

Statutes

for Diocesan Council for Mission

Foreword

The Council for Mission is a key strategic diocesan advisory group to the Bishop. Its purpose is to provide the prophetic voice of the Spirit and a broader vision, so God's mission is revealed and lived out actively within and outside the local church.

People will be chosen and called, because of their specific gifts. The intention is that the Council be a representative group not a group of representatives. By building up a sense of trust and unity among all peoples, the diocese will be recognised as a visible and credible sign and instrument of communion with God and so fulfil its mission.

The Council for Mission fulfils the canonical role of the Diocesan Pastoral Council as per Canons 511 – 514:

The Pastoral Council

Can. 511 In every diocese and to the extent that pastoral circumstances suggest it, a pastoral council is to be constituted which under the authority of the bishop investigates, considers, and proposes practical conclusions about those things which pertain to pastoral works in the diocese.

Can. 512 §1. A pastoral council consists of members of the Christian faithful who are in full communion with the Catholic Church—clerics, members of institutes of consecrated life, and especially laity—who are designated in a manner determined by the diocesan bishop.

§2. The Christian faithful who are designated to a pastoral council are to be selected in such a way that they truly reflect the entire portion of the people of God which constitutes the diocese, with consideration given to the different areas of the diocese, social conditions and professions, and the role which they have in the apostolate whether individually or joined with others.

§3. No one except members of the Christian faithful outstanding in firm faith, good morals, and prudence is to be designated to a pastoral council.

Can. 513 §1. A pastoral council is constituted for a period of time according to the precepts of the statutes which are issued by the bishop.

§2. When the See is vacant, a pastoral council ceases.

Can. 514 §1. A pastoral council possesses only a consultative vote. It belongs to the diocesan bishop alone to convoke it according to the needs of the apostolate and to preside over it; it also belongs to him alone to make public what has been done in the council.

§2. The pastoral council is to be convoked at least once a year.

Statutes Diocesan Council for Mission

1. Role of the Council for Mission

The Council for Mission is an advisory group with which the Bishop consults on matters of pastoral concern and which advises on how these concerns might best be addressed. The Council for Mission makes recommendations to the Bishop in a pastoral context.

2. The Council for Mission (fulfils this role by: (cf. The Code of Canon Law, Canon 511))

Establishing, monitoring and evaluating the Diocese's strategic direction, through a process of discernment. The Council fulfils this role through

2.1. Investigation: The Council will

- 2.1.1. Identify local, national or global areas of high priority
- 2.1.2. Undertake and/or commission research
- 2.1.3. Establish working parties

2.2. Consideration: The Council will examine

- 2.2.1. Areas of pastoral concern and importance to mission
- 2.2.2. Diocesan responses to local, national or global issues
- 2.2.3. The need to call a Diocesan Synod, Assembly or Gathering

2.3. Proposing responses: The Council will

- 2.3.1. Develop a strategic framework for the diocese
- 2.3.2. Plan, conduct and evaluate a Diocesan Synod, Assembly or Gathering
- 2.3.3. Promote a sense of trust and unity among the people of the diocese

3. Composition

The Council for Mission shall consist of:

3.1. Ex-officio Members

- 3.1.1. The Bishop (or his delegate)
- 3.1.2. The Vicar General
- 3.1.3. The Chief Executive Officer
- 3.1.4. The Director Pastoral Ministries / Executive Secretary
- 3.1.5. Such others as may be appointed by the Bishop from the Members of the Diocesan Leadership Group

3.2. Ordinary Members

People from the Catholic community chosen to represent the diversity of the diocese in terms of the following:

- 3.2.1.** Gender, age, membership of religious congregations, occupation, ethnicity, Aboriginality, people with a disability, other minority groups, geographic and social position. (cf. The Code of Canon Law, Canon 512.2).
- 3.2.2.** Their roles in the civic community e.g. in social justice, health, community, youth, elderly, research.

4. Executive

- 4.1.** The Bishop shall appoint a Chair or Co-chairs of the Council for Mission.
- 4.2.** The Chair or Co-chairs and the Executive Secretary form the Council for Mission Executive, who meet regularly with the Bishop.
- 4.3.** The Executive determine the protocols for the Council for Mission.

5. Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest is a situation in which an individual has competing interests or loyalties such as:

- 5.1.** personal interests that conflict with his/her professional position.
- 5.2.** a person who has a position of authority in one organisation that conflicts with his or her interests in another organisation.
- 5.3.** a person who has conflicting responsibilities.

If a conflict of interest occurs, the person must notify the Chair or a Co-chair of the conflict. The Chair or Co-Chairs will consult the Bishop in making a decision related to the declared conflict of interest.

6. Dissolution

- 6.1.** The Council for Mission may be dissolved by the bishop when, in his judgement and having heard the Presbyteral Council, the Council for Mission is deemed as not fulfilling its function or gravely abuses its function. A new Council for Mission needs to be appointed within 12 months.
- 6.2.** When the See is vacant, the Council for Mission ceases to function. Within a year of taking possession, the new diocesan bishop should establish a new pastoral advisory body in accordance with Canon 511.

7. Amendments

These statutes may be amended:

- 7.1.** By the diocesan bishop on his own initiative or;
- 7.2.** By a vote of two-thirds of all Council for Mission members, subject to 7.3 below;

- 7.3.** No new statutes or amendment of the statutes shall be effective without approval by the bishop.
- 7.4.** Nothing in the statutes may contradict the universal law of the Catholic Church, or the particular law of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

8. Interpretation

- 8.1.** The Council for Mission 'year' shall normally be from Pentecost to Pentecost.
- 8.2.** The "Diocesan Pastoral Team" shall have the meaning assigned in the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, Diocesan Structures, Part C, Section 8.