

Saint Ignatius Parish Pastoral Council Constitution

Article 1: Name

The name of the body shall be Saint Ignatius Parish Pastoral Council, herein after referred to as the “Council”.

Article 2: Purpose

The primary functions of the Council are:

1. Consult with the Pastor on all matters of concern to the Parish.
2. Plan with the Pastor to:
 - a. Foster the spirit, liturgy, programs, and ministries of the Parish.
 - b. Develop long term goals and objectives that insure the stability and growth of the Parish as the “Jesuit Church of Baltimore,” consistent with current Society of Jesus documents.
3. Interact with Parish organizations to help the Parish live out its Vision Statement.

Article 3: Manner of Operation

1. The preferred way of proceeding is to reach consensus through a process of discernment.
2. Should arriving at a consensus prove impossible, recommendations can be approved by at least five Council Members. Members are expected to show unanimity with the adopted recommendation.
3. All recommendations are subject to approval by the Pastor.
4. In the event the Council has grave and serious opposition to the nonacceptance by the Pastor of a recommendation, and all possible avenues to resolution are closed, then the Council may appeal to the Vicar Bishop for a resolution. The appeal to the Vicar Bishop must be adopted by at least six members of the Council. The Vicar Bishop is the final arbiter. Every effort should be made to resolve the issue within the Parish.

Article 4: Membership

The Council shall consist of the following:

1. The Pastor
2. Six members elected by the Parish.
3. Three members appointed by the pastor.

Article 5: Elections

1. Eligibility requirements:
 - a. Candidates are registered members of the Parish.
 - b. Candidates are confirmed and at least 18 years of age.
 - c. Council members may not serve simultaneously as Committee Chairpersons.
 - d. Previous Council members are eligible for reelection one year after their last term of office.

2. A term of office January 1 through December 31 of each year.
3. Terms of office:
 - a. No member may serve for more than three consecutive terms
 - b. Elected members serve three consecutive terms.
 - c. Appointed members serve one term, renewable at the discretion of the Pastor for a maximum of three consecutive terms.
 - d. An orderly turnover in membership should result in two elected members and one non-elected member each term.
4. The Pastor and the Council will form a Nominating Committee by October 1st of each year that will orchestrate all aspects of the election.

Article 6: Vacancies

1. Vacancies shall be created by resignation or removal for good cause.
2. Vacancies will be filled in accordance with the by-laws.

Article 7: Officers

1. The Pastor will serve as President of the Council.
2. The Council will elect from its membership:
 - a. Chairperson
 - b. Vice Chairperson
 - c. Secretary
3. The duties of the Officers will be defined in the by-laws.

Article 8: Meetings

1. All meetings require the presence of the Pastor.
2. For any business requiring a quorum, the Pastor and six Council members must be present.

Article 9: Standing Committees

The definition of Standing Committees will be developed and approved at a future date.

Article 10: Amendments

1. The first Council will debate and ratify the Constitution.
2. Constitutional amendments require a two-thirds vote of approval by the Council.
3. The Pastor may reject any proposed amendments.
4. The ratified Constitution will be published to the Parish by the Council.
5. The Constitution will be republished after the approval of every amendment.
6. Amendments may be voted upon only at the last meeting of the Council year.
7. Article 10 cannot be amended once ratified.