

R-1: Update Rules to Assure Fairness in Virtual Church Governance Meetings

Resolved by the 226th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia that:

1. A ten person task force be created, consisting of five lay members and five members of the clergy, to be appointed by the Bishop by January 15, 2021;
2. The Task Force shall review our diocesan canons and related rules of order to determine what changes, if any, are appropriate to provide clear authorization for the effective virtual conduct of diocesan, regional, and parish meetings, including meetings of the Diocesan Convention, the Executive Board, the Standing Committee, the Regional Councils, and Vestries, as well as Parish Annual and Special Meetings;
3. In order to inform its work, the Task Force shall solicit oral and written comments from clergy, lay leaders, and congregations in the Diocese about experience with virtual meetings and suggestions for improvements;
4. In its review and recommendations, the Task Force shall seek to assure that our canons and related rules of order, when applied to virtual meetings, provide for:
 - a. Ample notice of meetings
 - b. Fair opportunities to present oral and written comments before important decisions are made
 - c. Accurate recording of votes and of decisions, and
 - d. Prompt posting of such results and minutes of meetings.

The Task Force shall recommend any appropriate changes to achieve those objectives;

5. By September 15, 2021, the Task Force shall prepare and post its report on the Diocesan website, which report shall include the proposed wording of any recommended canonical and rule of order changes for consideration by the 227th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia in the fall of 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Randle
Lay Delegate, Christ Church, Alexandria

Anne Snyder
Lay Delegate, St. David's, Aylett

The Rev. Kathleen Murray
Rector, Beckford Parish, Mt. Jackson & Woodstock

Cindi Bartol
Lay Delegate, Christ Church, Alexandria

The Rev. Andrew Merrow
Rector, St. Mary's, Arlington