

CONSTITUTION

THE CHURCH OF SAINT JOSEPH SAINT JOSEPH, MINNESOTA

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization is the Church of Saint Joseph located in Saint Joseph, Minnesota.

ARTICLE II: PARISH MISSION

The mission statement of the parish is the following:

We, the Parish of Saint Joseph, are a Catholic, Benedictine faith community. Our liturgy invites and inspires active participation and faith-filled living. Through our ministry of formation in Christ, we continue to build a solid foundation as witnesses who eagerly respond to the needs of the parish and wider community.

ARTICLE III: PARISH STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the Saint Joseph Parish is celebrating Christ through prayer and service.

ARTICLE IV: PARISH VISION

The vision of the parish is:

We will be a Catholic community who is a living presence of Christ that welcomes and embraces all who seek God, recognizes and boldly responds to injustice, and inspires full maturity in Christ.

ARTICLE V: PARISH CORE VALUES

The core values of the parish include:

- Awareness of God
- Community
- Holiness
- Justice

ARTICLE VI: PARISH GOALS

The goals of Saint Joseph Parish are the following:

Word:

Saint Joseph Parishioners will know, understand and daily witness to Christ-centered living inspired by God's Word and Catholic Tradition.

Worship:

St. Joseph Parishioners will know, understand and honor Benedictine values and the dignity of their role as members of the worshipping assembly.

Community:

St. Joseph Parishioners will know, understand and demonstrate what it means to be a Catholic faith community.

Social Ministries:

St. Joseph Parishioners will know, understand and work to realize the Gospel vision of justice and Catholic Social Teaching.

Pastoral Ministries:

St. Joseph Parishioners will know, understand and practice the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy within our parish and in the wider community.

ARTICLE VII: PARISH COMMISSIONS

Five parish commissions are established to help us achieve the parish goals:

1. Word
2. Worship
3. Community
4. Social Ministries
5. Pastoral Ministries

ARTICLE VIII: AUTHORITY

The Church of Saint Joseph is both a civic structure and a religious structure. As a civic structure, a parish is required by the State of Minnesota to have a Constitution, bylaws, and a Corporate Board. The authority of the Corporate Board pertains strictly to civil and legal concerns of the parish. The Pastoral Council and Finance Council have no legal authority.

ARTICLE IX: CORPORATE BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Corporate Board of the parish is comprised of the diocesan bishop, the diocesan vicar general, the parish pastor, and two parish trustees. The bishop is the president of this corporation; the pastor is the vice-president; and the trustees serve as secretary and treasurer.

ARTICLE X: CORPORATE BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1: Certain acts of the parish corporation must be executed by the Corporate Board. Those actions are legal, business, and juridical and are spelled out in the diocesan book of policies. All significant legal transactions are accomplished through the board. Failing to engage in these board actions, when required, can put the individuals involved into financial jeopardy because they are acting as individuals in these cases and not as the corporate entity. Routine business actions need not have board action. Personnel contracts are exempt from board action, and the pastor of the corporation signs on behalf of the parish. Other contracts are signed by the pastor and secretary of the corporation after the board endorses them.

Section 2. The responsibilities of the Corporate Board include, but are not restricted, to the following:

1. Borrowing any money, even from individuals of the parish;
2. Engaging in expenditures and purchases over \$20,000;
3. Selling real estate; selling stocks; closing, merging, or establishing the parish corporation;
4. Amending Articles and bylaws of the parish corporation;
5. Examining the parish accounts and reporting on them on an annual basis.

ARTICLE XI: TRUSTEES

Section 1. Manner of Selection: Trustees are appointed by the ex-officio members of the board: the bishop, the vicar general and the pastor.

Section 2. Selection Process: The pastor solicits from the advisory council possible candidates for appointment. The pastor selects a candidate(s) for presentation to the Corporate Board.

Section 3. Appointment Process:
The pastor informs the bishop and the vicar general of the recommendation and they then vote by proxy. The proxy request should indicate whether the candidate is to be the secretary or treasurer of the corporation. Upon approval of the trustee, the diocese will forward the signed Proxy Request to the pastor. Upon receipt of the signed document the tenure of the Trustee commences.

Section 4: Termination of a Trustee: Neither the pastor nor the parish can terminate a trustee; it is the prerogative of the ex-officio members to terminate a trustee.

Section 5: Term of a Trustee: As of August 15, 1999 no trustee of a parish corporation is to serve longer than ten consecutive years. This policy is to include those trustees who have begun their service prior to August 15, 1999.

ARTICLE XII: ACCOUNTABILITY/TRANSPARENCY

- Section 1. Every five years the Pastoral Council will appoint an ad hoc review committee to assist them in reviewing and, if needed, revising the Parish Constitution and bylaws.
- Section 2. Parishioners will be notified of proposed changes to the Constitution.
- Section 3. All parishioners are invited to attend the next regularly scheduled Pastoral Council meeting, where proposed changes of the document are presented and a brief explanation is provided. Following the presentation, parishioners are invited to give comments to the Pastoral Council chair or pastor within a two-week period.
- Section 4. If no major concerns are forthcoming during the two-week review period, the document is declared ratified at the next Council meeting. If there are significant concerns, the Council or ad hoc review committee consults with the Diocesan Planning Office and revises the documents for review at the next Council meeting.
- Section 5. Notification to the diocese – the date of ratification shall be forwarded to the Diocesan Planning Office.

ARTICLE XIII: PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

- Section 1. The parish shall have in place a Finance Council that serves as an advisory board appointed by the pastor to ensure the financial stability of the parish by:
1. assessing the present and future needs of the parish;
 2. recommending ways of securing and developing parish revenues;
and
 3. overseeing parish expenditures.
- Section 2. Membership will be addressed in the bylaws of the Finance Council.

ARTICLE XIV: PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The parish shall have in place a Pastoral Council. The Pastoral Council serves as a visionary body for the parish and a consultative body to the pastor. The selection, membership and duties are addressed in the bylaws of the Pastoral Council.

ARTICLE XV: BYLAWS

The bylaws of the Saint Joseph Parish Constitution shall govern the parish operations.

Adopted by the St. Joseph Parish Community including the Pastoral Council at the parish meeting on May 3, 2006.

Pastoral Council President
Richard Schwegel, President

Father Gregory Miller, OSB
Pastor

Peter Spaniol
Trustee

Jeanette Pfannenstien
Trustee