

Archdiocesan Pastoral Council Guidelines

A. Preamble

The Archdiocesan Pastoral Council of the Archdiocese of Vancouver (hereafter “the Council”) is hereby established pursuant to number 27 of the decree *Christus Dominus* of the Second Vatican Council and canons 511-514 of the Code of Canon Law.

The Council is a means by which the Christian faithful, especially the laity,¹ exercise their right and duty to share in the Church’s saving mission² and to make known their needs, desires and opinions.³

Equally, the council expresses the collaboration of the archdiocesan community with the Archbishop’s ministry⁴ and provides him with a valuable means of dialogue and discernment.⁵

The members participate in a spirit of communion,⁶ recognizing that the Holy Spirit distributes special graces for the building up of the Church among all the faithful,⁷ who share a true equality with regard to their dignity and baptismal calling.⁸ In their diversity— of gifts, states of life, and offices — they bear witness to the unity in the Body of Christ.⁹

B. Mission and Purpose

1. Under the authority of the Archbishop, the Council investigates and considers archdiocesan pastoral activities in order to propose practical conclusions concerning them.¹⁰
2. After study and reflection, the Council assists the Archdiocese to plan its pastoral program systematically and to accomplish it effectively.
3. The Council’s concerns also include, but are not limited to, catechetical, missionary, and apostolic initiatives; the promotion of doctrinal formation and the sacramental life; assistance to the pastoral ministry of the clergy, and ways of raising public awareness of matters concerning the Church.¹¹
4. The Council in no way replaces or supplants the function assigned by law to the Presbyteral Council¹² or other consultative bodies, but may consider matters with which

¹ *Lumen Gentium*, 30 and also canon 225, §1.

² *Lumen Gentium*, 17 and also canon 211.

³ Cf. canon 212, §§2 and 3.

⁴ *Apostolorum Successores*, 184.

⁵ *Christifideles Laici*, 25.

⁶ *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 45.

⁷ Catechism of the Catholic Church, 951.

⁸ *Lumen Gentium*, 30; also canons 208 and 209.

⁹ *Lumen Gentium*, 32.

¹⁰ Cf. canon 511.

¹¹ *Apostolorum Successores*, 184; *Omnes Christifideles*, 9.

¹² Cf. canon 495, §1.



the Presbyteral Council is concerned, recognizing the Archbishop's primary obligation to seek its assistance on certain matters.¹³

5. Matters of doctrine, moral principles, and universal law are outside the Council's competence.¹⁴
6. The Council is a consultative body, not a deliberative one.¹⁵ This does not diminish its contribution, since the theology and spirituality of communion underline the great respect to be given its deliberations.¹⁶
7. Nothing in these statutes limits the right of any member of the Christian faithful to make known any matter directly to the Archbishop.¹⁷

C. Membership

1. The membership shall reflect the composition of the entire Archdiocese, with due regard for diverse regions, social conditions, national origins, and occupations, as well as the various states of life and works of the apostolate carried on both by individuals and groups.¹⁸ The Council shall have no fewer than 18 members and no more than 30 members.
2. At least two-thirds of the members shall be lay Christian faithful active in the life of the Church in the Archdiocese of Vancouver.¹⁹
3. Lay employees of the Archdiocese, its agencies, parishes, and schools shall not be eligible for membership.
4. All members must be Catholics in full communion with the Church, outstanding in firm faith, good morals, and prudence.²⁰

D. Selection of Members

1. All members are either appointed by the Archbishop or, if elected, confirmed by him.
2. Local ordinaries of the Archdiocese shall be members *ex officio*.
3. Three deans (vicars forane) will be elected by the Presbyteral Council by a procedure of its choosing.

¹³ *Omnes Christifideles*, 9.

¹⁴ *Omnes Christifideles*, 9

¹⁵ Cf. canon 514, §1

¹⁶ *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 45

¹⁷ Cf. canon 212, §2; *Omnes Christifideles*, 9

¹⁸ Cf. canon 512, §2

¹⁹ Cf. canon 512, §1

²⁰ Cf. canon 512, §§1 and 3.



