

IX. Diocesan Commissions

- A. Each Diocesan Commission is advisory to the Bishop through one of the Directors of our Diocesan Pastoral Offices:
1. the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission through the Director of the Office of the Word;
 2. the Diocesan Liturgy Commission, the RCIA Commission and the Diocesan Building and Planning Commission through the Director of the Office of Worship;
 3. the Diocesan Respect Life Commission, the Diocesan Women's Commission, the Diocesan Social Justice Commission, and the Diocesan Catholic/Lutheran Rural Life Commission through the Director of the Office of Christian Service.
- B. The term of membership on each Commission is three years, with no more than two consecutive terms (six successive years).
1. The terms of the individual members should be staggered over a three-year period so that each year one-third of the membership is either new or renewed.
 2. Second terms require the Bishop's approval but not a new letter of appointment.
- C. No Commission should have more than 12 members. (This does not mean that 12 are required; still, fewer than 5 may not be enough to have a broad spectrum of views expressed on a given issue.)
- D. An annual budget will be prepared by each Commission according to the following guidelines and presented to the appropriate director by November 1:
1. Expense will include meals and mileage (according to current diocesan policy) for members for no more than four meetings a year.
 2. Expenses may include necessary books and resources for the use of members as well as funds for regional or national conventions/conferences for one or more Commission members.
 3. Since programs and events are to be self-supporting, Commissions who anticipate hosting such an event may include start-up costs in their budget with the understanding that the revenue generated by the event must cover the start-up costs in addition to other costs.
 4. Commissions are not to donate funds to other groups, causes or individual persons.
- E. New members of any Commission should be recommended to the Bishop by the Commission through the appropriate Director.

The Bishop will send a formal letter of appointment to new members. (The first members of a new Commission should be recommended to the Bishop by the Director of the appropriate Pastoral Office.)

- F. Each Commission is annually to choose its own chair, vice-chair, and secretary(-treasurer), with re-election permissible. Each Commission chair is responsible for maintaining communication with the bishop through the appropriate Diocesan Director.
- G. Each Commission should seek the Bishop's approval before taking any public positions or making any public statements on issues that come before it; this approval may be obtained through the appropriate Director.
- H. According to the time available to them, Commission members are encouraged to be involved in the implementation of their respective commission's projects.
- I. The Bishop should be invited to attend at least one meeting of each Commission each year.
- J. With the approval of the Bishop, Commissions that are ecumenical may tailor these guidelines if this is deemed appropriate.