



Decree

Norms for Parish Pastoral Councils

By virtue of canon 536, the diocesan bishop may require the establishment of Parish Pastoral Councils, which are to be presided over by the pastor and be composed of the Christian faithful and those who assist him in the pastoral care of the parish. Having heard the advice of the Priests' Council, by this decree I direct that a Parish Pastoral Council be established in every parish of the Diocese of Prince George.

The statutes of each Parish Pastoral Council are to include the following elements and be approved by the local ordinary:

Responsibility:

1. The Parish Pastoral Council is primarily to assist the pastor in fostering the spiritual life of the parish, through planning, programs and services to promote active witnessing of the Gospel in the parish community;
2. Matters concerning parish finances and temporal goods are under the competence of the Parish Finance Council. The Parish Pastoral Council is to receive reports from the Finance Council regarding the parish finances and temporal goods.

Composition:

3. The pastor is the president of the Parish Pastoral Council, which offers him advice in caring for the faithful of the parish;
4. *Ex officio* members of the Parish Pastoral Council include other clergy assigned to the parish, pastoral workers, the principal of the Catholic school and representatives of groups such as the CWL and Knights of Columbus;
5. At least one half of the members of the council are to be either:
 - (a) elected by the parishioners through a vote conducted after Sunday Masses on a weekend designated by the pastor and announced in advance to the parishioners **OR**
 - (b) chosen by the pastor in consultation with the Parish Pastoral Council members;
6. The remaining members of the council may be appointed by the pastor, ensuring that the various ministries and works of the parish are represented by the appointed members;
7. The term of service is two years, renewable, to a maximum of six years;
8. Members who have completed six years of service must step down for a period of three years before they may return to council.
9. All parishioners are to know the members of the Parish Pastoral Council, so that the faithful may make known their pastoral needs to the councillors.

Meetings:

10. The Parish Pastoral Council is to meet at least four times a year at times announced in advance by the pastor;
11. The council may never meet without the pastor or his canonical equivalent;
12. The pastor presides over the council meetings, setting the agenda, taking into account the legitimate desires and suggestions of parishioners as presented by the parish pastoral council members;
13. The pastor may delegate the responsibility to chair the meetings to another member;
14. Minutes of each meeting are to be kept accurately by the secretary and made available to the parishioners through a method determined by the pastor.

Statutes Amendments:

15. Every Parish Pastoral Council in the Diocese of Prince George must operate in accordance with the Code of Canon Law and the norms of this Decree;
16. Every parish is to have a Parish Pastoral Council in place within six months of the date of this decree. A copy of the statutes should be submitted to the Bishop;

The decree of October 28, 2014, is abrogated.

This decree is given at Prince George, British Columbia, and promulgated on this 11th day of July, 2023.



Most Reverend Stephen Jensen
Bishop of Prince George



Reverend John Garden
Chancellor