4. One priest will be elected from and by priests incardinated in the Archdiocese or holding an appointment from the Archbishop, by a mail-in ballot scrutinized by the Nominating Committee established in Article V.
5. Two members of canonically-recognized religious institutes of women, societies of apostolic life, or secular institutes will be elected by their members domiciled in the Archdiocese, by a mail-in ballot scrutinized by the Nominating Committee.
6. Two members of canonically-recognized religious institutes of men, societies of apostolic life, or secular institutes will be elected by their members domiciled in the Archdiocese, by a mail-in ballot scrutinized by the Nominating Committee.
7. Each pastor will submit to the dean the names of two nominees from among the lay faithful of his parish or at least of the deanery, accompanied by a summary description of their suitability. The dean will submit all nominations to the Archbishop, who will choose at least one name from each deanery. Where appropriate, pastors will be contacted to verify parish participation and requisite qualifications for membership.
8. Membership shall include at least one member, clergy or lay, from each deanery not represented on the council by its dean.
9. All members proposed for appointment shall be asked to participate in a brief process of information and discernment before accepting appointment.
10. The Archbishop shall issue the letters of appointment.

E. Term & Loss of Office

1. The term of office of members is three years, which may be renewed once.
2. Membership ceases for any one of the following reasons:
 - a. Resignation accepted by the Archbishop;
 - b. Expiration of the term of office;
 - c. Cessation of domicile²¹ in the Archdiocese of Vancouver;
 - d. Removal by the Archbishop.²²
3. In the event that a member ceases serving on the Council, the Archbishop may either select a replacement or, when he deems it timely or appropriate, repeat the procedures provided in Section C, 3-7.

F. Officers and Committees

1. The Archbishop is the chair of the Council and either he or his delegate presides at all its plenary meetings.²³

²¹ Cf. canon 102.

²² Cf. canons, 192-194.



2. The chancellor or vice-chancellor of the Archdiocese shall be responsible for recording minutes and ensuring they are retained in the archdiocesan archives. Only at the Archbishop's direction will they or others make public the Council's deliberations.²⁴
3. Standing Committees
 - a. Agenda Committee: Consists of three Council members designated by the Archbishop or selected at his direction by a meeting of the council with the task of recommending to him items for the agenda.
 - b. Nominating Committee: Consists of three individuals designated by the Archbishop, for the first time among his appointments and/or the ex officio members, and subsequently from among the constituted Council, with the task of overseeing the nominations process.
4. Ad Hoc Committees
 - a. Ad hoc committees may be established for specified purposes. Unless they are renewed, ad hoc committees shall disband upon completion of assigned tasks or at the expiration of the term assigned.
 - b. As necessary, other members of the Christian faithful, including employees of the Archdiocese may be asked to serve on ad hoc committees. They do not become members of the council by virtue of this service.
5. The Archbishop will name ad hoc committee chairs from a list of at least two names from each committee.
6. The term of office of all committee chairs is two years and can be renewed once by the Archbishop.

G. Meetings

1. The Council meets at least three times a year.
2. Meetings are called by the Archbishop.²⁵
3. The Agenda Committee prepares the agenda for all plenary meetings, at the direction of the Archbishop. The agenda is to be distributed to members two weeks prior to the meeting. Items for the agenda may be proposed by the Archbishop, deans, deanery meetings, the College of Consultors, the Presbyteral Council, Council subcommittees, Parish Pastoral Councils, or any member of the Christian faithful.

²³ Cf. canon 514§1

²⁴ Cf. canon 514§1

²⁵ Cf. canon 514§1

H. Amendments

1. Proposed amendments to these statutes may be discussed at any plenary meeting with one month's prior notice communicated in writing to the members.
2. Proposed amendments may be to the Archbishop or to the Agenda Committee, as outlined above.
3. When presented with a proposal for amendment, the council will vote whether or not to recommend the proposed amendment to the Archbishop, who must approve any amendment to these statutes.

I. Cessations

1. The Council ceases to exist:
 - a. At the expiry of the period for which its statutes were approved, if they are not renewed.²⁶
 - b. When the Archdiocese is vacant.²⁷
2. The Archbishop may suspend or dissolve the Council at any time for a serious reason.²⁸

J. Approval and Term

These statutes are approved for a three-year period ending December 31, 2012.²⁹

K. Decree

By this Decree, I, hereby promulgate the Statutes of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, on the Feast Day of St. Thomas Aquinas, this Twenty-eighth day of January, in the year of the Lord, Two Thousand and Ten.

The Act of Promulgation will take effect one month after the date of Promulgation in accordance with the norms of the Code of Canon Law as set forth in Canon Eight.

Given at the Chancery of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, in the City of Vancouver, British Columbia, on the Twenty-eighth day of January, in the year of the Lord, Two Thousand and Ten.

²⁶ Cf. canon 513§1

²⁷ Cf. canon 513§1

²⁸ *Apostolorum Successores*, 184

²⁹ Cf. canon 513, §1