

CONSTITUTION OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL OF OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

PREAMBLE

We are lovingly called by the Father from our individuality to form the People of God. We respond to this call by following the example of Jesus to love, share our gifts, and serve one another. Central to this response is our commitment to assemble, most especially for the celebration of the Eucharist. Through the Holy Spirit our community can and does grow in holiness. In the spirit of faith, hope and love, all shall seek to hear the word of God, live it, and act to fulfill it.

All members of this faith community share the responsibility of discipleship according to their ministry and gifts. We are called to reach out to one another, to strengthen, encourage, develop, and share our different ministries and gifts. In this way the Church as a whole, more effectively fulfills its mission to communicate God's unconditional love and friendship to all people.

MISSION STATEMENT

...Let us profess the truth in love and grow to the full maturity of Christ the Head. Though Him the body grows, and with the proper functioning of the members joined firmly together, by each support ligament, builds itself up in love...
Ephesians 4:15

The purpose of the Pastoral Council is to function as an advisory/consultative body to aid the Pastor on matters that affect the spiritual and physical growth of the Parish. As a Pastoral Council we are called to aid and to support our Pastor and to represent the Parish of Our Lady of the Mountains Church, giving witness to the unity of purpose and love to which Jesus calls us. This witness must flow out of our shared experiences of Catholic fellowship. In common deliberation, mutual advice, and united action, we will work toward the advancement of each parishioner's spiritual well-being as a member of our Christian community. We commit ourselves, and call the whole parish family, to continual growth in faith, personal renewal, and the service of Christ.

ARTICLE I – NAME

This council shall be designated as the Pastoral Council of the Parish of Our Lady of the Mountains.

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ARTICLE II – PURPOSE & DUTIES

The Council achieves its purpose by:

1. Working closely with our Pastor to support the Mission of the Church and to help him unfold his vision for our future growth.
2. To be a source of education and communication between our Pastor and the Parish to build trust and a spirit of collaboration.
3. Communicating with ministries, organizations, and parishioners to identify parish needs and issues and to keep them informed about upcoming changes.
4. Evaluate/analyze needs and issues and develop strategies and plans to resolve them.
5. Propose courses of action and formulate recommendations for consideration by the Pastor.
6. Evaluate proposed new ministries as to purpose, ability to serve a specific need and alignment with the overall vision of the Pastor.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership is open to all registered members of the Parishioners
2. The minimum age requirement is 18 years old.
3. Membership should consist of a diverse cross section of the parish community.
4. The Council should contain a maximum of 10 parishioners, the Pastor and Associate Pastor. The Associate Pastor shall not be a Voting Member.
5. The service period for Council members shall be two (2) years. Each term begins July 1 and ends June 30th of consecutive calendar years.
5. Voting Members will maintain voting authority for the length of their term. The Pastor and the Voting Members shall have the option of reviewing the Non-Voting authority of members as appropriate.
7. Ideally, members should not serve consecutive terms and to the extent possible, 1/3 of council membership should turn over during the council's service period.
8. Voting Members shall consist of seven (7) parties and shall include the following: The Pastoral Council Chair and Vice Chair, a single representative from the Women's Guild, Men's Club, Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent De Paul and a representative from the Hispanic Community. A non-voting, Women of Grace, Community Outreach Group and At-Large Members appointed by the Pastor, will be on the Pastoral Council.

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ARTICLE IV – COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP SELECTION PROCESS

1. Vacancies:

- a. a member has completed 3 years of service
- b. a member is no longer a member of the parish
- c. a member elects to resign
- d. A member fails to fulfill his/her responsibilities such as not attending Council meetings and said absences have not been excused by the council chairperson.
- e. Removal from membership for cause will require a majority vote of the council and the concurrence of the pastor.

2. When scheduled or unscheduled vacancies occur an announcement seeking interested parishioners will be placed in the OLM bulletin and/or announced from the pulpit. A sign-up sheet will be available at the greeters table in the church narthex.

3. The Council will review the list of interested parishioners to determine their qualifications for serving on the council

4. The council will fill current vacancies from those deemed qualified and approved by the Pastor.

5. Qualified parishioners not selected will be kept in an active file and used to fill future vacancies.

6. If the qualified list is exhausted another announcement seeking interested parishioners will occur.

7. The council shall thank all those who have volunteered to serve and advise them of their status (selected, not currently selected).

ARTICLE V – FINANCE COUNCIL

The Parish Finance and Pastoral Council are distinct in function; however, the two Councils are related in their mutual concern for the life and mission of the parish.

1. The Finance Council looks to the Pastoral Council for a statement of the mission of the parish, a pastoral plan and parish priorities.

2. The Pastoral Council looks to the Finance Council for sound financial guidance and planning regarding the resources needed to develop and implement parish plans, programs, and policies.

ARTICLE VI –AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any Pastoral Council meeting by a majority vote of those present and voting provided that:

- a. The proposed amendment has been presented in writing by a Council member at the immediate previous Pastoral Council meeting.
- b. The proposed amendment has been given to all members at the Pastoral Council at least one week before the meeting at which the vote is to be taken; and
- c. A quorum is present.

END