

CERTAIN DEFINED TERMS – NEW TECHNOLOGY

Resolved, That the following definitions be added to the Appendix of the Canons of the Diocese of California titled “Certain Defined Terms:”

“Countersigned” means the same thing as “signed” when a second or responding signature is required.

“Mail” means U.S. Postal Service or electronic mail, either or both.

“Publish” means to produce and make available a document either in paper form or as an electronic document on the web site of the Diocese of California, or both.

“Signature” means a handwritten signature, which includes such a signature when scanned and transmitted or stored electronically.

“Signed” means having a handwritten signature, including documents containing such a signature when scanned and transmitted or stored electronically.

“Written” or “in writing” means written either in paper form or electronic form, including electronic mail or posting on the web site of the Diocese of California, except when the Bishop requires that a document be in paper form.

Proposer’s Explanation: Recent advances in technology have added new meanings to some words, such as “mail” or “written,” which formerly had simple and straightforward meanings. In some cases it is unclear whether we should follow the simpler meaning that applied when a canon was originally written, or allow the meaning to expand to include new technology. For example, it has become the practice of the Diocese of California to send “written” notices by email both for efficiency and to help safeguard the integrity of creation by reducing our consumption of natural resources, such as trees. But such a practice was not envisioned when the notice provisions in the Constitution and Canons were originally adopted. It is important that we agree that such practices do comply with the original intent of the Canons and that we document that agreement to avoid future misunderstandings or disagreements about whether we are following our own rules.

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