

Parish Ministry: Sharing Faith, Call, Service

Regardless of parish size or circumstance, we strive to give meaningful expression to the following:

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| mission | 1. Each parish needs <u>an active public leadership body</u> which meets on a regular basis. This body seeks to build, strengthen and nourish faith and to empower members by encouraging critical thinking and ownership. All efforts are rooted in the challenge of the gospel and flow from the community's prayers, gifts and needs as we gather around the Eucharistic table to express and intensify our relationship to each other in the priestly ministry of Jesus Christ. |
| name | 2. This body is to be a <u>parish pastoral council</u> , attentive to all that envelops the human family. Our effort to build the body of Christ is facilitated when membership representative of the <u>cross-section</u> of the community works together to design common <u>written expectations</u> and procedures for the consistent, effective engagement of this body in its work. |
| membership constitution? covenant? state purpose, etc? | |
| consultative | 3. Key to a parish's effort to be catholic and gospel-led is the <u>pastor</u> who receives from the bishop the responsibility to be the bishop's local presence and to share the shepherding roles of teaching, sanctifying and governing in a specific parish. The pastor represents the parish in all juridical matters and is charged to administer the goods of the parish according to the laws of the universal Church. The effectiveness of this leadership is acutely enhanced when we encourage open dialogue, <u>shared decision-making</u> and appropriate action among staff and parishioners. |
| delegate authority, not responsibility | |

- vision
- mission statement
- planning
- not personal or constituent agenda
- committees; specific not mandated
- council & committees shared (power pie)
- not majority
- council not administration
4. The goal of a parish pastoral council is not simply to serve the needs of the parish but to develop a common **vision** and purpose, actively advocate for the poor and the powerless, and extend our **Christian commitment** to the neighborhoods and communities around us. The development of a **statement of mission** for the community is orchestrated by this body and becomes the reference point for activity in the parish as it speaks not only of our present condition but also of the **desired reality**.
 5. It is both the gift and **duty** of members to listen and respond to the **needs of the community** to ensure that well-discerned decisions are made on behalf of all - especially the poor and the powerless.
 6. Each community creates a **local supportive structure** focused in the particular ministries of word, community-building, worship, temporalities and witness which draws on the gifts and talents of members as together we address the needs of the entire community.
 7. **Decisions** are made at the **appropriate level** where they will be implemented. At all times we are challenged to actively **involve** in the decision-making process **those** who will be **affected** by an action. The preferred model of decision-making at every level is **consensus**.
 8. After prayerful study and open discussion, the parish pastoral **council** affirms and endorses **policy decisions** regarding the welfare of the **whole faith community**. **Pastor** and staff ensure adherence to diocesan directives and promote **implementation** of local policy.

Christian!!!

9. In all the actions of this body, members endeavor to:
 - ...be prayerfully rooted in Christ
 - ...reflect on the experience of God in our midst
 - ...support opportunities for education and spiritual growth
 - ...promote peace, justice and the fundamental option for the poor
 - ...work to foster and enhance relationships
 - ...share leadership with others through dialogue, training, and empowering
 - ...evaluate how well the group accomplishes what it intends

...heighten a sense of connectedness to other parishes in
the region and to the diocese as a whole
...enflesh gospel values in this community of Christian
faith.

E. Bell
5/29/96