
ST BONIFACE PARISH
PARISH COUNCIL CONSTITUTION
Germantown, Wisconsin

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be St Boniface Parish Council, hereinafter referred to as the "Council."

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Section 1: The Council shall be a vehicle for fulfilling the pastoral mission of the parish. It does this by fostering growth within the parish family and the sharing of spiritual gifts and talents; by encouraging positive relationships among all members of the parish, and by collaborating with other parishes and the wider community.

Section 2: The Council shall be involved in planning to meet the needs of parish, the archdiocese and the broader community, with a vision for the future and a strong basis in stewardship.

Section 3: The Council, after prayerful discernment, shall advise the pastor and develop policies to support those activities and programs which foster the spiritual, intellectual, moral and temporal well-being of the parish, and shall make a contribution to archdiocesan goals and policies.

ARTICLE III: SCOPE

Section 1: The Council shall be the planning, consultative and policy formulating body in all matters of parish life, including but not limited to spiritual, educational, social and financial concerns, except to the extent limited by faith and morals, church or civil law or archdiocesan policy/norms.

Section 2: In any case where any member of the Council interprets an action of the council or any of its committees to be outside the limits set forth in Section 1, such member shall present such interpretation no later than the next meeting of the Council and ask for reconsideration. Pending consideration, the effect of the action shall be suspended.

Section 3: In any case where reconsideration has failed to resolve the matter, any Council member may then take the matter to the Office of the Archbishop or one appointed by him, for clarification or arbitration. Any decision resulting from such an appeal shall be final. In the meantime, the effect of the action shall remain suspended.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1:** The Council shall be comprised of 12 members, all of whom must be baptized, practicing Catholics, registered members of the parish, and participants in the parish worship life, especially Mass and the sacraments.
- Section 2:** The Council shall have the following *ex officio* members: the pastor, and the two lay trustees. *Ex officio* members participate fully and equally in all Council decisions.
- Section 3:** 9 at-large members, 18 years of age and older, shall be selected from and by the membership of the parish 18 years of age or older.
- Section 4:** The term for at-large members shall be three years and shall be limited to two consecutive terms. The new members shall begin their terms with the conclusion of the annual transition meeting.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

- Section 1:** The officers of the Council shall be a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and a secretary. They shall be selected by and from the Council at the annual transition meeting. They shall serve for a one-year term beginning with the conclusion of the transition meeting. *Ex officio* members of the Council are ineligible to serve as Council officers or committee chairpersons.
- Section 2:** The council chairperson shall serve as the parish representative to the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council district assembly. The Council vice-chairperson or secretary may be delegated to perform this function.

Article VI: MEETINGS

- Section 1:** Regular Parish Council meetings shall be held at least 10 times per year.
- Section 2:** Special meetings may be called by the chairperson, pastor or a quorum. A quorum consists of two-thirds of the total membership and includes the pastor.
- Section 3:** A transition meeting shall be held at the June meeting following the annual selection of Parish Council members. At this meeting the newly selected members shall join the existing Council for the purpose of selecting Council officers for the following year.

ARTICLE VII: RELATIONSHIP OF PASTOR TO COUNCIL

- Section 1:** The pastor is the parish council president. He presides at the Council by:
- A. Attending all council meetings.
 - B. Making certain that the scope of the council's concerns reflects the entire mission of the Church;
 - C. Enabling the council to build a community of faith and an atmosphere of trust among

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any regular or special meeting by consensus or a two-thirds vote of the Council and thereafter by approval of a majority of the parishioners participating in the parish approval process.

Date of Approval by the Parish Council: June 28, 2011

Date of Approval by the Archdiocese: July 18, 2011 *Mark Kenworthy*

Date of Parish Ratification: _____

Date of Most Recent Amendment: _____

Date of Next Full Review: 2016