



Constitution

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services Archdiocese of Boston

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PREAMBLE - About this document

This document has initially been prepared with support and participation of members of the Anglo, Brazilian, Haitian, Nigerian, Hispanic and Ugandan Catholic Charismatic communities in the Archdiocese of Boston as a response to the mutual call we feel from our Lord Jesus for unity in his body, based upon a fundamental love for God and one another.

This document has been written as a tool to promote unity and because we believe it is important that we identify ourselves and the way we have been called to live out our spiritual walk as a community led by the Holy Spirit in the Archdiocese of Boston.

The purpose of this document is to explain the approach that the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Archdiocese of Boston will take to unite the prayer groups of all cultural expressions so that together we can seek and follow the leading of God's Holy Spirit and learn to respond more fully to the two Great Commandments, to love God with our entire being and love one another as Christ loves us.

It may be important to note that this document is not intended to define Charismatic Renewal as a spiritual expression, nor is it intended to structure how the renewal operates. In order to promote unity and vitality in a community, reasonable principles of order and voluntary submission to authority must exist. In personal holiness as well as community holiness, spiritual health requires a balance between freedom and responsibility. We believe that Jesus Christ saved us by grace through faith, setting us free to do the good works the Father had prepared for us (Eph 2:8-10). Therefore, the very freedom we have received in our baptism calls us to submit ourselves willingly to the discipline of the Holy Spirit, who guides us in a life of service to one another, the Church and the entire community.

CHAPTER I IDENTIFICATION

Article 1. NAME & LOCATION

The Charismatic Renewal Services for the Archdiocese of Boston, hereafter referred to as ‘CRS Boston’ or CRSB is a non-profit lay apostolate recognized by the Archdiocese of Boston.

The Post Office address of CRSB is 30 Pond Street. Waltham MA 02451. It can be moved for a just cause.

The fiscal year of CRSB shall begin on the first day of January in each year and end at the close of the last day of December of the following year.

Article 2. MISSION

The primary mission of CRSB is to build communion with God under the inspiration and using the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and fully participate in the communion of the faithful in the Church (cf. CL 20). To this end CRSB seeks unity with the Archbishop, and with the various prayer groups, associations and movements in the archdiocese. It shall also coordinate and maintain a powerful evangelization movement anointed by the Holy Spirit and carried out by spreading the experience of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Article 3. OBJECTIVES

International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services in Rome (ICCRS), has its statutes of service recognized by the Holy See under the decree number 1.565/93 AIC-73 “Oficium Consulium Pro Laicis”, according to the Canon 116, of the Code of Canon Law. It is an ecclesial movement of the Roman Catholic Church that looks for the growing awareness of the presence and action of the Holy Spirit in the life of the faithful, providing to its members a constant and significant spiritual renewal.

The objectives of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Archdiocese of Boston (CRSB) are based on the stated objectives of ICCRS, included among those listed below:

- a. **To foster mature and continuous personal conversion to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior and to foster a decisive personal receptivity to the person, presence and the power of the Holy Spirit (cf. ICCRS goals 1 & 2) via Baptism in the Holy Spirit. This is most often understood as a personal acceptance of the graces of Christian initiation and as an empowering for personal Christian service in the Church and in the world.**
- b. **To foster the reception and use of the spiritual gifts not only in the Charismatic Renewal but also in the broader Church. These gifts, ordinary and extraordinary are abundantly found among laity, religious and clergy. Their proper understanding and use in harmony with other elements of the Church life is a source of strength for Christians on their journey towards holiness and in the carrying out of their mission. (cf. I Cor 12, 8-10. 28-30; Rom 12, 6-8; Eph 4, 7-16; Pet 4, 10-11, L.G. 4 and 12, A.A 3 and 30, AG. 4, 23, P.O. 9 and ChL 21 to 24 - note at the end); (cf. ICCRS goal 3)**
- c. **To foster the work of evangelization in the power of the Holy Spirit, including the evangelization of the un-churched, the re-evangelization of nominal Christians, and the evangelization of culture and social structures thereby sharing in the Church's mission to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed. CRSB especially promotes bearing witness to Jesus Christ through personal testimony and through those works of faith and justice to which each one is called. (cf. ICCRS goal 4)**
- d. **To foster the ongoing growth in holiness through the proper integration of these charismatic gifts with the full life of the Church. This is accomplished through participation in a rich sacramental and liturgical life, and appreciation of the tradition of Catholic prayer and spirituality, and ongoing formation in Catholic doctrine. This is guided by the Church's Magisterium, and participation in the pastoral plan of the Church. (cf. ICCRS goal 5)**
- e. **To keep deep communion, with all the communities and expressions originated by the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church, and maintain a fraternal relationship;**

