
 <p>ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL &amp; MINNEAPOLIS</p>	<b>Issued Date:</b> 11/16/2018	<b>Number:</b> 209
	<b>Subject:</b> Parish Pastoral Council Requirements <b>Scope:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Archdiocese <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parishes <input type="checkbox"/> Schools	
	<b>Reference:</b> Suggested Constitution and Bylaws Template Attached	
	<b>Archbishop Signature:</b> 	

## Purpose

1983 Code of Canon Law Can. 536 § 1. If the diocesan bishop judges it opportune after he has heard the [Presbyteral Council](#), a pastoral council is to be established in each [Parish](#), over which the [Pastor](#) presides and in which the Christian faithful, together with those who share in pastoral care by virtue of their office in the [Parish](#), assist in fostering pastoral activity. §2. A pastoral council possesses a consultative vote only and is governed by the norms established by the diocesan bishop.

The [Parish Pastoral Council](#) participates in the responsibility for pastoral ministry of the [Parish](#). Its purpose and goals are extensive. It should research the needs, ideas, hopes, life and activity of the people of God, so that the whole [Parish](#) community can effectively carry out the mission of the [Parish](#) and fully participate in the ongoing conversion that is central to its life. The [Parish Pastoral Council](#) should constantly evaluate the [Parish](#) in its conformity to the Gospel and those constitutive elements of the Gospel that call for understanding the implications of justice. In this sense, the [Parish Pastoral Council](#) shares in the decision making process which assists the [Pastor](#) and [Trustees](#) in carrying out the leadership role that is theirs within the [Parish](#).

The [Parish Pastoral Council](#) assists the [Pastor](#) and [Trustees](#) in accomplishing these goals by offering counsel to them. This consultative responsibility is rooted in the obligation of all the baptized to pursue the common good of the Church. It is present in the emerging consensus flowing from the combined gifts and multiple experiences of the people of God.


## Policy

Each [Parish](#) is required to have a constituted and active [Parish Pastoral Council](#) to assist and support the [Pastor](#) and [Trustees](#) in their stewardship of [Parish](#) resources. [Parishes](#) that are clustered (sharing one [Pastor](#) while remaining separate legal and canonical entities) may form and maintain one collective [Parish Pastoral Council](#) with the approval of the [Trustees](#) of each individual [Parish](#). A cluster forming one [Parish Pastoral Council](#) must have a Constitution and Bylaws as outlined above.

A [Parish Pastoral Council](#) must meet at least quarterly. The [Parish Pastoral Council](#) must operate in accordance with current Constitution and Bylaws that have been approved by the [Archbishop](#) or his designee.

The [Parish Pastoral Council](#) remains in place where there is a change in [Pastor](#) or [Parochial Administrator](#). A new [Pastor](#) or [Parochial Administrator](#) must meet within 90 days of his appointment with the [Parish Pastoral Council](#).

A new [Pastor](#) or [Parochial Administrator](#) who is assigned to a [Parish](#) without a [Parish Pastoral Council](#) is obligated to form a [Parish Pastoral Council](#) within one year of his appointment.

A suggested [template for the Constitution and Bylaws](#) of a [Parish Pastoral Council](#) is attached to this cy. [Parishes](#) are welcome to form and develop their Pastoral Councils to fit the unique needs of the [Parish](#) community, provided that the council remains within its scope as defined in canon law, and the Constitution and Bylaws that have been approved.

Members of the [Parish Pastoral Council](#) must be current with [Essential 3](#) safe environment requirements of the [Archdiocese](#).

A [Pastor](#) wishing to suppress a [Parish Pastoral Council](#) should submit a request to the Chancellor of Canonical Affairs that includes a plan to form a new [Parish Pastoral Council](#).