



Constitution of Christ the King Parish of Old Lyme Pastoral Council

(Restatement of document adopted on March 15, 1990)

Parish Mission

Christ the King is a Roman Catholic family of faith in the Diocese of Norwich, participating in the life of the local, national, and world communities through prayer, worship, and acts of love. We make our journey through life in the company of one another while growing by the words of Jesus Christ, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, and in the spirit of Vatican II as taught to us by the church.

Preamble

We, the People of God, in the parish of Christ the King, in union with each other, with our pastor, with the chief shepherd of our diocese, and in union too with all the members everywhere of the Church founded by Christ, do hereby unite to form a parish council. We do so conscious of the fact that every one of us "is a member of the Body of Christ (1Cor 12:27) and that in this body there are different gifts but the same Spirit (and) different ministries but the same Lord (ibid, vv.4-5)". We acknowledge that each of us is called upon to offer his or her particular gift of ministry for the service of the whole body, "so that in everything God may receive the glory, through Jesus Christ (1Pet 4:11)". We do so in response to the recommendations of the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council, who, after urging that councils be formed in dioceses "to assist the apostolic work of the Church either in the field of making the gospel known and the people holy, or in the charitable, social or other spheres", added, that so far as possible, similar councils should be established in parishes also (Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, v. #26)

Finally, aware that Christ has told us that without God we can do nothing (Jn 15:5), we ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, so that all our words may be spoken and all our works done in charity and that they may contribute to the establishment of the Reign of God.

As parishioners who establish and accept this Council we pledge our support, our continued interest and a healthy measure of our time, talent, and gifts. We do so in the hope that our parish family will grow to the fullest possible stature as the Body of Christ here in this area of the world where God has placed us and for which God gives us responsibility.

For the success of the Council here accomplishing our Christian community, we do pray.

Article I – Name

The name of this body shall be Christ the King Parish Pastoral Council, hereafter referred to as the "Council".

Article II – Purpose

1. To pray and grow together in holiness as we make the gospel known and live the gospel message in a partnership of faith under Jesus Christ the Lord.
2. To serve the pastor and to help discern the needs of the parish and to set goals and priorities in meeting the needs of the parish family.
3. To discover talents in the parish and encourage active participation in the life of the parish.
4. To serve as a medium whereby any and all members may make known their needs.
5. To be a sign of the truly Christian community before the Church and the world, one that is joyous, faith-filled, hopeful and truly determined to reflect the mind and will of Jesus, our model of service for others.
6. To collaborate with other religious bodies of the community or diocese and with civic, educational, business and professional organizations in working for the common good of the community.

Article III – Scope

Section 1

The Council shall be the policy formulating body in all matters of the parish, including but not limited to the spiritual, educational, and social, except to the extent limited by faith and morals, church civil law or diocesan policy / norms.

Section 2

In any case where any member of the Council, including the pastor, interprets an action of the Council or any of its committees to be outside the limits set forth in Section I, such members shall present such interpretation no later than the next meeting of the Council and ask for reconsideration. Pending reconsideration, the effect of the action shall be suspended.

Section 3

In any case where reconsideration has failed to resolve the matter, the pastor and / or other Council members may then take the matter to the Office of the Bishop or one appointed by him, for clarification or arbitration. Any decision resulting from such an appeal shall be final. Meantime, the effect of the action shall remain suspended.