- f. To create and support forms of teaching that help CRSB members to maintain their identity, vocation and mission, with the vision of a society that is just and fraternal.**

CHAPTER II THE CRS COUNCIL

Article 4. CRS COUNCIL PURPOSE

The Charismatic Renewal of Boston Executive Board, hereafter called CRS Council has the purpose of

- g. establishing and maintaining unity in all the groups of the Charismatic Community, committing ourselves be family to one another;**
- h. bringing leaders together to pray and discern the guidance of the Holy Spirit;**
- i. growing the entire Charismatic community in its love for God and one another;**
- j. remaining in unity with the universal Catholic Church and in obedient submission to the pastoral guidance of our bishop.**

Article 5. CRS COUNCIL DUTIES

To achieve its goals the CRS Council provides and may develop

- k. Pastoral oversight for recognized Charismatic prayer groups that meet on a weekly basis;**
- l. Life in the Spirit Seminars;**
- m. Seminars and teachings on Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Charisms, Fruits of the Spirit, and other Church doctrines to promote lives of holiness, led by the Holy Spirit ;**
- n. Retreats and training sessions for leaders and members of prayer groups;**
- o. Doctrinal and biblical courses for leaders taught by qualified individuals;**
- p. Meetings with all prayer group coordinators scheduled monthly;**
- q. Meetings with the members of the CRS Council scheduled monthly;**
- r. Archdiocesan Conferences to build unity and foster a deeper relationship with the Lord.**

Article 6. CRS COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The council will be comprised of from three (3) to six (6) members chosen at large from each ethnic group in CRSB. The number of those serving on the council will vary according to the number of ethnic groups participating. A typical size for this group would be approximately 30.

Section 1. Membership Criteria

A member of the CRS Council can be any recognized leader in a weekly Charismatic prayer group who is Catholic and has received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Member must be an adult (18 years or older) in good standing, meaning an active member of a prayer group who, for the previous year, has made a diligent effort to participate in and support all CRS-sponsored events, and has been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

Coordinators and founders of other Lay Ecclesial Communities and Associations will not be eligible to be members of the CRS Council to avoid a conflict between their mission and goals and those of CRSB.

Membership in the CRS Council or its appointed committees is a call to serve. A member of the CRS Council or its committees must be prepared to regularly and fully participate in its meetings. If such a commitment cannot be made the member must step down to allow another person to fulfill the requirements of the commitment.

In case of death, transfer, prolong absence or resignation of one of the council members, the executive Director, in agreement with the other members of the CRS Council will pray and find the proper ways to replace this member.

Section 2. Spiritual Growth

The CRS Council seeks to foster in its members

- a. The experience and value of the deep personal prayer, and communion with the Holy Spirit;
- b. The special emphasis of using and encouraging use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit;
- c. submission to God's will and His plan;
- d. The desire to be subject totally to the lordship of Jesus Christ;
- e. The docility to the Holy Spirit in the effective exercise of the charismatic gifts he bestows and in the service of the community by means of the performance of different ministries.
- f. The constant reading of the Word of God and its practice in daily life.
- g. The fraternal love, generous and committed, to the community in which they are called to serve;
- h. Frequent and consistent participation in the Sacraments of the Church;
- i. Obedience to the Church and her shepherds;
- j. Proper devotion to Virgin Mary and the recognition of Her mission in God's redemptive plan;
- k. The announcement, with divine power, of the person of Jesus Christ;

Article 7. STRUCTURE

The CRSB will be comprised of several roles and functions uniquely identified by purpose and structure. They are listed here:

