



ESSENTIAL POINTS OF CRSB CONSTITUTION (Rev 11)

This document is intended to provide an overview of the CRSB Constitution Revision 11. A brief summary of what is contained in each chapter is included along with excerpt from the document itself where the included article adds information or clarity. There is also a brief summary at the end

PREAMBLE - We want unity in response to Christ's prayer and it requires a common approach

This document has initially been prepared with support and participation of members of the Anglo, Brazilian, Haitian, Hispanic, Nigerian, 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.

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.

To promote the health and unity 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 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 by spreading the experience of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

ARTICLE 3. OBJECTIVES (paraphrased summary)

1. continuous personal conversion to Jesus Christ
2. reception and use of the spiritual gifts
3. evangelization in the power of the Holy Spirit
4. growth in holiness through integration of the charismatic gifts with the full life of the Church
5. communion with all the communities and expressions originated by the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church
6. teachings that help CRSB members to maintain their identity, vocation and mission

CHAPTER II, III, IV CRS COUNCIL

Chapter II describes the new CRS archdiocesan organization. It describes the council's purpose, duties, membership criteria and organizational structure. **Chapter III** identifies the responsibilities of each role on the council. **Chapter IV** identifies the ministries that will be established by the CRS Council to focus on various aspects of the CRSB mission.

CHAPTER V LEADERS ASSEMBLY

Identifies eligibility for the leaders' assembly and purpose of the leaders' assembly meetings (see below).

ARTICLE 23. LEADERS ASSEMBLY MEETINGS - All prayer groups have a voice and the Council reports to them

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 for the upcoming year.

CHAPTER VI PRAYER GROUPS

Discusses prayer group pastoral teams, leadership responsibility, relationship to the CRS Council, autonomy and funds.

ARTICLE 25. PRAYER GROUP GENERAL ITEMS - An essential part of unity is an accountable commitment to it

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.

CHAPTER VII ELECTIONS

CRS Council as well as prayer groups will have elections of leaders to help raise up new leaders (see below)

ARTICLE 35. ELECTIONS OF PRAYER GROUP PASTORAL TEAM – Elections promote development of new leaders

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.

CHAPTER VIII, IX GENERAL AND TRANSITIONAL ITEMS

Chapter VIII discusses general items related to all groups and to amendment of the governing documents of CRSB.

Chapter IX discusses items that are necessary while the new organization is being established and which may not be relevant at a later time.

ARTICLE 41. PRAYER GROUP EXCEPTIONS – One size doesn't fit all. We will encourage practices that prove healthy to the community of prayer groups and discourage those that are detrimental

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. 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 these statutes 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.

WHY SHOULD PRAYER GROUPS JOIN CRSB?

When a prayer group joins CRSB

1. You will notice a new emphasis on unity among archdiocesan prayer groups, including those of other cultural backgrounds.
2. You will experience CRSB focusing on working with prayer group leadership. Emphasis will be on supporting and training current leadership and developing new leadership. Leadership meetings will include discussion groups on various challenges leaders face, problem solving sessions, workshops and training courses.
3. You will notice a new emphasis on accountability and commitment. Many courses will be open to everyone but some will be available only to those who are part of CRSB because there will be follow-up work.
4. Your prayer group will be part of an archdiocesan Charismatic Community of prayer groups approved and encouraged by the Cardinal to carry out its work and mission in the Archdiocese.

Cardinal Seán O'Malley signed the CRSB Constitution on June 17, 2008 expressing his intention that Archdiocesan prayer groups work in unity under its articles. Those groups that commit to being part of CRSB will be showing obedience to our shepherd. We are called to pray, discern, and follow the Lord together in bonds of mutual commitment and support. CRSB will focus attention on the health and growth of groups who are committed in this way.

The importance of committing to a prayerful and deliberate decision cannot be stressed enough. Since CRSB is committed to unity, those prayer groups who are part of this organization must be equally committed to unity in order to help overcome the obstacles, challenges and attacks of the enemy that will inevitably arise. Unity will not become a reality if prayer groups approach this on a 'best effort' basis and participate in the process when no other commitment interferes. Because of this CRSB asks **every** prayer group to meet and make the decision to fill in the *Petition to Join CRSB* form and return it to CRS Boston office at 30 Pond Street, Waltham, MA 02451.

