



HAMILTON DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

Intent and Scope of The Diocesan Pastoral Council

The Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) is a consultative group that collaborates with the Bishop to offer support and to help clarify a vision for the diocese. It fulfills its mission through prayer, study, reflection and dialogue. The Council is a channel of communication between the Collegial Areas and the Bishop.

Membership of The Diocesan Pastoral Council is comprised of no more than:

- Eight Laity nominated to the Bishop by the Presbyterate of each Collegial Area.
- One Priest nominated to the Bishop by the Council of Priests.
- One Permanent Deacon nominated to the Bishop by the body of Deacons.
- One Secretary, who is a member of the Diocesan Staff.
- One religious, nominated to the Bishop by the Religious in the Diocese.
- Two representatives representing Ethnic Chaplaincies in the diocese, to which a priest has been officially appointed.

Members of the DPC are to live a Christian life in full communion with the faith, practices and belief of the Catholic Church. They are to be outstanding in firm faith, good morals, and prudence.

Work of the Diocesan Pastoral Council

- Ponder, prayerfully consider and discuss proposals made to it by Bishop for the pastoral good of the Diocese of Hamilton.
- Work with and under the guidance of the Bishop so that pastoral activity can more effectively meet the needs of the people.
- Members to represent the DPC on diocesan committees as requested by the Bishop.
- Foster and promote their own spiritual growth and that of their Collegial Area brothers and sisters.

Frequency and length of Meeting

The DPC will gather at the request of Bishop to consider and discuss the proposals made to it by Bishop.

- It will meet regularly in March, June, August and November.
- It may be convoked whenever Bishop considers it necessary.
- The DPC will gather at a time and place designated by Bishop.

Finances

The Diocesan Pastoral Council is made up of voluntary members.

- The costs of attending the meetings will be met by the Diocesan Office.
- Any other costs and projects will also be funded by the Diocesan Office.
- The Diocesan Pastoral Council is not a fundraising body.

Executive Offices

Chairperson: The Chairperson will be elected at least every 2 years and as required when the Chair becomes vacant.

Secretary: The Secretary will be a paid employee of the Diocesan Centre.

Meeting Structure

- An agenda will be set before any meeting and transmitted to all members.
- Minutes will be taken at all meetings.
- This is the responsibility of the Secretary of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.
- Incoming and outgoing correspondence will be the responsibility of the Secretary of the DPC and reported on at meetings.

Decisions

- The preferred method of decisions making will be by discussion and consensus.
- Decisions of the DPC are consultative recommendations for the Bishop to consider.

Formation

The members are encouraged to take an active role in their personal formation and the formation of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, by attending and participating in the formation evenings before the Diocesan Pastoral Council meetings.

Cessation of the Diocesan Pastoral Council

- Replacement of Councillors who change Diocese or Collegial Area will happen at Bishop's discretion.
- Every two years nominations are made for the membership of the DPC.
- They may choose to nominate the previous member of the DPC.
- Membership of the Council may not exceed six years.
- When the see is vacant, the Diocesan Pastoral Council ceases.

Approved 14 August 2018



✠ Steve Lowe
BISHOP OF HAMILTON