- a. **Archdiocesan Liaison** appointed by the Archbishop of Boston upon recommendation of the CRS Council to facilitate communication between CRSB and our bishop (See Article 8);
- b. **An Executive Director and Associate Director for the CRS Council** to lead and manage the administration of CRSB;
- c. **CRS Council** who collectively pray for and discern the leading of the Holy Spirit at the archdiocesan level and work to bring about a deeper response to the two Great Commandments;
- d. **Prayer Group Coordinators** who lead CRSB prayer groups to spiritual health and full use of the charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit in unity with the supporting role of the CRS Council;
- e. **Leaders Assembly** is a body consisting of CRS Council members and Prayer Group Coordinators.
- f. **Administrative Office of the CRS Council**, here called simply Office who manage the day-to-day administrative functions of CRSB;
- g. **Advisory Committee** who assist the executive and associate director in determining how to put the discernment of the CRS Council into practice;
- h. **Spiritual Director** who supports the spiritual growth of CRSB and provides guidance regarding orthodoxy and orthopraxy in the life of CRSB
- i. **Ministry Committees** who carry out specifically assigned ministries that help to achieve the discerned objectives of the CRS Council ;

CHAPTER III CRS COUNCIL ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Article 8. ARCHDIOCESAN LIAISON RESPONSIBILITIES

The archdiocesan liaison will attend at least half of the meetings of the CRS Council and keep channels of communication open between the archbishop and the CRS Council. The liaison will communicate in a way, form and frequency designated by the archbishop and will meet with the archbishop or his delegate personally at least once a year to offer an evaluation of CRSB and receive the guidance and blessing of the archbishop for future endeavors.

Article 9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The executive director of the CRS Council should always be a layperson, elected by the CRS Council according to the rules stipulated in CHAPTER VI of this document. The director's primary responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- a. Preside over and manage the Administrative Office of the CRSB, being able to hire and dismiss employees, services, partnerships and whatever more is necessary, to achieve the activities and objectives of the CRS Council;
- b. Preside over and summon the CRS Council, however many times as necessary;
- c. Preside over and summon the Leaders Assembly, however many times as necessary;
- d. Preside over all Charismatic events at the Archdiocesan level;
- e. Fulfill and enforce to be fulfilled the decisions of the CRS Council;
- f. Perform in the capacity of official representative of the CRS Council, in all affairs and events concerning the Charismatic Renewal of Boston and represent it with broad and authoritative power, being able to, agree, disagree, propose, receive, pay and whatever more is necessary for the good and faithful performance of the post and duty;
- g. Keep ties of unity with the Charismatic Renewal of North America;
- h. Represent the CRS Council in local and national conferences and other meetings of the Charismatic Renewal as appropriate to the duties and responsibilities of the office.
- i. Nominate representatives or delegates of the CRS Council if necessary, for all meetings in which the CRS Council participates.
- j. Nominate the executive staff, consisting of an associate director, Secretary and Treasurer, which shall be ratified by the CRS Council, at an opportune meeting
- k. Participate, as an ex officio member of any council, committee or ministry team within the archdiocesan Charismatic Renewal;
- l. Offer several choices for spiritual director of the CRSB, which have been approved by the chancery and prioritized by the CRS Council for final selection by the archbishop;
- m. Nominate the coordinators of the Ministries of CRS, which shall be ratified at an opportune meeting by the CRS Council;
- n. Coordinate and schedule CRSB activities and calendar with the assistance of the CRS Council;
- o. Prepare and implement archdiocesan meetings of the Charismatic renewal;
- p. With the assistance of the Council, to identify the spiritual growth needs of CRSB.
- q. With the assistance of the Council, to identify and establish, commission and, if necessary, decommission committees focused to establish or maintain a specific aspect the health of the Archdiocesan Renewal. References to which committees are established will be found in Appendix A of this document, which will be revised as necessary.
- r. Assess the effectiveness of all prayer groups;

- s. Build unity among all the leaders (those recognized to be in service to each prayer group) and organize specific training through regular meetings organized and scheduled by the executive director or his designate.
- t. Promote the development of different ministries by providing training for the various ministries;
- u. Promote and to build unity with all the other movements and associations of the archdiocese;
- v. Provide opportunities for the spiritual growth of the members of the CRS Council through regular meetings organized and scheduled monthly by the Executive Director.
- w. Meet at least once a year with the archbishop who is the pastor of the Charismatic Renewal of Boston, or his delegate, to present our association annual report and obtain the blessing of the archbishop.

