**Parish Council Guidelines For Working Together**

1. Parish Council is committed to pray for the life of the parish and for our ministry together and will be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
2. In our conversations, before we speak, we ask ourselves: “is what I am going to say true? Is it kind? Is it relevant to the current discussion?
3. Discussions will take place in an atmosphere of respectful listening and prayerful discernment facilitated by the chairperson. We will endeavor always to be open and transparent in our communications with one another and with the parish. We work in the expectation that we are a community of mutual, loving support.
4. Council members will treat all members of the Parish with courtesy and respect as members of the body of Christ
5. All members should be heard in a spirit of openness. Any disagreements should be worked out face to face, and not by telephone or email.
6. It is recognized that individual members may have reservations about proposed courses of action, and these should be explored to see where the Council stands. Individual concerns would not however be sufficient to block a course of action if council has discussed and reached a majority decision. The Council will seek, but not require, consensus on issues under discussion.
7. Council should consider all matters of concern to the Parish at an early stage, recognizing that they may be directed to a committee for detailed consideration. If a committee needs to make a decision impacting the Parish as a whole, the committee will bring their suggestions to Parish Council for discussion and, if required, a decision.
8. Discussion should avoid details which can best be dealt with by committee or the responsible individuals before being brought to the Council for decision. Personnel matters should also be avoided unless raised by the leadership. Parish Council discussions will remain confidential other than the key decisions as communicated in the posted minutes.
9. The term for Council membership will be 3 years with a maximum of two terms and a suggested one-year break between terms. In the final year of service, members of council will seek to suggest and mentor new members to fill their vacant spot.

10. Council will commit to modelling Christian Community in our leadership together as well as living into our why statement “practicing the presence of God in our community”