



Diocesan Council Restructures to Allow Better Communications between the Diocesan Council and Diocesan Boards, Committees and Commissions

A Diocesan Council Restructure Plan developed by Bill Erwin and Jeff Hoffman, past vice-chairs of the Diocesan Council was accepted by the council at its January 2017 meeting. Prayerful and thoughtful consideration was given to the purpose of the Diocesan Council and its role as overseer of the business affairs of the Diocese and acting as the governing body of the diocese in between conventions. To begin the restructuring process our 2017 Diocesan Convention enacted structural changes to diocesan council by making changes to several diocesan canons. The major changes were made to Canon 10 (Of the Diocesan Council) and are summarized as follows:

- 1) The terms of the at-large clergy and lay members was expanded to 3 years with allowance to serve for 2 consecutive terms. This change will allow better retention of the corporate memory of the council by having longer terms.
- 2) The number of elected lay members was increased from 4 to 5 and will be elected by the diocesan convention by regions. Mr. Hank Wilson was appointed by council to fill this 5th position until the 2018 diocesan convention. This election process by regions will begin at our 2018 diocesan convention with the election of one lay member from the First Coast East for a 2 year term, election of one lay member from the First Coast West region for a 3 year term and election of one lay member from the Santa Fe region for a 3 year term. This election will result in having one lay member from each region on diocesan council.

Since Diocesan Council has the responsibility for the business affairs of the Diocese and of each Board, Committee and Commission the restructure plan will set up 6 Council Ministry Groups which will be composed in total of all the boards, committees and commissions of the diocese as follows:

- **Governance (co-chaired by the Bishop and one lay member who is the Council's vice chair)**
 - Architectural Review
 - Finance and Investment
 - Common Ministry Budget
 - Audit Committee
 - Convention, Charters and Canons
 - Real Estate
 - Diocesan Council Agenda

- **Camp and Conference Center**
 - Camp Weed
 - Diocesan Youth Programs Committee
 - Conference Center Board of Directors

- **Growth and Vision**
 - Congregational Development Committee
 - Growth (church planting) Committee
 - Blue Ribbon Committee on Growth

- **Worship and Formation**
 - Bishop's Institute
 - Commission on Ministry
 - Cursillo
 - Daughters of the King
 - Episcopal Church Women
 - Diocesan Altar Guild

- **Colleges, Schools and Young Adults**
 - The Board of Regents
 - University Chaplains
 - University of the South Trustees
 - Youth and Young Adult Ministries

- **Mission and Outreach Ministry**
 - Episcopal Relief and Development
 - Grace Mission (Tallahassee)
 - St. Mary's Mission (Jacksonville)
 - Church Plants and Re-Starts
 - Prison Ministry Committee
 - Companion Dioceses Committee (Cuba and Peru)
 - Disaster Preparedness Committee
 - Hispanic Ministries

The committees and commissions of the Diocese have specific responsibilities and reporting obligations to the Diocesan Council in order for the council to function. In order to have two-way communications between the diocesan council and each board, committee and commission the 5 Regional Canons and the 5 Lay Members of Diocesan Council have been assigned to five of the Ministry Groups as co-chairs (one Regional Canon and one Lay Member per group). Each team of co-chairs will be in regular contact with the committees or commissions assigned to their ministry group and be prepared to report at each meeting of the Diocesan Council on their activities, and any issues or problems the committees or commissions may have. This structure will also allow committees and commissions to make requests to diocesan council in a timely manner. The Governance Ministry Group (the 6th group) will be co-chaired by the Diocesan Bishop as Chair of Diocesan Council and the Lay Member who is Vice-Chair of Diocesan Council.

Each Board, Committee and Commission will be contacted and given the names and contact information for their Ministry Group Chairs and the purpose of this new structure to enhance communications. Once that is done each Ministry Group co-chairs will contact their assigned boards, committees and commissions.

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