Article 10. CRS COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

The CRS Council, will typically meet monthly, or at a frequency determined by the executive director and extraordinarily any time, by invitation of the executive director or, by simple majority of its members.

It is the responsibility of the CRS Council to:

- a. Discern, implement and follow up on the communal activities of the CRSB prayer groups throughout the Archdiocese of Boston;
- b. Welcome in the spirit of communion and fraternity the communities, associations and any other institutions that live the Charismatic Renewal spirituality and which want to walk in unity;
- c. Approve, assist and promote the growth of Charismatic prayer groups and involve them in the Archdiocesan Church, employing the ministry of properly elected or properly appointed delegates of each ethnic group.
- d. Stimulate Charismatic Prayer Groups to live the identity, the mission and the objectives of Charismatic Renewal;
- e. Facilitate the exchange between the Prayer Groups of experiences, and wisdom gained by life in the Holy Spirit;
- f. Consult the archbishop or his delegate for permission to invite speakers and other ministers from outside the archdiocese.
- g. Provide proper training to the members and all leaders of the CRS Council
- h. Maintain total fidelity to the teaching of the Catholic Church and provide loyal cooperation to the archbishop of Boston and parish priests.
- i. Keep and maintain unity of the Church under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Article 11. ADVISORY BOARD

The members of the advisory board shall be up to seven persons chosen by the Executive Director to advise and assist him in his duties. They must be Catholic. They may participate in meetings to which they are invited by the executive director, but shall have no vote in such meetings.

Article 12. SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

The main role of the Spiritual director is to support the health of CRS Council, instructing and exhorting its members, and especially ensuring that sound Catholic doctrine is observed in its expressions, and that the Charismatic Renewal remains in communion with the Archdiocesan Church.

The spiritual director of the CRS Council must be a priest or deacon who shares the identity and spirituality of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement, with its expressions and practices in observance of John Paul II teachings, who said: "The priest, for his part, cannot exercise his service on behalf of the Renewal

unless and until he adopts a welcoming attitude towards it, based on the desire he shares with every Christian by baptism to grow in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.” (Speech to the leaders of the Charismatic Renewal, in May 07, 1981).

Article 13. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

It is the responsibility of the Secretary to assist the Executive Director of the CRS Council, in the duties inherent in the title and includes, but is not limited to administrative functions of the CRSB office.

It is the responsibility of the Treasurer to exercise all the functions inherent to the title. This includes but it not limited to: manage the treasury of the CRSB office, to collect contributions of all natures, make all authorized payments, present monthly balances, yearly balances, balances at the end of the executive director’s term of office or when requested by the CRS Council, foresee monthly income and expenses, take inventory together with assistance of other personnel of the office.

CHAPTER IV CRSB OFFICE MINISTRY COMMITTEES

As the Church militant we understand that God trains us for battle and reveals by the Holy Spirit the need to focus on specific areas of ministry, or missions, to win souls for Christ. Therefore, the executive director with the assistance of the CRS Council will identify and commission or decommission ministry committees to support the mission revealed by the Holy Spirit for each year.

Article 14. THE MINISTRIES OF THE CRS COUNCIL

In order to support the annual mission of the CRS Council at the archdiocesan level, various ministry committees are necessary and are the following:

Ministry of Communication

Ministry of Evangelization

Ministry to Clergy

Ministry of Finance

Ministry to Ethnic Communities

and all other ministries found necessary and appropriate

Article 15. GENERAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

All ministry committees regardless of their specific responsibilities and gifts will have general ministerial responsibilities.

- a. Carry out its specific service and objectives as commissioned by the CRS Council;
- b. Work with all other ministerial committees and groups in CRSB in a cooperative and supportive way to promote a single spirit of harmony and family unity throughout the renewal;
- c. Aid Prayer Group Coordinators when solicited;
- d. Promote events and gatherings for formation, animation and growth of its own ministry, according to its commission;
- e. Work together with the CRS Council the necessary planning for its function.

The ministries of the Boston Catholic Charismatic Renewal, shall develop their work in order to guarantee the identity and mission of the movement, they should consider the planning of the parish and Archdiocese, aiming always the adequate integration, unity and collaboration with all other evangelizing of the local Church.

The activities of the ministries commissioned by the CRS Council will be developed at the Archdiocesan level and will be the responsibility of the CRS Council.

