

Parish Council Constitution

Article I

Name

Sect A. The name of this body shall be the St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church Parish Council hereinafter referred to as “the Parish Council”.

Article II

Purpose

Sect A. The purpose of the Parish Council is to promote the spiritual growth of the parish community and to plan ways for the parish to carry out the mission of the Church.

Sect B. Duties and Functions. The primary concern of the Parish Council is the spiritual growth of the parish community. The Parish Council is the pastoral planning body of the parish. It insures ongoing collaboration in developing and renewing a pastoral plan of the ministries and life of the parish. The pastoral plan must promote the full mission of the Church: The priestly, prophetic, and royal mission of Jesus. While other groups may focus on a specific area of mission and ministry, the Parish Council is responsible for determining how the parish can be most effective in fulfilling its total mission. The Parish Council discerns what needs to be supported, changed, or developed to make the parish more faithful to the call of God.

Article III

Membership

Sect A. Members of the Parish Council shall consist of the Pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church or his representative, the Deacon(s) of the parish, **and nine lay representatives elected by the parish at large.** The Pastor and/or the Parish Council may appoint an additional two positions as needed.

Sect B. **Each at large member of the Parish Council shall serve a term of three years, with three members being elected each year.**

Sect C. At large members of the Parish Council shall serve no more than two consecutive terms, nor more than four terms total.

Sect D. At large members shall be elected by the parish in a manner specified in the By-laws.

Sect E. Membership on the Parish Council is open to registered Catholic members of the parish, 18 years of age or older.

Sect F. All members of the Parish Council, including those appointed by the Pastor, are authorized to vote as set forth in the By-laws.

Article IV

Officers

Sect A. The officers of the Parish Council shall be a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson.

Sect B. Officers shall be elected by a vote of the Parish Council at the second regularly scheduled meeting following the annual elections of at large members and shall serve one year terms or until their terms expire, whichever comes first.

Sect C. Officers may hold the same office for no more than two consecutive terms, nor more than four terms total.

Sect D. Only at large members shall be eligible for the Parish Council office. Paid staff members, except those who are elected at large members, are ineligible for elective office.

Sect E. The two officers of the council, together with the Pastor, shall constitute an executive committee of the Parish Council.

Sect F. The duties of the Parish Council officers shall be as follows:

1. The Chairperson shall preside at all regular and special meeting of the Parish Council, plan meetings with the executive committee, appoint the Parish Council members and other parishioners to ad hoc committees as needed, see that such committees function properly, and ensure that the Parish Council recommendations are presented to the appropriate parish representative.
2. The Vice-Chairperson shall carry out the duties of the Chairperson in the event the Chairperson is unable to fulfill them. In the event that the Vice-Chairperson is unable to fulfill the duties as the Chairperson, a special elections as provided in Section B above shall be held to fill the vacancy.

Article V

Meetings

Sect A. Regular meetings of the Parish Council shall be held every month as specified in the By-laws.

Sect B. All meetings of the Parish Council shall be publicized in advance whenever

possible and shall be open to all registered members of the parish. Minutes of the previous meeting shall be available.

Sect C. Special meetings of the Parish Council may be called by the Chairperson, or Pastor to deal with matters requiring the Parish Council action between regular meetings.

Sect D. To conduct official business, a quorum of a majority of voting members shall be required.

Sect E. All meetings of the Parish Council shall be conducted according to the Bylaws, and minutes shall be kept.

Article VI

Rescinding of the Parish Council Recommendations

Sect A. While the Pastor is not obligated to follow the recommendations of the Parish Council, it is understood that he would do so unless there is an extraordinary reason to do otherwise. When this is the case, he will make known the basis for his decision to the members of the Parish Council.

Article VII

Amendments

Sect A. This constitution may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the Parish Council membership present at a regular meeting.

Sect B. Any registered member of the parish, 18 years of age or older may propose amendments to the constitution.