

Northwest Metro Deanery Council Bylaws

Approved March 2016

Article I: Organization

A. The Northwest Metro Deanery (hereafter known as “the Deanery”) is organized in order to facilitate the diocesan priorities: to grow congregations, to grow personally, to grow in community, to grow in compassion, and to grow leaders.

B. The Deanery also seeks to enable each constituent congregation to fulfill its diocesan covenant in the following ways:

1. To build vital, viable, growing, and mutually supporting congregations for the Glory of God and the spread of God’s kingdom;
2. To articulate and pursue the mission and vision God gives to each congregation;
3. To financially support the Bishop and the ministries of the diocese;
4. To maintain open, healthy lines of communication that apprise the Bishop and bishop’s staff of the realities of congregational life; and
5. To raise up Christians of Godly character and to develop leaders for God’s kingdom.

C. The Deanery accepts as a component of these bylaws the appendix of the Diocese of West Missouri Canons entitled “Deaneries of the Diocese of West Missouri.”

D. The Deanery shall have a Deanery Council which shall be responsible for the functions of the Deanery.

E. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Deanery Council present. The bylaws shall be reviewed on a regular basis.

Article II: The Deanery Council

A. All active licensed members of the clergy assigned to a parish/congregation and/or canonically resident in the Deanery shall be considered members of the Deanery Council.

B. The parishes and congregations within the Deanery are defined by the Diocesan Council.

C. All elected or appointed lay delegates to Diocesan Convention, from each congregation or parish and youth delegates within the Deanery, shall by virtue of their position be the lay members of the Deanery Council until their replacement is elected or appointed by that congregation. Alternates may assume the responsibilities of the elected/appointed delegates if the delegate is unable to serve.

D. For purposes of acting on the business of the Deanery Council, a simple majority of all the congregation/caucuses of the Deanery represented by at least one member of the Deanery Council will be considered a quorum.

E. Each congregation/caucus shall have one (1) vote at Deanery Council meetings. The vote shall be determined by a caucus of the present delegation of each congregation. Should there be full-time active clergy that are not assigned to a parish, including, but not limited to, chaplains based in hospitals, colleges, prisons, they shall be grouped into a caucus and given one (1) vote.

F. All officers of the Deanery Council shall be elected by the Deanery Council and shall serve two (2) year terms. In the event of a vacancy, the position shall be filled by election for the unexpired term of the office. The lay Vice-Chair shall serve a full two (2) year term even if not serving as an elected or appointed delegate for a parish or congregation during the second year of his or her term.

G. The election of officers shall take place at the Fall Deanery Council meeting and the officers shall take their office at the first meeting of the Deanery Council following Diocesan Convention.

Article III: Officers

A. The Dean. The Dean shall be a priest of the Deanery and shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. if present, presides at meetings of the Deanery Council;
2. lead the Deanery Council such that diocesan and congregational vitality and growth are pursued, in order to spread the reign of God;
3. establish the dates and locations of all Deanery Council meetings in consultation with the Vice-Chair and the Council's members;
4. communicate to all parishes and congregations of the Deanery the time and place of meetings of the Deanery Council at least fifteen (15) days prior to such meetings;
5. facilitate meetings of the Deanery clergy so that the clergy may: (a) take counsel with each another for the good of the Deanery, the Diocese, and the Church; (b) offer each another support, camaraderie, and fellowship; and (c) grow professionally by serving as a learning community for professional improvement;
6. serve as an *ex-officio* member of the Diocesan Council and as a member of such other commissions, committees, or departments of the diocese as the Bishop or Diocesan Canons may direct; and
7. make regular reports to the Diocesan Council regarding the state of affairs in the Deanery.

B. The Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair shall be in the lay order and have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. preside at meetings of the Deanery Council in the absence of the Dean; and
2. assume all other duties and responsibilities as assigned by the Dean or as set forth in these Bylaws.

C. The Secretary. The Secretary may be a member of the clergy or in the lay order and shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. prepare minutes of Deanery Council meetings;
2. disseminate or cause to be disseminated the minutes to the full Deanery Council; and
3. assume all other duties and responsibilities as assigned by the Dean or as set forth in these Bylaws.

D. Other officers. There may be such other officers as deemed necessary by the Deanery Council. Such other officers shall be elected in accordance with Article II of these Bylaws.

Article IV: Meetings & Functions of the Deanery Council

A. The Deanery Council shall meet no fewer than four (4) times per year, with at least one (1) meeting occurring prior to Diocesan Convention (after Diocesan Budget promulgation), for the purpose of reviewing the Plan for Mission and submitted Resolutions.

B. Deanery Council meetings shall be open to the public, with all attendees granted seat and voice upon recognition from the Chair.

C. Meetings shall be conducted, and business shall be transacted, according to the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* to ensure fair and transparent deliberations.

D. The Deanery Council may create *ad hoc* committees and working groups to better facilitate its tasks, which must then report to the full Deanery Council.

E. The Deanery Council may request monetary support from the Diocesan Council to facilitate and enable its work and may submit requests for funding to be included in the Diocese's annual Plan for Mission.

F. The Deanery Council may submit: (1) resolutions to the Diocesan Convention on behalf of the entire Deanery; and (2) nominations for Diocesan offices.