



ALL SAINTS'  
Anglican  
Church

Westboro

March 20, 2014

Dear Members of the Vestry of St. Mark's

I was asked at the Town Hall meeting, held on March 16<sup>th</sup>, to clarify a few matters in advance of the Special Vestry Meeting of the Parish of St. Mark's, Ottawa, that I will be chairing on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

The Special Vestry has been called to deal with one motion which reads, **"It is resolved that St. Mark's agrees to move toward the creation of a new parish to be named by the Bishop, in partnership with St. Michael and All Angels and St. Richard's."**

I was asked to consult with the Diocesan Chancellor about the question of either "proxy voting" or "advanced polling" for the Special Vestry vote. I met with the Diocesan Chancellor and he agrees that either of these options is not part of our Vestry process (or Synodical process). The purpose of a Vestry Meeting is to meet together and give voice to the will of the community as guided by the Spirit.

I was also asked about being able to read the submissions from those who are unable to be present at the meeting. Let me answer that by referring to the rules of order for the conducting a Vestry meeting which are based on how we do the Church's business when gathered in Synod. Our Synod circular records the rules of order as follows: *"The mover of a motion may speak for five minutes and the seconder may speak for three minutes and responders shall be granted three minutes. No member may speak more than once on the same motion, or more than once on an amendment, except that the mover of the original motion shall have the right of reply, which closes the debate."*

During this Special Vestry meeting as chair I will use this practice of time limits for speakers. All comments must be on the motion. If a speaker chooses to devote part of their allotted time to reading a quote from another person they may do so, but it needs to be done within the three minute time frame that they are allowed. (This is the equivalent of saying, "I would like to quote Nelson Mandela who said...")

Finally, I was asked about the question of what constitutes a majority when a vote is taken. Once again, our Synod circular records that no motion *"shall be valid or passed without the concurrence of a simple majority of the members present who vote on the motion."*

I invite your prayers for the continuing discernment of God's will.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Dunn" with a small cross at the end of the signature.

The Venerable Christopher Dunn  
Archdeacon of Ottawa West