



Parish Pastoral Council

# Parish Pastoral Council Constitution

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## PREAMBLE

The parish of Immaculate Conception is a community of the people of God, entrusted to an ordained priest for pastoral care under the authority of the Bishop of the Diocese of Raleigh; the community gathers in the Spirit of the Gospel and Eucharist for the sake of the Kingdom. The Parish Pastoral Council is the support group within the community chosen to assist and guide the pastor to achieve the vision and mission of the community.

## **PARISH VISION**

Immaculate Conception will be the vibrant expression of the presence of the Risen Christ in sacred worship and by loving and serving all God's people.

## **PARISH MISSION**

We live Jesus Christ by proclaiming the Gospel, by celebrating the Eucharist, by nourishing our faith, and by loving and serving all God's people.

## ARTICLE I

### **NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Parish Pastoral Council of Immaculate Conception Parish.

## ARTICLE II

### **PURPOSE**

The Parish Pastoral Council is a structure of consultation and consensus. It is a planning council, not a coordinating council. It is a consultative planning group aiding the Pastor in the decision-making process. Although not the decision maker, the Parish Pastoral Council is an essential part of that process, working together with the Pastor in planning the mission of the Parish Church, each exercising their legitimate roles. The Parish Pastoral Council proposes directives, norms, policies, priorities, etc. The Pastor will ultimately accept, reject, select, delay, implement, or ratify such proposals. This consultative process is best facilitated using all the available facts to their fullest understanding, ultimately leading to consensus of the council. As stated in the Vatican document *Instruction "The Pastoral Conversion of the Parish Community In the Service of Evangelising Mission of the Church," of The Congregation for the Clergy 20.07.2020*: "Far from being a bureaucratic organ, the Parish Pastoral Council highlights and realizes the centrality of the People of God as the subject and active protagonist of the evangelizing mission, in the virtue that every member of the faithful has received the gifts of the Spirit through Baptism and Confirmation..."

It is the function of the Parish Pastoral Council to “investigate everything pertaining to pastoral activities, to weigh them carefully, and to set forth practical conclusions concerning them so as to encourage conformity of the life and actions of the People of God with the Gospel” (*Motu Proprio, Ecclesiae Sanctae*). Specifically, the Parish Pastoral Council is called upon to enhance the decision-making process of (1) pastoral planning and goal setting, (2) developing and implementing pastoral programs, (3) improving pastoral services, and (4) evaluating pastoral effectiveness.

No group or office may interfere with the working of the Parish Pastoral Council. All boards, commissions, and committees of a parish except the Parish Finance Council are responsible to the Parish Pastoral Council.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

- A. **ELIGIBILITY**--Members of the Council shall be drawn from registered members of the Parish who are in full communion with the Catholic Church and have reached 18 years of age. They must also be willing to serve actively and faithfully on the Council.
- B. **REPRESENTATION**
- The parish will elect three-fourths of total membership.
  - The Pastor may appoint one-fourth of total membership.
  - By diocesan regulation, the Chair of the Parish Finance Council is an ex-officio member of the council.
  - All members, whether elected or appointed, have full voting privileges.
- C. **ELECTIONS**—Elections will be planned and take place yearly in a timely fashion so that new members may take their seats at the July meeting (beginning of the fiscal year).
- D. **BY-LAWS**—Other particulars regarding membership will be specified in the Parish Pastoral Council By-Laws.

### **ARTICLE IV**

#### **ORGANIZATION**

- A. **OFFICERS**
- Officers of the Parish Pastoral Council shall consist of a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Executive Secretary. Officers will be elected from within the total membership of the Council at its first meeting. Pastoral appointees may not be excluded from holding office.
  - The elected Chair conducts the business of the meetings in the presence of the Pastor, who presides. The Vice-Chair will conduct the meeting in the absence of the Chair. The Executive Secretary works under the direction of the Chair to perform various

administrative duties in support of the Parish Pastoral Council.

- B. **MEETINGS**--Meetings will ordinarily take place six times a year, according to need.
- C. **LIAISON WITH PARISH ORGANIZATION**—The Parish Pastoral Council will so organize itself so that lines of communication remain open to every major grouping of parish organizations and ministries.
- D. **BY-LAWS**—Other particulars regarding organization will be specified in the Parish Pastoral Council By-Laws.

## ARTICLE V

### AMENDMENTS AND BY-LAWS

- A. **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**—Amendments to this constitution must be approved by the Council and the Pastor. The Bishop must approve constitutional amendments before they take effect.
- B. **BY-LAWS**—By-Laws will be established to specify the particulars of membership and organization. It is understood that they may not contravene any of the provisions of these articles.

Approved by the Parish Pastoral Council of Immaculate Conception Parish on 9-26-2020.

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Chair

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Rev. John McGee, OSFS, Pastor

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