



# Diocese of New Westminster

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

## PROVISIONS FOR EXTRAORDINARY VESTRY MEETINGS

A number of Parishes have contacted the Archbishop's Office (a) indicating that they require an Extraordinary Vestry Meeting in order to elect delegates to the upcoming Episcopal Electoral Synod; and (b) asking whether such a meeting may be held electronically. The purpose of the proposed Resolution below is to confirm (a) that it can (in keeping with analogous guidance given to corporations and societies by relevant Provincial authorities); and (b) to direct the Archbishop's Office, in consultation with one or more of the Diocesan Legal Officers as necessary, to provide guidance to Parishes as necessary in relation to the convening of such meetings.

THEREFORE:

NOTING that:

1. An Episcopal Electoral Synod is to be held on October 3, 2020;
2. Certain Parishes have contacted the Synod Office
  - a. Indicating they have a need to convene an Extraordinary Vestry Meeting under Canon 9.8 to elect Synod delegates, prior to that date; and
  - b. Requesting guidance as to the authority and best practices around holding such a meeting;
3. The Government of British Columbia has enacted Emergency Program Act, Ministerial Order M116, pursuant to which analogous meetings are authorized to be held electronically; and
4. Nothing in the Diocesan Canons prohibits Vestry Meetings taking place by this means;

COUNCIL THEREFORE RESOLVES:

Moved: Constitution and Canons Committee

1. That the Archbishop's Office may clarify to Parishes that,
  - a. for as long as the state of emergency relating to the Covid-19 pandemic persists, Vestry Meetings may be held electronically; and
  - b. During such time, notice requirements under Canon 9.8 remain in effect; and
2. The Archbishop's Office may, in consultation with Diocesan Legal Officers, provide guidance to Parishes as to best practices and issues to consider, in relation to such meetings.