

<b>TITLE: Pastoral Care Committee</b>	<b>NUMBER: F-12</b>
<b>APPROVED: June 13, 2017</b>	<b>PAGE 1 of 2</b>

## **PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE**

### **SCOPE:**

Pastoral care involves the offer of kindness, compassion, Christian love, and concern to parishioners in crisis, need, sickness, grief, or trouble. The purpose of the Pastoral care committee is to advise clergy and lay caregiving staff about pastoral program needs and priorities and to help develop ways to meet those needs.

### **COMPOSITION:**

The committee consists of a chair and three or more other members, including a vestry liaison and representatives of each of the parish groups principally involved in caregiving ministries. In order to promote participation by a broad spectrum of parish membership, the pastoral care committee members serve (at most) a three-year term, with at least one year elapsing before members are eligible for another term.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

#### 1. The committee:

- a. identifies program needs
- b. evaluates the effectiveness of existing programs to meet those needs, and
- c. helps develop new program activities for:
  - contacting parish members and making pastoral calls with them.
  - spiritually and emotionally supporting persons separated from the parish community because of illness or infirmity.
  - supporting persons in the parish family faced with crises by offering food, practical helps, shopping, respite visits, transportation to physicians offices, etc.
  - fostering participation by those who need assistance (such transportation) to be included in parish functions.

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**POLICY/PROCEDURE (cont.):**

**Responsibilities (cont.):**

2. To accomplish these goals, the committee specifically

- communicates to clergy and lay caregivers needs and opportunities for pastoral care and other ministry with parishioners.
- maintains liaison among parish groups giving pastoral care, in order to support and encourage such ministries.
- encourages persons trained and/or gifted in pastoral care to use their gifts and skills for the benefit of parishioners.