

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH
LOVING AS CHRIST LOVES, SERVING AS CHRIST SERVES
Parish Pastoral Council Charter

The Parish

Good Shepherd Catholic Church exists to continue the mission of Jesus. Together, its pastor and parishioners grow to the fullness of their Christian calling, through communal worship, individual prayer, lifelong faith formation, stewardship of gifts and talents, outreach, fellowship and hospitality.

The Pastor

The pastor is obliged to make provision so that the word of God is proclaimed in its entirety to those living in the parish; he is to work so that the Christian faithful are nourished through the devout celebration of the sacraments; with generous love he is to help the sick, particularly those close to death; with particular diligence he is to seek out the poor, the afflicted, the lonely. He is to work so that spouses and parents are supported in fulfilling their proper duties and is to foster growth of Christian life in the family. A pastor is to recognize and promote the proper part which the lay members of the Christian faithful have in the mission of the Church; in all juridic affairs the pastor represents the parish according to the norm of law; and he is to take care that the goods of the parish are administered according to the norm of law. (See Code of Canon Law, canons 528, 529, 532.)

Parishioners

Through baptism, all are reborn in Christ, are incorporated in to the Church, and share in the priestly, prophetic, and royal mission of Christ. Each person is called to take responsibility for the mission of the Church in the world. Lay persons who excel in necessary knowledge, prudence, and integrity are qualified to assist the pastors of the Church as experts and advisors, even in councils according to the norm of law (Canon 228).

Purpose of the Parish Pastoral Council

The role of the Parish Pastoral Council (hereafter referred to as the Council) is to be consultative and advisory (Can 536.§2). In this context members are encouraged to seek the views of other parishioners on important matters and the pastor is strongly encouraged to give due consideration to the advice and recommendations of the Council. The Council, as a body representative of the parish faithful, whose focus is the whole community is under the leadership of the Pastor. The council serves in a consultative role to the Pastor and as a resource to the parish committees and staff as they chart their plans, goals, and activities aimed at achieving the mission of the parish.

The Council will serve by:

1. Reflecting on local, diocesan and universal Church priorities, recommending ways to integrate them into the life and ministry of the parish;
2. Periodically reviewing and evaluating the parish vision and mission statements, offering relevant revisions as discerned;
3. Evaluating progress toward achieving the long term pastoral plans, goals and objectives to achieve the parish mission and vision.

The Ministry of the Parish Pastoral Council The Council's ministry is to encourage and support the Pastor, assigned clergy, volunteers and staff, to respond to their call for counsel, and offer the best consultation possible on pastoral issues, plans, and activities. The Council is committed to the spiritual growth of the entire parish community.

Membership

The membership of the Parish Pastoral Council should reflect the entire parish community, be mindful of the diversity of the parish, and should act as the voice of that community.

1. The Pastor, while not a member of the Council, shall serve as the Chair of its meetings.
2. The membership of the Council will consist of:
 - a. Clergy assigned to the parish serving *ex officio*;

- b. The Parish Pastoral Associate, serving *ex officio*;
 - c. The Chair of the Finance Council, serving *ex-officio*;
 - d. Five parishioners appointed at-large by the Pastor;
 - e. Four parishioners, appointed by the Pastor, upon the recommendation of the Director of Hispanic Ministry;
 - f. One parishioner, appointed by the Pastor, upon the recommendation of the Director of Liturgy and Music;
 - g. One parishioner, appointed by the Pastor, upon the recommendation of the Director of Faith Formation;
 - h. One parishioner, appointed by the Pastor, upon the recommendation of the Director of Social Justice Ministry
 - i. One parishioner (from La Busqueda), appointed by the Pastor, upon recommendation of the Director of Youth Ministry.
3. Other members may be appointed as needed to support specific needs.

Terms of Office

There will be an initial designation of members serving one and two year terms (determined by a method approved upon ratification of this charter). Thereafter, appointed Council members shall serve a two-year term. Members will be eligible to serve no more than two consecutive terms.

Recording Secretary

The Recording Secretary shall be the Parish Office Manager who will:

1. Maintain accurate records of Council activities.
2. After consultation with the Pastor, prepare and distribute the agenda to Council members prior to meetings.
3. Place appropriate notices in various parish media to keep the parish apprised of Council activities.

Meetings

The pastor will convene council meetings at least four times a year. All meetings of the Council are open to all parishioners. Meeting dates and times will be announced in parish media.

Committees

The Pastor will appoint members of the Council to standing and ad hoc committees.

There will be a standing Strategic Planning Committee whose purpose will be to evaluate and communicate the implementation of the Parish Pastoral Plan.

Ad hoc subcommittees may be formed to conduct Parish Council business as appropriate.

Relationship with the Parish Community: Parishioners, Committees, and Staff

The Council is made up of parishioners and will maintain open dialogue with community members. The Council is a resource to parishioners, parish committees, and staff members.

Communication

It will be incumbent upon all Council members to have open communications with each other and parishioners to ensure that all relevant opinions and information are openly discussed.

Effective Date

This Charter is effective upon ratification by a vote of 2/3 of the members of the current Council present and voting at the Council meeting on January 28, 2015.