Article 16. MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION

Purpose is to build unity. To this end this ministry would:

- a. Manage the CRS Boston Website and keep it current and pertinent as a means of keeping CRSB members informed. It would also use the capabilities of this technology to enable 2-way communication, using such things as blogs, on-line registration and payment and other technologies to facilitate and encourage use of the site.
- b. Publish the CRS Boston Newsletter at least quarterly
- c. Assist the CRS Council and its designated ministries in fund raising and publicity.

Article 17. MINISTRY OF EVANGELIZATION

- a. Develop and tailor LISS presentations for various groups (e.g. retreats, missions, men, women, youth, etc.)

- b. be a resource to provide materials, schedule plans and even speakers for Life in the Spirit Seminars as requested by different prayer groups;
- c. Assist in organizing joyful celebrations of faith that invite attendees to experience and receive the good news of Jesus Christ.

Article 18. MINISTRY TO CLERGY

- a. Continue energetic, supportive and encouraging contact with the ordained ministers of the archdiocese;
- b. Offer the ordained special opportunities to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit;
- c. Keep the contact list of clergy current;
- d. Support the special ministries of priests, especially in the Charismatic Renewal (e.g. healing, preaching, retreats, etc.);
- e. Outreach to newly-ordained priests and deacons to inform them about the renewal and support their efforts to build new faith in their parishes or places of ministry;
- f. Identify and offer special programs to help clergy grow both personally and in ministry;
- g. Other ministerial activities as appropriate and approved by the executive director or the CRS Council.

Article 19. MINISTRY OF FINANCE

- a. Assist Treasurer in supporting budget formation and objectives;
- b. Take lead in fund raising;
- c. Cultivate sponsors;
- d. Design and administer financial appeals.

Article 20. MINISTRY TO ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

- a. Adapting the message received from the Holy Spirit by the CRS Council to each cultural group,
- b. Overseeing presentations made to each cultural group to ensure the presentations faithfully carry the intended message discerned by the CRS Council for the entire community
- c. Ensuring that cultural and ethnic concerns are brought to the attention of the CRS Council and addressed by the council
- d. Ensuring that information intended by the CRS Council for each of the ethnic groups is properly translated, if necessary, and communicated to each group.

CHAPTER V LEADERS ASSEMBLY

All leaders of CRSB meet on the first Saturday of October for the Leaders Assembly. On this occasion the Directors of each Ministry Committee present their annual report to the assembly on their ministry. The executive director is introduced and presents the mission for the upcoming year.

Article 21. COMPOSITION:

The Leaders Assembly is formed by those who are CRS Council members, and Prayer Group Coordinators, including pastoral leaders and ministry coordinators, at the time of the meeting.

Article 22. LEADERS ASSEMBLY PURPOSE:

To elect the members of the CRS Council, according to CHAPTER VII of this document,

To establish standards and criteria that help the CRS Council to carry out its objectives;

To discern and decide on proposals that will be presented to them by members of the CRS Council, aiming at an improved performance of the CRS Council;

To propose, deliberate on and approve events at the archdiocesan level to be carried out by the CRS Council;

To evaluate and vote on budgets, annual balances and decisions presented by the Council;

To evaluate, deliberate and vote on situations that are not covered by this document;

To ratify, at a properly convened meeting, the names indicated by the director of the Council for the various services and ministries;

Article 23. LEADERS ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

The Leaders Assembly meets ordinarily, twice yearly; in May, to elect members to the CRS Council, excluding its executive officers and, in September, to receive annual reports and vote on policies, budgets and other items of concern for the upcoming year. They may also meet extraordinarily, when called by the Council's executive director or by a majority of the Council's members.

Priests that are in charge of the spiritual guidance of the Prayer Groups are invited to participate in these semi-annual meetings. They will have no right to vote, but they will be able to offer their opinions freely.

Article 24. SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF THE LEADERS ASSEMBLY

The invitation to participate in the Leaders Assembly must be made with a minimum of thirty days before the scheduled date.

CHAPTER VI PRAYER GROUPS

Prayer Groups constitute the basic cell of the charismatic renewal, and are primary means of its expression and of its growth.

Article 25. PRAYER GROUP GENERAL ITEMS

Because unity, clear identity and mutual support are essential to the body of Christ, every Charismatic prayer group should be affiliated, registered, approved and operating in cooperation with the CRS Council, to be recognized as being part of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Archdiocese of Boston.

