**PASTORAL COUNCIL**

**Operating Principles**

**Parish Mission Statement:** Everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

**Parish Vision Statement:** Through worship, service, community, and Word we strive to bring all people closer together and closer to God

**Objectives of the Pastoral Council:**

* To continuously develop and articulate the deep and mature understanding of the identity and purpose of the parish.
* To call the parish and the larger community to ongoing conversion, to put on Christ
* To be an advisory board to the pastor about the spiritual well-being of the church
* To ensure that the parish is carrying out its stated mission and that the pastoral needs of the parish are met.

**Duties of the Pastoral Council:**

* Collaboration: The pastor or deacon and council members participate fully in the process of reaching consensus, determining the best action or recommendation to be taken, while respecting the role of the pastor as the final legitimate decision maker.
* Empowerment: The council shall seek ways to recognize the shared wisdom and gifts of the laity and to involve them in an adult, responsible way in the mission and ministry of the parish.
* Subsidiarity: The council assigns various concerns, issues and ordinary business to the appropriate committee, group, or individual with the competency to deal with the task.
* Conflict Management: The council will serve to mediate conflict to lead to growth and creative energy by showing respect for one another’s views, openness, patience and a pastoral attitude.
* Planning and Policy Development: The councils work will involve planning NOT administrative duties.

**Membership Criteria:**

Active registered members of the parish are eligible for membership on the council.

Members are chosen by the parish through a selection, election or discernment process.

If a representative cross-section of the parish is not obtained through the process, the pastor, in consultation with the council, may appoint two or more people to the council.

**Term of Membership:**

Length of the terms for all council members should be at least three years for effective knowledgeable work. Ideally, one-third of council should either rotate off or be discerned for one additional term.