

**KING'S CHAPEL BYLAWS:
PROPOSALS AND RELEVANT EXCERPTS FROM CURRENT BYLAWS**

For vote at a Special Meeting of the Society of King's Chapel on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 12:15 pm after Morning Prayer.

Article II, Purpose

Proposal: a) to change the Covenant phrase "service of man"
b) to choose a new phrase.

Current: "The purpose of the Society shall be to maintain Christian worship in King's Chapel and to engage in any other activities that are functions of a religious society. The Covenant of the Society shall be worded:

In the love of truth and in the spirit of Jesus Christ, we unite for the worship of God and the service of man."

Comment: Many people now interpret man to mean "men", not everyone.

The first step will be to vote whether to change the phrase "service to man".

The second step will be to choose a new term. Members of the Society have suggested these (listed in alphabetical order):

- service of all
- service of all creation
- service of all people
- service of creation
- service of humanity
- service of humankind
- service of others

Article III, Membership (relevant excerpt)

Proposal, as revised after November listening sessions:

"Any person sixteen (16) years of age or older may be admitted to membership in the Society who (1) shall have given notice to the Committee on Membership of his or her desire to become a member by attending worship and events at King's Chapel for at least three (3) months prior to admittance, discussing membership with the Minister or members of the Committee on Membership, and attending a meeting to discuss the history, governance, and worship of King's Chapel, (2) shall have been recommended for membership by the Committee on Membership in consultation with the Minister, and (3) shall subscribe publicly to the Covenant of the Society, all in accordance with procedures established by the Wardens and Vestry. (Minister, where used in these Bylaws, shall mean the Senior Minister).

The Minister may waive the foregoing requirements in case of emergency, such waiver to be subject to ratification by the Committee on Membership."

Current: The first clause above reads as follows: "1) shall have given written notice to the Committee on Membership of his or her desire to become a member at least three (3) months prior to admittance,"

Comment: The initial proposal was to delete "at least three months" from clause 1 above.

In this day and age, the present bylaw seems more appropriate to an exclusive club rather than to a church that hopes to be welcoming. Formal requirements for written notice in advance are no longer a social norm.

KC members expressed concern at losing the three-month notice. Joining a church is a serious decision. Some fear that a group could take over the church on short notice, although the current bylaw does require recommendations from the Committee on Membership and the Minister.

The revised proposal, set out above, maintains a three-month period, but focuses on participation, not the timing of written notice. It requires specific types of interaction with KC and reflects our experience. Almost all new members have been engaged with King's Chapel for at least three months, often much longer.

Other Updates and Edits

Additionally, edits to Articles V, X, and XIV give the Wardens greater discretion to choose the dates for elections and committee reports (reflecting the decision to hold elections in the spring). The review group also recommends various minor clarifications and edits. Copies of the bylaws redlining suggested changes are available on request to the Parish Administrator and will be available at the Special Meeting.

NOTE on Calling a Senior Minister. The bylaws review group also suggested amending Article XII, Calling, Hiring, and Dismissing of Ministers, to lower the percentage of members who must vote in favor of calling a Senior Minister. The Parish Council and the Vestry have voted to defer voting on that proposal, concluding that the topic requires consideration of related issues such as the possibility of voting by proxy.