

Statutes of the Youth Council of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Those of us who are no longer young need to find ways of keeping close to the voices and concerns of young people. Drawing together creates the conditions for the Church to become a place of dialogue and a witness to life-giving fraternity. We need to make more room for the voices of young people to be heard: listening makes possible an exchange of gifts in a context of empathy... At the same time, it sets the conditions for a preaching of the Gospel that can touch the heart truly, decisively and fruitfully.

Christus Vivit 38

ARTICLE I

Title

The name of this body shall be the Youth Council of the Diocese of Jefferson City (hereafter the “**Council**”).

ARTICLE II

Purpose

The Council assists the Diocesan Bishop in his governance of the Diocese of Jefferson City. This Council enables the young people of the diocese to assist the Diocesan Bishop in planning and implementing an effective pastoral plan. The Council, at the direction of the Diocesan Bishop, makes it possible to implement his pastoral vision more effectively and comprehensively for the diocese.

Its purposes are further explained as follows:

- To investigate, consider, and propose practical conclusions about those things that pertain to pastoral work of the diocese (cf. can. 511)
- To serve as a channel for communication for youth from across the diocese
- To propose and promote youth activities and perspectives that might benefit from consideration by the Diocesan Bishop
- Assists and cooperates with the deanery leadership and Council of Deans (and if applicable, the Deanery Youth Council), especially regarding issues having an impact on the youth of the diocese
- To provide ongoing formation to young leaders in the diocese

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1. Qualifications. To serve on the Council a person must be a Catholic in full communion with the Catholic Church according to can. 205 of the Code of Canon Law, having received all the sacraments of initiation, and being an active steward in their parish (cf. can. 512 §1). Furthermore, they must be outstanding in firm faith, good morals, and prudence (cf. can. 512 §3). In order to apply they must be a high school student at the time of their application. It is preferred that they have active or previous leadership experience in their parish and/or institution, including but not limited to leadership within their youth ministry program, service leadership in the community or at Mass, or other forms appropriate to their stage in life.

Section 2. Number and Composition. The Council will consist of the following members:

- The Diocesan Bishop of Jefferson City is the President of the Council. The Director of Vocations, Director of Youth Ministry, Moderator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and Director of Communications are *ex officio* members
- Two (2) Youth Representatives from each deanery. The members of the council should represent the diversity of our diocese and individual deanery
- Two (2) Young Adult Leaders (age 25-35) from the diocese who will serve as a leaders and role models for the youth of the diocese. It is preferred that one male and one female constitute this membership
- Other members appointed by the Diocesan Bishop

Section 3. Selection. Youth Representatives are determined in the following manner: Youth will submit an individual application to the Youth Office. Following the deadline, which shall be established by the Director of Youth Ministry, a committee constituted by the Director will review each application and select a group of finalists. The finalists' applications shall be presented to the Diocesan Bishop together with a recommendation from their Dean. The Diocesan Bishop may then appoint any or all of the finalist to the Council. If he elects not to appoint a finalist, the Bishop may then review the other applications received from the same deanery. If the Diocesan Bishop does not approve any of the second group of nominees, he may select and appoint the deanery representative himself. Young Adult Leaders are appointed by the Diocesan Bishop after nomination by the Youth Office.

The individual application form shall be created by the Director of Youth Ministry in conjunction with the Chancellor.

The Diocesan Bishop may appoint additional members at his discretion.

Section 4. Terms. The terms of membership shall be as follows:

- Youth Representatives shall have two (2) year terms. Youth Representatives can serve no more than three (3) full terms. Youth representative who reach the age of twenty-two (22) become ineligible for reappointment, but they may serve out their term.

- Young Adult Leaders shall have two (2) year terms. Young Adult Leaders can serve no more than three (3) full terms. Young Adult Leaders who reach the age of thirty-five (35) become ineligible for reappointment, but they may serve out their term.

Section 5. Vacancy. In case a seat is vacated by resignation, dismissal, or death, another person shall be appointed in the same manner as his or her predecessor. Previously received applications, not older than one (1) year, may be considered first before more applications are requested.

Section 6. Timing. Nominations for membership shall be held in the spring, with the appointed term beginning with the next Council meeting.

Section 7. Voting. All members of the Council possess a vote, regardless of the source of their membership. In all discussions and recommendations, the Chairperson shall seek consensus of the members.

