

**CONSTITUTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
OUR LADY OF LOURDES
HARRISONVILLE MISSOURI**

The “Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity” and the Constitution on the Church in the Modern World” emphasize the bond of mutual responsibility that exists between all persons in the Church. Within these documents is seen the will of our Blessed Lord, the mind of the church and the wish of the Bishops relative to the rights and duties of the faithful concerning the spiritualities and temporalities of the Church.

Therefore, in the spirit of the II Vatican Council, this Parish Council is established to cooperate with the Bishop and the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the life and mission of the Church. The Council understands that in all matters it is subject to the authority of the Ordinary.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this Council shall be Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Council.

ARTICLE II – OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Parish Council shall not in any way interfere with the internal government, purpose of function, or violate the internal autonomy of any society within the Parish.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1:

The Parish Council shall consist of six to ten active, adult members of the parish, with the Pastor and Parish Business Manager to be invited to each meeting.

Section 2:

Members will be selected through a discernment process beginning with nominations made by the Pastor and various groups within the parish. The discernment will be completed by June of each year for new members to join the council by July 1st.

Section 3:

Parish Council members shall serve for a three (3) year term. No member shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms.

Section 4:

In the event a vacancy occurs on the Council at any time other than the expiration of a regular term, the vacancy will be filled by a person recommended by the council and approved by the pastor.

Section 5:

All parishioners are welcome to attend the Parish Council meetings. If specific topics need to be discussed, advanced notice to the Chairperson or Vice President is required.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS – MEETINGS

Section 1:

In July of each year, the Parish Council shall select from its own members a Chairperson who shall preside at all meetings during the year and a Vice-Chairperson who shall preside in the absence of the Chairperson. Only representatives of the Parish Council may serve as Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson.

Section 2:

A secretary shall be selected to keep accurate and detailed minutes of all meetings, which minutes shall be read and approved by the Parish Council in session. The minutes of all meetings during the year shall be carefully preserved, and presented by the outgoing Council to the incoming Council during the month of July. All minutes become a part of the permanent records of the Parish.

Section 3:

The Parish Council shall meet at such times as called by the Pastor or Chairman.

Section 4:

A majority of the voting members of the Parish Council shall constitute a quorum. A quorum shall be necessary to transact business of any nature. A majority vote of those present shall be necessary on all matters, (except as hereinafter more specifically limited), and said vote may be by voice vote, roll call, or secret ballot. However, matters of a more serious nature, (e.g. major improvements, new construction) shall require two-thirds (2/3) majority of the total membership of the Council, not merely of those present.

“Robert’s Rules of Order Revised” shall govern the procedures of all meetings. To alter or rescind action previously taken by the Parish Council, the same rules set out above for the approval of any action shall govern.

Article V

POWERS AND DUTIES CONCERNING MATERIALITIES OF THE PARISH

The powers and duties of the Parish Council shall include but not be limited to the following:

Section 1:

The Parish Council shall be an advisory group to the pastor. It should assist him in making decisions concerning the spiritual life of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, maintenance of all buildings and grounds of the Parish, refurbishing and remodeling of parish buildings, preparing the annual diocesan budget and other matters as deemed important by the Parish Council members or Pastor.

Section 2:

New construction shall be in accord with Diocesan regulations.

Sections 3:

All matters of a legal nature shall be referred to the Chancery prior to legal actions.

Section 4:

The Council, in its administration of the materialities of the Parish, shall be obligated and bound by all laws of the Universal Church, Diocesan Statutes and regulations, and all Civil Laws affecting the Parish. It shall be presumed that the Council members are informed concerning all laws and regulations by which it is governed.

The Council shall not act deliberately or by subterfuge outside the laws by which it is governed and such actions shall be null and void and the individual who so acts shall be personally and legally responsible for his action.

ARTICLE VI – AMENDMENT

This method of operation and these guidelines may be amended by the Council. Any amendment proposed shall be submitted in writing and read at a regular meeting. The vote on said amendment shall be at the next regular Council meeting and in order to be adopted it shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total Council members.