

The **Diocese of Nashville Finance Council** or “**Board**” was established to provide guidance to the Bishop in support of diocesan financial operations, administration of church assets, and review of the financial condition of each public juridic person within the diocese.

The Board is mandated by Canon 492 which provides that the Board is to prepare each year a budget of the income and expenditures foreseen for the governance of the entire diocese, and to approve the report of receipts and expenses at the close of the year. Other canons as well as 138-139 of the Norms of the Diocese of Nashville require the Bishop to obtain the consent or consultation of the Board before granting permission for certain specified transactions.

Bishop Spalding, on an annual basis, appoints carefully selected members of the laity with qualified expertise to fill open vacancies within the Finance Council. Members are limited to serving two consecutive 5-year terms.

#### **OFFICERS:**

The following persons constitute the Diocese of Nashville Finance Council (hereafter "Board"):

1. The **Bishop** is chief executive officer of the diocese. All acts of the Board must be finalized by his decision although in some matters he cannot act validly without Board consent or consultation as required by Canons 494§1-2, 1263, 1277, 1281§2, 1292§1, 1295, 1305, and 1310§2 of the *Code of Canon law* and 138-139 of the *Norms of the Diocese of Nashville* (cf. Appendix 1).
2. In addition to the **Ex Officio** positions mentioned in 6 to 9 below, there are at least 8 but not more than 16 positions filled by appointment from the Bishop for a term of five years. Appointments of those who fill vacancies created by early withdrawals also terminate at the end of the five-year period. All members may be reappointed for additional five-year terms.
3. A **Chair** is appointed by the Bishop for a five-year term with the following rights and duties:
  - a) to maintain a current general overview of the financial affairs of the Governance and Service Offices;
  - b) to preside at all meetings of the Board and Executive Committee;
  - c) to establish ad hoc committees;
  - d) to consult with the Bishop on appointments to the Board and standing committees.
4. A **Vice Chair** is appointed by the Bishop for a five-year term to act in the absence of the Chair.
5. The Chief Financial Officer serves as **Secretary** for the Board.
6. The **Chief Administrative Officer** oversees the administration of the entire diocese and is entrusted with the duties of the Moderator of the Curia.
7. The **Vicar(s) General** share the executive jurisdiction of the Bishop as limited by church law and stated policy. In the absence of the Bishop, the Vicar General may serve as attorney-in-fact for the Bishop.
8. The **Chief Financial Officer** of the Mission Support Office (MSO) serves as administrator of all assets for which the Bishop is legal owner, trustee, or custodian. He also serves as the delegate of the Bishop in supervising the financial administration of juridic persons subject to the Bishop

in accordance with policies and procedures approved by the Bishop. The Chief Financial Officer fulfills his responsibilities in consultation with the Bishop and makes regular reports to the Bishop and the Finance Board.

9. The **Diocesan Attorney** serves as a consultant to the Board. In his absence, another member of his law firm will attend meetings of the Board.

## **VOTING**

1. A simple majority of the Board or any of its standing committees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Members absent from Board or standing committee meetings shall not be permitted to vote by proxy.
2. If and when, after contacting two-thirds of the members of any committee, a majority of the members of the committee shall consent verbally or in writing to any action, such action shall be as valid as though it had been authorized at a meeting of the committee.
3. All members of the Board and all committee members have a right to vote on any matter placed before the Board or a committee with the following exception: the Board or committee Chair may exclude any member from voting on a particular matter if, in the judgment of the Chair, the member may have a conflict of interest with another diocesan board and entity, may derive personal profit from the decision, or the item may conflict with his or her professional business interests. The decision of the Chair is final and is not subject to any review or appeal which could change the result of the vote in question. Members of the Board and members of all committees are urged voluntarily to abstain on the record from any vote should any of these conditions occur.
4. No action of the Board is finalized until it has been approved by the Bishop. Therefore, strict secrecy concerning any action must be observed until interested parties have been notified in writing by the Bishop.

## **SUMMARY OF CANONICAL FUNCTIONS**

The following mandated Board functions are required by the Code of Canon Law, Norms of the Diocese of Nashville:

### **Consultation Functions**

#### **For Bishop:**

- to name a diocesan finance officer (494§1)
- to remove diocesan finance officer during his term (494§2)
- to impose a moderate tax for diocesan needs on public juridic persons subject to him (1263)
- to impose an extraordinary and moderate tax for very grave needs on other physical and juridic persons (1263)
- to place more important acts of diocesan administration (1277)

- to determine acts of extraordinary administration for juridic persons subject to him (1281§2)
- to approve certain acts of extraordinary administration by juridic persons subject to him (1281§2 and Norms 138-139)
- to approve leasing diocesan property when the leasing term is under three years and the property market value exceeds the designated amount (1297)
- to authorize deposition and investment of endowment foundation money and mobile goods (1305)
- to reduce burdens of wills for pious causes if such burdens cannot be fulfilled (1310§2)

### **Consent Functions**

when specifically called for in a charter of a foundation (1277)

#### **For Bishop:**

- to place acts of extraordinary diocesan administration (1277)
- to approve certain acts of extraordinary administration by juridic persons subject to him (1281§2 and Norms 138-139)
- to alienate stable diocesan patrimony above the USCCB minimum (1292§1)
- to approve alienation of stable patrimony above the USCCB minimum of juridic persons subject to him (1292§1)
- to place acts above the USCCB minimum risky to the stable patrimonial condition of the diocese (1295)
- to approve acts above the USCCB minimum risky to the stable patrimonial condition of a juridic person subject to him (1295)
- to approve leasing diocesan property when the leasing term is three years or longer or the property market value exceeds the designated amount (1297)

### **Other Functions**

- to approve an annual diocesan budget (Norm 131)
- to review/ approve the audited financial statements at the end of each fiscal year (Norm 131)
- to seek and receive regular reports from the diocesan chief financial officer (Statute 1.3)
- to seek and receive legal counsel from the diocesan attorney (Statute 1.4)
- to receive reports of action by the Board's Executive Committee and to ratify that action (Statute 3.2)
- to seek, receive, and act on recommendations from the Board's standing and ad hoc committees (Statute 3)
- to examine the annual financial reports of juridic persons subject to the bishop (1287§1)