ARTICLE IV

Officers and Committees

Section 1. Officers. The Diocesan Bishop is not a member of the Council or an officer; he is, however, the President of the Council. It is for the President to set the agenda, convoke and preside over the meetings, and approve all actions and communications from the Council. The Officers shall be the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the Executive Secretary. The Chairperson assists the President in preparing the agenda, planning the logistics, and chairs the meetings. In the Chairperson's absence the Vice-Chairperson fills this role. The Executive Secretary provides an orderly record of the meetings and assists the Chairperson in document preparation and logistics.

Section 2. Elections. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson shall be selected from among the Young Adult Leaders. The Young Adult Leader who has longer service on the Council shall be selected as Chair and the other as Vice-Chair. In the event they have the same length of membership on the Council, there shall be an election for Chair. The other member shall be the Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall serve for one (1) year terms. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall stay in office until succeeded with the consent of the President. The Executive Secretary shall be appointed by the Diocesan Bishop and need not be a member of the Council.

Section 3. Committees. The officers with the Diocesan Bishop shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Standing Committees may be recommended by the Executive Committee to the Diocesan Bishop, with the assent of the majority of the membership of the Council. They shall have a chairperson and a recorder from the Council membership. Non-Council members and other

Council members may be appointed by the Diocesan Bishop to serve on all committees of the Council.

The Council may, when needed, establish Ad Hoc Committees for specific purposes by majority vote of the Council and consent of the President. Ad Hoc Committees shall be accountable to the Council and the Diocesan Bishop. Ad Hoc Committees are given a timeframe not to exceed three (3) years. After three (3) years, the Council may consider establishing the Ad Hoc Committee as a Standing Committee following the process given above. Members of Ad Hoc Committees may include non-Council members.

Officers for Standing and Ad Hoc Committees shall consist of a Chairperson and a Recorder appointed by the Diocesan Bishop in consultation with the Chairperson of the Council.

ARTICLE V

Meetings

Section 1. Meetings. Regular meetings shall be held not less than three (3) times each year. These meetings are ordinarily scheduled on a Saturday following the Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting. Special meetings may be called by the Diocesan Bishop at any time.

Section 2. Quorum. A quorum, that is an absolute majority of those members not legitimately excused, is required for a meeting to take place.

Section 3. Attendance. Attendance of all meetings is required. Ordinary attendance is in person at the Chancery in Jefferson City, unless determined otherwise by the President. For a just cause, the President or the Chairperson may allow attendance via video conferencing or excuse a member from this requirement. If an appointed member has an unexcused absence, the Chairperson must warn that person that attendance is mandatory. If an appointment member has more than two (2) unexcused absences, the Chairperson must inform the Diocesan Bishop who may dismiss that person from the Council.

ARTICLE VI

Duration and Cessation

The Council shall continue as long as the see of the Diocese of Jefferson City is not vacant (cf. can. 513 §1). When the see becomes vacant, the Council automatically ceases (cf. can. 513 §2). During a vacant see, all members, regardless of their remaining terms, are dismissed. It is for the next Diocesan Bishop to reconstitute the Council according to these Statutes.

ARTICLE VII

Leadership Formation Component

Section 1. Member Responsibilities. As a vital component of their service to the diocese, members must participate in formation opportunities with the Youth Office, including but not limited to: a yearly leadership retreat for members of the Council and participating in the leadership of one (1) diocesan youth gathering in the year of their term. A diocesan youth gathering could include but not limited to: youth rally, NCYC, summer camps, Totus Tuus, volunteer for Confirmation retreats, regional gatherings hosted by the Youth Office.

Section 2. Youth Office Responsibilities. Staff from the Youth Office will provide additional formation opportunities to the members of the council, including but not limited to a yearly leadership retreat, opportunities for leadership at diocesan youth gatherings, resources for growth in the Christian life, and prayer & reflection at each meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

Miscellaneous

For a grave cause, the Diocesan Bishop may dispense with any of the provisions of these Statutes.

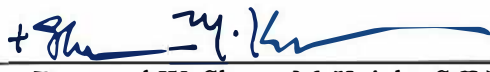
ARTICLE IX

Amendments


These Statutes may be amended by the President on his own initiative. The Council may propose additional amendments to the President with a two-thirds majority vote of the members, after which the President must approve the proposed amendments to take effect.

These Statutes are approved at the Chancery in Jefferson City on the 16th of February in the year of Our Lord 2024.





Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, S.T.D.
Bishop of Jefferson City



Benjamin Roodhouse, J.D., J.C.L.
Chancellor