

**THE ECUMENICAL COMMISSION
DIOCESE OF CROOKSTON**

MISSION STATEMENT

The Ecumenical Commission of the Diocese of Crookston serves to foster and promote Christian Unity through ecumenical activities and events in the parishes, community, and indeed, the global community. The Ecumenical Commission, under the direction of the Bishop, will help guide and provide members of the faithful with consistency and coordination on the various practices of ecumenism.

"The term 'ecumenical movement' indicates the initiatives and activities encouraged and organized, according to the various needs of the Church and as opportunities offer, to promote Christian unity." (Decree on Ecumenism, n.4)
"Cooperation among Christians vividly expresses that bond which already unites them and it sets in clearer relief the features of Christ the Servant.... It should contribute to a just appreciation of the dignity of the human person, to the promotion of the blessing of peace, the application of Gospel principles to social life, and the advancement of the arts and sciences in a truly Christian spirit Through such cooperation all believers in Christ are able to learn easily how they can understand each other better and esteem each other more, and how the road to the unity of Christians may be made smooth." (Decree on Ecumenism, n.12)

This Commission is charged with:

- 1) putting into practice locally the decisions of Vatican II on ecumenical affairs, (Ad Totam Ecclesiam, n.6)
- 2) fostering prayer for the "fullness of unity which Jesus Christ bestows," (Decree on Ecumenism, n.8)
- 3) helping and encouraging ecumenical seminars, workshops, happenings and events, etc.,
- 4) promoting friendliness and charity between Catholics and other Christians,
- 5) initiating, guiding and encouraging conversations/dialogues between Catholics and other Christians,
- 6) lastly, as an example to the Christian community, taking the lead to promote with other Christians specific events such as the celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, regular recognition of ecumenical married couples for strength and longevity. The Commission will provide opportunities for educational events and activities on the Decrees of Vatican Council II on Ecumenism and Religious Freedom and post conciliar documents.

BY-LAWS OF THE ECUMENICAL COMMISSION

- 1) All members are appointed by and accountable to the Bishop for a term of three years. The first term is renewable once upon recommendation of the Director of the Office of the Word. All members are working members of the Commission. Members are to keep abreast of local and universal ecumenical events/activities and to share these at Commission meetings. Commission members are to be the ecumenical leaders of their parishes and communities.
- 2) Officers are selected by Commission members with regard to time, talent and the desire to serve in office, but will not serve more than two consecutive years in any one office. Officers shall be the Chair, who convenes the meetings and sets agendas; the ViceChair, who presides when the Chair is not present; the Secretary, who records minutes and does correspondence.
- 3) The Commission shall operate by the consensus model.
- 4) A budget will be prepared through the Office of the Word for minutes, mailings, and resource materials for members and parishes. Members are eligible to be reimbursed for mileage to regular and special meetings of the Commission or other diocesan gatherings when acting as a representative of the Commission.
- 5) The Commission will meet at least four (4) times a year in a central diocesan location.
- 6) The Commission will attempt to meet as needed with other diocesan commissions for integration and cooperation regarding diocesan vision, programs and policy, networking ideas, prayer and cost savings.
- 7) These by-laws can be amended by the consensus of the group one meeting after the new amendment has been introduced and discussed.

VARIOUS CONSULTATIVE BODIES

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