

**Diocese of San Diego**

**STATUTES OF THE DIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL**

**ARTICLE ONE: NATURE**

The Finance Council of the Diocese of San Diego is hereby established in accord with canon 492.1 of the Code of Canon Law; it is an organ of collaboration of the Christian faithful with the diocesan bishop in the administration of the financial matters of the entire diocese.

**ARTICLE TWO: DUTIES**

The Diocesan Finance Council has the following duties:

- a. To advise the Bishop of San Diego on financial policies for the diocese.
- b. Using the services of the diocesan finance office, to prepare annually a budget of income and expenditure over the coming year for the governance of the entire diocese, in accordance with the directions of the bishop, and after appropriate consultation with the heads of the diocesan departments.
- c. Using the services of the diocesan finance office, at the end of each fiscal year to account for the income and expenditure of the diocese.
- d. To direct the finance office to examine the annual reports of the parishes and of the other public juridic persons subject to the Bishop of San Diego. Each parish is to be examined upon change of pastor or at least every three years.
- e. To express an opinion, after legitimate convocation in accord with canon 127.1 on those matters where the Code of Canon Law calls for the diocesan bishop to have recourse to the Finance Council.
- f. To give or withhold consent, with regard to acts of extraordinary administration, to those acts judged to endanger the patrimonial condition of the public juridic person in question, and to leases covered by the norms laid down by the Conference of Bishops.
- g. To present other recommendations regarding fiscal policy in the diocese.
- h. To monitor investment policies.
- i. To inform the Bishop of San Diego regarding financial trends which could affect the stable patrimony of the diocese.
- j. To elect a temporary finance officer if sede vacante, the finance officer is elected diocesan administrator.

### **ARTICLE THREE: POWERS OF THE FINANCE COUNCIL**

The Diocesan Finance Council has those powers accorded to it in the Code of Canon Law. The Bishop of San Diego is not bound to follow the advice given in those cases where the law requires him to consult the council. In those cases where the law requires he obtain the consent of the council, a withholding of consent bars the bishop from proceeding with the proposed act.

### **ARTICLE FOUR: COMPOSITION**

The Finance Council is presided over by the Bishop of San Diego. The councilors are to be outstanding for moral integrity, actively involved in the life of the local Church, capable of evaluating financial choices with an ecclesial spirit, and expert in civil law or finance, as testified by their professional qualifications and testimonials.

Members of the Finance Council are appointed for a five-year term, renewable.

For the duration of their appointment, members cannot be dismissed by the Bishop of San Diego except for grave and documented reasons, which reasons shall include violation of the promises made under canon 471. However, if a member misses three consecutive meetings, his term of office will terminate automatically.

### **ARTICLE FIVE: INCOMPATIBILITY**

Persons who are related to the Bishop of San Diego up to the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, and those who have direct financial interests in the diocese, cannot be appointed to the Finance Council.

### **ARTICLE SIX: BISHOP**

The Bishop of San Diego:

- a. convokes and presides at the meetings, either personally or through a delegate;
- b. prepares or causes to be prepared the agenda for each meeting.

**ARTICLE SEVEN: MEETINGS OF THE FINANCE COUNCIL**

Meetings are to be held quarterly, or as otherwise determined by the Bishop of San Diego.

A quorum shall consist of a majority of the councilors.

At the meetings of the council, those invited by the bishop may participate where necessary as non-voting members.

Each Councilor may make public only those matters so designated by the Bishop of San Diego.

The minutes of the meetings are to be recorded in the proper minute book and signed by the chairperson and secretary once they have been approved at the next meeting.

**ARTICLE EIGHT: COMMITTEES OF THE FINANCE COUNCIL**

The Finance Council may establish standing committees as it deems appropriate. Currently, the standing committees are as follows: building and renovation, investments, audit, real estate and lay pension.

**ARTICLE NINE: VACANCY ON THE FINANCE COUNCIL**

In the case of death, dismissal, resignation, permanent disability, or termination by absence, of one or more of the members of the Finance Council, the Bishop of San Diego will proceed as soon as possible to appoint replacements. Councilors thus appointed remain in office to the end of the original member's term and may be re-appointed for other terms.

**ARTICLE TEN: FINANCIAL YEAR**

The financial year of the Diocese of San Diego runs from July 1 to June 30 each year. At the end of each financial year, and before November 30, the finance officer shall submit a report on diocesan income and expenditure.

**ARTICLE ELEVEN: INFORMATION TO THE DIOCESAN COMMUNITY**

The Diocesan Finance Council, after approval by the Bishop of San Diego, presents the annual financial report to the diocesan community through circulation of the report to the priests of the diocese at their annual convocation. This report informs the community of the sources of income and its uses during the financial year.

**ARTICLE TWELVE: REFERENCE TO GENERAL NORMS**

With regard to any matters not treated in the present statutes, the norms of canon law shall be applied.