

ST. MICHAEL POPLAR SPRINGS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

PASTORAL COUNCIL CHARTER

Preamble: The people of God worshipping at St. Michael Catholic Church live vibrant lives dedicated to the Gospel through Mass attendance, prayer, service, financial stewardship and sharing the Faith.

ARTICLE I

The name of this body shall be the St. Michael Pastoral Council, hereinafter referred to as “the Council.”

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

1. Acting in faithful witness to the Gospel, the Pastoral Council provides the pastor with recommendations and insight into the spiritual and corporal needs of the parish. Living in faithful witness to the Gospel, members of the Pastoral Council labor collaboratively to support Mission areas that are channels of the Holy Spirit working in our midst.
2. Additionally, the Council:
 - a. Helps develop the strategic direction of the parish
 - b. Advises the pastor on ways to achieve the goals of the parish
 - c. Supports parish staff and council committees

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

1. The Council is comprised of up to 12 members consisting of six elected members and up to six pastor-appointed members. St. Michael Parish staff are not members but work closely with the Council.
2. The term of an appointed member is three years.
3. The term of an elected member is three years. An elected member may serve two consecutive elected terms. Member may not serve a third consecutive term as an elected member but may serve as an appointed member.

ARTICLE IV: ELECTIONS

1. One third of elected members are up for reelection each year.
2. Elections are held annually in September. Nominees for the Council must be approved by the pastor before the election. New members take office at October’s Council meeting.
3. If an elected member vacates their position, the Council will recommend to the pastor a replacement to be appointed for the duration of the elected term.

ARTICLE V: STRUCTURE

1. The Presider serves as leader of the Council. The Presider acts as a liaison between the pastor and the Mission Area leaders, provides guidance to the Mission Area leaders as needed, and presides over the Council's meetings.
2. There are five Mission Area leaders who, in conjunction with a parish staff member, act as liaisons between Mission Area committees and organizations, the Council Presider and the pastor. Mission Area leaders provide support and guidance to associated committees and organizations.
3. Council members identified as "Key Support Members" represent parishioner viewpoints within the Mission Areas and help to identify resources to fulfill the Mission Area goals.
4. The five Mission Areas are:
 - a. Liturgy.
As faithful witnesses to the Gospel, the Liturgy Mission area fulfills the parish mission by envisioning, planning and executing a strong parish liturgical life that encourages the Faithful to participate fully in worshipping God.
 - b. Evangelization.
As faithful witnesses to the Gospel, the Evangelization Mission area fulfills the parish mission by finding ways to share Christ inside and outside the parish community. Inside the parish community, the Mission area works to develop an enthusiasm for living and sharing the Catholic faith through prayer, study, service, fellowship and worship. Outside of the parish community, the Mission area supports events and programs that share Christ with others.
 - c. Education.
As faithful witnesses to the Gospel, the Education Mission area fulfills the parish mission by educating and becoming educated in the truths of the Gospel and in the formation of conscience by enhancing the effectiveness of religious education programs and engaging in dialogue to strengthen their resolve to meet moral and ethical challenges of the day.
 - d. Service/Social Justice.
As faithful witnesses to the Gospel, the Service Justice Mission area fulfills the parish mission by focusing on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy needs of the parish and the community, within the Catholic context of mercy.
 - e. Stewardship.
As faithful witnesses of the Gospel, the Stewardship Mission area fulfills the parish mission by actively encouraging and supporting parishioners' awareness of the many gifts bestowed upon them by God. The Mission area enthusiastically fosters Christian stewardship of parish time, talent, treasure and prayer, helping parishioners reap the benefit of receiving God's gifts gratefully, cultivating them responsibly, sharing them lovingly and returning them with increase to the Lord.

5. Each organization of St. Michael Parish is linked to the Pastoral Council by being associated with one of the five Mission Areas.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

1. The meetings of the Council are held monthly with the exception of July.
2. A Strategic Planning Meeting is held annually.
3. Council recommendations are reached by consensus. Alternative viewpoints are included in recommendations for consideration by the pastor and pastoral staff.
4. All meetings are open to the parish unless otherwise specified.