

Fidelity Insurance for Parish Treasurers

Canon 11.22

Resolved, that Canon XI, Section 11.22 of the Canons of the Diocese of California be amended as follows (deletions in ~~bold strikethrough text~~, insertions in ***bold italic text***):

Sec. 11.22. Other Officers.

A Secretary and a chief financial officer with the title of Treasurer shall be elected at an organizational meeting of the vestry immediately following the annual parish meeting and shall serve until their successors are elected. Such officers need not be members of the ~~v~~Vestry. They shall have the powers and duties prescribed in these Canons and in the bylaws of the parish. ~~The Treasurer shall be bonded in an amount and by a surety approved by the vestry.~~ ***The Vestry shall obtain fidelity insurance for the Treasurer and other parish officers in a commercially reasonable amount.***

Proponent's Explanation

The existing canon requires the Treasurer of the parish to be bonded, in order to protect against financial losses because of dishonesty. The canon is outdated in two respects. First, congregations need insurance against financial losses by *any* employee or volunteer who may have access to money or property, not just the Treasurer. Second, the standard policy available to congregations from Church Insurance Company provides this protection through coverage generally known as “fidelity insurance” or “employee theft coverage.” The amendment would update Canon 11.22 to conform to this actual practice.

Submitted by the Rev. Susan Champion. Questions may be directed to the Rev. Susan Champion at vicarsusan@hotmail.com or 510-245-7542.