

Special Cathedral meeting to consider changes to the Cathedral constitution

Sunday June 4 2017

The Provost and the Vestry propose two changes to the constitution as shown below.

Extract from the Cathedral constitution with proposed changes shown in red:

12. Vestry. The temporal affairs and the general management and control of the Charge shall be under the management of a Vestry consisting of the Rector *ex-officio*, the Associate Rector/Vice-Provost (if such has been appointed) *ex-officio*, the Lay Representative *ex-officio*, the alternate Lay Representative *ex-officio*, (who shall act as the congregation's representative on the Regional Council to which the Charge belongs), one churchwarden to be appointed annually by the Rector (to be known as the Rector's (or Provost's) Warden), one churchwarden to be elected annually by the congregation at the Annual Meeting above referred to (to be known as the People's Warden), ~~two members elected triennially by the Diocesan Synod~~ and not more than eight nor fewer than three constituent voting members (three to be a quorum) being elected by the Constituent Members of the Congregation from among their own number at the Annual General Meeting of the Constituent Members of the Congregation to hold office for a three-year term. Any member of the Congregation who has completed two consecutive three-year terms as aforesaid will not until the Annual General Meeting in the following year be eligible for membership of the Vestry. No member of the Congregation shall be eligible for election to the Vestry or to an elected office involving *ex-officio* membership of the Vestry (unless in the latter case the relevant rules of election prescribed by competent authority shall provide otherwise) unless a nomination in writing signed by two constituent

members of the congregation shall have been lodged with the Secretary to the Vestry no less than seven days prior to the Annual Meeting. The Vestry may co-opt up to two members from the wider diocese, the names to be confirmed by the Diocesan Council. Co-opted members will hold office for a three-year term which may be renewed for a further three-year term. A co-opted member who has served two consecutive three-year terms will not be eligible for reappointment for a year after they demit membership of the Vestry.

The members of the Vestry from time to time shall be considered “Charity Trustees” of the Charge and have the consequent duties and responsibilities arising from that position. Any person disqualified from acting as a Charity Trustee for the purposes of the 2005 Act as amended or superseded from time to time shall be disqualified from being a Vestry member.

The Vestry shall meet at least twice a year, and the Chair, who shall have a casting as well as a deliberative vote, shall be the Rector, or in the case of his/her absence, the Rector’s nominee. If the Rector has not specified a nominee, the Chair shall be a member elected by the Vestry. Special meetings of the Vestry may be called at any time at the request of three members by notice in writing addressed to the Secretary of the Vestry or at the request of the Rector. Casual vacancies in Vestry membership (or in the office of People’s Warden) occurring between Annual Meetings of the Congregation may be filled by the Vestry until the next Annual Meeting of the Congregation. A casual vacancy in the office of Rector’s Warden shall be filled on the nomination of the Rector. It shall be competent for the Convener of the Vestry to ask the Vestry members to make urgent decisions by email. Such decisions shall be carried by a majority of the voting members of the Vestry. Any such decisions will be recorded in the minutes of the next scheduled meeting of the Vestry.

The Rector's (or Provost's) Warden and the People's Warden and any clergy person appointed as Associate Rector/ Vice-Provost in accordance with Article 20 shall be members of the Vestry, *ex-officio*, and shall be entitled to vote.

Any Vestry member who in the reasonable opinion of the Vestry becomes incapable of adequately discharging his/her functions by reason of ill health or otherwise conducts him-/herself inappropriately may be removed from Vestry membership upon the unanimous vote of the other Vestry members at a meeting of the Vestry after they shall have heard the Vestry member concerned unless he/she has declined to be heard or is prevented from doing so by disability, illness or long term absence from attending and the reasons for such removal shall be recorded in the minutes of any such meeting. Any such removal shall be subject to the written authority, which authority can be withheld, of the Bishop within 28 days of the Vestry's vote on that matter and the Vestry member concerned shall be entitled to make written representations to the Bishop before the Bishop provides any written authority on this matter.

The Vestry shall be entitled on such terms as they think proper and on a regular or *ad hoc* basis to invite other persons to attend and, if invited, speak at meetings of the Vestry but not to vote, such invitation being accorded *ex-officiis* to the Secretary of the Vestry and the Treasurer and to Assistant Clergy during their appointment, unless the Vestry shall specifically have resolved to the contrary.

Jim McKillop
Vestry Secretary
May 2017