To be recognized by CRSB all prayer groups (even small groups) must have a leader and a pastoral council totaling a minimum of three people.

Every Prayer Group and every Charismatic Community is advised to have a spiritual director, with the function properly defined in this document in Article 12. A prayer group may also opt for the CRS Council spiritual director, in the absence of one in the local community.

Prayer groups greater than 15 people will elect pastoral team members as described in Article 36: *Elections of Prayer Group Pastoral Team*.

Prayer groups in existence less than 3 years are exempted from the election process, but do need a recognized leader to be affiliated with CRSB. New groups are encouraged to request affiliation.

Groups of 10 or less do not need to have formal elections or structured ministries.

Article 26. PRAYER GROUP PASTORAL TEAM

Each prayer group shall have its own Pastoral Team with the purpose of discerning, evaluating and directing the course of the group, establishing norms which help bring unity to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and help to fulfill its objectives.

It is advised the pastoral team of the prayer group meet at least twice a month.

Each Pastoral Team will have a leader.

A person can be in a leadership role in only one prayer group.

Article 27. PRAYER GROUP LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

Prayer group leaders:

- a. participate and support the work of CRSB in all aspects of prayer group life;
- b. Represent their Prayer Group in the CRSB Leaders Assembly meetings;
- c. Encourage and assist the members of the Prayer Group to live the identity, the mission and objectives of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and provide them opportunities for formation and continued growth, with special attention and priority to Life in the Holy Spirit Seminars and training provided by the CRS Council;
- d. Approve, assist and promote the growth of the members of the Prayer Group and encourage their involvement in the local church and in the work of the archdiocese;
- e. Encourage the participation of prayer group members to be involved in the different ministries of the prayer group, according to the gifts of each person;
- f. Nominate the Leader of each ministry of the prayer group;
- g. Promote and assist in the ministries of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the prayer group.

Article 28. CRS COUNCIL RELATIONSHIP TO PRAYER GROUP COUNCILS

Members of the CRS Council designated by the executive director will be considered ex officio members of the Prayer Group Councils.

The executive director of the CRS Council, in the exercise of his/her office, will be considered an ex officio member of every Prayer Group of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Archdiocese of Boston, having access to their meetings and operating in an authoritative and advisory manner.

Every member of the CRSB, without exception, should participate regularly in an affiliated Prayer Group.

Every member of a recognized CRSB ministry, without exception, should participate in an affiliated Prayer Group.

The terms overseen or not predicted by this document, will be decided sovereignly by the Leaders Assembly.

Article 29. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRAYER GROUPS AND PARISHES

Section 1. General Objectives For Parish Prayer Groups

Promote visible unity between the leaders of prayer groups and the pastors of the parishes in which they meet and seek integration of the charismatic prayer groups into the life and activities of the parish.

Section 2. Specific Objectives For Parish Prayer Groups

- a. To be part of the spiritual life of the Parish Church
- b. To cooperate with the parish pastor in his apostolic work by supporting a parish project to the extent requested by the pastor.
- c. To promote unity in the local parish through cooperation with all ministries authorized by the pastor.
- d. Fulfill the missionary and evangelistic role of the Charismatic Renewal in the parish via testimony of life, providing teaching and witness on the role and ministry of the Holy Spirit to followers of Christ (usually accomplished in the context of prayer meetings and Life in the Spirit Seminars) and by various roles of service and outreach in the parish and surrounding communities.

Section 3. Role

It is the responsibility of the pastoral team of a prayer group to

- a. Promote faithful observance of the Diocesan directives.

- b. Provide a strong cooperation with the parish pastor, work for unity among the prayer groups by maintaining constant dialogue with the parish priests and responding to their objectives.

Section 4. *Responsibilities in the parish*

- a. To hold the training and information sessions for members of the parish council or staff on a regular basis as provided for by the pastor.
- b. To encourage families to participate in prayer groups. Be present to them and help lead prayers.
- c. To hold a large gathering of all the prayer groups in the parish once a month at the parish Church.

Article 30. PRAYER GROUP AUTONOMY

Each Prayer Group will have autonomy in carrying out its day-to-day functions but must cooperate with the priest(s) of the local community, with the CRS Council, with norms and directives of the Boston Archdiocese, aiming to express the unity and Catholicity of the movement.

