parish**

Section 1: In the last bylaw amendments, an elected position was included for a youth member of the Vestry. In practice, this became difficult to implement. Rather than require election in the future, the new provision indicates that the Rector appoint the member. This also gives the Rector the option of rotating members.

Section 2:

D. The further addition of language to the Treasurer's duties reflects the current appropriate practice.

E. The Canons of the Diocese have been amended to implement policy requiring the Vestry to select the Rector and negotiate the contract in accordance with Diocesan guidelines.

Section 3:

A. The frequency of Vestry meetings has been clarified to be "monthly" and "summer" to mean the months of June and July.

- **Article VI: Amendments to the Bylaws**

Sections 1 and 2: Although many parishes leave the approval of bylaws up to the discretion of the Vestry, we agree that amendments should be decided by the Parish voters. The change in process recognizes the financial cost of mailing when other provisions can ensure Parish voters have access to and notice of the proposed changes.