

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

*GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH -
LOVING AS CHRIST LOVES, SERVING AS CHRIST SERVES*

CONSTITUTIONAL COVENANT

PREAMBLE

We, the clergy and laity of Good Shepherd Catholic Church, sharing responsibility for all aspects of parish ministry, recognize that God presides over our community. We place Christ at the center of our individual and collective worship, prayer, faith formation, and service, calling upon the Holy Spirit to guide us on our journey of faith.

As a community built over many decades with the desire to grow in faith, love and service, we, the parish faithful, recognize that the past is our heritage, the present is our responsibility, the future is our challenge. Through mutual leadership of the parish, calling upon our individual and collective gifts and talents, the clergy and parishioners take responsibility for ministry and the outcomes.

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1. This parish community shall be known as Good Shepherd Catholic Church.

Section 2. The principal address of Good Shepherd Catholic Church shall be 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309.

ARTICLE II – AUTHORITY

Section 1. Good Shepherd Catholic Church operates as a parish community within the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, VA under the auspices of the Catholic Church.

ARTICLE III – VISION

Section 1. Our parish Vision is: *Good Shepherd Catholic Church - loving as Christ loves, serving as Christ serves.*

ARTICLE IV – MISSION

Section 1. Good Shepherd Catholic Church is a mission-focused community of Christian faithful who seeks to know, love, worship, and serve God, giving service to others in the living Christ.

Section 2. In the spirit of building community in the light of Christ, we will:

- Pray, worship and celebrate our relationship with God in ways that enhance the spiritual growth of our diverse community;
- Foster the faith formation of parishioners in all stages of life as we journey to reach our full potential;
- Inspire all parishioners to share their unique, God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure;
- Serve people in need, do justice, stand for dignity and promote peace;
- Cultivate relationships with other faith communities seeking harmony with one another as children of God;
- Act as the living presence of Christ in our world, building relationships, healing brokenness, serving others and welcoming all.

ARTICLE V – PARISH MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Good Shepherd Catholic Church, a parish community of the children of God, welcomes all people. The *general* membership shall be composed of the pastor, clergy and lay faithful who choose to know, love worship, and serve God in the living Christ.

Section 2. *Formal* membership in Good Shepherd Catholic Church shall be achieved through registration in the parish. *Active* membership shall be characterized by embracing and living the parish vision and mission.

ARTICLE VI – STEWARDSHIP

Section 1. Good Shepherd Catholic Church shall be a Stewardship community. Stewardship shall be defined as the purposeful, deliberate and faithful contribution and use of each person's time, talent and treasure to sustain and nurture the Good Shepherd faith community.

ARTICLE VII – PARISH ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Section 1. The parish organizational structure is the covenant of shared leadership, responsibility, and activity equally shared among parishioners, pastor and staff.

Section 2. The leadership is composed of the pastor, clergy and parish laity, unified as a community seeking to achieve our mission. The parish leadership shall be collaborative, actively seeking the full involvement of the parish faithful.

Section 3. The pastor, designated by the bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington as the spiritual, pastoral, and administrative leader of the faith community, has ultimate authority and responsibility.

Section 4. The laity has both the right and responsibility to participate actively in dynamic partnership with the pastor and other clergy in fulfilling the mission God entrusted to the Church.

Section 5. The lay leadership of Good Shepherd Catholic Church shall be structured as four entities, serving in active, participatory and consultative roles with the pastor. These entities include:

- (a) **The Parish Pastoral Council**, composed of clergy and Christian laity is a consultative body to the pastor regarding parish strategic pastoral planning.
- (b) **Anawin**, composed of clergy and Christian laity, is a steering committee that shall coordinate with the Parish Pastoral Council and is consultative to the pastor regarding the pastoral needs of Spanish speaking parishioners.
- (c) **The Pastoral Team**, composed of the pastor, parochial vicar, other clergy when applicable, parish administrator, and the directors of parish ministries, shall hold shared positions of leadership with all parishioners and lay leaders in committees, programs and activities that promote worship, faith formation, social justice, stewardship, and the fiscal and organizational integrity of parish operations.

(d) **Parish Committees**, allied with each of the parish lay ministries, shall be composed of Pastoral Team members, parish leaders and volunteers. Standing parish committees may include but shall not necessarily be limited to:

- Communication;
- Facilities;
- Faith Formation (Adult, Child and Family, Youth and Young Adult);
- Finance;
- Hospitality;
- Information Management;
- Liturgy and Music;
- Parish International Festival;
- Social Justice;
- Stewardship.

The Parish Pastoral Council, the Pastoral Team, and each shall have a Charter that shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, statements addressing:

- Purpose/mission;
- Goals;
- Membership;
- Affiliated parish groups and/or smaller committees smaller groups and/or committees shall be affiliated with one of the standing committees and listed as an affiliate of that committee);
- Officers (as applicable to each governance entity);
- Member responsibilities;
- Standing subcommittee/s (as applicable to each standing committee);
- General meeting schedule.

January 21, 2006