Prayer groups that are parish-based or meet in any facility (e.g. parish hall, retreat center) governed by a religious superior need to be responsive to the directives and restrictions of the pastor or religious superior of the facility.

Article 31. PRAYER GROUP FUNDS

Funds collected in a prayer group will be shared between the prayer group and one or more ministries of the archdiocesan Church and may include donations to a local parish. Such donations will not be less than 10% of prayer group income.

CHAPTER VII ELECTIONS

It is of great importance that leadership of CRSB, its committees and its prayer groups recognize and encourage leadership gifts which are demonstrated in the gathered community. It is equally important to refuse "ownership" of a position leaders have by grace of God. With this in mind each authoritative group and its present leaders should welcome and assist in an election process that cherishes the advice and experience of those who have faithfully served while making a place for a service of new leadership, all with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Article 32. CRS COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Elections to the CRS Council shall be held every year at the May Leaders Assembly. Elections shall be by secret ballot. Votes may not be cast by proxy.

Tie votes shall be resolved by additional balloting.

Unless the number of nominees for each position equals the number of vacancies to be filled, the Chair of the meeting shall appoint seven (7) members and the staff members to oversee the elections. This election committee shall review the ballots and certify in writing the results of election.

Council members terms of office will be 3 (three) years, with possible reelection for a term of three years, never exceeding 6 (six) consecutive years, and always beginning and ending the term of office on the first Saturday of September.

An official mission assignment ceremony will be held where the elected members will be officially appointed.

The archbishop, or his delegate will commission those elected through a Mass organized for this purpose.

Article 33. THE ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CRSB

The election of the executive director of the CRS Council is secret.

All CRS Council members in good standing for more than one year will have the right to vote.

The election will be carried out if in first roll call at least 50% of eligible members who are qualified to vote are present to vote, and in the second roll call, half an hour later, with any number of members.

The candidate who obtains the majority of qualified votes, according to the next proceeding will be considered elected:

A first voting will occur to determine which candidates are eligible to be elected executive director, as well as to consult each candidate nominated about his wish to keep his candidacy.

If a candidate obtains the qualified majority (2/3) of the valid votes or more he will be considered elected. If that does not take place, the two most voted candidates will compete, or as many candidates that have obtained a high amount of votes, and want to keep their candidacy. The candidate who obtains a simple majority of the votes cast will be considered elected.

The election of the executive director by the CRS Council will only be considered official after approval by the Archbishop of Boston or his delegate.

In any council or pastoral team election, not more than 1/3 of the members may be replaced at a time. This is necessary to keep some continuity in planning and service.

The executive director and associate director of the CRS Council, approved and recognized by the Archbishop of Boston, may hold office for a three (3) year period, renewable

The elections for executive director of the CRS Council should always occur in the month of May of the year his term of office ends, and the term of the new executive director will be the first day of September of the same year.

In the event of a premature vacancy of the office of Executive Director the post will be occupied by the associate director of the Council and the period of vacancy it will not exceed sixty days, during which the associate director will be committed to call a CRS Council meeting to elect a new executive director as stipulated above.

Article 34. STAFF TERMS OF OFFICE

Every post, function and ministry established or appointed directly by the executive director of the CRS Council along with its members will have their term of service terminated with that of the executive director, or at discretion of the same, be terminated or replaced at any time, ratified at an opportune meeting by the CRS Council.

The posts and functions occupied by active members of the CRS Council become available at the end of their service.

Article 35. ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Not more than one month after the election/re-election of the executive director, candidates for the associate director will be nominated by the executive director and members of the CRS Council. The executive director will then choose a nominee and offer that person to be ratified by the council, or may have the council choose the associate director by secret ballot from no more than two candidates he offers. The associate director's term of office ends with each tenure of the executive director. i.e. the associate director may serve for no more than 3 years without being ratified by this process, even if the executive director is re-elected.

The associate director may be replaced for sufficient reason at a meeting of the CRS Council.

Article 36. ELECTIONS OF PRAYER GROUP PASTORAL TEAM

The pastoral team of each prayer group will be elected for a period of 3 (three) years, with the right of being reelected for another period, never exceeding the max of 6 (six) consecutive years.

