

# Lay Ecclesial Ministers Council

The Lay Ecclesial Ministers Council was organized in 1999 as part of the diocesan structure. The membership is drawn from the five regions of the diocese and reflects ministerial and ethnic diversity. The LEMC is a consultative body accountable to the Bishop and functions within the Office of the Chancellor through the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis.

## Mission

The mission of the Lay Ecclesial Ministers Council is to advise the Bishop and the Diocese by providing a forum for the on-going support and formation of the lay ecclesial ministers. The council faithfully implements the conciliar teachings on the laity in the spirit of the diocesan strategic plan by providing broadened opportunities for the participation of lay people in the life and ministry of the Church.

## Values

Working with the vision of the Bishop as expressed in the diocesan plans, the Council values:

- The Gospel of Jesus Christ and the mission of the Catholic Church.
- The richness of our diocesan diversity and the dignity of each person.
- The on-going conversion of persons and structures.
- A faith that works for justice.
- Models of collaborative ministry and leadership.
- The choice to carry out one's baptismal call through a vocation/career in pastoral ministry.

## Goals

- To foster the spiritual formation and professional development of lay ecclesial ministers.
- To develop, in collaboration with other diocesan departments, diocesan councils and boards, services and materials that support lay ecclesial ministers.
- To be a place of dialogue and recommendation for issues related to professional standards, certification, placement, compensation, and working environments.
- To develop and monitor the internal structure of the lay ecclesial ministers council.

## Services

- Organize an annual convocation, retreat, and listening sessions.
- Provide on-going communication with lay ecclesial ministers.
- Collaborate with other diocesan councils and boards on issues of mutual interest.
- Function as a liaison with the National Association for Lay Ministry (NALM).

## Membership

The Council is drawn from and reflects the concerns of lay ecclesial ministers, ordinarily those persons entrusted with a public leadership position (paid or unpaid) in pastoral ministries in the diocese. The council membership reflects the ministerial, regional, cultural and ethnic diversity of the diocese. There is at least one member on the council from each of the five regions and one from special works. At large appointments are made to reflect the ministerial and ethnic diversity of lay ecclesial ministers.

## Selection of New Members

Selection of new members is done by region. For the purpose of membership, special works shall be considered its own region. When a region has an opening, the council calls for nominations and election from that region. Any lay ecclesial minister ministering in the region is eligible for nomination. LEM's are able to self-nominate. The region's current representative(s) facilitates an election to select a council representative. All members are approved by the Bishop.

## Terms

The members of the LEMC serve for three years, and may be re-elected for an additional 3-year term. The

terms are staggered so that the Council is ongoing. Attendance at Council meetings is mandatory. If a council member misses three consecutive meetings or half the meetings in a calendar year, his or her membership will be revoked. If a council member no longer works in the region to which he or she was elected, that person may fill out the year (through July 31) for either that region or for the region where now working (if applicable), and an election will be held.

### Meetings

The Council meets monthly with the exception of July. In June the Council has a full day retreat instead of the monthly meeting.

### Responsibilities

Council members

- Listen to the concerns, needs and ideas of LEM's for consideration and possible action by the Council
- Arrange at least one listening session of their region's LEM's each year, in addition to the Annual Convocation listening session
- Assist in updating regional LEM records
- Report regularly to constituency (LEMs) to update them about the work of the council
- Serve on at least one outside board and/or LEMC sub-committee

### Leadership

Three members are selected through a discernment process to serve for one year as chair, treasurer, and secretary. Officers' terms are renewable once.

### Decision Making Process

The Council makes decisions by consensus.