

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

Policy No. 1105

Each baptized parish member shares in the concern for the mission of the Church. The Parish Pastoral Council members support the mission as lived and experienced in the parish community. The meetings and tasks of the PPC are animated by the faith commitment of each of its members.

Policy Statement:

Parish Pastoral Councils are established at the recommendation of the Archbishop (Canon 536), to provide advice and assistance to the pastor concerning the pastoral needs of the parish.

A Parish Pastoral Council is presided over by the pastor and is to be representative of the faith community, the parish. It is consultative and advisory in nature.

The members of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) share in the concern for the growth of the parishioners and the parish community and for their spiritual and pastoral welfare.

Definitions:

Parish: for the purpose of this policy, a parish is any configuration of churches under the care of one pastor including:

- single parish
- merged parishes
- clustered parishes
- twinned parishes
- consolidated parishes

Parishioner:

Canonically, by virtue of their place of residence, either domicile or quasi-domicile, Catholics belong to a parish, and are thereby considered parishioners.

Practically, Catholics may belong to a parish by virtue of their regular participation in Sunday Mass, registration as member, and engagement in parish ministries & outreach.

Procedure:

1. The pastor will establish a parish pastoral council.
 - a) Membership
 - Clergy assigned to pastoral ministry in the parish are *ex officio* members
 - Eight to twelve parishioners
 - b) Qualifications
 - All PPC members should be fully initiated adult Catholics, who participate in the life of the parish, and who are parishioners.
 - A PPC member must be willing and able to share in the concern for the parish community.

- A member should be willing to grow in an understanding of the Church, through formation and training, as well as the study of Scripture and Church documents.
 - Two persons from the same family may not be on the PPC at the same time.
 - The Chair of the PPC and the Chair of the Parish Finance Committee (PFC) must be two different & unrelated persons.
 - Parish employees cannot be members of the PPC.
- c) Selection
- Select members by discerning their qualifications, skills needed, and the ability and willingness of candidates to participate fully in PPC's work.
 - Select PPC members in the spring, so that new members can be oriented for fall commencement of council.
 - Potential PPC members can be proposed by the pastor, the presbyteral team, the pastoral team, the PPC as a whole or by individual members, and parishioners.
- d) Term of Office
- The term of office for members must be defined; for example: a three-year term, total of no more than two consecutive terms, and so on.
- e) Meetings
- The pastor will be present at every meeting.
 - Meet, regularly, at least every quarter.
 - Other persons may attend a meeting or a portion upon invitation and with the consent of the Chair.
- f) Functions
- Helping to formulate a vision concerning the parish pastoral mission in accord with the priorities of the parish, the region, and the Archdiocese.
 - Representing the faith community, the parish.
 - Ensuring that communication within the parish is consistent with archdiocesan standards and implemented respecting the character and dynamics of the faith community.
2. The parish pastoral council will follow the procedures as presented and outlined in the Together in Ministry Manual and Workshop. Together In Ministry Manual (online).