



## HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

### **Parish Pastoral Council Candidate Statement**

Please answer the following questions in no more than 150 words each. These responses will be provided to the parish on the Holy Trinity website and printed copy in connection with the election.

1. Why do you want to be a part of the PPC at Holy Trinity? What gifts, visions and talents would you bring that would contribute to the work of the parish?
2. Which activities, such as social justice service, parish-sponsored prayer opportunities, or other ministries that you have been a part of at Holy Trinity have been the most meaningful to you? Why?
3. Based on your involvement at Holy Trinity, what are some high-priority issues that might need to be addressed in a long-term plan for the parish?

### **About the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)**

#### **OVERVIEW**

Holy Trinity (HT) is a Catholic parish sponsored by the Society of Jesus. As such, its identity is rooted in the person of Jesus as he is encountered and understood by the Jesuits and their lay colleagues through their practice of Ignatian spirituality. This identity is the starting point for understanding the parish's mission and the role of those who are involved in parish governance, including members of the PPC.

Our mission statement:

*Holy Trinity is a Jesuit Catholic parish that welcomes all to:  
Accompany one another in Christ  
Celebrate God's love  
Transform lives*

#### **IDENTITY**

HT parishioners form a community of companions of Jesus on mission with him in this place and at this time in history. PPC members, who along with the pastor are formed by their understanding of Jesuit identity and mission and their practice of Ignatian-style prayer, are leaders of this community of companions of Jesus.

## **ROLE**

PPC members share leadership responsibility with the pastor at HT. As advisors to the pastor, PPC members assist the pastor in discerning, articulating and communicating to other parishioners the identity and mission of the parish, and they assist the pastor in assuring fidelity to that identity and mission.

## **WAY OF PROCEEDING**

The sacred nature and purpose and close relationship to the Society of Jesus demands that the PPC carry out its responsibilities in ways that are distinctively Jesuit.

For example:

- A PPC member approaches participation on the Council with an open heart and mind coupled with a willingness to listen to and follow the guidance of the Spirit, which may be expressed through one's colleagues on the Council;
- A PPC member practices the Ignatian presupposition, that is, always presumes that the other is speaking or acting without bad intent, and always gives the other the benefit of the doubt;
- The PPC deliberates through communal discernment. Communal discernment:
  - *Is a way of reaching a decision in which all have participated and which all can embrace, even if it is not what one would have chosen him/herself apart from the discernment process;*
  - *Seeks consensus;*
  - *Is not necessarily compromise, though it may involve compromise;*
  - *Reaches a decision through a process that respects the beliefs and opinions of each member of the group, and that preserves the group's unity and harmony and mutual affection; and*
  - *Is consciously and deliberately attentive to the Spirit within.*

## **QUALITIES OF EFFECTIVE MEMBERS**

One who would like to serve as a member of the PPC:

- Engages in regular personal prayer;
- Has been an active parishioner involved in the life of the parish for at least two years;
- Has pledged to worship with the parish community at Sunday Eucharist as often as possible,
- Has participated in some parish ministry (committee) for at least one year,
- Agrees to support the parish financially;
- Has participated in some parish-sponsored retreat or prayer program or event;
- Is capable of thinking broadly and strategically and without uncontrolled bias, and has a mind and heart open to the "*magis*," that is, what is for the greater good;
- Is willing to serve as a PPC member for at least three years.

One who is selected to serve on the PPC will be expected to:

- Participate with other PPC members in other ongoing formation programs that are designed to deepen their understanding of Jesuit identity and mission and the ways of proceeding that are appropriate to the PPC;
- Participate in scheduled PPC meetings as faithfully as possible; and

- Be a liaison and an active member of one of the parish’s committees, reporting to the committee the works of the council and reporting to the council updates on the committee’s work;
- Observe or otherwise participate in parish activities and ministries so as to be familiar with the parish’s efforts to be faithful to its identity and to carry out its mission.
- Encourage input and communication with parishioners to ensure the needs of the parish are met.

**MEMBERSHIP, TERMS AND SELECTION PROCESS**

The Parish Pastoral Council will be comprised of a minimum of 10 members and a maximum of 12, excluding the pastor. The term of office of each member will be three years.

Selection of PPC members will be through the following process:

- The PPC will timely publicize the qualities of effective PPC members (see above) and will invite parishioners to consider whether they possess these qualities and want to be considered for selection to the PPC; if so, interested parishioners will submit an “expression of interest”;
- Parishioners expressing interest in this way will be invited to participate in an information session in which current members will further explain the identity and role of the council as its “ways of proceeding” (see above);
- Following the information session, parishioners expressing interest will again prayerfully consider whether God is calling them to this service; if so, they will submit their names and other appropriate information about themselves to the PPC for inclusion on an election ballot;
- Registered and fully initiated parishioners are eligible to vote; these may vote for not more than the number of candidates necessary to fill vacancies on the PPC.

**MEETINGS**

Proposed meeting dates for 2017-2018 are:

September 20	February 21
October 18	March 21
November 15	April 18
December 13	May 16
January 17	June 20

The council meets on the third Wednesday of the month from 7-9pm, unless otherwise scheduled.

Prior to the first meeting of the year, the council will hold an orientation/retreat session for council members to welcome new members and to reflect on the prior year.

**Thank you for your interest in the Parish Pastoral Council.**