

Orientation for New Council Members

- ✚ **1 ½ to 2 hours should be allowed for this orientation.**
- ✚ **If this is a continuing council, the pastor, chair and others as decided can assist with the orientation presentations. All council members should be present.**
- ✚ **If this is a new council, the pastor and members of the team who helped create the new council could be the presenters.**
- ✚ **The Office for Parish Resources can assist if and as needed.**

1. Prayer
2. Introductions of new members
This could be an opportunity to learn something new about one another. In addition to name, how long a member of the parish, ministries involved with, etc., members might share:
 - A memory of church from their childhood, or
 - What is the most significant thing their parish has done, or
 - Other...
3. A review of the Parish mission statement, if it has one, and how the statement guides the council's work. A review of the Pastoral Council Guidelines/By-laws and the Diocesan Pastoral Council Guidelines.
 - Everyone should have received a copy of the mission statement and guidelines prior to this orientation.
 - The pastor and/or council chair can provide a brief overview of each of the guidelines.
 - What does a council do? Listens to the people, determines parish needs, makes recommendations for goals and actions. Listens to the pastor's concerns and makes recommendations as requested.
 - Opportunity for questions by the members.
4. A review of the work of the Council over the past year and a look at the calendar of meetings for the coming year.
 - Highlights of Council meetings and issues discussed, recommendations made.
 - Brief discussion of ongoing and any new issues that will be discussed at future meetings.
 - Opportunity for questions.
5. Council Meetings
 - Provide the schedule of meetings for the coming year.
 - Provide a typical agenda.
 - Review expected behaviors of all members: present and prepared, contributing to discussions, respectful listening to one another, support for Council recommendations within the parish.
 - Consensus as the preferred method of decision-making.
 - Brief explanation of consensus decision-making.
6. Questions regarding any of the presented information.
7. Closing prayer.