

SACRED HEART PARISH YOUTH COMMISSION
TERMS OF REFERENCE ~ Updated February 2015

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Sacred Heart Parish is a large, diverse, multicultural Roman Catholic Community in the LaSalle area. Called together through the love of God, and led by the Holy Spirit, we experience our faith in worship, in our daily living, and ministry to all. We strive to make our parish a welcoming place where our faithful stewardship bears witness to the love of Christ in our lives.

VISION OF YOUTH MINISTRY, DIOCESE OF LONDON STATEMENT

Youth Ministry is the response of the Christian Community to the needs of young people, fostering their development as Catholic Christians and drawing them into responsible participation in the life, mission, and ministry of the Church.

ROLE OF YOUTH COMMISSION

The role of the Youth Commission is to give direction and guidance to those working with and for the youth of Sacred Heart Parish. The Youth Commission will develop a youth ministry plan from the discerned needs of parish youth and their families. Their advocacy on behalf of youth will continue to add vibrancy and secure inclusion of young people in all aspects of parish life. Sacred Heart Parish Youth Commission is committed to the vision of youth ministry within the Diocese of London and will follow the comprehensive model of youth ministry.

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

The Commission consists of twelve parishioners in good standing who have a commitment to the needs of youth. The Commission members may be senior high school students, young adults, parents, grandparents, education representatives, youth serving professionals and interested members of the parish who wish to ensure that the needs of our youth are met within our parish family. It is recommended that an adult representative from the Youth Commission be on the Parish Pastoral Council. A meeting summary report is to be given by the Youth Commission member to the Parish Council and Youth Commission.

TERM OF MEMBERSHIP

Each commission member will hold a seat for a term of three years, with the possibility of renewal. When a vacancy exists or a term comes to completion, potential new members will be called forth from the community by the current commission members with consultation from the pastor and pastoral team. The new member will be selected based on the current needs of the commission and personal attributes related to young people that will be an asset to the work of the commission. Three consecutive, unexcused absentees will result in the member being asked to step down. If a Youth Commission member has to step down early, it is recommended that appropriate notification be given to the Co-chairs. It is encouraged that a two month notification be given so a suitable replacement may be sought.

CHAIR AND/OR YOUTH CHAIR

The chair and/or youth chair will be discerned by the current commission members at the start of each academic year and will hold the seat for a minimum of one year with the option of renewal not exceeding three years. Their responsibilities include notification of meetings, agenda preparation, communications with regards to presentations and facilitation of meetings, along with the monitoring of action plans.

MEETING TIMES

The Commission will hold monthly meetings. At the beginning of each academic year, the chairs and the Coordinator of Youth Ministry will select dates for the current school year meetings. No meetings are held in July and August. Additional meetings can be called by the Chairs of the commission when the need arises or upon the request of the Co-ordinator of Youth Ministry.

REPORTING

The Commission is accountable to the pastor. Communication with the pastor will be made formally at meetings or informally by the Co-ordinator of Youth Ministry/Co chairs.

DECISION MAKING

Decisions and recommendations are brought about through discussion, discernment, prayer, voting and consensus.