

PROPOSED UPDATES TO THE PRINTED PARISH BY-LAWS

I would like to propose the following “updates” to the Parish By-Laws. The By-Laws were last updated in 1996. I don’t believe that these are changes which need to be approved by the entire congregation since there are no material changes. These changes are simply updating the by-laws to express changes that have already been approved at congregational meetings or to provide further clarification of an existing item.

Please note that the existing wording is in black print whereas the proposed updates are printed in red ink. Editorial comments are italicized.

ARTICLE THREE

Membership in the Parish:

Paragraph 2

- A Fair Share Offering of stewardship is employed with each member donating at least a minimum amount , ~~set by congregational action, each year.~~ **within the calendar year.**

Note: the change establishes a clearer timeframe of the annual financial obligation.

Move the following paragraph to this location from the existing location after the paragraph on age and higher education or military service.

- Financial obligation to the Parish, that is the Fair Share Offering, is set and can be changed by a majority vote at the Annual Congregational meeting.

Note: This sentence reduces the redundancy of the congregational action and further clarifies the Fair Share Offering. It is more topical at this location.

Insert between existing paragraphs 2 and 32

- **Assessments levied by National PNCC and Diocesan synodal actions are separate obligations and are NOT included in Parish Fair Share obligations.**

Note: This clarification removes any misconception or ambiguity that these obligations are considered part of the Fair Share contribution.

Paragraph 8

- The parish is motivated by care and concern for its membership. **Any persons experiencing hardship** should apply to the pastor or parish committee and will be considered **for assistance or relief** on a confidential and individual basis.

Note: Clearer wording and we shouldn’t refer to people as “hardship cases”.

ARTICLE FOUR - Section 2 Parish Officers – Paragraph 3 Auditors

- a) **There shall be** a minimum of three (3) auditors. **Each auditor is elected for a 3-year term, with the terms of the auditors staggered so that one new auditor is elected annually.** Rules governing their position include: Rules governing their position include:
 - a. Conduct quarterly audit of the parish's financial ~~books~~ **records**.

Note: "Records" is more comprehensive. Auditors review receipts, bank statements, deposit worksheets in addition to the accounting ledger.

Note: This change reflects the congregational action approved over 10 years ago. The change was made to provide some "institutional memory" of the procedures and processes used to perform an audit. This is not a position where most people can just jump in cold and perform this task.

ARTICLE SIX – Privileges of Membership, Item 2

- 2. Interment rights at Holy Family Parish **and SS Peter and Paul cemeteries.**

Notes: I am not sure that we can make this change without congregational consent!