

# SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH PASTORAL COUNCIL CONSTITUTION<sup>1</sup>

## PREAMBLE

Sacred Heart Catholic Church is a community of the people of God, entrusted to an ordained priest for pastoral care under the authority of the Bishop of Raleigh.

## ARTICLE I PURPOSE

The Pastoral Council is a consultative planning group, planning the mission of the parish church with the pastor. Canon 536 of the Code of Canon Law, paragraph 2 stipulates “The Pastoral Council is a consultative planning group, planning the mission of the parish church with the pastor.” It is a planning council in which cooperative planning occurs using a structure of consultation and consensus. It is not a coordinating council. The consultation of the pastoral council is essential in the decision making process but the pastoral council serves only in an advisory capacity to the pastor, who is the decision maker.

## ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

1. Eligibility. Any registered parishioner who is in full communion with the Catholic Church and has reached eighteen years of age shall be eligible for election or appointment by the pastor.
2. Representation. The council shall consist of or nine (9) elected members. In addition the pastor, may, appoint three (3) others. All members of the council whether elected or appointed shall be considered full voting members. (Numbers keeping  $\frac{3}{4}$  &  $\frac{1}{4}$  ratio).
3. Elections. Elections shall be scheduled on the second weekend in May each year with appointments in June.
4. Chair of Finance. By diocesan regulation the chairperson of the finance council is an automatic member of the pastoral council. This person is not to be considered as a pastoral appointee.

## ARTICLE III ORGANIZATION

1. Officers. Officers of the council shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary. These officers will be elected from within the council membership. Pastoral appointees may not be excluded from holding office.
2. Meetings. The Council shall meet on a regular basis, preferably once a month but no less than every other month.
3. Committees. Working groups, task forces and committees will be established as needed to carry out the council’s business. An effort will be made to avoid standing committees.

## ARTICLE IV BYLAWS AND AMENDMENTS

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<sup>1</sup>Diocese of Raleigh Pastoral Administrative Manual, dated 4/2004, Section 2.2 “Pastoral Council Norms” pp. 20-28

Provided that they do not contravene any of the provisions of these articles, Bylaws may be established by the pastoral council with the approval of the pastor. Bylaws may be amended or repealed in the same manner. Copies of Bylaws must be sent to the Bishop's office for the parish file. Amendments to this constitution must be approved by the Council and the pastor. Constitutional amendments must be approved by the Bishop before they take effect.

Approved and adopted by the Pastoral Council January 9, 2018. Replaces any previous Constitution for any Sacred Heart Parish, Pastoral or Pastoral Advisory Council. See Bylaws revised and adopted January 9, 2018.

Pastoral Council