

BY-LAWS  
of  
St. Stephen's Anglican Church  
Timonium, Maryland

ARTICLES

I. OF THE FAITH

St. Stephen's Anglican Church (incorporated as St. Stephen's Traditional Episcopal Church) adheres to the Catholic Faith in the Anglican Tradition as expressed in the Apostles', Nicene and Athanasian Creeds, the Seven Ecumenical Councils of the Church Catholic, and in the spirit of the Articles of Religion as established by the Bishops, Clergy and Laity of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America in the convention on the twelfth day of September in the year of our Lord 1801.

II. OF WORSHIP

The usage of St. Stephen's shall be in accord with the English Books of Common Prayer of 1549, 1552, 1558, 1662, the American Prayer Book of 1928, and the American, Anglican and English Missals and their rubrics. The ornaments of the Church, and of the Priests, Deacons and those in Minor Orders, shall be those in use in the Church of England in the Second Year of the Reign of [King Edward the Sixth](#).

III DUTIES, DISCIPLINE & ORDER

The Clergy, Vestry and Congregants shall be subject to the duties, discipline and order declared in the Canons of the Diocese, the Constitution and Canons of the Jurisdiction of our Obedience, and the By-laws of the Parish.

IV. GOVERNMENT OF ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

The government of the parish is shared among the clergy and communicant members.

- A. The Clergy and Ecclesiastical Authority govern the parish as they are empowered to do by the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church in America.
- B. The Communicant Members as defined in the said Constitution and Cannons govern the parish by electing members to serve on the Board of Trustees, (hereafter called the Vestry), at a duty called Annual meeting. The Vestry shall be responsible for the temporalities of the parish and shall hold in trust all real properties and monies in accordance with the laws of the church, and the laws of the State of Maryland, in which this parish is incorporated.

V. OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY

The parish of St. Stephen's Anglican Church shall own its own property. Title thereto shall be held in trust by the Vestry.

## VI. THE ELECTION OF THE VESTRY

- A. At the Annual Parish Meeting, which shall be held each November and called by the Rector with due published notice, the communicant members shall elect three (3) members to serve on the Vestry for terms of three (3) years. There shall be a total of nine (9) members of the Vestry. The officers of the Vestry shall be those designated in the Canons and shall be elected at the December meeting of the Vestry. The Rector's Warden will be appointed by the Rector, and the People's Warden will be elected by members of the Vestry. Two alternates may be appointed by the Rector and approved by the Vestry.
- B. Members of the Vestry are eligible for successive terms.
- C. In the event of an individual vacancy on the Vestry, the Rector at his discretion, with approval of Vestry, may fill such a vacancy. Such person shall serve until the next annual meeting, when the remaining term, if any, shall be filled by a person elected by the communicant members of the parish.
- D. The Rector is an ex-officio member of the Vestry, (and its Chairman), with a voice, and in the event of a tie vote of the Vestry, a personal vote. Assistant clergy shall be ex-officio members of the Vestry, with a voice, but no vote, except in absence of Rector/Vicar.

## VII. THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting shall be called each November by the Rector, with due notice given and at a time and place designated. At this meeting, members of the Vestry shall be elected. Reports from the Rector, the Rector's Warden, The Treasurer and other officers and committees of the Church may be given. The Budget Committee shall present a proposed Budget and Pledge System for the next financial year, which shall begin on January 1st of each year, for the approval of the parish members.

## VIII. CONCERNING THE CALLING OF VESTRY MEETINGS

- A. Vestry meetings shall be held at least once in every two months and normally once a month, at a place and a time designated.
- B. The Rector has the authority to call a Vestry Meeting at any time.
- C. During the Rector's absence, or should the office of Rector be vacant, the Rector's Warden has authority to call a meeting of the Vestry at any time provided that due and adequate notice be given the Vestry members.
- D. A quorum of members, that is five lay members of the Vestry, shall be necessary for a meeting to be duly held.
- E. When, in the opinion of a majority of the members of the Vestry, a Vestry meeting shall be called, and the Rector should refuse to a Vestry meeting, the Wardens shall be

responsible, jointly, to call such a meeting, provided that the Rector is given due and adequate notice.

IX. LEGAL POWERS OF THE VESTRY

Except as provided by the Laws of the State of Maryland, and of the Anglican Church in America and these By-Laws, the Vestry shall be the Agent and Legal Representative of the Congregation in all matters concerning its Corporate Property and the relations of Clergy and Members within the Parish.

X. AMENDMENT OF THE BY-LAWS

These By-Laws may only be amended by the Vestry, during a meeting of the Vestry properly called under Section VIII, above.

These By-Laws of St. Stephen's Anglican Church are hereby adopted and ratified by the Vestry of St. Stephen's Anglican Church, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
John S. Cobb  
Rector's Warden, for the Vestry of St.  
Stephen's Anglican Church