All servants active in the Prayer Group are qualified to vote for a member of the pastoral team or leader of the Prayer Group. Those that are serving in a prayer group (preferably in their parish) for one year or more, have

done the Life in the Spirit Seminar and exemplify a strong spiritual commitment are considered active servants.

To be eligible as a candidate for either pastoral team or prayer group leader a servant must have been in active service to the prayer group for at least 5 years.

The number of members of the pastoral team will be decided upon by the prayer group and may include all servants who showed dedicated ministry to the prayer group for 5 or more years, who have the gifts and willingness to serve, and the discernment of the electing prayer group members to be part of the pastoral team.

The Prayer group leader will be either voted on at large or chosen by the pastoral team with the same limits on terms of office.

Elections for the pastoral team or prayer group leader will be presided over by a member of the CRS Council or an independent disinterested party and will follow the criteria below:

- a. Each pastoral team member will be elected by 2/3 of the votes valid in the first election (with all candidates) or, in second election, with the two most voted, by simple majority;
- b. The election will be lead by the method Charismatic Reflexive Discernment (i.e. via prayer and discernment);
- c. In the case of a tie for several candidates for the same post, in the second election (with the two most voted candidates), those gathered should pray and then repeat the election one more time. If the tie continues, the president of the election should conduct a drawing between the two names which are tied.

CHAPTER VIII GENERAL ITEMS

Article 37. DOCUMENT AMENDMENT

The present document shall be revised by proposal of the executive director or by the majority of the members of the CRS Council.

This document, properly approved, shall be enforced immediately after the ratification of the CRS Council.

This document may only be amended by a majority of the CRS Council members.

CHAPTER IX TRANSITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Continuity of both vision and implementation is very important to the development and stability of the organization described in this document. Making changes in the team that oversees implementation and initial operation of the CRSB organization could damage its effectiveness. To avoid this difficulty the director under whose authority this document is drafted will have the authority to appoint and dismiss all those who would normally be elected according to the articles of this document for the first three years after it is initially approved.

Article 38. TRANSITIONAL CRS COUNCIL

First council (transitional) will be appointed for three years by the current executive director. Presuming it is initially approved by the Archbishop of the Boston Archdiocese in 2008 the first council elections will tentatively take place in 2011.

Article 39. TRANSITIONAL COMPENSATION

Initial salary compensation for the executive director and any other CRS Council member will be determined by vote of the council. This includes which roles will be entitled to compensation, and how much compensation they should receive. Compensation for occasional specific service and that of office staff will be proposed by the executive director and approved by the CRS Council.

Article 40. CRSB SUPPORT

The CRSB Council, with the approval and commitment of prayer group leadership, will establish the initial means of financial support for CRSB.

Article 41. FIRST ELECTIONS

The first time elections are held, any pastoral or CRS Council team member who has served for less than three years is exempt from having to surrender his office.

All prayer group pastoral team members and CRS Council members who have served for three or more years are eligible to be replaced by ballot. Those who have served for at least 6 years must step down.

The size of the group must be divided by three to determine the number of eligible replacements, rounding fractions to the nearest number. Then the number of people eligible to be replaced must be counted. If this figure is more than one third of the size of the group, those who vacate their seats will be chosen by lot.

Article 42. PRAYER GROUP EXCEPTIONS

It is recognized that there are many different types and sizes of prayer groups, so that all do not have the same relationship to a parish or meet in a church facility or religious institution. There are also transitional situations that need to be addressed until a more appropriate and permanent set of solutions can be discerned. Prayer groups whose practice does not conform to this document will be given time to modify their operation in a way that is appropriate for them.

The purpose of statements made herein is to promote loving unity, not uniformity in the prayer groups. If it is clear that certain practices are healthy for prayer groups that are contrary to what is contained in this document, the document will be revised to identify and possibly encourage these practices. It is also true that if certain prayer group practices do not promote or even hinder unity in CRSB then those practices will be discouraged in future revisions of this document.

APPENDIX A

CRSB Ministry Committees

Presently all ministries to be implemented by the CRS Council are defined in the body of this document in CHAPTER IV. **CRSB Office Ministry Committees.**

Approved in Boston, on 19 June, 2008

By

Seán Cardinal O' Malley, OFM Cap.

Archbishop of Boston