



St John the Baptist Anglican Church Canberra

Policy on	The Master Policy
------------------	-------------------

Responsible agency	Parish Council
Electronic file name	Master Policy.pdf
Repository	https://www.stjohnscanberra.org/documents-and-reports
First introduced	January 2019
Parish Council approvals	20 February 2019
Next revision due	May 2021

Policy Intent

Good policy settings are important to the governance role of Parish Council. While individual policies provide an approved or recommended manner of implementing the decisions of Parish Council and its committees, as a set they provide a control framework which assists Parish Council in carrying out its governance responsibilities.

As a governance body, Parish Council is required to

1. Set the Mission, vision and objectives for the Parish
(See www.stjohnscanberra.org Who We Are)
2. Ensure compliance with relevant legislation and Ordinances
3. Be accountable for its own actions and that of its committees and officers
4. Review performance regularly
5. Manage risks
6. Ensure everything required for the good functioning of the Parish is in place

As norms against which to assess its success in discharging these responsibilities, standards and Diocesan expectations are important.

Standards and Expectations

Our standards as a Parish are best described in terms of the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Everything we do should be guided by our vision and how each of the Marks of Mission is supported in furthering God's kingdom. In respect of our policies, some address major themes of how we operate as a Parish while others relate to how we treat each other; but all are in one way or another direct responses to the Marks of Mission and should be seen that way.

In addition to the standards set for us by the Marks of Mission we are required to operate under the Governance of the Diocese Ordinance, which can be found under <http://ordinance.anglicancg.org.au/ord/default.aspx>

Again, our policies cannot be inconsistent with the intent of the Ordinance but must act to implement its provisions, as appropriate.

Policy Structure

Because the standards and expectations are our guiding principles, each of our policies will commence with a reference to this policy by way of underscoring the framework provided by the marks of mission and the Ordinance. That reference will appear as a statement under the heading **Legislation and Standards** and will read:

“This policy is bound by The Master Policy of the Parish (www.stjohnscanberra.org Parish Council Login) which recognises the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion and the Governance of the Diocese Ordinance as the foundations on which our actions are based.”

If there is any other relevant legislation that will also be listed under the section.

There will then follow two other sections. **Principles** will outline the fundamental tenets on which a given policy is based; **Procedures** will describe how the policy is to be implemented.