

OUR PHILOSOPHY OF GOVERNANCE

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Our parish is a corporation established by the Archbishop of Baltimore. In addition to the corporate officers of the Archbishop, Vicar Bishop Michael T. Rozanski and our pastor Rev. Jeffrey S. Dausen, two of our parish members, Mr. David Roeder and Mrs. Kitty Brown, serve as parish incorporators. Our parish conforms to all laws and rules promulgated by the Archbishop of Baltimore and the universal law of the Church as promulgated by Canon Law.

Our Philosophy of Governance sets forth the principles that guide the planning and operation of the parish. Like all other statements that define our identity, they have been developed over time as a collegial enterprise of our pastor and our parishioners.

We set forth the following principles:

We are committed to being a faith *community*. Our corporate title is The Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier, and our parish is rooted in liturgy, scripture, and service united in Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit.

Each family and individual person who joins the community has a right to mutual support from all other members. Each member is also committed to building a network for this mutual support.

We believe each member is an owner and will assume responsibility for the good order of the community. As an owner, each member assumes certain responsibilities and receives certain benefits. We seek active participation and a strong commitment from all members. We are committed to be open and responsive to input from our community members.

Each member has a right to be involved in all major decisions affecting the overall community. This right is exercised by attendance at the Parish General Meetings. Two Parish General Meetings must be held each year. The Mission and Planning Committee will call other general meetings if, in its judgment, the seriousness of the issue warrants it. The community assembled in a Parish General Meeting must approve the year's goals, objectives, and budget.

The community recognizes that members, depending on time and circumstances, are able to be involved in the governance process to different degrees. The life of the community will be vibrant to the extent that all members, whenever possible, participate actively according to their ability.

Each member family or individual is asked to decide on a yearly basis how much financial support they can give to the community. Since 1990, our community has operated from a clear philosophy of giving. When you join our community, you become an owner. The Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier exists as a community to help each other grow in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Our Mission Statement directs our work.