

election, who shall have entered on the books of said parish or church congregation one month at least preceding the day of election, as a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and who shall have contributed to the charges of said parish or church in which he offers to vote a sum not less than \$2.00 annually paid not less than 30 days before said election, shall have the right of suffrage for the election of vestrymen for each such parish or church.】 *Every person enrolled on the books of a parish or separate congregation or mission as a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church at least three months preceding the date of the annual meeting for the election of vestrymen, or the date of any other regular or special meeting of such parish or separate congregation or mission, shall have the right to vote at such election or meeting upon any or all matters which may properly come before such meeting, provided that the age of persons entitled to vote at any election or meeting shall not be less than 18 years. Any person eligible to vote at the annual meeting for the election of vestrymen shall also be eligible for election as a vestryman and, if so elected, shall be deemed fully qualified for all purposes connected with his or her duties as such vestryman.*

【But nevertheless, on the petition of the vestry of any parish or separate congregation of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Maryland, the convention of the diocese with which such parish or separate congregation is in union may authorize and empower said vestry to give women the same right to vote and hold office as is above conferred upon men by this subheading.】

Upon the first organization of any parish or congregation all persons thus qualified to vote for the election of vestrymen shall on Easter Monday or such other date as may be provided by the bylaws of any parish or congregation at such hour of the day as has been previously publicly announced in the church at least ten days theretofore, assemble in their church or in adjacent church buildings or such other convenient place as may have been appointed by the vestry upon like ten days' notice, and said persons so qualified to vote when assembled shall proceed by a majority of the voters then present to elect by ballot eight (8) vestrymen from among the persons qualified to vote who, with the rector of the parish for the time being, shall be deemed and considered the vestry of said parish or separate congregation for the ensuing year and until the election of their successors, and the rector of the parish shall always be a member of the vestry.

And if for any reason the said congregational meeting for the election of vestrymen shall not be held on Easter Monday as above stated, such congregational meeting for the said purpose shall thereafter be held as soon as possible upon like ten days' notice to be given by the rector of the church or minister in charge or, in his absence, then by authority of the majority of the vestrymen then in office.

Provided, however, that any of the several parishes or separate congregations of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Maryland may by bylaws provide for the manner of conducting elections of vestrymen, the number of vestrymen to be elected and the length of terms of office of vestrymen. Such bylaws may be adopted at any annual meeting or special meeting of members of the parish or separate congregation by a vote of two thirds of the quali-