

Guidelines for Parish Trustees

As a religious corporation, a parish must have a Board of Trustees. In the Diocese of Paterson, each parish corporation consists of:

- The Bishop of Paterson as president of the civil corporation
- The Vicar General of the Diocese of Paterson as the vice president
- The pastor/administrator of the parish as the secretary-treasurer
- Two lay trustees nominated by the pastor and appointed by the Bishop of Paterson.

Two parish trustees shall be nominated by the pastor/administrator and appointed by the Bishop of Paterson with a term of one year that may be renewed for no more than two terms. These trustees must be active parishioners. Existing trustees would begin their first one-year term under the policies of the Diocesan Finance Council as of July 1, 2006.

Each parish must meet the legal obligations of a religious corporation under New Jersey law. The parish corporation must have at least one meeting per year, where a quorum of the pastor/administrator and the two lay trustees is necessary for the meeting. Minutes from this meeting must be signed by the pastor/administrator, the lay trustees and the Bishop of Paterson or the Vicar General of the Diocese of Paterson.

No lay trustee of parish finance council member or any member of his or her family shall derive any financial benefit whatsoever as a result of service to the parish. In the event that a trustee or parish finance council member or any member of his or her family is receiving such financial benefit, their service as trustee or finance council member must end. If a pastor/administrator has substantive reasons for seeking an exception to this policy, he may petition the Bishop of Paterson.