

## IX. Diocesan Commissions

- A. Each Diocesan Commission is advisory to the Bishop through one of the Directors of our Diocesan Pastoral Offices:
  - 1. the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission through the Director of the Office of the Word;
  - 2. the Diocesan Liturgy Commission, the RCIA Commission and the Diocesan Building and Planning Commission through the Director of the Office of Worship;
  - 3. the Diocesan Respect Life Commission, the Diocesan Women's Commission, the Diocesan Social Justice Commission, and the Diocesan Catholic/Lutheran Rural Life Commission through the Director of the Office of Christian Service.
- B. The term of membership on each Commission is three years, with no more than two consecutive terms (six successive years).
  - 1. The terms of the individual members should be staggered over a three-year period so that each year one-third of the membership is either new or renewed.
  - 2. Second terms require the Bishop's approval but not a new letter of appointment.
- C. No Commission should have more than 12 members. (This does not mean that 12 are required; still, fewer than 5 may not be enough to have a broad spectrum of views expressed on a given issue.)
- D. An annual budget will be prepared by each Commission according to the following guidelines and presented to the appropriate director by November 1:
  - 1. Expense will include meals and mileage (according to current diocesan policy) for members for no more than four meetings a year.
  - 2. Expenses may include necessary books and resources for the use of members as well as funds for regional or national conventions/conferences for one or more Commission members.
  - 3. Since programs and events are to be self-supporting, Commissions who anticipate hosting such an event may include start-up costs in their budget with the understanding that the revenue generated by the event must cover the start-up costs in addition to other costs.
  - 4. Commissions are not to donate funds to other groups, causes or individual persons.
- E. New members of any Commission should be recommended to the Bishop by the Commission through the appropriate Director.

The Bishop will send a formal letter of appointment to new members. (The first members of a new Commission should be recommended to the Bishop by the Director of the appropriate Pastoral Office.)

- F. Each Commission is annually to choose its own chair, vice-chair, and secretary(-treasurer), with re-election permissible. Each Commission chair is responsible for maintaining communication with the bishop through the appropriate Diocesan Director.
- G. Each Commission should seek the Bishop's approval before taking any public positions or making any public statements on issues that come before it; this approval may be obtained through the appropriate Director.
- H. According to the time available to them, Commission members are encouraged to be involved in the implementation of their respective commission's projects.
- I. The Bishop should be invited to attend at least one meeting of each Commission each year.
- J. With the approval of the Bishop, Commissions that are ecumenical may tailor these guidelines if this is deemed appropriate.