

# **Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Davenport**

## **Preamble**

The Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Davenport is “a group of priests which, representing the presbyterium, is to be like a senate of the diocesan bishop and which assists the diocesan bishop in the governance of the Diocese according to the norm of law to promote as much as possible the pastoral good of the portion of the people of God entrusted to him.”

(c. 495 §1)

## **Constitution of the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Davenport**

### **Article I. Name**

The name of the organization shall be the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Davenport.

### **Article II. Purpose**

The purpose of the Presbyteral Council shall be:

- A. To encourage the full and free discussion of all issues of pastoral concern in the Diocese.
- B. To provide a representative forum with the diocesan bishop for the priests doing ecclesial work in the Diocese and any priest incardinated to the Diocese of Davenport, thus providing an organized opportunity for mutual and open reflection and fraternal dialogue.
- C. To search for and to propose ways and means for the effective pastoral ministry of priests.
- D. To provide consultation with the diocesan bishop required by canon law (See Addendum).

### **Article III. Membership**

The membership shall consist of the elected members, ex-officio members and appointed members from among the priests serving in the Diocese of Davenport and priests incardinated to the Diocese of Davenport.

## **Article IV. College of Consultors**

The College of Consultors is to be freely selected from among the membership of the Presbyteral Council by the diocesan bishop. (cf. c. 502)

## **Article V. Officers**

- A. The officers of the Presbyteral Council shall be the president, the chairman, the vice chairman, the secretary, and the treasurer.
- B. The president shall be the diocesan bishop. The chairman, the vice chairman, the secretary and the treasurer are elected from among the elected members of the Council for a two-year term.

## **Article VI. Meetings**

- A. The Council shall meet on a regular schedule as determined by the Bylaws and as convened by the president.
- B. A simple majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

## **Article VII. Committees**

- A. The Council shall have an Executive Committee and other standing or ad hoc committees as shall be necessary to carry on the work of the Council.
- B. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the Council. The Executive Committee shall not have the power to act in the name of the Council except as specifically authorized by the Council according to the Bylaws.

## **Article VIII. The Impeded See or the Vacant See**

When the See is impeded, the Presbyteral Council continues to exist. When the See is vacant, the Presbyteral Council ceases. The new diocesan bishop will establish the Presbyteral Council anew within a year of taking possession of the Diocese. (cf. c. 501 §2)

## **Article IX. Amendments**

Amendments to this constitution may be made by a two-thirds majority of the membership of the Council with the approval of the diocesan bishop, prior notice having been given as specified in the Bylaws.

# **Bylaws of the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Davenport**

## **Article I. Membership**

- A. The membership of the Presbyteral Council is comprised of the elected members, ex-officio members and, at the discretion of the diocesan bishop, appointed members.
- B. The diocesan bishop may appoint members when he believes that a particular constituency of the priests is under-represented on the Council, observing in his appointments the admonition that about half of the members are to be freely elected. The diocesan bishop is encouraged to identify the constituency which is under-represented when he makes appointments to the Council. (cf. c. 497 §1)
- C. One member is elected from each of the four age groups as determined by the diocesan bishop for Priests' Personnel Board and Priests' Aid Society elections.
- D. One member is elected by the retired priests of the Diocese.
- E. One member is elected by those priests in special ministries, that is, any priest in a non-parish ministry.
- F. One member is elected by the non-incardinated (extern) priests in the Diocese.
- G. The ex-officio members are the vicar general, the vicar for priests, and the vicars forane (deans) of the Diocese.
- H. A representative of the Deacon Council will be invited to participate in Presbyteral Council meetings as a non-voting observer.

## **Article II. Term of Office**

- A. The term of office for elected members is four years. (cf. c. 501 §1)
- B. The term of office for appointed members is to be determined and announced at the time of appointment.
- C. In the event of death, extra-diocesan transfer, protracted illness determined by failure to attend meetings and committee meetings for a six-month period or resignation of any member of the Presbyteral Council, a new representative shall be elected or appointed as is appropriate.
- D. No member shall represent more than one constituency.

