

**PRIEST PERSONNEL COUNCIL GUIDELINES**  
**Diocese of Dodge City**  
***Revised February 2012***

**PURPOSE**

It is the purpose of the Priest Personnel Council to serve as an advisory body to the Bishop of the Diocese of Dodge City in matters relevant to the assignment or placement of priests serving within the Diocese of Dodge City.

The primary concern of the Priest Personnel Council in the placement of priests is the good of the Church, which includes the well-being of the priests. To the extent that circumstances permit, the Personnel Council functions to promote the stability of priests within their pastoral assignments. The Council realizes that effective pastoral care is strengthened by priests and people being allowed to form healthy, trusting relationships.

**COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL**

The Priest Personnel Council is independent of the Presbyteral Council.

The Priest Personnel Council will be composed of four *ex-officio* priest members and one elected priest member. The *ex-officio* members are the Vicar General and the three Vicars Forane (deans). The elected member will be selected from those who are eligible (see below). The elected member serves a five-year term. The chair of the Council will be selected from among its members. The Director of the Office of Priestly Vocations serves in an advisory role.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Those eligible to **serve** on the Priest Personnel Council and to **vote** for priests to serve on the Priest Personnel Council are those priests who are active full time within the diocese (incardinated, religious and extern).

After concluding a term on the Priest Personnel Council, a priest is not eligible to serve until one year has elapsed.

If the Bishop appoints a new Vicar General or Vicar Forane, the priest newly appointed immediately becomes an *ex-officio* member of the Priest Personnel Council. If the newly appointed Vicar General or Vicar Forane was already the elected member of the Council, the Bishop will appoint an eligible priest to complete the elected term. The outgoing Vicar General or Vicar Forane will be eligible for election to the Priest Personnel Council after one year has elapsed.

**ELECTION**

- At the time of an election, voting priests will be asked to select two.
- The two priests receiving the most votes will be contacted pertaining to their willingness to serve on the Priest Personnel Council. If a priest does not wish to serve, the priest with the third most votes will be asked to consider serving.

- A ballot with two names will be sent to all priests eligible to vote. The one receiving the most votes will be elected to the Priest Personnel Council. The term will begin January 1.

### **RESIGNATION or REMOVAL**

A member of the Priest Personnel Council may submit his resignation to the Bishop in writing. If accepted by the Bishop, an *ex-officio* member's vacancy will be filled with the subsequent appointment of Vicar General or Vicar Forane. If the elected member's resignation is accepted, the Bishop will appoint an eligible priest to complete the term.

The Bishop, after consultation with the Council, may remove a member from the Council. This consultation must occur at a meeting of the Council.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Due to the sensitive nature of the matters discussed within this body, each member of the Council is bound to confidentiality. Violation of confidentiality may constitute grounds for removal from the Council.

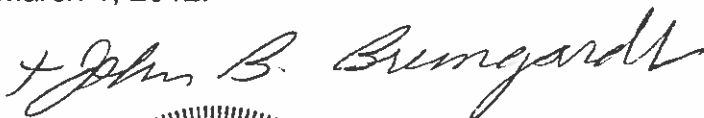
### **REVISION OF THESE GUIDELINES**

Changes or revisions of these guidelines may be initiated by the Bishop, the Priest Personnel Council or the Presbyteral Council. All revisions, however, must be reviewed by the Presbyteral Council who will make their recommendations to the Bishop.

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At its meeting on February 21, 2012, the Presbyteral Council reviewed proposed amendments to the October 2004 Guidelines. The Presbyteral Council recommended to Bishop that he approve the revisions of these Priest Personnel Council Guidelines as outlined above.

I accept the recommendation of the Presbyteral Council and hereby approve the revisions to the Priest Personnel Council Guidelines, which will become effective March 1, 2012.



Most Rev. John B. Brungardt  
Bishop of Dodge City

