



CHURCH

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Parish Pastoral Council of the Church of the Resurrection
Articles of Understanding
(Effective September 1990)

(Amended May 1994; May 1995; June 1996; January 1999; April 2013; January 2016; April 2023)

The Articles of Understanding are the charter for the Parish Pastoral Council. These articles supersede and replace all previous constitutions and guidelines.

OUR MISSION

The Parish Pastoral Council of the Church of the Resurrection in the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan is called to be the authentic voice of the laity. Its members are chosen from among the laity and are commissioned to examine parish life in the light of the Gospel and the Tradition of the Church, to test all things holding fast to what is good and after prayerful consideration remaining open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, to make recommendations as to how these good things may best be used for the building up of the Body of Christ.

Article I – NAME

The name of this body shall be:

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) of the Church of the Resurrection

Article II – NATURE

Parish Pastoral Council is:

1. Collegial.
2. Representative of the parish population.
3. The formal means for pastor and parishioners to communicate on matters concerning the parish.
4. Prayerful and reflective.
5. Consultative.

Article III – PURPOSES

1. To provide an honest and open forum for dialogue and communication regarding pastoral goals.
2. To read the signs of the times, discern new needs and assist the pastor in formulating broad direction relevant to parish life.
3. To evaluate the life and work of the parish with a view to bringing them into greater conformity with the Gospel.
4. To form a united voice with the pastor, after full and free discussion, in speaking prophetically to contemporary issues.

Article IV – FUNCTIONS

The PPC:

1. Provides educational and spiritual growth opportunities for council and commission members.
2. Sets up the outline of the function of the various commissions, their guidelines and their expertise where appropriate.
3. Provides updates as to what is being discussed or proposed by commissions and other parish groups.
4. Coordinates, when necessary, the efforts of the parish commissions and other parish groups.
5. Helps the pastor discern the mission and vision for the parish.
6. Reviews and provides advice regarding the goals and priorities of the parish.
7. Provides feedback and advice regarding improvements to the ministries and programs as needed.
8. Discusses ideas, concerns, and recommendations from commissions, parish groups, and individual parishioners regarding parish life.
9. Works with the pastor to initiate and/or support positive actions for the common good of the church, of other religious bodies and of the civil community.

Article V – MEMBERSHIP

1. Permanent members of the PPC will be the pastor (President), school principal, and members of the Parish Leadership Team.
2. One member from each of the Parish Commissions: Worship, Evangelization & Discipleship, and School.
3. One member of the Finance Council.
4. Up to two members appointed by the pastor at his discretion.
5. Four members at-large.

Article VI – MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION

All fully-initiated Catholic registered members of the parish shall be eligible if they are 18 years of age. No more than a total of two parish staff members shall serve as at-large or commission representatives. An application process will be in place to determine eligibility to be on any council and/or commission of the parish. Representatives from each parish commission and the Finance Council shall be selected by that commission/council. The four at-large representatives shall be selected by lot from eligible parishioners who have completed the application process. After a review of the applications, the PPC will approve the slate of potential candidates for membership.

Article VII – TERMS AND VACANCIES

All terms of membership shall be three years in length with the option to seek membership for a second term. No more than two consecutive terms may be served. Terms shall be staggered. Any vacancies occurring mid-term shall be filled with a replacement appointed by the pastor.

Article VIII - BY-LAWS

- A. OFFICERS - The PPC shall have the following officers:
President – the pastor of the parish

Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Recording Secretary - selected by the PPC from among the members. All members shall be eligible. The (s)election shall take place at the September regular meeting. Officers shall serve a term of one year and may serve a second term if their term of PPC membership allows.

Duties of Officers:

The Chairperson shall preside at all regular meetings and appoint whatever ad hoc committees that are deemed necessary.

The Vice Chairperson shall preside in the absence of the Chairperson and shall discharge such tasks as shall be designated.

The Recording Secretary shall provide an accurate record of minutes and shall work with the Chair and Pastor to set the meeting agenda. The minutes, new agenda, and other pertinent material are forwarded to PPC members well in advance of each meeting. The minutes and pertinent materials are to be forwarded to the parish secretary within two weeks of the meeting and placed in the parish achieves.

B. SELECTION/APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Selection of members shall be made, in accordance with Article VI, in the spring.

Appointments of members shall be made before the first meeting in the fall. New members shall assume duties at the first meeting in the fall. Names of new members shall be published in the bulletin within two weeks of their assuming duties.

C. MEETINGS

Regular meetings shall be scheduled quarterly. Starting time of the meetings and dates shall be determined by the council. Meetings shall conclude within two hours. A consensus will be needed to extend the meeting.

D. AGENDA

The pastor and Chair shall set the agenda based on the previous meeting. Request for an item to be placed on the agenda can be made by a council member, parish staff member, or parishioner, with the understanding that the appropriate commission first discuss it and make background information available to council members. Agenda items should be identified as information, discussion, or decision items. Decision items are those that call for a recommendation from the council to the pastor.

E. SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special meetings may be called by the pastor and chairperson for a stated purpose. PPC members must be notified of the special meeting as soon as possible, either by e-mail or by phone.

F. QUORUM

A quorum shall be a majority of the PPC members. The PPC cannot take formal action without a quorum.

G. CONSENSUS

The PPC shall operate by consensus.

Article IX – AMENDMENTS

These Articles of Understanding may be amended at any regular PPC meeting by consensus of a quorum provided that:

1. The proposed amendment has been presented in writing by a council member to the immediate previous PPC meeting.
2. That the proposed amendment has been distributed to each PPC member at least one week prior to the meeting at which action is to be taken regarding the proposed amendment.