

The Community of St. Thomas More

By-Laws of the Pastoral Council

ARTICLE I - PURPOSE

The Pastoral Council is a representative group of parishioners that serve as a consultative body to the Pastor on matters of importance to the Parish community. Designed to help the Parish choose how best to respond to the gospel message, the Council is charged with keeping the mission and vision of the Parish. It is designed to be selective in its focus, discerning in style, and deliberately prayerful in spirituality.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

The Council shall be composed of lay members, the Pastor and Assistant Pastors. Members shall serve on the Council by their election as a Coordinator of one of the respective Portfolios established by the Council to represent a cross section of constituencies in the Parish. As of the date of these By-Laws, the Portfolios include:

- Building and Grounds
- Communications
- Community Life
- Faith Formation
- Hispanic Ministries
- Liturgy
- Outreach
- Stewardship

The number of Portfolios may be changed by the Council if it believes such a change is in the best interest of the Parish.

From time to time, the members of a Portfolio may determine that the effective operation of a Portfolio can best be achieved by establishing co-Coordinator for their respective Portfolio. Requests to establish co-Coordinator for any Portfolio shall be presented to the Council for its consideration.

In addition to these members, seven additional individuals shall be members of the Council. Two members shall be elected as At-Large representatives as described in Article V. The Chair of the Finance Council shall be appointed by the Pastor in keeping with the guidelines for parish finance councils established by the Diocese. The remaining members shall be the Chair of the Pastoral Council, the Chair of the School Board, the Principal of the School and the Parish Administrator.

ARTICLE III - QUALIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP

A. All registered members of the parish 18 years of age or older are eligible for membership. A registered member is one whose name, is listed on a registration card in the parish files.

B. Only one member of a registered family group may serve on the Council at a given time. Family members who are independently registered may serve at the same time.

C. An elected Council member who has served for four consecutive years will not be eligible for Council membership until one year after his or her last term has expired.

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ARTICLE IV - ELECTION OF MEMBERS WITHIN PORTFOLIOS

A. Each of the Portfolios shall be represented by a committee of parishioners. Each committee is responsible for the election of a Coordinator which shall serve as a representative to the Pastoral Council. The regular term of membership shall be two years. One-half of the Portfolios shall hold their elections in odd numbered years, and the other half shall hold their elections in even numbered years. As of the date of these By-Laws, the elections are as follows:

Even Year Elections

Communication
Faith Formation
At-Large member
Liturgy
Stewardship

Odd Year Elections

Community Life
Outreach
At-Large member
Building and Grounds
Hispanic Ministries

B. Elections within each Portfolio shall be held sometime in the period thirty days before Ascension. All new members shall begin their term of service following their commissioning on the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Thomas More.

C. In the event that a Councilor is unable to fulfill his/her term, the Portfolio which that Councilor represents shall elect a replacement to serve the remainder of his/her term. Under extraordinary circumstances, the Executive Committee (the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary) will recommend a candidate to the Pastoral Council for their majority approval.

ARTICLE V - ELECTION OF AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVES

A. The regular term of the At-Large members shall be two years.

B. The invitation to run for an At-Large membership shall be given each year. There shall be a minimum of two and maximum of six nominees for election to the one At-Large membership.

C. Background information of the nominees shall be provided to the parish two weeks prior to the election.

D. The election shall take place within thirty days of Ascension. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will be elected.

E. Newly elected members shall begin their term of service following their commissioning on Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Thomas More.

F. In the event that an At-Large Councilor is unable to fulfill his/her term, the individual with the next highest total in the most recent election shall be asked to serve the remainder of the term. Under extraordinary circumstances, the Executive Committee (the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary) shall recommend a replacement to the Pastoral Council for their majority approval.

ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Officers of the Council will include a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. The nominating committee shall consist of the Chair of the Council and the outgoing Vice-Chair and Secretary. The Chair of

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the Council shall serve a term of two years; the Vice-Chair and Secretary will serve for one-year terms.

The nominating committee shall select at least two candidates for each open position. Each office will be filled by drawing by lot from the candidates nominated. The Pastoral Council Chair, Vice-chair and Secretary shall be selected at the first Council meeting after the election of the At-Large member under

Article V and the election of Portfolio Chairs under Article IV. The selection of officers shall be done at the June meeting of the Pastoral Council. The Council Chair, Vice-chair, and Secretary shall assume their duties following the commissioning on the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saint Thomas More.

The individual selected Chair of the Pastoral Council shall relinquish his/her Portfolio responsibilities and be replaced within their Portfolio as described in Article IV.

These By-Laws of the Pastoral Council for the Catholic Community of St. Thomas More, Chapel Hill, North Carolina were approved by the Pastoral Council on this 13th day of June, 2000.

John E. Hammond, Chair
Susan J. Anderson, Secretary
Pastoral Council Pastoral Council
John G. Durbin, Pastor