



“There are many ways of serving, but it is always the same Lord.”

1Cor. 12:5

## **Guidelines for the Operation of the Isle of Wight Pastoral Area Council**

Introduction:

The Diocese of Portsmouth has issued Guidelines for Pastoral Councils (September 2010), the following document is intended to reflect the Diocesan Guidelines applied to our Island Community, providing a method by which we can work together to best serve our Lord Jesus Christ and our neighbour.

### *The Isle of Wight Pastoral Council (IWPC)*

#### 1. Purpose

Our purpose is to ensure that the work of the Church is carried out in the Island Pastoral Area as effectively as possible and to enable full, active participation of all the Baptised and those seeking to be initiated, and to ensure the fullest possible communication among all members of the Church, and beyond to those in other communities.

#### 2. Membership

- 2.1 The optimum size of the group is likely to be sixteen. Clergy in Parish ministry need to take an active part and be present at meetings, making clear that clergy and laity are working together and are united. Clergy will therefore be ex-officio members.
- 2.2 Membership needs to be truly representative of the present parishes and worshipping communities. Members of the Pastoral Council need to represent effectively both:
- the interests of these communities and
  - of the Church as a whole on the Island and within Portsmouth Diocese

As such, all members need to support the Diocesan Pastoral Plan as outlined in Go Out and Bear Fruit.

- 2.3 All members are invited to take full and active part in all discussions and decisions and to liaise fully with their own local Pastoral Councils. Therefore it is presumed

that representing members of the IWPC will also be part of their local parish council.

- 2.4 The interests and gifts of the religious institutions and schools in the Pastoral Area need to be considered in all discussions and decisions. Also close co-operation with the Treasurers' Group is necessary to best serve the whole Pastoral Area. It is therefore expected that there will be representation of these groups within the Pastoral Area Council.
- 2.5 Appointment to the council will be made such that there is equal representation from the existing worshipping communities. Appointment from a community shall be by consensus within that community and with the agreement of the Priest responsible for the worshipping community. In order to ensure that the Council's members will be a cross section of parishioners with varying experiences, gifts and talents the remaining balance of the membership will be appointed by the Co-ordinating Pastor after seeking the advice of the clergy.
- 2.6 Once appointed to the Council all members have a duty to act in the best interests of the whole Pastoral Area, the Diocese and Catholic Church.
- 2.7 The term of office for all members will be:
  - A maximum of three years.
  - Initially, one third of the membership will resign after the first year, a further third in the second year, and the remaining third will complete a full three year term.
  - No member (other than *ex officio* members) should serve more than two consecutive terms.
- 2.8 All new members will have an induction session introducing them to the operation of the IWPC and the role will be commissioned as a service to the Church.

### 3. Meetings

- 3.1 Meetings of the Isle of Wight Pastoral Council will take place every other month, with meetings of the Leadership Team in the alternate months.
- 3.2 Minutes of meetings will be circulated to the membership and after approval distributed to the communities as widely as possible. Copies shall be available on the Pastoral Area website.
- 3.3 Meetings will typically last for an hour and a half and shall start and end in prayer. Consideration and respect shall be given to all views and the aim will be for agreement to be reached by consensus.
- 3.4 Attendance at meetings will be restricted to appointed, inducted members within their term of office. Through the Council Chair, guests may be invited to specific meetings to inform the Council on issues as appropriate.

3.5 The officers of the Council shall be as follows:

- President: Co-ordinating Pastor
- Chair: elected annually
- Secretary: elected annually

In the event of the Chair being unavailable a deputy may be nominated by the President to facilitate a meeting.

#### 4. Leadership Team

The duty of this Team is to ensure that decisions of the Pastoral Area Council are enacted. The Leadership team is appointed by the Co-ordinating Pastor, and is largely drawn from the Pastoral Council.

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