



Office of the Bishop

DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

2500 North Tyler Street • P.O. Box 7565 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72217 • (501) 664-0340 Fax (501) 664-6304

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: TITLE

1. The title of this body shall be DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE AND RELATIONSHIPS

1. The Diocesan Pastoral Council is established in accordance with the stipulation of the Church's *Code of Canon Law* (# 511) for the purpose of providing advice to the Bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock in the exercise of his care of the People of God in light of the mission of the Catholic Church.
2. The Council can be dissolved only by the Bishop. It ceases to exist when the See is vacant; the successor bishop may reconstitute the Council or, in time, form a new one.
3. The Council advises the Bishop on those things which pertain to pastoral works in the diocese, including but not limited to matters on which the Diocesan Finance Council and the Presbyteral Council also consult. The Diocesan Pastoral Council has no authority or oversight over the other consultative bodies in the diocese.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

1. The Bishop presides over the Council and its work; technically he is not a member.
2. The following are *ex-officio* non-voting members of the Council.

The Vicar General
The Chancellor for Ecclesial Affairs
The Chancellor for Canonical Affairs
The Chancellor for Administrative Affairs
The Diocesan Finance Officer
The Director of Hispanic Ministry

3. The following are voting members of the Council

Representative of the Diocesan Council for Black Catholics
Representative of the Permanent Deacons of the Diocese
Representative of the Vowed Religious of the Diocese
Representative of the Youth/Young Adults of the Diocese
Representative of the Knights of Columbus
5 additional persons appointed by the bishop to better reflect the demographics of the diocese

Article IV: TERM OF OFFICE

The term of office for non-ex officio members is for three years, renewable indefinitely.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Every year the Council shall select one of its voting members to serve as chairperson for the year and another voting member to serve as vice-chairperson in his/her absence. An *ex officio* member may not serve in either capacity.

The duties of the Chairperson or, in his absence, the Vice-Chairperson, are to:

- collaborate with the Bishop and his staff in developing an agenda for meetings of the Council
- conduct meetings according to the agenda
- represent the Council as requested by the Bishop

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

1. The Diocesan Pastoral Council will normally meet at least quarterly.
2. The Council may meet only if it is convened by the Bishop.
3. Recommended agenda items may be submitted to the Bishop by any member of the Council.
4. If a member misses 3 meetings, he/she will be contacted to see whether he/she intends to continue serving on the Council.
5. Recommendations of the Council normally shall be reached by means of consensus.
6. An individual identified by the Bishop (not necessarily a member of the Council) will serve as the Council's recording secretary. The secretary prepares the minutes of meetings, and after their approval by the Bishop, distributes them to the members of the Council.

APPROVED: Emily B. O'Connell DATE: January 25, 2019

