

**CONSTITUTION OF THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL
DIOCESE OF DULUTH**
(Approved: May 30th, 2014)

PREAMBLE

The Presbyteral Council is established to promote the Pastoral welfare of the people of the Church of Duluth. To this end, the elected and appointed representatives of the priests ministering in the Diocese meet with the Bishop to aid him in the governance, teaching and sanctification of the local Church.

ARTICLE 1: Name

The name of this body shall be "The Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Duluth", hereafter referred to as "The Council".

ARTICLE 2: Purpose

The purpose of this Council shall be:

1. To reflect with the Bishop in a consultative assembly on such matters of pastoral concern as he may refer to us or we may candidly present to him.
2. To search out and share various aspects of sacramental life and pastoral ministry so as to serve most effectively the individuals, parishes, and institutions of the entire Diocese.
3. To assist the Bishop in assessing and planning for the future pastoral needs of the Diocese.
4. To be representative of the unity and diversity of the priests ministering in the Diocese.

ARTICLE 3: Membership

Sec. 1. The membership shall consist of the diocesan Bishop, five (5) appointed members (Deans), the Vicar General ex officio, and five (5) elected members (at-large).

Sec. 2. A member to represent each of the five (5) deaneries will be the dean of that deanery and will be appointed by the Bishop. Elected members who represent one of the five (5) at-large constituencies are elected by general ballot from among all the priests eligible to vote in elections. All elections are conducted in a manner specified in the By-laws and for the term specified there.

Article 4: Officers

Sec. 1. The officers of the Council shall be the President, the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, and the Secretary.

Sec. 2. The President of the Council shall be the diocesan Bishop. The President shall have the right to call meetings of the Council, to place matters of concern on the agenda of the Council, to accept or reject (except where otherwise provided by Canon Law) the results of the Council's deliberations, and to promulgate decisions arising from there.

Sec. 3. The Chairman shall preside at meetings of the Council not presided over by the President, shall be the chief executive officer of the Council, shall appoint the Elections Committee at the times indicated in the By-laws, and shall have the duties prescribed for this office by the parliamentary authority and by such standing rules as the Council shall adopt.

Sec. 4. The Vice Chairman and the Secretary shall have the duties prescribed for their respective offices by the parliamentary authority and by such standing rules as the Council shall adopt.

Sec. 5. The officers other than the President shall be elected annually by and from the members of the Council at the first meeting of the Council after July 1 and hold office until their successors are elected. No member shall hold more than one office or be re-elected to the same office for more than two consecutive terms. In the event of a vacancy in an elected office, the Council shall elect an officer from among its members to fill the unexpired portion of the term.

ARTICLE 5: Meetings

Sec. 1. The Council shall meet not less than six (6) times a year. Additional meetings may be convened at the call of the President, the Chairman, or any four (4) members.

Sec. 2. A simple majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 3. At the annual Clergy Conference, a meeting of the entire Presbyterate shall be called at which the officers of the Council shall report to this Presbyteral Assembly on the work of the Council since the last Assembly. The minutes of the Council's meetings shall provide the basis for this report.

Sec. 4. The rules contained in the current edition of "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised" shall govern the Council in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with Canon Law, this Constitution, and any special rules of order the Council may adopt.

ARTICLE 6: Committees

Sec. 1. The Council shall have an Executive Committee and such other standing or special committees as may be necessary to carry on the work of the Council.

Sec. 2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the Council. This Committee shall prepare the agenda for meetings of the Council from those matters presented by the Bishop, the members of the Council and the Presbyterate, and shall coordinate where necessary the work of other committees. The Executive Committee shall not have the power to act in the name of the Council except as specifically authorized by the Council, with the concurrence of the Bishop.

Sec. 3. An Elections Committee shall be appointed as required by the By-laws.

Sec. 4. Other committees may be created by the Council and shall have the rights and duties that the Council shall specify from time to time. Their members shall be appointed by the Chairman and confirmed by the Council.

ARTICLE 7: Priest's Personnel Board

Sec. 1. The Priest's Personnel Board will consist of the five (5) deans.

ARTICLE 8: Amendments

Sec. 1. An amendment may be proposed by any member of the Presbyterate with sponsorship of the Council.

Sec. 2. Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall follow a four-step process:

1. A proposed amendment shall first be presented in writing at a meeting of the Council, to be voted on at the following meeting.
2. The proposed amendment shall be voted on at the meeting following its presentation and requires a two-thirds vote for passage. If passed, it shall then be referred to the Presbyterate.
3. Adoption shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the Presbyterate at the Annual Assembly or by mail ballot.
4. Final approval shall be reserved to the diocesan Bishop.

Sec. 3. A proposed amendment to the By-laws shall be adopted by a simple majority of the votes cast by the Council and the Presbyterate, following the same procedure outlined in Section 2.

Sec. 4. This constitution shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the Presbyteral Assembly and the subsequent approval of the diocesan Bishop, and shall become effective with that approval.