



PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Pastoral Council of Blessed Sacrament Church is comprised of ten individuals who are nominated by the existing Pastoral Council and appointed by the Pastor. The term for each elected member is three years. The Council currently meets every 2nd Thursday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. Also present at the meetings are the Pastor and/or Associate Pastor.

The purpose of the Pastoral Council is to:

- Act as a consultative body to the pastor for the life and mission of the Church in the parish.
- Promote the spiritual and temporal good of the parish.
- Promote a spirit of unity and mutual support within the parish faith community
- Develop and utilize the talents, knowledge, experience, vision and faith commitment of all parishioners and parish organizations.
- Promote a means of dialogue between clergy and the laity of the parish.
- Participate in the life and mission of the universal and diocesan Church by providing input to and cooperating with the Bishop and Presbyterial Council
- To be a visible witness of the message and service of our Lord Jesus Christ to all the people in the local community.

WHAT KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS MUST I HAVE?

Some of the characteristics below can be helpful. No one comes in the door fully able to see themselves as parish leaders. The understanding of what it means to serve on the Pastoral Council grows over time.

Characteristic Description:

1. ***Ability to collaborate:*** Effective Council members are seekers. They understand that the Church is much broader than one group or one parish. They seek justice and are able to work effectively with diverse individuals and groups. ***They lead with patience.***
2. ***Deep love for the parish and its mission:*** Council members are believers. They celebrate with community in worship, practice linking liturgy with life, and welcome all who come to celebrate. ***They lead with joy.***

3. ***Willingness to grow in holiness:*** Council members are spiritual leaders who model Christian living. They learn from their mistakes and their vision is formed through prayer and reflection. They remain open to the work of the Holy Spirit in the parish and in their own lives. ***They lead with faith.***

4. ***Desire to serve:*** Council members are servant leaders who offer their gifts to the community not from a sense of control, but from a sense of shared responsibility with open minds and open hearts. With the clergy, they share the responsibility of making known the Gospel and being a witness of the Gospel in the community. ***They lead with humility.***

5. ***Broad vision:*** Council members are change agents. They have enduring respect for the unique mission of the parish in this place and time in the life of the Church and are willing to challenge the status quo and initiate action in order to affirm or change it. They are willing to plan, model, experiment, and take risks. ***They lead with courage.***

6. ***Continuous learner:*** Council members are good listeners who are able to facilitate conversation around difficult issues, follow-up awareness with action, reconcile differences, alleviate fears, and offer comfort. ***They lead with respect.***

7. ***Sense of stewardship:*** Council members empower others and help create and sustain an environment that brings out the best in all the resources of the parish community – human, financial, and material. ***They lead with wisdom.***

PASTORAL COUNCIL APPLICATION

Please return this completed application to any member of the Pastoral Council; drop it off at the Parish Office; or simply email it to pastoralcouncil@blessedsacramentchurch.org. You can also direct any questions to this email address.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

- What do you believe is the mission of the parish? Relative to the mission, what three qualities do you believe the parish needs most right now?

- In what areas of ministry do you have experience? Please describe your experience.

- If appointed, what skills/experience would you bring to the Pastoral Council?

- Do you have experience with consultation, planning, and developing policy? Describe.

- Why do you want to be on the Pastoral Council?
