



Prot No. 100325

DECREE OF PROMULGATION
PARTICULAR LAW
ON THE STRUCTURING OF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCILS

Regarding the structuring of parish pastoral councils, and after having heard the Presbyteral Council on this matter, I hereby decree that the following be established as particular law for the Diocese of Kalamazoo:

Every parish in the diocese is to have a parish pastoral council, according to the following norms. (cf. can. 536 §§1-2).

- §1 Parishes which do not share a pastor and are not partnered in a “collaborative” are to have their own proper parish pastoral council, the members of which are to be parishioners in good standing of that same parish.
- §2 At the discretion of the pastor, parishes partnered in a “collaborative” may (1) each have their own parish pastoral council, in which case the members of each council are to be parishioners in good standing of that same parish, or (2) may share a single combined pastoral council which has an equal number of members in good standing from each parish in the collaborative.

This decree is effective November 1, 2025, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery
of the Diocese of Kalamazoo
on this 3rd day of October, 2025

Edward M. Lohse

The Most Reverend Edward M. Lohse, JCD
Bishop of Kalamazoo

Jeffrey D. Hanley
The Reverend Jeffrey D. Hanley, JCL
Vice-Chancellor

Regulations for Parish Pastoral Councils in the Diocese of Kalamazoo, MI

1.0 General Regulations

- 1.1 These diocesan regulations presuppose and supplement prescriptions of the 1983 Code of Canon Law and any other prescriptions issued by the Apostolic See, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and all other laws or norms of the Roman Catholic Church.
- 1.2 These diocesan regulations also presuppose and supplement the prescriptions pertaining to the administration of Parish temporal affairs issued by the Bishop of Kalamazoo, including but not limited to the *Financial Policies & Procedures* (October 2024).
- 1.3 Any customs, practices, or previous norms which are contrary to the universal law of the Roman Catholic Church and these diocesan regulations are suppressed.
- 1.4 The Bishop of Kalamazoo alone, after consulting the appropriate consultative bodies, including the Presbyteral Council, may amend or add to these diocesan regulations in whatever form that is legitimate according to the universal law of the Catholic Church (canons 391, 1276 §2).
- 1.5 The Bishop of Kalamazoo alone may give an authentic interpretation of diocesan regulations (canon 16 §1).
- 1.6 Dispensations from these diocesan regulations may be given only by the diocesan bishop or the vicar general or episcopal vicars within their competence (canons 87 §1, 88, 89) or by any other lawfully appointed delegate of the diocesan bishop.
- 1.7 The Bishop of Kalamazoo is responsible, either personally or through his delegate, for urging and directing the observance of these diocesan regulations (canon 392).

2.0 Parish Pastoral Council

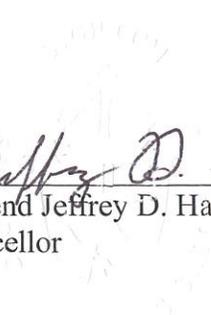
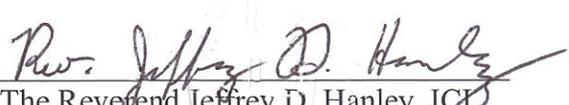
- 2.1 The number of persons who are to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council and their qualifications and manner and length of appointment are determined according to norms issued by the Bishop of Kalamazoo and the Parish statutes.
 - 2.1.1 It is necessary that the members of the Parish Pastoral Council effectively represent the community of which it is an expression in its membership (priests, deacons, religious and laity).¹
 - 2.1.2 “It is considered fitting that, as far as possible, the Parish Pastoral Council should consist for the most part of those who have effective responsibility in the pastoral life of the Parish, or who are concretely engaged in it, in order to avoid the meetings becoming an exchange

¹ Cf. Congregation for the Clergy, Instruction “The pastoral conversion of the Parish community in the service of the evangelising mission of the Church” (20 July 2020), n. 112.

of abstract ideas that do not take into account the real life of the community, with its resources and problems”².

- 2.2 In accord with the diocesan *Financial Policies & Procedures* (October 2024), one member of the parish finance council is to be an *ex officio* member of the Parish Pastoral Council.
- 2.2.1 In the case of a single combined pastoral council for multiple parishes, a member representative from each Parish Finance Council is to be considered *ex officio* member(s) of the Parish Pastoral Council.
- 2.3 The Parish Pastoral Council “possesses a consultative vote only, in the sense that its proposals must be accepted favorably by the Pastor to be binding. The Pastor is then bound to consider the indications of the Pastoral Council attentively, especially if they express themselves unanimously, in a process of common discernment”³.
- 2.4 The Parish Pastoral Council advises the pastor about all matters concerning planning, coordinating, and promoting pastoral activity in the Parish according to diocesan regulations and the statutes of the Parish.
- 2.5 The Parish Pastoral Council is to meet at least quarterly. Each meeting is to have a formal agenda and the recording of minutes.

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² Cf. *Ibid.*, n. 114.

³ Cf. *Ibid.*, n. 113; C.I.C., can. 536 §2