- E. All members are eligible for reelection or reappointment.
- F. An elected age group representative who transfers from one age group to another shall continue to serve that age group as a member of the Presbyteral Council until the end of his term.
- G. Elections for age group representatives shall occur in May of an election year.
- H. The Presbyteral Council officers are to be elected at the September meeting of the Council with the term of office to commence at that meeting and to continue through the September meeting two years hence.

### **Article III. Duties of Officers**

- A. The president of the Council shall be the diocesan bishop. The president shall have the right to call the meetings of the Council, to place matters of concern on the agenda, to accept or reject (except where otherwise provided by canon law) the results of the Council's deliberations and can make them public.  
(cf. c. 500 §3)
- B. The Executive Committee shall represent the Council in the conduct of routine business as may be necessary at a time when the Council is not in session. Any required canonical consultation is specifically excluded from the routine business which the Executive Committee may conduct. (See Addendum.)
- C. The chairman shall conduct the meetings of the Council and shall have the duties prescribed for this office under the rules of parliamentary procedure. He shall also appoint committees.
- D. The Vice Chairman
  - 1. Shall replace the chairman in his duties when the chairman is absent
  - 2. Shall assist the chairman in his duties
- E. The Secretary
  - 1. Shall be responsible for the records of the Council and the minutes of each meeting
  - 2. Shall notify members of the Council of the time, place and agenda of the meetings
  - 3. Shall send a copy of the minutes of each meeting to the diocesan bishop
  - 4. Shall be responsible to carry on any necessary correspondence for the Council
- F. The Treasurer
  - 1. Shall collect the dues
  - 2. Shall give a current financial report at each regular meeting
  - 3. Shall pay the bills authorized by the Council

## **Article IV. Meetings**

The Council shall meet regularly in the months of February, May, September and November, with an optional meeting in June, provided there are substantive agenda items for discussion. Meetings will customarily be held on the second Tuesday of the designated months. The time, date and location of meetings will be determined by the Council or by the diocesan bishop.

## **Article V. Dues**

The annual dues for each priest residing in the Diocese are \$50 per year.

## **Article VI. Amendments**

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made by a simple majority vote of the membership of the Council with the approval of the diocesan bishop and with at least ten days prior notice having been given to the members of the Council.

## Addendum

**The *Code of Canon Law* identifies the following times in which the Presbyteral Council must be consulted:**

Canon 461 §1

Concerns the calling of a diocesan synod

Canon 515 §2

Concerns the erection, suppression or notable alteration of a parish

Canon 531

Regards the allocation of offerings received as stole fees

Canon 536 §1

Regards the establishment of a pastoral council in each parish

Canon 1215 §2

Regards the building of a new church

Canon 1222 §2

Regards the reduction of a church to profane but not sordid use

Canon 1263

Regards the imposition of a moderate tax for diocesan needs

Canon 1742 §1

Regards the appointment of pastors who are to assist the diocesan bishop in cases of the removal of a pastor whose ministry has become detrimental or ineffective. (cf. c. 1740) The diocesan bishop is to select two pastors from the group established by the Presbyteral Council who will assist the diocesan bishop in cases in which canon 1742 is invoked.

**Regarding the manner in which consultation will occur:**

For any event or action in which the counsel of the Presbyteral Council is required such counsel must be sought by observing the following protocol:

1. The exact matter (that is, the exact wording of the motion to be placed on the table) must be distributed to the members of the Presbyteral Council at least ten days prior to the meeting.
2. A roll call vote shall be required for any matter for which the consultation of the Presbyteral Council is required by law.

Amendments to the Addendum may be made by a simple majority vote of the membership of the Council with the approval of the diocesan bishop with at least ten days prior notice having been given to the members.

Prot. 2025-01

Promulgated this \_29\_ day of January, 2025



Most Rev. Dennis G. Walsh  
Bishop of Davenport



Deacon David Montgomery, Chancellor  
Notary