

# CONSTITUTION OF

St. Dominic \_\_\_\_\_ PARISH COUNCIL

Brookfield \_\_\_\_\_, Wisconsin

## Mission Statement

**“ To Seek Christ, Know Christ and Become Christ, each one for the sake of all “**

As followers of Our Savior Jesus Christ and nurtured by God’s love, we seek to develop our faith through the spirit of Vatican II:

- A. By renewing ourselves in worship and sacramental life;
- B. By sharing in stewardship with our time, talent and treasure;
- C. By teaching the Catholic Christian Tradition to our children, youth and adults;
- D. By serving the hungry, the lonely, the elderly and the infirm - both within and outside of our parish.

Committed to deepen and personalize our faith and guided by the Holy Spirit as we continually renew ourselves, we strive:

- A. To deepen the faith of our community through expanding the opportunities for each member’s growth in spiritual life and worship;
- B. To build a strong sense of parish and family faith-life, reaching out to all in hospitality as we worship, work, live and serve together;
- C. To enlighten and educate adults, youth and children in our Catholic Christian Tradition and values;
- D. To discern the needs of the people in the parish and the larger community and identify resources to meet those needs;
- E. To justly administer parish personnel and supportive resources through sound fiscal management practices.

## ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be St. Dominic 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 policy formulating body in all matters of the parish, 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 Thirteen (13) members, all of whom must be baptized, practicing Catholics, at least eighteen (18) years old, 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, the associate \_\_\_\_\_ pastor, and the two lay trustees. Ex officio members participate fully and equally in all Council decisions.

**Section 3.** Nine (9) at-large members shall be selected from and by the membership of the \_\_\_\_\_ parish eighteen (18) years of age or older.

**Section 4.** The term for the at-large members shall be three years and shall be limited to two consecutive terms. The new members shall begin their terms at the first meeting of the Fiscal year following election.

## **ARTICLE V: OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The officers of the Council shall be a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and a secretary. They shall be discerned from and by after the annual election and shall serve for a one year term beginning immediately upon their election. Ex officio members of the Council are ineligible to serve as Council officers or committee chairpersons.

**Section 2.** The council chairperson could serve as the parish delegate 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 Meetings of the Council shall be held on a monthly basis for a minimum of ten (10) months out of the year.

**Section 2.** Special meetings may be called by the chairperson, pastor, or a quorum. A quorum consists of two-thirds members and includes the pastor.

**Section 3.** A discernment meeting shall be held at the next regular Council 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 presides at the Council by:

- A. Attending all Council meetings. It is understood that unexpected situations may arise when the pastor may be unable to attend.
- 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 council members,
- D. Making certain that parish council members have adequate training;
- E. Assisting in formulating the Council agenda;
- F. Sharing in the dialogue that leads to the formulation of policy;
- G. Serving as chief administrative officer of the parish; and
- H. Executing the policies formulated by the Council.

If the pastor judges that the decision is contrary to Church teaching or discipline, or violates a diocesan norm, the pastor may withhold execution, giving to the Council the reasons. In such case the Council may appeal 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.

**Section 2:** The pastor does not chair Council meetings.

**Section 3:** Before requesting a proxy from the archbishop, the pastor will consult with the Council. The consensus of the Council shall be represented in the request for proxy.

## **ARTICLE VIII: MANNER OF OPERATION**

The Council's manner of operation shall be communal discernment which includes prayerful reflection, gathering of information, dialogue and sharing of conclusions. The usual method of reaching decisions shall be consensus.

## **ARTICLE IX: STANDING COMMISSIONS**

**Section 1.** The Council shall have the following standing commissions:

- A. Prayer and Worship
- B. Christian Formation Commission
- C. Human Concerns Commission

Other committees or subcommittees may be established or disbanded as specified in the Council By-Laws as the Council shall deem necessary.

**Section 2. Council Commission Liaison**

The Council shall select from its at-large members a liaison to each of its standing commissions at one of the first couple meetings in the fiscal year following the selection of new officers. Liaisons shall serve for a one-year term beginning with their election. Ex officio members and officers of the Council are ineligible to serve as liaisons.

## 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 Archdiocese: 3/26/02

Date of Approval by the Parish: 3/14/02

Date of Most Recent Amendment: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Next Full Review: 2007-2008