



## Archdiocesan Pastoral Council Guidelines

### 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,<sup>1</sup> exercise their right and duty to share in the Church’s saving mission<sup>2</sup> and to make known their needs, desires and opinions.<sup>3</sup>

Equally, the Council expresses the collaboration of the archdiocesan community with the Archbishop’s ministry<sup>4</sup> and provides him with a valuable means of dialogue and discernment.<sup>5</sup>

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

### Article I Mission and Purpose

- 1.1 Under the authority of the Archbishop, the Council investigates and considers archdiocesan pastoral activities in order to propose practical conclusions concerning them.<sup>10</sup>
- 1.2 After study and reflection, the Council assists the Archdiocese to plan its pastoral program systematically and to accomplish it effectively.
- 1.3 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.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. Second Vatican, *Lumen Gentium*, 30; CIC, canon 225, §1.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Second Vatican, *Lumen Gentium*, 17; CIC, canon 211.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. CIC, canon 212, §§2 and 3.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. Congregation for Bishops, *Apostolorum Successores*, 184.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. St. John Paul II, *Christifideles Laici*, 25.

<sup>6</sup> Cf. St. John Paul II, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 45.

<sup>7</sup> Catechism of the Catholic Church, 951.

<sup>8</sup> Cf. Second Vatican, *Lumen Gentium*, 30; CIC, canons 208 and 209.

<sup>9</sup> Cf. Second Vatican, *Lumen Gentium*, 32.

<sup>10</sup> Cf. CIC, canon 511.

<sup>11</sup> Congregation for Bishops, *Apostolorum Successores*, 184.



- 1.4 The Council in no way replaces or supplants the function assigned by law to the Presbyteral Council<sup>12</sup> or other consultative bodies, but may consider matters with which the Presbyteral Council is concerned, recognizing the Archbishop's primary obligation to seek its assistance on certain matters.<sup>13</sup>
- 1.5 Matters of doctrine, moral principles, and universal law are outside the Council's competence.<sup>14</sup>
- 1.6 The Council is a consultative body, not a deliberative one.<sup>15</sup> This does not diminish its contribution, since the theology and spirituality of communion underline the great respect to be given its deliberations.<sup>16</sup>
- 1.7 Nothing in these statutes limits the right of any member of the Christian faithful to make known any matter directly to the Archbishop.<sup>17</sup>

## Article II Membership

- 2.1 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.<sup>18</sup> The Council shall have no fewer than 18 members and no more than 30 members.
- 2.2 At least two-thirds of the members shall be lay Christian faithful active in the life of the Church in the Archdiocese of Vancouver.<sup>19</sup>
- 2.3 Lay employees of the Archdiocese, its agencies, parishes, and schools shall not be eligible for membership, except at the discretion of the Archbishop.
- 2.4 All members must be Catholics in full communion with the Church, outstanding in firm faith, good morals, and prudence.<sup>20</sup>

## Article III Selection of Members

- 3.1 All members are either appointed by the Archbishop or, if elected, confirmed by him.
- 3.2 Local ordinaries of the Archdiocese shall be members *ex officio*.

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<sup>12</sup> Cf. CIC, canon 495, §1.

<sup>13</sup> Congregation for the Clergy, *Omnes Christifideles*, 9.

<sup>14</sup> Congregation for the Clergy, *Omnes Christifideles*, 9.

<sup>15</sup> Cf. CIC, canon 514, §1.

<sup>16</sup> Saint John Paul II, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 45.

<sup>17</sup> Cf. CIC, canon 212, §2; *Omnes Christifideles*, 9.

<sup>18</sup> Cf. CIC, canon 512, §2.

<sup>19</sup> Cf. CIC, canon 512, §1.

<sup>20</sup> Cf. CIC, canon 512, §§1 and 3.



- 3.3 Three deans (vicars forane) will be elected by the Presbyteral Council by a procedure of its choosing.
- 3.4 One priest will be elected from and by priests incardinated in the Archdiocese or holding an appointment from the Archbishop, by ballot.
- 3.5 One permanent deacon will be elected from and by permanent deacons incardinated in the Archdiocese or holding an appointment from the Archbishop, by ballot.
- 3.6 Two members of canonically-recognized Religious institutes of women will be represented by a member of the executive of their Association and by another member who will be elected by the Sisters.
- 3.7 Two members of canonically-recognized Religious institutes of men will be represented by the President and another member of the executive of their Association or by appointment by the Archbishop.
- 3.8 Each pastor will be asked to submit to the Archbishop 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 Archbishop will choose at least one name from each deanery. Where appropriate, pastors will be contacted to verify parish participation and requisite qualifications for membership.
- 3.9 Membership will include at least one member, clergy or lay, from each deanery.
- 3.10 The Archbishop will issue the letters of appointment.

#### **Article IV Term & Loss of Office**

- 4.1 The term of office of members is three years, which may be renewed once.
- 4.2 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 domicile<sup>21</sup> in the Archdiocese of Vancouver;
  - d. Removal by the Archbishop.<sup>22</sup>
- 4.3 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 Article III.

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<sup>21</sup> Cf. CIC, canon, 102.

<sup>22</sup> Cf. CIC, canons, 192-194.



## Article V Officers and Committees

- 5.1 The Archbishop is the chair of the Council and either he, or his delegate, presides at all its plenary meetings.<sup>23</sup>
- 5.2 The chancellor of the Archdiocese shall be responsible for ensuring that the minutes be recorded and retained in the archdiocesan archives. Only at the Archbishop's direction will they or others make public the Council's deliberations.<sup>24</sup>
- 5.3 *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.
- 5.4 The Archbishop will name the chair of an *ad hoc* committee chairs.
- 5.5 The term of office of all committee chairs is two years and can be renewed once by the Archbishop.

## Article VI Meetings

- 6.1 The Council meets at least three times a year.
- 6.2 Meetings are called by the Archbishop.<sup>25</sup>
- 6.3 The Archbishop, after seeking the input of the Council members, prepares the agenda for all plenary meetings.
- 6.4 The agenda is to be distributed to members at least one week prior to the meeting.
- 6.5 Items for the agenda may be proposed by the Archbishop, deans, deanery meetings, the College of Consultors, the Presbyteral Council, Parish Pastoral Councils, or any member of the Christian faithful.

## Article VII Amendments

- 7.1 Proposed amendments to these statutes may be discussed at any plenary meeting with one month's prior notice communicated in writing to the members.
- 7.2 Proposed amendments should be sent to the Archbishop.

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<sup>23</sup> Cf. CIC, canon 514, §1.

<sup>24</sup> Cf. CIC, canon 514, §1.

<sup>25</sup> Cf. CIC, canon 514, §1.



- 7.3 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.

## Article VIII Cessations

- 8.1 The Council ceases to exist when the Archdiocese is vacant.<sup>26</sup>
- 8.2 The Archbishop may suspend or dissolve the Council at any time for a serious reason.<sup>27</sup>

**Approved: June 10, 2015**  
**Feast of St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ J. Michael Miller CSB".

† **J. Michael Miller, CSB**  
**Archbishop of Vancouver**

**The following policy is hereby superseded:**

**Archdiocesan Pastoral Council Guidelines, effective February 28, 2010.**

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<sup>26</sup> Cf. CIC, canon 513, §2.

<sup>27</sup> Congregation for Bishops, *Apostolorum Successores*, 184.