

Resolution on Nominations

Explanation: This Nominations Resolution resolves a multiple year gap between the most recent resolution on this topic (in 2013) and several years of recent practice. It is also informed by diocesan guidance and the revised Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Texas, particularly given the disruption of episcopal visitation by the pandemic. The discernment process envisioned here creates space for a more open nominations process for leadership within the congregation and opportunity for leaders to be a part of parish committee life prior to Vestry service.

Proposed Resolution

**Parish Election Procedures for Members of the Vestry, and Delegates and Alternates to Annual Council of the Diocese St. James' Episcopal Church – Austin, Texas
For consideration and vote at Annual Parish Meeting: January 24, 2021**

Election at Parish Meeting: As provided for in Title III, Section 2.1 of the Canons of the Diocese of Texas, members of the Vestry and Delegates and Alternates for Diocesan Council will be elected at a Parish Meeting to be held no earlier than October 1 of each year as the Vestry may determine. All persons nominated for Vestry must be Qualified Electors of the parish. Exception may be made for someone who has received adequate preparation for Confirmation or Reception, but, has not yet had an opportunity to be confirmed or received due to episcopal visitation schedules.

Individuals elected to the Vestry at the Parish Meeting will take office at the conclusion of the Annual Parish Meeting the following January. Delegates and Alternates for Diocesan Council elected at the Parish Meeting will take office immediately, staying apprised of information related to the coming council, and making themselves available for pre-Council work in addition to registering for and participating in the Annual Council of the Diocese.

Date and Notice of Election: Consistent with this Resolution and the Bylaws of the Parish, the Rector and Vestry will establish the date and time of the Parish Meeting. Beginning at least two weeks before the Parish Meeting, notice of the date and time of the Parish Meeting, and the names and qualifications of those persons nominated, will be posted at the church and on the website and will be published in both the Sunday announcement sheet and the electronic newsletter. Notice of the Parish Meeting will be given orally during all services the two Sundays preceding the meeting.

Discernment and Nomination of Vestry and Diocesan Council Delegation Candidates: The Senior Warden, in consultation with the Vestry and Rector, will appoint a Nominating Committee at the August meeting of the Vestry. In September, the members of the Committee will be introduced to the congregation and will present information about the committees of the Vestry, anticipated challenges and opportunities to serve and lead, and the recommendation process, determined by the Nominating Committee. After receiving recommendations from the congregation, the Committee will conduct a Discernment Process

as approved by the Vestry for all persons desiring to serve in the leadership of the parish through the committees of the Vestry. The process may result in someone finding a place serving in another committee of the Church or as a non-Vestry member on one of the committees of the Vestry.

Following the Discernment Process, the Committee will propose a slate of candidates sufficient to fill the available vacancies Vestry and Diocesan Council for approval by the Rector and Vestry, prior to the Parish Meeting. Because of the Discernment Process outlined above, nominations from the floor at the Parish Meeting are not permitted.

Qualified Electors: As provided in Title III, Section 2.2 of the Canons of the Diocese of Texas, people at least 16 years of age, who are enrolled, confirmed communicants in good standing of the Parish, are entitled to vote for members of the Vestry and upon all questions requiring action of the congregation, but none will be admitted to serve as members of the Vestry, except those who are at least 18 years of age.

An “enrolled, confirmed communicant in good standing” means a person who:

1. is a communicant in good standing who is enrolled as such in the records of St. James’; and
2. was confirmed by a Bishop of the Episcopal Church or a Bishop of a Church in communion with the Episcopal Church, or has been received into the Episcopal Church by a Bishop of the Episcopal Church; and
3. for the previous year has been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and has been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

Explanation: This last requirement means the person has been regularly attending weekly worship services, participating actively in the lay ministry of the parish, and making and fulfilling a pledge to St. James’ – or has an established record of regular giving to St. James’. The Nominating Committee will need to consult the Parish Office to determine potential nominees’ qualifications.