

PASTORAL COUNCIL BYLAWS

St John Vianney Church

Cumberland, RI

ST JOHN VIANNEY PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Roman Catholic community united in Christ through Baptism, rooted in the Gospel and the Traditions of the Church, giving witness to the Faith through acts of charity and service, always reaching beyond ourselves and bringing others to Christ.

We accomplish this by:

- Worshipping together in Spirit and Truth, united through the Liturgy and the Sacraments
- Providing a strong faith formation program for youth and adults
- Sharing the Good News of Christ in word and deed with the larger community, including our brothers and sisters of other religious traditions.

PASTORAL COUNCIL PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The pastoral council is the official consultative and advisory body for St John Vianney Parish to the pastor. Its purpose is to foster the mission of the parish in light of the gospel and the mission of the Church and our diocese.

The council recognizes that it is bound to observe Canon Law and the norms established by the Diocese of Providence. “A pastoral council is to be established in each parish; the pastor presides over it, and through it the Christian faithful along with those who share in the pastoral care of the parish in virtue of their office give their help in fostering pastoral activity. This pastoral council possesses a consultative vote only and is governed by norms determined by the diocesan bishop.” (CIC 536). It plays an important role in growing and sustaining the vitality of the parish.

The responsibilities of the Council are to:

1. Bring the ideas, requests, concerns, and questions of the parishioners to the attention of the pastor
2. Advise, assist, and support the pastor and his staff in articulating a vision for the ministry of the parish, and to communicate that vision clearly to the members of the parish
3. Identify pastoral needs of the parish
4. Promote the active participation of the parish community in the ministry of the parish

MEETINGS

On average, the council will meet four (4) times each year to be determined quarterly. Special meetings may be called by the pastor if the need arises. Recommendations of the council should be arrived at by consensus and will be advisory to the pastor. Any member of the council may request that an item be placed on the agenda.

The pastor’s attendance is required for meetings, but he does not chair the meetings. Detailed meeting minutes are to be taken and, once approved may be made available upon request. Any interested parishioner may attend as an observer.

MEMBERSHIP

Any registered member of the parish who is a baptized, confirmed, practicing Catholic at St John Vianney Parish and at least 18 years old. A youth ministry representative who is under 18 years of age and a baptized and confirmed member of the parish may also be appointed to the council. Members must be willing to:

1. Attend the majority of meetings
2. Be committed to the faith and mission of the Catholic Church and the parish's particular mission
3. Be concerned for the spiritual and temporal growth of the parish and its members, and,
4. Actively participate in the responsibilities of the council by contributing their own particular perspective, gifts, and talents

Members need to have a desire to be supportive of the pastor, staff, and council and be a liaison to the pastor and the parish community.

The membership of the council will be composed of the following:

1. The pastor, parish staff and parish trustees
2. Two (2) at-large members who will be chosen by lottery after published opportunities to enter their names
3. Representatives of the various parish ministries and other individuals appointed by the pastor, i.e. but not limited to:
 - i. adult faith formation
 - ii. youth faith formation
 - iii. youth ministry
 - iv. parish engagement

TERMS OF OFFICE

In accordance with Diocesan norms, at large and appointed members will serve a two (2) year term with one renewal of term allowed. After a second term a member must be off the council for at least one (1) year before becoming eligible for an additional term. The method for staggering departures will be determined by the council.

OFFICERS

The council shall, at its first meeting after appointments, elect from its appointed members for the following officers for a one (1) year term.

1. A Chairperson, whose duties are to:
 - a. Publish an agenda through consultation with the pastor, at least a week prior to scheduled meetings
 - b. Preside at meetings, and
2. A Vice-Chair, whose duties will be to assume the responsibilities for the chair in his/her absence
3. A Secretary, whose duties are to:
 - a. Take minutes of the meetings
 - b. Disseminate the minutes

SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Selection of at-large members to the council will take place in the spring. Opportunities to volunteer will be published in the parish bulletin. The pastor appoints all other members.

VACANCIES

Vacancies of at-large members occurring in the council from any cause other than the expiration of a term, will be filled by lottery using previously interested parishioners. The new members will serve for the remaining unexpired term of office.

Approved: _____ Date: _____
Pastor Signature