
ST. LAMBERT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

Sioux Falls, SD

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the St. Lambert Pastoral Council, hereinafter referred to as the "Council."

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Section 1: The Council shall strive to unite all members of the parish in a community of prayer, regular receipt of the sacraments, leadership, service and pastoral action.

Section 2: The Council shall develop and maintain a parish mission statement which embraces the total life and mission of the parish: Word, sacrament, worship, service and community.

Section 3: The Council shall engage in a continuous process of pastoral planning, which takes into consideration the needs of its own parishioners and the needs of the diocese, the broader community and the world.

ARTICLE III: SCOPE

Section 1: The Council shall be the planning, consultative and policy formulating body in all matters of parish life, including but not limited to formative, both spiritual and educational, social and financial concerns, except to the extent limited by faith and morals, church or civil law or diocesan policy/norms.

Section 2: In any case where any member of the Council interprets an action of the council or any of its committees to be outside the limits set forth in Section 1, such member shall present such interpretation no later than the next meeting of the Council and ask for reconsideration. Pending consideration, the effect of the action shall be suspended.

Section 3: In any case where reconsideration has failed to resolve the matter, any Council member may then take the matter to the Office of the Bishop or one appointed by him, for clarification or arbitration. Any decision resulting from such an appeal shall be final. In the meantime, the effect of the action shall remain suspended.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: The Council shall be comprised of 6 members, all of whom must be baptized, practicing Catholics, registered members of the parish, and participants in the parish worship life, especially Mass and the sacraments.

Section 2: The Council shall have the following *ex officio* members: the pastor, the associate pastor, and the Deacon assigned the parish. *Ex officio* members participate fully and equally in all Council decisions.

Section 3: At-large members of the Council must be 18 years of age and older.

Section 4: The term for at-large members shall be three years and shall be limited to two consecutive terms. The new members shall begin their terms with the conclusion of the annual transition meeting.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1: The officers of the Council shall be a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and a secretary. They shall be selected by and from the Council at the annual transition meeting. They shall serve for a one-year term beginning with the conclusion of the transition meeting. *Ex officio* members of the Council are ineligible to serve as Council officers or committee chairpersons.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section 1: Regular Parish Council meetings shall be held monthly/not fewer than 10 times per year.

Section 2: Special meetings may be called by the chairperson, pastor or a quorum. A quorum consists of two-thirds of the total membership and includes the pastor.

Section 3: A transition meeting shall be held at the July meeting following the annual selection of Parish Council members. At this meeting the newly selected members shall join the existing Council for the purpose of selecting Council officers for the following year.

ARTICLE VII: RELATIONSHIP OF PASTOR TO COUNCIL

Section 1: The pastor is the parish council president. He or his delegate presides at the Council by:

- A. Attending all council meetings.
- B. Making certain that the scope of the council's concerns reflects the entire mission of the Church;
- C. Enabling the council to build a community of faith and an atmosphere of trust among council members,
- D. Making certain that parish council members have adequate training;
- E. Assisting in formulating the Council agenda;
- F. Sharing in the dialogue that leads to the formulation of policy;
- G. Serving as chief administrative officer of the parish; and
- H. Executing the policies formulated by the Council.

If the pastor judges that the decision is contrary to Church teaching or discipline, or violates a diocesan norm, the pastor may withhold implementation, providing to the Council the reason(s).

Section 2: The pastor does not chair Council meetings.

ARTICLE VIII: MANNER OF OPERATION

The Council's manner of decision-making shall be communal discernment, which includes prayerful reflection, gathering of information, dialogue and sharing of conclusions. The usual method of reaching conclusions shall be consensus.

ARTICLE IX: STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1: The Council shall have the following Standing Committees:

- Community Building
- Liturgy & Environment
- Faith Formation
- Family Life
- Social Concerns

Section 2: Council Committee Liaison

The Council shall select from its at-large members a liaison to each of its standing committees at the annual transition meeting following the selection of new officers. Liaisons shall serve for a one-year term beginning with the conclusion of the transition meeting. *Ex officio* members of the Council are ineligible to serve as liaisons.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any regular or special meeting by consensus or a two-thirds vote of the Council and thereafter by approval of a majority of the parishioners participating in the parish approval process.

Date of Approval by the Parish Council: 21-April-2009

Date of Approval by the Diocese: _____

Date of Parish Ratification: _____

Date of Most Recent Amendment: _____

Date of Next Full Review: _____