

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I

Section 1 - Name

The name of this body is the Pastoral Council of St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church, Greenwich, Connecticut, hereinafter the “Council”.

Section 2 – Authority

The Council established in each parish in the Diocese of Bridgeport, is the consistent policy of the Diocese of Bridgeport. It possesses a consultative role only and is governed by norms determined by the diocesan bishop, Canon 536; The Parish Administration and Finance Manual of the Diocese of Bridgeport. It is responsible to and presided over by, the Pastor.

ARTICLE II

Section 1 – Purpose

The purpose of the Council is to consider pastoral matters thoroughly and to recommend practical conclusions about them (this is ‘pastoral planning’). After the pastor has accepted the recommendations of the Council the pastor directs their implementation.

Section 2 – Functions and Responsibilities

The Council shall:

- a) Advise and aid the Pastor as he implements recommendations of pastoral planning. Implementation is always the responsibility of the pastor.**
- b) Assist in communicating such plans to the Parish.**
- c) Evaluate, advise and recommend changes of Parish pastoral matters**
- d) Act as a conduit for ideas and suggestions from Parishioners to the Parish staff.**

(e) Facilitate a sense of community and spiritual atmosphere engendered by the Parish's activities.

ARTICLE III

Section 1 – Membership

The membership shall consist of:*

- a) All Parish clergy – Priests and Deacons**
- b) Lay members of the Parish Corporation**
- c) Chair of the Parish Finance Committee**
- d) Greenwich Catholic School Representative who is a parent of GCS student(s), as well as a member of St Michael's Parish**
- e) Parish organization leaders or their designee, i.e., St Michael Women's Association, St. Michael Men's Association...**
- f) Six adult members of the Parish duly elected in the manner set forth below**

***Pastor can always ask staff members to attend certain Council meetings in order to share their knowledge on specific topics, therefore they need not to be members; e.g. Business Manager, Pastoral Assistant for Faith Formation, Coordinator of Youth Education.**

Section 2 – Term of Office

The term of office for elected members shall be two years. No elected member of the Council shall serve more than two consecutive two-year terms. A person who has served two consecutive terms will be eligible to run again after a one-year absence.

Section 3 - Officers

The Pastor presides at every meeting. He consults, accepts or rejects recommendations and develops agenda with Council officers. Although the pastor is the presider, he shares leadership of the Council so the Council

shall for a term of one year nominate and elect from its membership the following officers:

a) A Chairperson who shall facilitate Council discussion at all meetings and direct its activities.

b) A Secretary who shall keep accurate records of all meetings of the

Council. A copy of such records shall be kept on file in the

Pastor's office. The Secretary is responsible for receiving all

nominations for elected members and conducting elections.

Section 4 – Meetings

Meetings of the Council shall be held monthly in September through June unless modified by a recommendation of the Council members. The meetings shall be held at a time and date as determined by the Council.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1 - Nominations

Before the May Council meeting, Parishioners will be notified of the forthcoming election and will be invited to suggest candidates for the elected positions. Parishioners can nominate themselves or others. All members of the Council may submit up to two nominations. All nominations are to be written and submitted to the Secretary of the Council before the May meeting.

All candidates shall be faithful and registered members of the Parish.

Section 2 – Elections

Elections shall take place at the May Council meeting. Council members will vote for candidates to fill the vacant positions. The candidate(s) receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected.

Section 3 – Vacancies

If one of the elected members is unable to complete his or her term, a Parishioner designated by a majority of the Council shall serve the remainder of that term.

ARTICLE V

Section 1 - Amendments

These Articles may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the Council members after the pastor has accepted a recommendation to amend.

Glossary of Terms

The Code of Canon Law:

Canon 536:1 – If the diocesan bishop judges it opportune after he has heard the presbyteral council, a pastoral council is to be established in each parish, over which the pastor presides and in which the Christian faithful, together with those who share in pastoral care by virtue of their office in the parish, assist in fostering pastoral activity.

Canon 536.2 - A pastoral council possesses a consultative vote only and is governed by the norms established by the diocesan bishop.

Parish Administration & Finance Manual

Chapter 2 – The Parish – page 2 - Parish Pastoral Council (commonly referred to as the Parish Council). This advisory body, comprised of parishioners and Parish clergy, meets regularly with the Pastor to offer advice and assistance on the short-and-long-term needs of the Parish.

This document was developed and approved by the Parish Council of St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church – 2011-2012

Approved by Monsignor J. Peter Cullen P.A., Pastor June 25, 2012